

COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE
DETAILED USE PLAN

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Authors

The Plan was prepared by an ad hoc County Forest Subcommittee comprised of members of SCEAC's Land Use/Open Space Committee and members representing other interested parties.

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Contents

The document, prepared in accordance with Local Law #5-1974 which created the Schenectady County Nature and Historic Preserve, contains recommendations concerning specific activities and types of development that should be permitted/encouraged or prohibited/discouraged in the County Forest Preserve.

Review/Approval

The proposed plan was approved September 19, 1983 by the Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council, and a public hearing on the plan is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 1983, at 7:00 p.m. in the County Board of Representatives room on the 6th floor of the Schenectady County Office Building.

I. Abstract

The Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council herein recommends a Final Use Plan for the County Forest in Duanesburg. This 104-acre property was designated part of the County Nature and Historic Preserve in 1975 (Res. 111-75, Appendix A) and has been managed according to an "Interim Use Plan" since that time.

Because timber harvest (1980) and construction of a pond (1982) have physically altered the County Forest, and because the western part of the County where it is located is more heavily populated than it was in 1975, a thorough review was undertaken to determine the most appropriate uses of the property in light of these changes.

This review concluded that the County Forest could best serve present and future generations of Schenectady County residents if managed as a nature and historic educational resource. In accordance with this purpose, major uses of the preserve will be nature study, walking, skiing, snowshoeing and outdoor enjoyment.

II. Location

The County Forest fronts on Lake Road in the Town of Duanesburg (see map, Appendix B). It is about fifteen miles due west of the City of Schenectady, 3 miles from the intersection of Lake Road and Route 159, 1/2 mile east of the intersection of Lake Road and Duanesburg Churches Road, and 1/2 mile west of the Featherstonhaugh State Forest.

III. Description and Brief History

The 104-acre tract of land known as the County Forest is nearly rectangular in shape. The width of the property along Lake Road is 1,940 feet and the depth perpendicular to Lake Road is 2,350 feet. The land form is an east-west ridge of the Helderberg Mountains in western Schenectady County. On the east is a non-working farm; on the north is the Duanesburg Forest; on the west is a private natural forested area and on the south side a farm.

There are three distinct areas of vegetative cover (see map, Appendix C). (1) On the twenty eight acres bordering Lake Road is a fifty year old red pine plantation. (2) The center of the property has been clear cut of red pine; twelve acres of this cleared land has been reforested in

Norway spruce, highbush cranberry and larch; three acres are occupied by a pond, earthen dam and spillway. (3) The remaining sixty acres are mature hardwood forest. A good shale road runs from about the mid point of the Lake Road frontage to the pond site.

Throughout the property are reminders of its past: stone walls, fruit trees, house foundation and a cemetery dating back 150 years (see map Appendix D). A detailed history of the property from the 1760's to the present is included (Appendix E). However, to summarize recent history, since the County acquired the old farm in the early 1930's, four major physical changes have occurred.

- 1) A red pine plantation started in 1933 and 1934 has developed into a mature stand.
- 2) The unplanted portion of the property has developed into a mature hardwood forest.
- 3) Part of the red pine plantation was harvested in 1976 and 1980.
- 4) A pond was constructed in 1981 and 1982.

IV. Recommended Uses

- 1) Outdoor recreation: walking, skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, bow hunting in its legal season.
- 2) Nature education & appreciation: forest succession, trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, birds, pond life, wildlife.
- 3) History education & appreciation: remnants of a 19th century farm--stone walls, house foundation, fruit trees, cemetery.
- 4) Aesthetic enjoyment

V. Prohibited Uses

- 1) Operation of wheeled motorized vehicles, with the exception of those used for maintenance or emergency.
- 2) Fires
- 3) Overnight camping
- 4) Littering or dumping

- 5) Unauthorized construction
- 6) Unauthorized wood-cutting
- 7) Unauthorized removal or destruction of natural or historic features.
- 8) Trapping
- 9) Possession or discharge of firearms
- 10) Use of bow and arrow except in bow hunting season
- 11) Unauthorized presence in the preserve between dusk and dawn.

VI. Development

Any development should either improve wildlife habitat, improve access to natural and historic features, or improve opportunities and conditions for recommended forms of recreation and education.

1) Trails:

Trails should be routed to exhibit historic and natural features and offer opportunities for wildlife observation. Trail construction should minimize disturbance of terrain and habitat. A perimeter trail should be developed.

2) Signs:

Signs identifying the County Forest and stating its major regulations should be posted along Lake Road and the other boundaries of the property, and at the pond site. Trail markers should be similar to those in use at the other County Preserves.

3) Parking:

Adequate provision for parking presently exists along the shoulder of Lake Road.

4) Guides and Maps:

- a) A map reflecting recent physical changes in the property is included (Appendix C).

b) Development of guidebooks to the historic and natural features is recommended.

c) Guidebooks and maps will be available at the County Library, the Environmental Clearinghouse of Schenectady, The County Planning Department and the Soil and Water Conservation District.

5) Plant and Animal Inventory:

a) The 1975 plant inventory was updated in the Spring of '83 (Appendix F).

b) DEC bird and mammal lists for properties with similar characteristics may be used as a basis for a future animal inventory of this particular property (Appendices G, H). The report of a bird expert's visit to the County Forest is included (appendix I).

6) Woodland Management:

In general, woodland management activities should be in accord with preservation, educational and recreational land use objectives. Specifically, it is recommended that barring significant disease or decline, the mature hardwood forest be left to nature's management, and the reforested area and remaining red pine plantation be managed to improve wildlife habitat and to promote healthy trees.

Production of timber or other forest products is not an objective.

7) Pond Management

The Pond Area will be managed to encourage variety of wildlife and vegetation. The pond will be managed according to the SWCD Pond Management Program, subject to approval of the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works.

8) Fire Control and Safety

The Mariaville Volunteer Fire Department and the State Police Duaneburg substation, respond to calls concerning the Preserve. A locked chain will be kept across the driveway at Lake Road to prevent entry of unauthorized vehicles. Keys to this lock will be made available to the

appropriate fire, emergency and law enforcement agencies, by the Department of Engineering and Public Works.

VII. Use Plan Management For the Preserve

The above is the Use Plan for the Preserve, and is submitted in accordance with local law 5-1974, creating the Schenectady County Nature and Historic Preserve. This law provides for maintenance and administration by the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, in accordance with the pre-determined Use Plan.

