

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

January 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.

The NWOA Board is full steam ahead, planning for the **NWOA Annual General Meeting at the German Hall in Delhi, Wednesday February 28, 2018. 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. Audrey Heagy, coordinator of St Williams Conservation Reserve Community Council with a very interesting talk on activities in the Conservation Reserve (Reserve) such as the experiments with new forestry practises to create habitat for the species at risk in the Reserve. Also, Adam Biddle, Norfolk County Superintendent of Forestry will give an update on forest activity in the County plus a 'heads up' on some of the invasive species that are establishing in the County.

To top it off, there is coffee and Timbits while you catch up with other members and friends and plenty of door prizes!

Of course everyones favourite prize is our early bird membership renewal lottery with the winner receiving a chainsaw donated by Sthil, Premier and Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association. 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 by Friday February 23, 2018.

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 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

How to restore *Phragmites*-invaded wetlands

Christine Rohal, Keith Hambrecht, Chad Cranney, Karin Kettenring

WHY CONTROL *PHRAGMITES*?

Phragmites grows in tall, dense stands that shade out native plants. It spreads rapidly and overtakes important habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl, reducing the availability of nesting, loafing, and foraging areas. *Phragmites* makes large areas of wetlands inaccessible to wildlife and humans alike.

WHERE TO CONTROL *PHRAGMITES*

It is not always possible to effectively control all *Phragmites* on your property. Choose healthy, robust patches that you will be able to access for multiple years. Treating patches near established native plants will help protect important native habitat, and will promote passive native plant recruitment following control.

CONTROL TIMELINE

1. (optional) In year one, mow, cut, or intensively graze in June, at least 1 month before herbicide application, to prevent seed production.
2. Spray with glyphosate in August-September.
3. If patch was unmowed in summer, or grew back significantly, mow, cut, trample, or burn *Phragmites* in fall or winter (allowing 1 month for herbicide to take effect first).
4. Repeat for 3 consecutive years, spot treating the regrowth. Following year 3, monitor *Phragmites* in treated area, and continue spot treating as needed.

CRUCIAL TIPS

- The timing of herbicide application is very important. It should be applied just before the plant goes dormant, between tasseling and first frost. The best herbicide timing depends on location and is weather-dependent, but it usually occurs during August and September in Northern Utah.
- The plant must be healthy to thoroughly take up the herbicide. Avoid spraying *Phragmites* that is drought-stressed. Don't mow or graze *Phragmites* within 1 month of spraying, before or after.

- Avoid trampling recently sprayed *Phragmites* as much as possible. Crushed *Phragmites* is less likely to effectively transport herbicide to the roots which is needed for effective control.
- Disrupting bird nesting with *Phragmites* control could violate the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Always calibrate your spray equipment to ensure the proper amount of herbicide is being applied. Too little, or too much, will result in less effective treatment.



WATER MANAGEMENT IMPROVES CONTROL OUTCOMES

- Water control, if available, is a very useful tool. Water can be used to help grow the *Phragmites* and make it healthy before spraying, which improves herbicide effectiveness.
- After mowing or burning, flooding sites as deep as possible can help decompose the *Phragmites* litter.
- Once native vegetation is established, following a natural hydrologic cycle (lots of water in spring, phasing to little or no water in early summer i.e. mid-May/early June) will help the native plants establish and reduce *Phragmites* spread. Leaving shallow water on an area all summer and into the fall will promote *Phragmites* germination and growth.
- Following treatment years, drought stressing treated areas will help prevent the return of *Phragmites* and promote the establishment of drought-tolerant plants such as pickleweed and saltgrass. However, if the objective is to reestablish emergent plants such as bulrushes, deeper water will be required.

MANAGING *PHRAGMITES* TO REDUCE SPREAD

- If you cannot mow, well-timed herbicide spraying will at least prevent the plant from spreading, though natives are unlikely to establish in the dense, dead *Phragmites* stands.
- Areas that you are unable to treat with herbicide can be drought-stressed to prevent spread through patch expansion and seed production.
- Grazing is another useful tool to reduce *Phragmites* seed production and slow down the expansion of clones.

