

# NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

February 2019



## President's Message

This message is all about our upcoming AGM and asking members to consider putting their name forward to become a Board member. Or perhaps volunteering to help with a specific workshop on a woodlot topic you think is interesting and would like to share with the membership. We have a diverse group of people in the membership which should be reflected in the Board. In particular we are looking for someone to work with Eric Ferguson, our long standing Treasurer.

**The NWOA Annual General Meeting will be held at the German hall in Delhi, March 6, 2019. 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. Our guest speaker, Dr. Christian (Chris) MacQuarrie is a researcher with the Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Forest Service based in Sault Ste. Marie. He has been a member of the Pest Ecology and Management team since 2010. His research interests include integrated pest management of native and introduced forest insects, biological control, insect population dynamics and insect ecology and behaviour. Presently his focus is on the population dynamics of emerald ash borer.

To top it off, there is coffee and Timbits while you catch up with other members and friends and don't forget the prizes!

Of course everyone's favourite prize is our early bird membership renewal lottery with the winner receiving a chainsaw donated by Sthil, Premier and Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association or if you prefer a really nice office chair donated by Staples, Simcoe. For your name to be included in this lottery all you need to do is renew your membership and have it in the Treasurers hands before March 1, 2019.

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 meet 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. We are just starting to setup our Facebook and would love some help tending it. 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)

**John de Witt**

---

## Ash Conservation Before Emerald Ash Borer and Hope After!

By Melissa Spearing

Hope is not a word often associated with Ash these days. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is continuing its relentless march north and east and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) calculated Ontario's area of severe decline at 242,283 ha (as of 2016). Even if black ash receives formal recognition as a Species at Risk soon, we've already experienced regional extinctions of once-common species and ash isn't the only one!

The Forest Gene Conservation Association (FGCA), in partnership with the Canadian Forest Service's National Tree Seed Centre and CFS geneticists in Quebec, have a different approach to outlast such threats. We are focusing on long-term seed banking for up to 50 years ahead of EAB when seed is still plentiful. We only need a few litres of good seed from 20-30 trees in each ecodistrict to achieve >99% of the local genetic diversity. Across each species' range, diverse seed collections are critically important for research, reintroduction and adapting to a changing climate. We need options.



**CAPTION:** (left): A small green ash seed lot from Brigden, Ontario in 2018 from trees possibly protected by woodpecker feeders, yielded only a few valuable, viable seeds – a rare survivor population. Photo by Melissa Spearing, FGCA, 2018. (right). Thousands of blue ash seed collected in 2013 from the University of Guelph Arboretum Gene Bank held in a 1L mason jar at the National Tree Seed Centre at -20°C. Photo by Melissa Spearing, FGCA, 2016.

CFS has also begun DNA testing the rare survivor trees persisting long after EAB has swept through an area. We have good news on that front that may apply to Norfolk and area, where there was never any ash seed collected and stored in advance. Hindsight is 20/20.

In October 2018, FGCA and University of Guelph Arboretum staff went in search of lingering ash from Cambridge, London, Newbury, Chatham-Kent, Point Pelee and on Pelee Island. We did not expect seed or to find many trees, but we did, thanks especially to caring OWA landowner responses to our call. Observant landowners and managers who had not pre-emptively cut all their natural stands, have allowed the rare 5 in 10,000 green or black ash a chance to show their true colours. By the end of the trip, FGCA sent 36 tissue samples inclusive of all five native species to CFS scientists. Incredibly, we also made three small seed collections far into the EAB-affected zone (1 blue ash and 2 green ash) to send to the National Tree Seed Centre for evaluation. These seedlots have now been cleaned and will be tested for germination. These are the first examples of natural green ash reproduction after EAB confirmed in SW Ontario. Answers from the DNA testing will take some time, and more funding to continue filling gaps.

Tolerance is a complex thing – part genetics, part insect, part site and part community of species around it. FGCA found blue ash is quite tolerant of EAB and should be planted more often where habitat can support it long-term. Green and black ash have very little tolerance, while white ash seems to hold on a few years longer. This helps FGCA prioritize targets each year, like triage. One interesting observation is that ash trees

sharing a root zone with eastern white cedar seem to have a greater chance of survival; a mutual relationship perhaps? Keep an eye out for these large specimens and situations. There is hope!