VIII. Change of Use

Change of use may be made as provided by Section 5 of Local Law 5-1974 creating the Schenectady County Nature and Historic Preserve. (Appendix XX)

APPENDICES

- A. Nature and Historic Preserve Law
- B. Map of Western Schenectady County
- C. Map of County Forest Showing Zones of Vegetation Cover and other Features
- D. Archeology Map
- E. Histories
 - 1. Historical Background (1760-1926)
 - 2. Development History (1926-to date)
- F. Plant Inventory
- G. Bird List
- H. Animal List
- I. Schadow Letter

APPENDIX A

Local Law No. 5-1974
County of Schenectady

A LOCAL LAW CREATING THE SCHENECTADY COUNTY NATURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVE

SECTION 1. Legislative intent. Population growth and urban expansion often encroach upon or eliminate open areas, spaces and structures of varied size and character, including many significant scenic, aesthetic or historic value. These latter areas, spaces and structures, if preserved and maintained in their present state, would constitute important physical, social, aesthetic or economic assets to the people of Schenectady County. It is the intent of this law to create a Schenectady County Nature and Historic Preserve which shall serve to ensure the preservation and maintenance of those open lands, spaces and structures deemed appropriate for inclusion therein by the County Board of Representatives.

SECTION 2. Establishment of the Preserve. The Board of Representatives of Schenectady County hereby creates and establishes a preserve which shall be known as the Schenectady County Nature and Historic Preserve, hereinafter referred to as the preserve, which shall be administered as stipulated below.

SECTION 3. Administration of the Preserve. Open areas, spaces and structures placed under the aegis of the County Nature and Historic Preserve shall be administered and maintained by the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, or by the Director of the Bureau of Parks should that position be created by the Board of Representatives. County Nature and Historic Preserve properties shall be administered and maintained in strict accordance with the predetermined Use Plan for each area, as specified in Sections 4 and 6 of this law.

SECTION 4. Acquisition and development of County Nature and Historic Preserve Areas, Spaces and Structures.

(1) Open Space Inventory. Pursuant to Local Law No. 2-1971 of the Schenectady County Board of Representatives, and Section 247 of the New York State General Municipal Law, the Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council shall recommend to the Board of Representatives, on a priority basis, acquisition of areas and structures thereon listed in the council's inventory of open spaces within the County.

(2) Recommendations to the County Board. Recommendations by the council to the board shall include, where appropriate, the estimated cost of any acquisition and development, the proposed method or methods of acquisition, a preliminary plan of the use or uses foreseen for the area or property to be acquired and projected operation and maintenance expenses. *(Such recommendations shall be forwarded to the Physical and Environmental Planning Committee of the Board which shall in turn make recommendations thereon, which shall be submitted to the County Manager by July 15 of each year, for his consideration in the preparation of the county's capital improvement program as provided for in Article VII of the Charter of Schenectady County).

(3) Development of Use Plans for County Nature and Historic Preserve Areas, Spaces and Structures. Upon acquisition or designation by the County Board of Representatives of interests or rights to any open spaces, areas or structures to be included in the County Nature and Historic Preserve, the Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council, in conjunction with the County Planning Department, shall, within ninety days of such acquisition or designation publish a detailed use plan for such areas. Preservation or improvement of the existing environment of such areas shall be the foremost consideration in use classification. The use plan shall make specific recommendations regarding the environmental impact of any proposed usages and physical development, such as footpaths, trail markings, signs, picnic facilities, pedestrian or non-pedestrian traffic, camp fires, toilet facilities and all such other activities as may bear upon preserving the ecological integrity of an area. Open areas or spaces may be recommended for multiple use classification by sub-areas, thereby permitting certain public uses, unacceptable to an area as a whole yet permissible within specific sub-area geographic confines, to be conducted in an environmentally sound fashion. Such a multiple use classified area could typically permit the construction, in an appropriate sub-area, of field classroom facilities for educational purposes, marked foot trails through portions of sub-areas which could tolerate foot traffic, and other areas posted against even occasional traffic, pedestrian or otherwise. Simultaneously with publication of the detailed use plan, the Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council shall publish its intention to conduct a public hearing on the detailed plan; such a public hearing shall be conducted by the council within sixty days of publication of any detailed use plan. At such public hearings all interested county residents shall be given the opportunity to voice their opinions regarding any and all proposed uses of the open spaces, areas and structures in question. Following such a public hearing, the Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council and the Planning Department shall, within thirty days, jointly publish final use recommendations, which shall be made public and shall be provided to the County Board of Representatives for adoption.

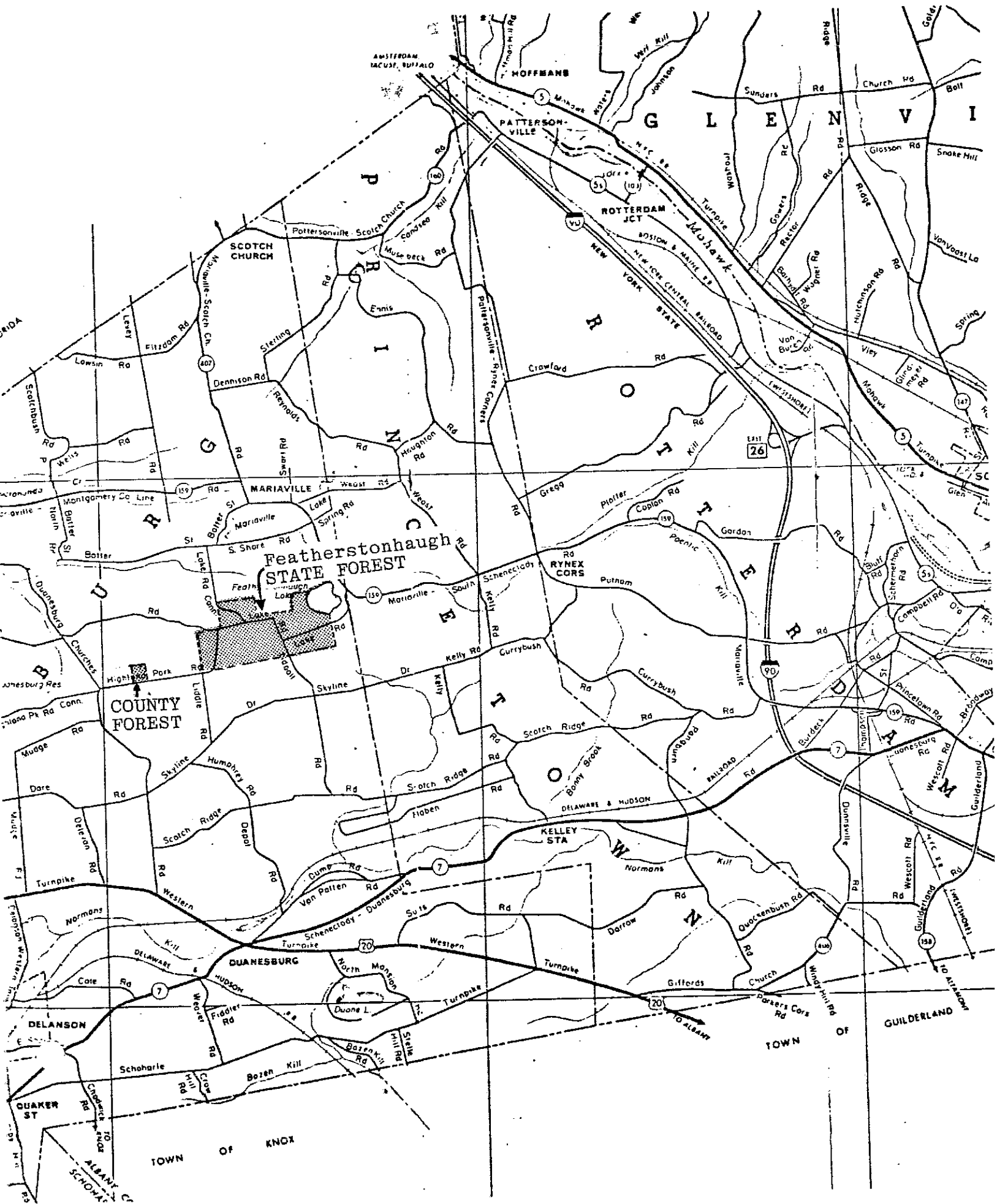
*(New) (11/6/74)