Herbicide Mixture

We recommend 0.75 gallons (3 qt) glyphosate with 0.1 gallons (13 oz) surfactant per acre + water. With a 100 gallon tank and a spray rate of 20 gallons per acre, this is equivalent to 3.75 gallons (15 qt) glyphosate, 0.5 gallons surfactant (2 qt), and 95.75 gallons of water.

ESTABLISHING NATIVE PLANTS

- *Phragmites* patches that are older or distant from established native plants may have depleted native seed banks, leading to poor native plant recruitment following control. Active revegetation is the best option to most quickly establish plants that can outcompete *Phragmites*. Dense native plant cover reduces the moist, bare soil conditions *Phragmites* seeds need to germinate.
- Don't waste money on native plant revegetation, at least for the first year, until you can see how much natural recovery you will get. Otherwise follow-up herbicide may kill what you have just planted.
- To create an optimal native seed bed prior to sowing, removal of *Phragmites* litter is beneficial.
- Revegetation using native plant seeds is the most cost-effective method, as opposed to planting plugs or mats.
- Source native seeds from at least 3 sites in order to increase genetic diversity, which will improve their establishment and help prevent *Phragmites* from coming back.
- When planting bulrushes, seeds need to be sown in fall to break seed dormancy naturally, or need to be pre-treated with bleach or chilling if sown in spring.
- To keep seeds from washing away, apply a tackifier.
- Seeds need moist to shallowly flooded soil (≤ 2 inches) to germinate. Native plants will be the most vulnerable in the first month. Choosing restoration areas with water control will help maintain conditions necessary for plant establishment.
- Pre-treated seeds should be sown in late spring, when soil temperatures are warmer, and the ground is still moist.
- Once established, alkali bulrush prefers fluctuating water levels, while threesquare and hardstem bulrush like saturated to shallow (≤ 2 inches) flooding.
- *For details on revegetation protocols, contact Dr. Karin Kettenring, karin.kettenring@usu.edu*



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This document was informed by the graduate research of Chad Cranney, Brittany Duncan, David England, Rachel Hager, Emily Martin, and Christine Rohal as part of the Kettenring Wetland Ecology Lab at USU, and was developed in collaboration with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands.

This research was supported by: Community Foundation of Utah; Delta Waterfowl; Ducks Unlimited Canada; Environmental Protection Agency; Friends of Great Salt Lake; Intermountain West Joint Venture; Kennecott Utah Copper Charitable Foundation; Salt Institute; Society of Wetland Scientists; Southshore Wetlands & Wildlife Management, Inc.; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; USU Ecology Center and Office of Research & Graduate Studies; Utah Agricultural Experiment Station; Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands; Utah Division of Water Quality; Utah Division of Wildlife Resources; Utah Waterfowl Association; Utah Wetlands Foundation; Wetland Foundation.

We thank the managers and landowners who provided access to properties and helped with treatment implementation for our experiments.

This document can be cited as: Rohal, C., K. Hambrecht, C. Cranney, and K. Kettenring. 2017. How to restore *Phragmites*-invaded wetlands. Utah Agricultural Experiment Station Research Report 224, Logan, UT. 2pp.

Dec 4, 2017

Mature chestnut found in Strathroy

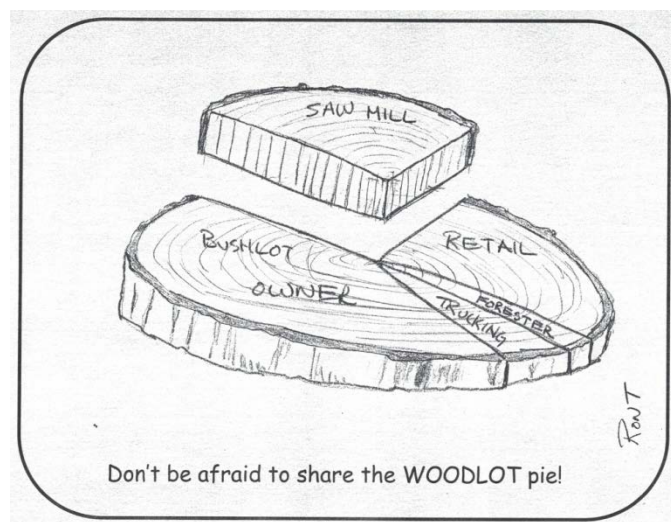
November 30, 2017 - October 28, 2017 was a serendipitous Saturday morning hike for Dan Brinkman, a Land Stewardship Technician working for Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA).

