

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



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President's Message

As I write this we are receiving our first taste of real winter ... my first snow shoveling of the season! Hope we do not have too many more.

The NWOA Board is, full steam ahead, planning for the **NWOA Annual General Meeting at the German hall in Delhi, March 2, 2016. The doors open at 5pm and the meeting starts at 7pm, ending at 9pm.** You should plan to attend and mark it on your calendar because it looks to be a great one! Bring a friend or neighbour because we will have many vendor and group booths with lots of information that pertains to your woodlot and the creatures that may make it their home. We have two dynamic speakers Michael Lothrop on survival skills and Garth Pottruff on medicinal-edible trees that are very interesting to listen to. To top it off, there is coffee and Timbits while you catch up with other members and friends and don't forget the prizes!

We have a Fomes/Before-After Harvest Workshop of 3 red pine plantations; one currently being harvested, another recently harvested and one harvested several years ago but is now a healthy, young hardwood forest. The plantations are within a mile of each other close to Backus, at 360 Hwy24 W. The St. Williams Interpretative Centre will be open for light refreshment after the tour. You can browse through a historical perspective of local woodlot management. Whether or not if you have a pine plantation on your property, you may find this interesting and informative. More on this Feb 17, 2016 1pm tour below.

Many hands make the work load light! We have a very talented and complementary group of people on our Board. I have a lot of fun working with them. We met 9 times a year, with July, August and December off. We would love to welcome new members to learn what is going on in Norfolk County, wood markets or learn to better manage your woodlot for whatever purpose you see it doing for you. Depending on your talents, perhaps joining our Newsletter Committee would help get your creative juices flowing. Our Workshop/Tour Committee would love some new ideas on woodlot management for specific purposes that would be of interest to the membership. If you wish to volunteer for your community by becoming a Board Member and you have questions contact me or one of the Board members.

We welcome your comments, thoughts and ideas for our newsletter, workshops and Annual Meeting. You can post them on our website www.norfolkwoodlots.com or call me at 519-428-2615 or email me at john.dewitt@holliswealth.com

All the best to you in 2016!

John de Witt

AGM Presentations

On Feb 28/15, one of the Association's Directors, Dave Reid, attended an Eco Conference organized by the Brant Rod & Gun Club. Two speakers stood out and were subsequently approached by Dave and asked to present at the NWOA AGM on March 2, 2016.

Primitive Skills

1. **Michael Lothrop** did an impromptu hands on presentation about "primitive survival" ... He makes his own long bows, arrows and flint or obsidian spear heads and was quite entertaining - e.g. I did not know that most of the arrow heads I've found in the past in Norfolk County were not arrow heads at all but atlatl spear heads! "



Mike has been learning primitive and survival skills for about 30 years now. He has been flintknapping for 16 years (the art of making stone tools). He has taught these skills to public school, high school, University students, scouts and other groups for about the last 6 years. Most of his teaching is done with Grand River Rafting, operated by Garth Potruff. He demonstrates for close to 1000 or more students per year. He demonstrates knapping, fire by friction (hand + bow drill), cordage (making of string/rope from plants), atlatl throwing and manufacture (spear thrower). He reviews evolution and how these skills enabled us to become what we are today, and often bring up edible/medicinal plants while he does tree identification and uses. He is currently learning to become a primitive bowyer, as well, and hopes to gather enough material and skill to be able to start teaching bow making in a few years.

Mike will provide a demonstration during the break period at the AGM.

2. **Garth Potruff**, a former MNR forester who has turned entrepreneur and is currently a principle in Grand River Rafting Company ... He did a great presentation on "Edible-Medicinal Trees of the Grand River Valley" with lot's of hands on twigs and without PowerPoint. This may be of interest to Association members.

Medicinal-Edible Trees of the Neutral Nation



Garth was raised on a farm in the community of Bethel, with hay fields as a yard... and hay forts as his castle.

After graduating from Lakehead University in 1977, his forestry career led him to Ottawa with the MNR. But in 1980, like a homing pigeon, he returned to a dual life of farming and corporations in the Grand River Valley.

In 2006, his son Chad, encouraged Garth to follow the passion of his heart... teaching about the outdoors! Together they founded the Grand River Rafting Company... an outdoor learning adventure using rafts and trails as classrooms.

Their unique interpretive style has caught the attention of the world. In 2015, over 25,000 people knocked on their door for a Canadian Experience.

Amendment to the NWOA Constitution

Section IV. Board of Directors.

At its meeting of December 7, 2015, the Board approved a motion to amend the current Section IV (4.) and (5.) and replace with Section IV (4.), which allows the existing Board of Directors to renew the term of a Director for additional terms. An amendment to the Constitution requires approval of the Membership. A motion will be made, at the Annual General Meeting, to approve this amendment. The main reason for this amendment is to allow the Board to retain valuable Directors who are still interested in serving beyond the initial three year term of office.

CURRENT SECTION

IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The governing body of this Association shall be known as the Board of Directors and shall include up to 12 members.
2. The Board of Directors shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
3. The Executive members of the Board shall consist of the President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer and shall be decided at the first board meeting following the annual meeting. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.
4. No person may serve on the Board of Directors for more than two consecutive terms. However, a person may be re-elected to the Board following a one year absence from it.
5. The term of each Director shall be three years.
6. A quorum of the Board of Directors will be a majority of members, but one of either the President or Vice-president must be in attendance to chair the meeting. In case of a tie the chair has a second vote.