SECTION 5. Sale or change of use from County Nature and Historic Preserve purposes of established Preserve Areas, Spaces or Structures.

Should it be determined that the sale or disposal by any means, or change of use from open space purposes of a portion or the whole of any established preserve-protected open space, area or structure is wise, appropriate and necessary for the public good, it shall be the responsibility of the Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council to conduct one or more public hearings at which all information pertaining to such sale or change shall be heard. Thereupon, after due deliberation, the council shall publish its preliminary determination on the matter. The council shall then conduct one or more additional public hearings, the final one of which shall fall not less than ninety days after publication of its preliminary determination, at which hearings the public shall again be given voice on the proposed disposition. The council shall then, within 30 days of the last hearing, render its final opinion, urging the County Board either to permit or deny the proposed sale, disposal or change of use from open space purposes of the preserve land in question. Should proposals to sell or change the use or more than one distinct open area, space or structure arise simultaneously, recommendations to the County Board on the disposition of such proposals shall be developed through separate proceedings conducted by the council as prescribed above.

SECTION 6. Maintenance of Preserve Areas, Spaces and Facilities.
Any and all maintenance required to preserve, protect and enhance the ecological integrity, and to foster environmentally compatible public use of preserve areas, spaces and structures, as determined by procedures described in Section 4(3) of this law, shall be monitored closely by the Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council. Should maintenance and/or discrepancies be discovered by the council, a formal report of such discrepancies shall be filed immediately with the Department of Engineering and Public Works, which department shall take prompt remedial actions to prevent degradation of any area or areas involved, within appropriations provided by the Board of Representatives.

APPENDIX B



1840'



HARDWOODS

SCHEENECTADY COUNTY FOREST

[illegible]

BY
PETE ROESBLE & SURVEYOR
(Reduced & ^{MAP} Reformatd)

APPENDIX E

HISTORIES

1. Historical Background 1760-1926

The historical background of the Schenectady County Forest is closely connected with James Duane, a distinguished lawyer and judge, who founded Duanesburg in 1765, and who was a member of the First Continental Congress, and the first mayor of New York City after the Revolutionary War. In 1761, James Duane's father had left him 6,000 acres in "Duane's Bush", and over the years, Duane continued to purchase land in the same area from Governor Cosby, Judge Horsmanden, Rev. Auchmutz, and others, until his holdings in 1786 totaled 50,000 acres. His philosophy had been, "Everything comes to him who waits if he hustles while he waits". He certainly was an embodiment of his own philosophy!

1764 Surveyor Issac Vroman laid out the town site for Duanesburg by dividing the available land into 100 acre farms called Great Lots. The farm currently known as the Schenectady County Forest was Lot Number 92. Duane's plan was to sell or lease alternate farms since improvements made by the first settlers would then increase the value of neighboring farms.

1765 On March 22, 1765 Vroman wrote to Duane, "I am ready to receive your (Pennsylvania) German tenants. They shall not be disappointed as all the lots are laid out and marked".

On April 1, 1765, Duane placed an advertisement in the New York Mercury, which read, "To be sold reasonably, on terms which will not exclude industrious Farmers, a number of Farms situate upon and near the Country Road leading from Schoharie to Schenectady. A plot for the Town is laid out near the Centre of the Tract...and about 25 of the Town Lots and an equal number of Farms adjacent are already disposed of to a Company of industrious Germans. The Soil is good, well-timber'd, and plentifully water'd: abounds in fine Grass Land, and has an Extensive Range." This was a rather optimistic appraisal of what really awaited the early settlers-in the words of one settler, the land was "a great wilderness".

On April 6, 1765, Vroman wrote to Duane "I have advised the tenants to get themselves first to clear some land that they may get something to live on before they think about making houses, but build only huts of bark which they may

now peel off the trees, and build themselves better houses in the fall." When the cabins were eventually built, it was by joint effort. Logs of equal diameter were cut to length, the bark peeled off, and brought to the site. Then the settlers had a raising bee, with at least three neighbors to help, one at each corner of the cabin to saddle and notch the logs. After the walls were ten feet high, the logs for the gable ends of the cabin were gradually shortened to form the roof. Shingles were of elm or basswood bark, about three foot long by two foot wide. Overlapping rows of shingles were held in place by bark-peeled poles, which were fastened at the ends to the logs forming the roof. An eight foot wide by six foot high fireplace opening was cut into one wall. The fireplace was built of stone, bound with clay or lime mortar.

A door opening was also cut, and door posts were fastened to the log wall with wooden pins. The door was hung on wooden hinges, and had a latch only on the inside. A string was then passed through a hole in the door, so that the inside latch could be opened from the outside too. But at night, this string was pulled in, and then there was no way to get into the cabin - an ingenious and effective safety feature.

Another hole was cut into the wall for a small window, which was sometimes covered only by greased paper.

The cracks between the logs forming the walls were filled with mud or mortar. Floors were of hardened clay, or split wood smoothed on one side.

The interior furnishings would usually consist of a seven foot by seven foot bed about thirty inches above floor level; a trundle bed beneath it; a trestle-board table with saw-horse legs; three-legged stools or four-legged benches; shelves attached to the wall with wooden pins for cups, bowls, and trenchers; and pegs for clothing. The bed was built as part of the cabin rather than as a separate piece of furniture. Holes were bored thirty inches from the floor, seven feet from the corner on a long wall, and seven feet from the same corner on the adjacent gable wall. Sturdy poles were fitted into these holes, so that only a single post was needed to support the free corner of the bed. Rope was then laced between the pole frame of the bed, to support straw ticks or feather beds. The trundle bed below was pulled out when the smallest children in the family were put to bed. Older children slept in the attic, which was reached by a ladder placed in one corner of the cabin.

