

# NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

April 2018



## President's Message

Our foray into Facebook is meeting with some success. It helps our Newsletter, website and email to disseminate information about things the Board is working on. We continue to work on issues that involve invasive species, woodlot management and habitat creation.

Thanks to the NWOA Board for their efforts in putting together an informative and entertaining NWOA Annual General Meeting at the German Hall in Delhi, Wednesday February 28, 2018. We welcome and encourage members to come forward with ideas on additional information booths that would be of interest to the other members.

Special thanks to our sponsors who enable us hand out a plethora of door prizes and the chance for a renewing member to enter the early bird draw for a chainsaw.

Thanks to Audrey Heagy, coordinator of StWilliams Conservation Reserve Community Council for a very interesting talk on activities in the Conservation Reserve (Reserve) such as the experiments with new forestry practices to create habitat for the species at risk in the Reserve. Also, we welcome Audrey as our latest Board member

Many hands give many ideas! 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 help us to help fellow woodlot owners to learn what is going on in Norfolk County woodlots or learn to better manage their 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. We have a Facebook and would love to post pictures or news about your woodlot. 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](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com) or call me at 519-426-2782 or email me at [johndewitt@kwic.com](mailto: johndewitt@kwic.com) Send us your woodlot ideas and woodlot pictures so we can post them on our Facebook so we all can share and learn on <https://www.facebook.com/norfolkwoodlots/> .

**John de Witt**

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## 2018 Annual General Meeting



The Annual General Meeting was held on February 28 at the German Home in Delhi. It was another successful gathering with over 150 people attending. There were many booths present with topics of interest to many people.

The membership confirmed the Board of Directors with the addition of Audrey Heagy.

### Speakers

Audrey Heagy, Co-ordinator of the St Williams Conservation Reserve Community Council, provided an overview of the objectives of the Conservation Reserve. Her presentation on vegetation management activities at the St Williams Conservation Reserve highlighted the fact that much of this area had historically been covered in open oak savannah and oak-pine woodland habitats. About 30% of the Conservation Reserve lands have typical Carolinian forest ecosystem habitats that are being protected. Small oak savannah remnants are being managed using prescribed burns. Over 60% of the Conservation Reserve has conifer plantations that are now being thinned with a long-term goal of restoring oak savannah communities. Oak savannah is one of the rarest ecosystems in North America. Audrey also presented preliminary findings from a "variable retention harvest" research project at a red pine plantation near Turkey Point that was thinned in 2013-14 to study different thinning densities and patterns.

Adam Biddle, Supervisor of Forestry for Norfolk County, provided information relative to Gypsy Moth presence in Norfolk County. He described the spray program designed to reduce the effects of the invasive species. He cited a fungus that is having the effect of reducing the presence of Gypsy Moth. He described the introduction of Oak Wilt to the area and tactics which may help to reduce the progress of the disease. He then provided a brief overview of a survey of woodlot management conducted by Norfolk County in 2017.

## Door Prize Donors

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Long Point Basin Land Trust  
Kernal Peanuts  
BIRD STUDIES CANADA  
TREE CLIMBING CANADA  
ST WILLIAMS NURSERY  
ELP LOGGING



## Information Booths

FIRE ARMS LICENSING&EDUCATION  
NEAC  
MNR and Conservation OFFICE  
OPP  
ENDANGERED SPECIES  
SPECIES AT RISK  
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NORFOLK Field NATURALISTS  
St Williams Nursery  
NFA Norfolk Farm Saffety Association  
COYOTE WATCH CANADA  
Ruffed Grouse Society  
Canadian Chestnut Council  
SCOTTS FIBER CANADA  
Long Point World Biosphere  
NATURE CALLING  
FOREST INTERPERATIVE CENTER  
Superintendent Forestry

## Early Bird Door Prizes

Winner of Stihl Chain saw **Robert Griffin**, St Johns Road (donated by Premier Equipment & NWOA)

Winner of Staples Office Chair **Jerry Stager**, Willsonville

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## THE SAWMILLS OF YESTERYEAR A CUT IN TIME

This is the second in a series of articles describing the development of the sawmill industry in Norfolk County from the mid-1700s to the early 1900s. The information has been provided by the **Forest Interpretive Centre**.

1812 to 1850's

Within Norfolk County there were many forces driving the lumber and saw milling industry. The local population was steadily increasing due to immigrants coming from Europe. In addition, the infrastructure in Norfolk was expanding which created a large demand for timber. During this time the number of mills went from only 16 in 1817 to 93 in 1850.

Throughout Norfolk County, towns were expanding and this also used local lumber. The plank road built from 1842 to 1844, connecting Hamilton and Port Dover, providing a market for sawn lumber. Port Dover became a lumbering hub exporting 6,534,000 board feet in 1849. Harbours were expanding and developing across Norfolk County to accommodate the influx of timber being transported by schooner.