**CAPTION:** A large green ash (*F. pennsylvanica*), Talbot Trail Highway, October 2018, white cedar hedge on the left. Several nearby green ash had recently died. Photo by Melissa Spearing, FGCA, 2018.

FGCA will be fundraising for 2019 as it costs \$200-\$500 per collection to coordinate, locate, collect and carefully ship seed or DNA samples. But we encourage you to read, observe and report any seed or survivor trees in Norfolk and area next season (with photos!). **In the Carolinian Zone, we are particularly interested if you have black or pumpkin ash on your property, likely in wet and swampy areas.** Any reports of sexually mature, seed-producing pumpkin ash may be the last of its kind (for now) in Canada. With a freezer in Fredericton and a little foresight, we can buy up to 50 years of time to let this menace pass, and maybe save species from the brink of extinction. There isn't much time left.

For more reading and to participate in our iNaturalist project, please see the links below:

<https://sites.google.com/fgca.net/ontarioashconservation/home>  
<https://fgca.net/2018/09/help-us-find-ash-seed-and-eab-survivors/>

iNaturalist Project for Reporting Seed & Survivors (@fgcaontario):

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/ontario-native-ash-seed-and-survivor-dna-collection>

Contact Melissa Spearing  
Seed Program Coordinator, Forest Gene Conservation Association  
Email: [melissa@fgca.net](mailto:melissa@fgca.net)  
Cell/Text: (416) 909-9755  
Forest Gene Conservation Association ([www.fgca.net](http://www.fgca.net))  
275 County Rd. 44, Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0

---



By: The Working Forest Staff

Samsung Electronics has announced it will replace plastic packaging used for its bevy of products — from mobile phones and tablets to home appliances and wearables — with paper and other environmentally sustainable materials like recycled/bio-based plastics.

Samsung will start making the switch in the first half of the year. The company aims to only use paper packaging materials certified by forestry initiatives by next year. By 2030, Samsung says it plans to use 500,000 tons of recycled plastics and collect 7.5 million tons of discarded products (both cumulative from 2009).

The company said it's formed an internal task force to come up with innovative packaging ideas that avoid plastic.

For instance, the plastic trays used to hold mobile phones and tablets will be replaced with ones made from pulp. Samsung said it will also alter the phone charger design, swapping the glossy exterior with a matte finish and eliminating plastic protection films, reducing the use of plastics.

Plastic bags used to protect the surface of home appliances such as TVs, refrigerators, air conditioners and washing machines and other kitchen appliances will also be replaced with bags containing recycled materials and bioplastics. Bioplastics are made from plastic wastes and non-fossil fuel materials like starch or sugar cane.

The company also committed to only using fiber materials certified by global environmental organizations like the Forest Stewardship Council, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Scheme and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative for packaging and manuals by 2020.

“The company will adopt more environmentally sustainable materials even if it means an increase in cost,” Gyeong-bin Jeon, head of Samsung’s Global Customer Satisfaction Center, said in a statement.

---





Nature Canada, a national conservation charity working to conserve and protect wildlife and their habitat, is campaigning to *Save Our Swallows*, a group of rapidly declining and threatened birds. Our goal is to support farmers and other rural residents of southern Ontario to help these highly cherished species. We have an on-line survey that would very much like you to complete, to tell us about your practices and knowledge with regard to swallows. Nearly 200 rural residents have completed the survey, but our goal is to triple that to have a large-enough sample to understand the challenges and opportunities for helping these species, and to recruit enough people to undertake beneficial practices for swallows so that we can make a tangible difference for these birds in need. By completing the survey, you can enter a draw to win a modern T-14 Purple Martin housing unit, as well as one of 50 Nature Canada's 2019 or 2020 calendars. To participate in the survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q3HXP2V>. You can learn more about the project by going to <https://naturecanada.ca/defend-nature/how-you-help-us-take-action/save-our-swallow/>



## 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.

**Be an early bird**



**Renew your membership before the annual meeting  
And have a chance to win a chainsaw at the meeting**