Duane had believed in diversified farming - wheat, corn, animal husbandry, sawing timber, manufacturing bricks from local clay, burning lime. But wresting a living from these Great Lots was not an easy matter. The land was covered by thick forests, which had to be cleared before anything could be planted. Brush, branches and smaller trees were burned to provide potash fertilizer for the crops to come. For several years afterwards, the settlers had to work around the stumps, with only hoes and home-made wooden drags to

help them cultivate the soil. After the roots had decayed, they were able to use wooden plows to break the ground. Harvesting was accomplished by hand sickle - a laborious and back-breaking task.

1766-1768 The earliest settlers said that in the first three years, they had not been able to raise enough grain to provide themselves with bread. Vermin has destroyed the seed before it could be planted. The following year, the crops froze in the ground. The third year was cold again, with deep snow in April "and no Spring in sight".

Up to this point, only 48 families had settled on the Great Lots. Whether Lot Number 92 was among those settled at that time is not known. During the Revolution, Tory and Indian raids hindered the growth of Duanesburg, but overall, there was slow progress towards a better life for the settlers.

Mothers and daughters carded wool, spun it, wove the cloth, and then made nearly all the clothing worn by the family. Travelling tailors and tailoresses sometimes visited farming communities to make boys' and men's winter clothing. Whether the women were afforded this luxury is not known. Traveling shoemakers also came once a year to make shoes and boots for the whole family from cattle hides. Shoes for both feet were made from the same last - unlikely to be a comfortable fit! Boys and girls were bare-footed except in Winter.

Store goods were available but tended to be quite expensive - sugar at 38 cents a pound, nails from 20 to 30 cents a pound, broadcloth, \$10 a yard. Those settlers who sold products from their farms, instead of bartering for their needs, got 13 cents for a bushel of corn, 38 cents for a bushel of wheat, 5 cents a pound for maple sugar, and 6 cents for a pound of butter.

A letter written by the daughter of one of the early settlers describes the pioneer life: "The country around here was a great wilderness...Nearly all were new settlers and had to work long hours. We kept our courage...The men cleared the ground and helped each other rolling the logs. We went with them to help cook for the occasion.

We had good times...no pound cake or preserves, but good old-fashioned substantial food. We seldom heard of stomach ache or rheumatism as it was not fashionable to be weak. We did not powder our faces or paint our lips. We had no time to waste for that.

Each settler had to help his neighbor in order to get help in return. We did not complain half as much as they do now.

Our food was plain. We made our own clothing. We lived as equals. Grandchildren of some of these same pioneers know no hardship. Many are spoiled by indulgence, and plan how to live without working".

1777 Farmers had good wheat crops, and the numbers of horses, horned cattle, swine, and sheep kept by the settlers increased somewhat. However, sheep were often eaten by wolves.

1783 After peace was declared, settlers of Scottish origin began to arrive from New England.

1786 Duane was approached by a John Buswill to build a "cotton manufactory". Buswill wrote, "I was this last week all thru Duanesburg, and to see the number children on your land now "idling about almost naked" for want of employment. Some families 9 or 10 children and only two of them can do anything in the woods, whereas if the cotton manufactory was introduced there, the other children would at least get \$2.50 which would enable the father to get forward in the work, and the children would not contract an idle habit, as they must be while young, being unemployed".

1789 It was again a bad year. "No money. Poor crop last year and worse one this year. Terrible cry for bread. No potatoes to be had even for planting".

1790 By 1790, there were 1,495 people in Duanesburg - about 300 families - and each family had to go to Schenectady to get its grain ground. James Duane was anxious to have a flouring mill in his own township, and proceeded to establish one. Throughout this time, Duane occassionally acted as a small banker, lending money at 7% interest. In Duanesburg he usually received payment in grain or in services such as clearing land, splitting rails, or digging ditches. Before the Revolution, Duane had generally sold land in fee for 70 pounds per Lot, or leased it for "three lives at twenty bushels of wheat per year". After the war, his usual term was an annual quit rent of \$15 per lot after five free years. In all these contracts, all mines and mill streams were reserved by Duane.

1794 On April 26, 1794, James Duane left New York City to settle in Schenectady. The oldest daughter, Polly, and the son, James Chatham Duane were already living in Duanesburg.

1794 On May 21, 1794, James Duane leased Lot Number 92, which is now known as the Schenectady County Forest, to Elkanoh Rockwell. The terms of the lease are not known, but it is surmised to be "three lives at twenty bushels of wheat per year", because this particular lease was still in effect in 1872, a period of 78 years. Throughout this 78-year period, the Rockwell family must have farmed Lot Number 92. They must have been prudent, industrious people to record such a long tenure, but nothing is known of them today.

1810 On May 11, 1810, James Chatham Duane leased Lot Number 93, - the farm directly south of the County Forest, to Jacob, Daniel & Nathaniel Wiggins. Although the Wiggins family leased Farm 93, they established a family cemetery on Farm 92, which was still under lease to the Rockwell family. Why this occurred is not known for there is no obvious connection, by marriage or blood relationship, between the Rockwells and Wigginses, other than as neighbors. Rockwell family members are buried in cemeteries throughout the district. The Wiggins Cemetery, situated about 225 feet north of Lake Road, and 500 feet east of the original house site in the Schenectady County Forest, contains a number of marked and unmarked gravestones. Small marble stones marked only with initials are presumably infants. The earliest dated gravestone in place today is of Daniel Wiggins, who died in 1823 and who was presumably the father of the Daniel Wiggins who did eventually buy Lot Number 92, on October 25, 1872.

1872 On October 25, 1872, Cornelius Duane conveyed Lot Number 92 to Daniel and Rachel Wiggins, as recorded in the Book of Deeds 59 page 523. However, since the Rockwell lease was still in effect, provision was made to transfer ownership of the lease as well as the land. "The object of this deed is however, more particularly, to convey to the said Wiggins, the rent in fee, reserved and agreed to be paid by a certain lease of said Lot number 92 made by and between James Duane, Lessor, and Elkanoh Rockwell, lessee, and bearing date the twenty-first day of May, A.D. 1794, the lease of which said Lot Number 92 is herewith delivered to the said Wiggins".

1878 On January 9, 1878, Daniel and Rachel Wiggins conveyed Lot Number 92 to Benjamin and Delana Miller (recorded 67-523) "subject to the right of (Daniel and Rachel Wiggins) to visit the burying ground on said farm, and to bury therein such of his own family and his late father's immediate family as shall express the wish to be buried therein".

1890 On December 9, 1890, Benjamin Miller conveyed Lot Number 92 to Simon Calkins (recorded 89-520). Calkins had held the mortgage on Lot Number 92, and Benjamin had been unable to meet his obligations. Calkins then sued Benjamin Miller, Curtiss Miller, and George Ostrander, and the matter ended before the Supreme Court of the State of New York. The Court decreed on May 7, 1890, that, Lot Number 92 be sold at auction. The farm was sold on June 26, 1890 for \$1,012, "that being the highest sum bidden for the same".

