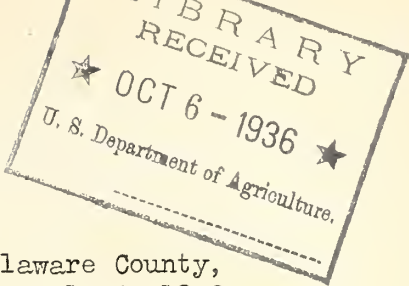


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WHAT CLUB MEMBERS LEARN ABOUT FORESTRY

A radio talk by Bruce Davidson, 4-H club member, Delaware County, New York, delivered in the National 4-H club radio program, July 4, 1936, and broadcast by a network of 55 associate NBC radio stations.

I attend the Abraham L. Kellogg school at Treadwell, New York. Mr. Donald Charles is principal. Of the 200 pupils that attend our school, 100 are 4-H club members. This year club members in our school are planting 20,000 trees; many are to be planted on school grounds.

I am 15 years old and belong to the Hill-Toppers 4-H Club, my father being the leader. There are 25 members in our club.

In the fall of 1933 I enrolled in first year forestry, this consists in tree planting. I planted 1,000 trees of Norway Spruce. I planted this kind of tree because they grow better in this region and seem to resist diseases. The trees are given by the New York State Conservation Department which donates trees to club members when they begin the forestry project.

My brothers and sister have planted 7,000 trees; their plantation being near mine. About 98% of our plantation is living.

The Delaware County 4-H members to date have planted eight hundred and thirty-five thousand trees, out of a total of nine million six hundred seventy-six thousand, six hundred and eleven planted in the county since 1900.

In 1934 I enrolled in second year forestry. In that fall I collected the fruit from 15 common trees. Later in the winter, I gathered twigs from these same trees, and in the following summer I gathered the leaves and mounted all of these in a collection book. This helped me to learn the kinds and uses of the different trees.

I exhibited my book at the county fair in Walton and received second prize.

The following year I enrolled in third year forestry. I measured a circular one quarter acre plot of woodland, marked the trees which were to be left and cut the poor and weed trees into fire wood. I kept a record of the trees cut and the number left standing, also the amount of firewood cut, which was _____ cords. Adjoining my woodlot are three other woodlot improvement plots belonging to my brothers. The trees which I left in the woodlot are hard maple, white ash, yellow birch, black cherry and basswood. I cut out ironwood, some beech, striped maple, and trees which were too crowded, were crooked, or were diseased.

The extension foresters of the northeastern states visited my brothers' woodlots, in September 1931 while on a forestry tour. While at our woods my brothers exhibited the results of four years of forestry.

This past year, I placed third in the New York State Woodlot Improvement contest sponsored by the American Forestry Association.

I have learned many things through the 4-H club work. Some of these things I have learned from my brothers' and sister's projects. I have in addition to my forestry work, projects in potatoes and dairy and farm shop.

In farm shop I learned how to tie knots, how to solder and many other useful things. Through my brothers, I have learned about the strawberry, the garden, the poultry and the farm account projects, also about scrap book making. At our 4-H camp I learned about woodcraft and leather working.

I have found 4-H club work not only useful but also a pleasure under the leadership of Mr. J. A. Lennox, the Delaware County 4-H club agent. My forestry work has taught me how the woodlots add to income from the farm, how to identify the different trees, and how I can keep a continuous crop of trees growing on land which is not good for any other use. This year I will complete my four years of forestry work with a project in log scaling and timber estimating.

I will learn how to measure the board feet in logs and to estimate the lumber in standing trees. I hope other 4-H club boys will get the same amount of benefit in forestry that I have found.

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