Changes in technology helped the industry, as efficiency in sawing caused less waste and greater production. Aiding this was to Norfolk County in 1845. greater production and were became common in many



the steam sawmill introduced They were built larger for helped by the circular saw that mills by the 1850's.

As demand for lumber grew industry experienced rapid century. Society's needs grew were no longer simply sawn but such items as barrel staves planed lumber. Soon lumber dealers and shipping barons became involved in the business and markets opened in the United States and Britain.

with increased settlement, the growth in the early 19th more complex. The needs boards or squared off timber and furniture, lathed and

Being forced beyond the borders of Norfolk County helped the industry to grow. Projects like the Erie Canal (1825), Welland Canal and Rideau Canals (1830), opened new passageways for the lumber to travel to Buffalo, Montreal, and as far as the East Coast. Meanwhile, the railway system was growing across North America and in 1857 the railway became active, reducing the cost of transporting timber.

In the early 1820's Upper Canada imposed an import tax on American lumber in order to protect the industry. Fluctuations in timber prices and production led to the Timber Act in 1849 which required those in the industry to have a year-long licence to harvest timber. In 1854, the Reciprocity Treaty was enacted with the United States lifting the American tariff on Canadian lumber, thus securing free exchange of all types of lumber and decreasing trade with Britain.

Photos by Betty Chanyi

## St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre Site Visit

by Kristen Bernard

Throughout the year, the Board of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association organizes tours and events for its membership. These events provide opportunities for learning, new experiences and connect members to forest management resources and expertise.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, NWOA members were invited to the St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre, the only nursery in Ontario that exclusively produces native seeds and plants with an eye to promoting biodiversity across the province. Located north of St. Williams here in Norfolk County, the nursery was first established in 1908 in response to the need to produce tree seedlings to reforest the fragile sandy soils of Norfolk County that had been cleared for agriculture. The nursery quickly grew, becoming Canada's first Forestry Station, a large scale production facility for tree seedlings and a reforestation demonstration site providing practitioners from across the province and beyond with a place to learn and adapt large scale tree planting techniques. The surrounding forests at the nursery are part of the original 1,618 hectare demonstration forest.



The tour was lead by Ariana Burgener, who kept us engaged as she walked us through a day in the life of a native seed at the St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre. The nursery is a source identified facility – meaning they collect and produce seeds that grow in the same region they will be planted. Collecting native seed is a creative process, from nuts and acorns to spores and fluffy fly-away seed, when you commit to producing hundreds of different native plants you need to adapt to all the ways these unique plants produce seed and grow.

We were walked through the process of how the nursery collects, prepares and grows its seed and plants. From specialized machinery adapted to clean seed (hard husks, fluffy seed heads, fibrous pods, etc) to vacuum systems that help to sort seed as small as a grain of sand from its protective shell. Our tour ended in the greenhouse and though it was too early to see any sprouting plants that will make their way into gardens and restoration sites this year, we did get a chance to view the many systems that make growing on such a large scale possible. Extensive irrigation systems, production lines for seeding, potting and packaging, and the largest freezer any of us had ever stepped foot in, all play a part in the operation.

Thank you kindly to Ariana and St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre for spending the afternoon with us. If you are interested in purchasing native plants from the nursery be sure to check out their webpage. They will be at plant sales across Southwestern Ontario this spring.



*The next NWOA site visit is scheduled for Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Lake Erie Farms property. Southwestern Ontario Program Director Kristen Bernard will take interested participants on a tour of this 161 hectare property that was restored back to Carolinian forest and grassland habitat in 2006. Almost 12 years later, this property is a showcase site for landscape scale restoration. For more information or to register for the tour please contact Kristen Bernard at [Kristen.bernard@natureconservancy.ca](mailto:Kristen.bernard@natureconservancy.ca)*



*The Working Forest* is the national newspaper for those who work in Canada's forests. For 2018, the paper has been re-designed and re-focused with an emphasis on analysis, commentary and in-depth coverage of the issues that affect the future of the forest products industry.

With eight print editions and a bi-weekly newsletter, *The Working Forest* provides up-to-date and comprehensive coverage of the news and trends that matter to readers in the forest products sector.

Members are invited to visit the site of *The Working Forest* at [www.workingforest.com](http://www.workingforest.com)

# NWOA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members can renew their membership, online, using the NWOA website and pay online with PayPal. Go to the website and then to **Members Area**, then to **Member Renewal**. You may also print the membership application form and renew by mail. Members who renew early would be eligible for the AGM prize draws.

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## AGM Photos

By Betty Chanyi