1890 On December 11, 1890, Simon Calkins conveyed Lot Number 92 to Henry Snell (recorded 89-522) two days after taking possession of it from Benjamin Miller.

1895 On November 26, 1895, Henry Snell conveyed Lot Number 92 to Bridget L. Fagan (recorded 105-472).

1907 On June 15, 1907, Bridget L. Fagan filed a subdivision map, entitled, "Highland Park", for 992 Lots. Lot sizes were 25' X 125', and 50' X 125' for corner lots. Some of these small lots were sold, but none were ever developed. Property tax payments lapsed on most of the parcels.

2. Development History 1926 to Date

1926 County Treasurer held a public auction of tax delinquent properties on 10/29/26. At that auction the County purchased all of the 164 tax delinquent lots in the County Forest.

3/29/29 According to County Treasurer W. A. Dodge, taxes were only being paid on 7 or 8 lots from the Highland Park Subdivision.

3/29/29 J. A. Cope, extension forester, recommended to Schenectady County Board of Supervisors that 50,000 trees (25,000 red pine and 25,000 white pine) be planted in the Spring of 1929 at \$600.00.

4/26/33 J. E. Davis, Assistant Extension Forester, W. A. Dodge, County Treasurer, Chas. L. Russell; Supervisor, Clarence Johnson, and County Agricultural Agent. The group visited the forest and considered reforestation as a work relief project. Determined 60 acres were excellent for reforestation. Recommended planting 85,000 3-year old red pine on 6' X 6'. Site too wet for planting.

Should be good before 2nd week in May; 5,000 trees were planted in 1933, according to F. E. Carlson's 10/3/38 notes.

4/24/34 Date on deed (indenture) Schenectady County officially took title to 164 lots that were purchased at auction in 1926.

5/8/34 County Board of Supervisors, by Resolution #50, accepted title to the 164 lots mentioned above.

County Board by Resolution #51 accepted deed from Agnes Fagan and Elizabeth Fagan for the streets in the subdivision.

50,000 trees (red pines and norway spruces) were actually planted in 1934 according to F. E. Carlson's 10/3/38 notes.

10/3/38 F. E. Carlson, Extension Forester, inspected trees at County Forest and noted they were doing well. He suggested a recreational plan should be developed. A total of 50 acres were planted in red pine and norway spruce. It took 22 men, 870 man hours to plant the trees. The purposes of the reforestation project were, in rank order:

1. to put idle acres to profitable use
2. fish and game improvement

3. recreation
4. timber growth for crops and revenue
5. employment opportunity

10/29/40 Ralph M. Hutchinson, Professor of Forest Extension recommended to Clarence Johnson that sumac, alder and poplar be cut to release pines. Mr. Hutchinson said now is the time to begin managing for multiple use.

9/14/42 Inspection report of Harry S. Mosebrook, NYS College of Forestry, suggested multiple use management (timber crops, recreation, habitat improvement). Noted 1-acre forest fire last year; area visible from road. Recommended marking boundaries with white stakes.

4/8/47 County Board Resolution #47

- noted that property is described on Duanesburg's assessment rolls as "County Forest"
- noted that property is exempt from taxation
- noted property was deeded to County in lieu of foreclosure proceedings
- prohibited the sale or lease of the property.

1952 Schenectady County entered into a Cooperators Agreement with the Soil and Water Conservation District to develop a program for the County Forest. As a result of meetings with SWCD staff and members of the Schenectady County Conservation Council's Forest Committee, a conservation plan was begun recommending forestry management.

1/16/53 E. G. Terrill, Jr., Junior Forester, prepared a 10 year management plan under the Forest Practice Act. The plan was presented on Schenectady County Soil and Water Conservation District letterhead.

Plan noted that red pine was approximately 20 feet tall and 5-inch diameter at breast height, live crown 1/2 to 1/3 of total height.

3/10/53 County Board of Supervisors received the above noted plan and referred it to 3 supervisors for further study.

7/13/55 Letter from Earle Douglass, Work Unit Conservationist to Harold Rowe, Board of Schenectady County Soil Conservation District, noted visit to County Forest by Douglas, two County supervisors and Mr. Rowe.

Douglas noted that District Forester had recommended cutting 1/4 to 1/3 of stems in plantation and that boy scouts had done pruning and thinning on scattered areas.

1966 A revision of the Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Plan was completed. The revision updated the need for forest management and recommended using the area as a park, a picnic area, for nature trails, and suggested the establishment of two wildlife ponds.

1969 "Appraisal of Potential for Outdoor Recreational Development in Schenectady County", published by the Schenectady County Soil and Water Conservation District, prepared by the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service with funds provided by the Schenectady County Board of Representatives, pointed out that the County Forest has potential for recreational development.

8/10/71 County Board Resolution #140 - Authorized County Manager to lease County Forest to Duanesburg.

2/8/72 County Board Resolution #30 - Proposed lease agreement amended.

10/17/74 John Mathews, County Planner and Mike Greason, State Forester met. Greason recommended some harvesting.

11/12/74 Local Law 5-1974 establishing County Nature and Historic Preserve was proposed. County Board Resolution #253 calling for public hearing on proposed Local Law 5-1974 for 12/10/74.

5/13/75 County Board Resolution #10 - Rescinded authority to lease County Forest. County Board Resolution #111 - Placed County Forest in County Nature and Historic Preserve. County Board Resolution #119 - Authorized expenditure of \$880.00 for equipment for preserve (picnic tables, signs, trash barrels...)

6/10/75 County Board Resolution #141 - Prohibited fires and use of motorized vehicles; also established hours open dawn to dusk.

9/10/75 County Board Resolution #191 - Authorized the County Manager to execute a Forest Management Recommendation and Cooperators Agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Since the red pine plantation had not been managed for 40 years, most of the trees were spindly and weak.

10/23/75 Public hearing on County Forest Use Plan.

11/12/75 County Board Resolution #242 - Authorized Manager to request that State Forester mark trees in Stand #5 (36 acres) and contract for thinning.

11/75 State Foresters marked 8 acres.

1976 5-acres of the first ridge of the forest were thinned by Rudy Schager, a private contractor.

7/12/77 County Board Resolution #191 - Permitted hunting only from November 1, through the subsequent close of small game season.

1978 The Department of Environmental Conservation foresters reported that most of the weaker red pine were being attacked by IPS Engraver Beetles. It was recommended by the Department of Environmental Conservation that these trees be harvested as part of a thinning/clearcut program.

1979 Because of severe Winter storm damage, the Department of Environmental Conservation foresters recommend that 22-acres be clear cut and 11 acres be selectively thinned.

6/12/79 County Board Resolution #136 - Authorized County Manager to contract for thinning.

8/24/79 County contractor with Roger and Paul Lescault to clearcut the rear section and thin the front section as marked. (approximately 800 cords at \$4.125/cord; Lescaults paid County \$3,300) Lescaults worked off and on till Spring of 1981 because of fluctuations in the pulpwood market.

