



## In the Shade of the Old Maple Tree

By Roger Kingsley

I'm behind the wheel of my Ford F-150, driving the road that connects East Troy to the State and County Parks of Mt. Pisgah in Bradford County. It's one of those summer days that ranks a twelve on a one-to-ten scale. It's one of those days when you can't help but pucker moistened lips and whistle, hum, or sing Nat King Cole's classic "Those Lazy Hazy Crazy Days of Summer" tune. It's farm country prior to entering the park boundaries, and the first farm you pass is the picturesque paradise of Providence Acres—aptly named by the Abma family for their deep devotion to the guidance of God. I can't remember why I was driving that road to begin with, but I do remember this: my reaction when I saw the beef cattle on Providence Acres napping in the shade of that maple tree, and my extreme disappointment when I realized my camera equipment was at home several miles away. Holy cow!! This is "crazy!" What was I thinking as I hit the brakes and performed a K on that narrow country road? Seconds later I passed the cattle again...this time heading for the shortest route home, holding my breath and praying they would remain undisturbed in their peaceful, cool spot. A short while later I was back at the scene, and, to my surprise, the cows and their calves never budged while I was gone, nor did they make any attempt to move out while I photographed them. I was smiling when the photo session was over, because at that point I was happier than a napping Hereford under the shade of a maple tree on a lazy, hazy, crazy summer day.