REVISED SECTION

IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The governing body of this Association shall be known as the Board of Directors and shall include up to 12 members.
2. The Board of Directors shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
3. The Executive members of the Board shall consist of the President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer and shall be decided at the first board meeting following the annual meeting. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

4. The term of each Director shall be three years. A Director may be retained, as a Director, for an additional three year term, should a majority of the Directors so vote. The decision of the Board will be confirmed at the following Annual General Meeting.
5. A quorum of the Board of Directors will be a majority of members, but one of either the President or Vice-president must be in attendance to chair the meeting. In case of a tie the chair has a second vote.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Name	Position	Elected	Term End
John de Witt	President	2015	2018
Bob Dukelow	Vice President	2015	2018
John Morrissey	Secretary	2016	2019
Angelle van Kleef	Past president	2013	2016
Eric Ferguson	Web committee/Acting Treasurer	2016	2019
Joe Stechly	Director	2016	2019
Dave Reid	Director	2016	2019
Dolf Wynia	FSC Committee / Past President	2016	2019
Barbara Hourigan	Director	2014	2017
Betty Chanyi	Director	2015	2018
Brad Trembley	Director	2015	2018
Tracey Boerkamp	Director - AGM Convenor	2016	2019
Adam Biddle	Norfolk County Advisor		
Steve Scheers	Norfolk County Advisor		
Ron Tchorek	Chain saw safety Advisor		
Eric Cleland	MNR Advisor		
Brett Norman	Nature Conservancy of Canada Advisor		
George Maiter	Nomination Advisor		

Ongoing Site Visits and Workshops

The Board of Directors is very interested in any suggestions from members on subjects for future workshops or tours they would be interested in attending. A formal survey of members' interests in that regard is planned for the AGM on March 2, 2016. Suggestions are welcome to any board member in the mean time.

Fomes Root Rot - Workshop Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association

People interested in attending this very informative workshop should register with Adam Biddle via email adam.biddle@norfolkcounty.ca if you do not have access to email then call 519-426-5999 ext 2224 and leave your name, phone number, that you will be attending the Fomes/Before-After Harvest Workshop and the number of people coming with you.

For people attending the Fomes/Before-After Harvest Workshop woodlot sites, the St. Williams Interpretative Centre on 851 Hwy 24 W will be open for light refreshment after completion of the tour. While there, you can browse through the Interpretative Centres' historical perspective on local woodlot management. There are a lot of turn of the century local photographs of forest practices in the early 1900's.

We will be touring 3 sites within a mile of each other. We will see a pine harvest operation while treating the stumps for Fomes, a recently harvested pine woodlot and a woodlot harvested several years ago that

currently is growing a healthy stand of young hardwoods. Afterwards there is light refreshment at St Williams Interpretative Centre at 851 Hwy 24 W where there is an interesting display of turn of the century photographs and artifacts of local forest management practises.

Fomes Root Rot disease *Heterobasidion irregulare* is an invasive pathogen that leads to growth loss and mortality in host trees. Many conifer species are susceptible, particularly Red Pine. Once established in a plantation it can spread quite rapidly if left unchecked.

Fomes Root Rot typically results in pockets of tree mortality within a plantation, as the pathogen spreads to host trees not only through wounds where spores may enter the tree, but also through root grafts with neighbouring trees. This becomes a greater issue when harvesting susceptible stands as cut stumps are a major vector for the disease to enter the root system of trees.

It was once common practice to treat Red Pine stumps with Borax immediately after being cut in order to dehydrate the stump and make it uncondusive for Fomes to become established. This practice was abandoned in the late 90's due to environmental concerns. Without a control mechanism to restrict the spread of Heterobasidion, forest managers were forced to modify their harvests in order to salvage harvestable material, by aggressively cutting all host trees within an affected area. This resulted in premature removal of many stems, resulting in higher percentages of pulp and smaller sawlogs, as opposed to allowing many of these stems to mature to higher value sawlogs and pole material.

Rot StopC is a newly registered product in Canada, and is a biological control for Heterobasidion. This product now provides forest managers with a new hope in managing their plantations for optimum economic return.

Join the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association in a tour of a Red Pine plantation currently being managed with this new product. Learn how to best manage your Red Pine plantation and deal with invasive pests that may cause you substantial loss. You will see a harvested stand, a stand that is currently marked for harvest, as well as a stand that has been very well managed over the years and is near a complete conversion to an uneven-aged hardwood stand.

Leading the tour will be Adam Biddle, Resource Management Technician with Norfolk County, as well as guest speaker John McLaughlin of Bio-Forest, a forest pathologist with an extensive background working with Heterobasidion in both the public and private sector.



Fruiting *asidion*

When: Wednesday, February 17, 2016
1:00 PM

Where: 360 Highway 24 W.
Norfolk County Woodlot SW4

Dress appropriately for the weather!!!!



Barn Swallow / Forest Birds Workshop

Workshop #2 - May 26, 2016

Thursday, May 26, 2016, 7:00PM to 9:00PM, location and agenda TBD

Interpretative Walk - May 28, 2016

Saturday, May 28, 2016 8:00 AM, with BSC staff, Location TBD

Website Information

For more information, and access to Newsletters, visit our Website norfolkwoodlots.com

Current Newsletters are posted in the 'Members Area' of the website.

To access this section you need to login with your Username and Password

Select the "**Member Area Login**" and login. (*hint. Your user name is your full email address and password as was sent to you*) You should be able to reset your password if needed, or if problems send an email to membership@norfolkwoodlots.com

Once logged-in, select "**Members Area**" go to "**Current Newsletter**" page. Once there you can select the latest or any newsletter you would like to read.