1980 The Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Plan was again revised. This plan included the recommendation of the Department of Environmental Conservation Forester for commercial harvest and timber stand improvement. As in the 1966 Conservation Plan, it was suggested that one or more ponds be constructed for wildlife habitat. The revision also included recommendations for wildlife habitat improvement in the area, and recommended that the forest has potential for educational, as well as recreational uses.

5/80 Twelve boy scouts, under the supervision of Soil and Water Conservation District staff, completed the first phase of reforestation by planting 1,000 Larch and 100 High Bush Cranberries at the County Forest. In the Summer of 1980, eighteen youths from the Youth Conservation Corps. (Y.C.C.)

and sixteen youths from the Youth Conservation Improvement Project (Y.C.C.I.P.) both sponsored by the soil and Water Conservation District worked on clearing the pond site area to make way for the construction of a pond.

5/81 Boy scouts planted 4,000 Norway Spruce; 8' X 8' spacing.

1980 Pond construction was started by Schenectady County Engineering and Public Works crews. Twenty-one youths from Y.C.C. and twenty-three youths from Y.C.C.I.P., supervised by Soil and Water Conservation staff, worked on clearing the pond site area. In addition, crews from Y.C.C.I.P. poured a concrete pad for the principal spillway, and set the principal spillway in place. Y.C.C.I.P. also completed the reforestation of the Preserve with the planting of 3,500 Norway Spruce.

1982 Under the direction of SWCD, a private contractor completed pond construction at a cost of \$3,000. Landscaping of the pond area is incomplete. The total approximate cost for all pond improvements from 1980-82 was \$15,800.

1982 Trudy Gott, Lake Road, Delanson presented a petition bearing 70 signatures to the County Board of Representatives "opposed to the carrying or use of any firearms in the Schenectady County forest during anytime of the year". Mrs. Gott stated the County Forest is designated as a "nature preserve" and as such there should be a complete ban of all hunting and use of firearms throughout the year. August 10, 1982, the Board adopted Resolution No. 153-82, prohibiting the use of firearms at any time in the Schenectady County Forest.

1982 The County Forest Program, administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation has provided annual financial aid up to \$5,000 on a 50-50 matching reimbursing basis to qualifying counties. Under this program many projects have been funded including the County Forest Boundary Line Survey, pond construction, parking lot, access road and forest improvement projects. The total funding for the program, from 1977 to 1982 is \$35,456.12.

APPENDIX F

PLANT SURVEY SCHENECTADY COUNTY FOREST May 29, 1983

FLORA

The 102 acre Schenectady County Forest consists of a Red Pine plantation and young mixed woodlands. Older hardwoods line the stonewalls bordering former open fields and meadows which remain from the days when the property was actively farmed. It is an attractive woods with a great variety of species of trees, herbs and ferns.

The focal point of the forest is the approximately 35 acres of 40 year old Red Pine that has been left unmanaged which, resultingly, has produced a stunted and unhealthy forest situation. The density of the Pines has produced a sterile ground cover due to the lack of available sunlight. Young Beech and some Maple are basically the only tree species able to invade this monoculture which is undesirable not only from the standpoint of tree vitality and variety, but also because of its lack of cover and available food sources for wildlife.

Several species of particular interest should be noted. One unusual plant, Rattlesnake plantain (an orchid), was found along with some extraordinarily large Cinnamon ferns, large Linden tree and Bishop's cap.

This floral survey was done in May, 1983 and utilizes the following key:

Frequency

1. Common
2. Less Common
3. Rare

Areas

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|
| NW | - | Northwest |
| C | - | Clearcut |
| S | - | Ridges |
| R | - | Roadside |
| H | - | Wet Areas |
| * | - | includes all study areas |

TREES

ACERACEAE (family)

Acer pennsylvanicum	striped maple	S2, NW1
Acer rubrum	red maple	S2, R2, C1
Acer saccharum	sugar maple	S2, NW1

BETULACEAE

Betula papyrifera	white birch	NW3
Betula populifolia	grey birch	RH1
Betula lutea	yellow birch	NW3
Carpinus caroliniana	musclewood	S2, NW2
Ostrya virginiana	hop hornbeam	S2, NW2

FAGACEAE

Fagus grandifolia	beech	S, R, NW1C1
Quercus alba	white oak	NW
Quercus borealis	red oak	S, R, C

JUGLANDACEAE

Carya sp.	pignut or bitternut	NW3
Lauraceae		
Sassafras albidinum	sassafras	NW3

OLEACEAE

Fraxinus americana	white ash	S1, R2, NW1C1
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PINACEAE

Pinus resinosa	red pine	S1, R2, C1
Pinus strobus	white pine	S2
Tsuga canadensis	hemlock	S2, C1

ROSACEAE

Crataegus sp.	hawthorn	R2
Prunus pensylvanica	pin cherry	S2, R1, C1
Amelanchier sp.	shad	S1, R1
Prunus serotina	black cherry	S2, R1, NW3
Pyrus malus	apple	S2
Prunus virginiana	choke sherry	S2, R1

SALICACEAE

Populus tacamahacca	balsam poplar	S
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Populus tremuloides	trembling aspen	S2, R2, NW1C1
Salix sp.	willow	R2
Populus grandidentata	bigtooth aspen	R2

TILIACEAE

Tilia americana	basswood	S2, NW2
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ULMACEAE

Ulmus americana	elm	NW3
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SHRUBS

ANACARDIACEAE (Family)

Rhus radicans	poison ivy	NWH
Rhus typhina	staghorn sumac	R2

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Lonicera canadensis	fly honeysuckle	S1
Lonicera sp.	honeysuckle	NW3
Viburnum acerifolium	maple leaved viburnum	NW2
" alnifolium	hobble bush	S3, NW3
" lentago	nannyberry	S2, R2
" recognitum	arrowwood	S2, NW3
Sambucus racemosa	red berried elderberry	S2
Sambucus sp.	(other elderberry variety)	C2

CORNACEAE

Cornus alternifolia	alternate leaved dogwood	S2, C3
Cornus racemosa	grey stem or red panicle	NW3

HAMAMELIDACEAE

Hamamelis virginiana	witch hazel	NW3
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ROSACEAE

Rosa sp.	wild rose	3*
Rubus sp.	raspberry	1*

Rubus sp.	blackberry	S1, C1
Spirea sp.	spirea	NW3
Spirea latifolia	meadowsweet	S2, NW2

SAXIFRAGACEAE

Ribes sp.	gooseberry	S2
Ribes sp.	currant	S1, NW2

VITACEAE

Vitis sp.	grape vine	R2
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FILICINAE - FERNS

POLYPODIACEAE FAMILY

Adiantum pedatum	maidenhair fern	NW2
Athyrium filix - femina	lady fern	S2, NW2
Dryopteris spinulosa	spinulose woodfern	S1, NW1
Gymnocarpium dryopteris	oak fern	NW3
Onoclea sensibilis	sensitive fern	NW3, C1
Polystichum acrostichoides	christmas fern	NW3
Pteridium aquilinum	braken	2*
Thelypteris noveboracensis	new york fern	NW3

OPHIOGLOSSACEAE

Botrychium virginianum	rattlesnake fern	NW3
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OSMUNDACEAE FAMILY

Osmunda cinnamomea	cinnamon fern	NW3
Osmunda claytoniana	interrupted fern	NW3
Osmunda regalis	royal fern	NW3

EQUISETINAE - HORSETAILS

EQUISETACEAE

Equisetum arnense	field horsetail	S2 C2, NW3
Equisetum sylvaticum	wood horsetail	3*

LYCOPODIINAE - CLUB MOSS

LYCOPODIACEAE

<i>Lycopodium complanatum</i>	running pine	S2, NW3
<i>Lycopodium lucidulum</i>	shining club moss	NW3
<i>Lycopodium obscurum</i>	tree club moss	NW3
<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>	clavate club moss	NW3
<i>Lycopodium</i> sp.	(undefined variety)	C2

HERBS

ARACEAE

<i>Arisaema atrorubens</i>	jack in the pulpit	S2, NW2
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ARALIACEAE

<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>	wild sasparilla	S2, NW3, C2
<i>Panax trifolius</i>	dwarf ginseng	S3

BALSAMINACEAE

<i>Impatiens pallida</i>	touch me not	S2, NWH, C1
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BERBERIDACEAE

<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	blue cohosh	NW2
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CARYOPHYLLACEAE

<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	bouncing bet	S2
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COMPOSITAE

<i>Arctium minus</i>	burdock	S2, C1, NW3C2
<i>Prenanthes serpentina</i>	lion's paw	NW4, C2
<i>Taraxicum officinale</i>	dandelion	S2, R2, C1
<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>	ox-eye daisy	S2
<i>Aster</i>	aster	S1, R1
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	star thistle	S2
<i>Solidago</i> sp.	goldenrod	S1, R1, C1
<i>Cirsium</i> sp.	thistle	S2, C1
<i>Antennaria</i> sp.	pussytoes	R2
<i>Aster divaricatus</i>	wood aster	NW

CRASSULACEAE

Sedum sp.	stonecrop	S2, C2
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CRUSIFERAE

Barbarea vulgaris	yellow rocket	S2
Cyperaceae	sedge	R2, NW C2

GERANIACEAE

Geranium maculatum	wild geranium	S2, R2
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GUTTIFERAE

Hypericum perforatum	common st johnswort	S2, NW C1
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HYDROPHYLLACEAE

Hrdrophyllum virginianum	virginia waterleaf	3*
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IRIDACEAE

Iris versicolor	blue falg	NW C2
Juncaceas	rush	R3, NW

LABIATAE

Lycopus sp.	water whorehound	SH
Prunella vulgaris	heal-all	R2, C1

LEGUMINOSAE

Trifolium pratense	Clover	S1, R1, C1
	red clover	R1

LEMNACEAE

Lemna sp.	duckweed	C1
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LILIACEAE

Erythronium americanum	trout lily	NWH
Clintonia borealis	Clintonia	S2, NW2, C1
Hemerocallis sp.	daylily	S2
Maianthemum canadense	false lily of valley	S1, C1
Medeola virginiana	indian cucumber	S2, NW3
Smilacina racemosa	false soloman seal	S2, NW2, C2

Streptopus amplexifolius	twisted stalk	NW3
Trillium erectum	red trillium	S2, NW3, C3
Trillium undulatum	painted trillium	
Uvularia sp.	bellwort	
Veratrum viride	false hellebore	NWH
Polygonatum biflorum	solomon's seal	S2, NWH
ONAGRACEAE		
Oenothera biennis	common evening primrose	R2, C2
ORCHIDACEAE		
Goodyera sp.	Rattlesnake plaintain	3*
OXALIDACEAE		
Oxalis sp.	oxalis	C1
PAPAVERIODEAE		
Chelidonium majus	celandine	NW
POLYGONACEAE		
Rumex crispus	curled dock	S2
Rumex acetosella	sheep sorrell	C1
PORTULACACEAE		
Claytonia virginica	spring beauty	NW
PRIMULACEAE		
Trientalis borealis	star flower	C2
PYROLACEAE		
Monotropa uniflora	indian pipes	3*
Pyrola ellip		
RANUNCULACEAE		
Actaea pachypoda	baneberry, white	NW3
Aquilegia canadensis	columbine	S3
Hepatica acutiloba	sharp lobed hepatica	NW3
Ranunculus abortivus	aborted buttercup	S2, NW3, C2

ROSACEAE

<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	wild strawberry	R2, C1
<i>Agrimonia</i> sp.	agrimony	S2
<i>Potentilla</i> sp.	cinquefoil	S2, R2
<i>Waldsteinia fragarioides</i>	barren strawberry	
<i>Geum</i> sp.	avens	SH

RUBIACEAE

<i>Mitchella repens</i>	partridgeberry	S2, NW, C3
<i>Galium</i> sp.	bedstraw	S1, NW C1

SAXIFRAGACEAE

<i>Mitella diphylla</i>	miterwort	NW
<i>Tiarella cordicolia</i>	foam flower	NW

SCROPHULARIACEAE

<i>Veronica</i> sp.	speedwell	S2
<i>Verbascum pholmoides</i>	common nullein	S2, C2

UMBELLIFERAE

<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen anne's lace	S1, R2
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	golden alexander	R1, C3
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	wild parsnip	R1

URTICACEAE

<i>Urtica</i> sp.	nettle	S2
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VIOLACEAE

<i>Viola papilionacea</i>	common blue violet	S2, NW, C1
" <i>carraderrsis</i>	canada "	NW
" <i>pullens</i>	Northern white violet	NW
" <i>pensylvanica</i>	smoothe yellow "	NW
" <i>rostrata</i>	long spurred "	NW
" <i>rotundifolia</i>	round-leaved yellow violet	NW

LICHENS AT COUNTY FOREST

Further Study Needed

MOSSESS

Further Study Needed

FUNGI

Further Study Needed

APPENDIX G

3-25-83

Dear Anne,

I held the enclosed info thinking I would see you at the Rotterdam meeting with the police chief. I hope this info will be of some use, more detailed studies would require a fair amount of time to complete.

Thanks
 Bob Smith

Table 12. Number of pairs of breeding birds in a pine plantation (60 acres) on Rossman Hill. Surveys conducted on 14, 17, and 31 May, 22 June, and 3 July, 1973 and on 31 May and 4 July 1974. Schoharie County

Species	Number Observed		Estimated Number Per 100 Acres	
	1973	1974	1973	1974
Blackburnian warbler	22	29	37	48
Magnolia warbler	11	12	18	20
Ovenbird	9	4	15	7
Black-capped chickadee	9	8	15	14
Golden-crowned kinglet	8	12	14	20
Yellow-rumped warbler	7	8	12	14
Brown creeper	6	5	10	8
Red-breasted nuthatch	5	2	8	3
Black-throated green warbler	2	1	3	2
Blue jay	2	2	3	3
Veery	1	1	2	2
Wood thrush	1	1	2	2
Solitary vireo	1	3	2	5
Purple finch	1	1	2	2
Hermit thrush	0	3	0	5
Scarlet tanager	0	1	0	2
Sharp-shinned hawk	0	1	0	2
Total: 17 species	85	94	143	159

Table 1. Species Occurrence and Number of Breeding Pairs.

Albany County,
New York - Towns

Species	Abbr.	8 May	22 May	9 Jun	11 Jun	19 Jun	30 Jun	10 Jul	17 Jul	No. Breeding Pairs	Per Sq. Km.	Per 100 Acres
Broad Winged Hawk	BWH					x				0		
Ruffed Grouse	RG						x		x	1	9	4
Yellow Bellied Sapsucker	YBSS	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	3.5	33	13
Downy Woodpecker	DWP	x	x		x	x	x		x	2	19	8
Great Crested Flycatcher	CFC			x	x	x	x	x	x	4	38	15
Eastern Wood Peewee	EWP		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	10.5	99	40
Blue Jay	BJ		x		x	x	x	x	x	3	28	11
Crow	C								x	0	0	0
Black Capped Chickadee	BCC	x	x			x	x	x	x	1	9	4
White Breasted Nuthatch	WBNH	x			x	x	x	x	x	5	47	19
House Wren	HW							x		0	0	0
Robin	Rob	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	3	28	11
Woodthrush	WT	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	10	94	38
Veery	Vee		x	x	x	x	x	x		5	47	19
Solitary Vireo	SV					x	x		x	0	0	0
Red-eyed Vireo	REV		x		x	x	x	x	x	9	85	34
Black and White Warbler	BWW	x	x							0	0	0
Black Throated Blue Warbler	BTBW	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8	75	30
Yellow Rumped Warbler	YRW		x		x					0	0	0
Ovenbird	OB	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	9	85	34
Common Yellow Throat	CYTW			x		x				0	0	0
American Red start	ARS	x		x		x		x		1	9	4
Northern Oriole	NO						x	x		0	0	0
Brown Headed Cowbird	BCB	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	7	66	27
Scarlet Tanager	ST		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	5	47	19
Rose Breasted Grosbeak	RBGB		x			x	x	x		0	0	0
Goldfinch	GF	x							x	0	0	0
Junco	Jun	x								0	0	0
Chipping Sparrow	CS						x			0	0	0
Song Sparrow	SS	x						x	x	0	0	0

Within the wood lot area of approximately 30 acres, 30 species of birds were found on 4 visits. 17 species were found to breed.

Table 69. Number of pairs of breeding birds in a second growth hardwood forest (40 acres) on Dog Hill in 1976 and 1977. *Greene County*

Species	Estimated # Pairs		Estimated # Pairs/ 100 Acres	
	1976	1977	1976	1977
Ovenbird	10	13	25	33
Red-eyed vireo	10	9	25	23
American redstart	9	10	23	25
Least flycatcher	5	8	13	20
Black-capped chickadee	4	4	10	10
Veery	3	4	8	10
Eastern wood pewee	3	3	8	8
Wood thrush	2	1	5	3
Hairy and/or downy woodpecker	2	3	5	8
Hermit thrush	2	3	5	8
Rose-breasted grosbeak	2	3	5	8
Brown creeper	2	3	5	8
Solitary vireo	2	4	5	10
White-breasted nuthatch	1	1	3	3
Northern waterthrush	1	0	3	0
Great crested flycatcher	1	1	3	3
Chestnut-sided warbler	1	1	3	3
American robin	1	2	3	5
Yellow-bellied sapsucker	1	0	3	0
Scarlet tanager	1	2	3	5
Common yellowthroat	1	0	3	0
Canada warbler	1	0	3	0
Blackburnian warbler	1	0	3	0
Northern goshawk*				
Blue jay*				
Brown-headed cowbird*				
Ruffed grouse*				
Total	66	75	172	193

* Species observed in area while conducting bird census.

APPENDIX H

SPECIES OF WILDLIFE KNOWN TO EXIST, FREQUENT, OR USE THE COUNTY FOREST AS A BREEDING AREA.

1. Whitetail deer - E, F, B
2. Wild Turkey - F, B
3. Cottontail Rabbit - F
4. Ruffed Grouse - E, F
5. Red Fox - F
6. Varying Hare - F
7. Squirrel (Red and Grey) - E, F, B
8. Skunk - F
9. Raccoon - E, F
10. Eastern Coyote - E, F
11. Muskrat - Pond may attract

E - Exist presently in substantial numbers on or near County Forest

F - Frequent area as a transient population

B - Suitable breeding habitat currently exists and area is known to be used by this species for this purpose

APPENDIX I

An afternoon birding trip found the following species present: ruby-throated hummingbird, great crested flycatcher, rose-breasted grosbeak, house wren, chestnut-sided warbler, yellow-rumped warbler, common yellowthroat, ovenbird, white-throated sparrow, and song sparrow. Blue heron and pileated woodpecker have also been reported on the property.

While in its present state the forest does not offer easy access, improvements could make this preserve a pleasant green space. The location of the land adjacent to Featherstonhaugh State Forest makes a larger area available for wildlife and those people who enjoy the out-of-doors.

The species of birds sighted reflect the habitat present. A ruby-throated hummingbird will inhabit an area having mixed woods of coniferous and deciduous stands. Saplings growing over a stream are favorite nesting choices for this species. The pond run-off area may have attracted the bird observed in flight.

Great crested flycatchers and rose-breasted grosbeaks will breed in deciduous trees whose heights range from 10-20 feet and where the crown is converging. Enjoying a similar type of habitat, the ovenbird chooses to nest on the forest floor.

Brushy tangles and thickets accommodate common yellowthroats, white-throated sparrows, and song sparrows. Usually nesting in more northern latitudes, the yellow-rumped warbler may remain in the Forest because of the 1200' altitude.

House wrens seek out woodland edges while chestnut-sided warblers nest in an open second-growth woodland habitat.

I detected no evidence of the presence of the pileated woodpecker, i.e. no large rectangular excavations in trees being observed. The great blue heron could have stopped by to check out the pond for available foodstuffs. Heron diet consists of water bugs, damselflies, crayfish, and fish.

Other species which might be present are American redstart, indigo bunting, rufous-sided towhee, blue jay, black-capped chickadee, scarlet tanager, and dark-eyed junco.

Shirley Schadow

Shirley Schadow
230 Lake Hill Road
Burnt Hills, NY 12027
399-8337