“I was exploring a private woodlot near Mount Brydges when I found a sound American chestnut in perfect health, apparently free from the blight that felled 99.9% of our native chestnut trees across Southern Ontario over the past century. I was not expecting to see such a healthy 60-70 year old specimen as most of the chestnuts I find are suckers sprouting up from a stump or hybrids from American and Chinese chestnut.”

Knowing the rarity of such a find, he, with the landowner’s permission, reported the find to the Canadian Chestnut Council.

On November 13, representatives from the Canadian Chestnut Council - Ron Casier and Dr. Dragan Galic - met with Brinkman to examine the tree and to discuss restoration and research projects they are working on that they would like to implement in the Lower Thames watershed. With the landowner’s permission, they will plant blight-resistant seedlings around the lone surviving mature chestnut tree in a ‘breaking isolation’ planting, as solitary trees are unable to produce offspring. To create new stands of chestnut they will also plant chestnuts at Longwoods Road Conservation Area over the next couple of years in ‘gene conservation’ plantings. From both of these types of plantings, seeds will be collected, once they mature in seven years and used to advance chestnut restoration efforts across their native range in Ontario.

LTVCA staff work with landowners to implement agricultural stewardship and wildlife habitat projects across the watershed and are looking forward to working with the Canadian Chestnut Council to include gene conservation plantings on suitable sites starting in spring 2018.



By Ron Tchorek

Woodlot Tours

Dukelow Family Woodlot

The purpose of the tour was to show a typical Norfolk woodlot after marking for a thinning commercial cut. My instructions were to use best forestry practise "for the woodlot not for the wallet". Hopefully discussion would generate around the rationale involved in choosing the marked trees.

The tour was to go on NOV. 18 but foul weather pushed it on to the rain date of Nov. 25.

At around 1 P.M. people began to gather at the gate. Everyone was quick to self introduce and the social compatibility built on a common interest was notable. The group of about 20 and one well behaved dog moved up the trail where I presented the history of the woodlot as I knew it. The tour was then handed over to David Holmes who was the lead Forester in the marking process. David had kindly volunteered to be the resource person and presenter for this event. He described some of the interesting features to look for in the woodlot and then opened up the discussion. As we moved down the trail the questions and answers flew back and forth between and among the participants. It became apparent that this was a very observant, knowledgeable and engaged group. David was able to keep up with the answers reaching into current scientific literature, the knowledge of experience, nature lore and into the nuts and bolts of logging, timber sales and lumber production. When we reached the clearing beside the municipal drain we took a refreshment break and chatted but the dog continued his tour down into the ditch. We then went off trail through a poplar stand and back up into the pine plantation. On the way two of the group identified a sweet chestnut that I had never seen. Thanks guys. Proceeding into the pines talk turned to the merits of the various species, fomes infection, the difference between a pole and a sawlog and white pine wind damage. Gradually the conversation swung to the practical monetary value of logs and lumber. As people were leaving parting comments were positive. It appeared as if everyone had gained something from the outing and the information interchange. Even the dog who had gained about 3 pounds of mud from the ditch. After everyone had left I said to David "I think we did more talking than walking". He said "Is that good or bad". In reply I said "To me that is very good. It means you have a valuable fund of knowledge and you present it very well". Thank You David. Our plan is to repeat the tour after the logging process is complete. See you then.

Bob Dukelow

St. Williams Nursery & Ecology Centre Tour

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association members are invited to attend a tour of the St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre on Saturday, March 3rd from 1:00 pm till 3:00 pm. Tour capacity is 30 people, to reserve your spot please contact Kristen.bernard@natureconservancy.ca

St. Williams Nursery & Ecology Centre operates over 400 acres of field production and 10 acres of greenhouse space in Southern Ontario - making it the largest source-identified native plant nursery in the province! We gather our seed in Ontario, so our plants are ideally suited to be grown in Ontario. Our motto is "Growing to restore biodiversity", and we live up to this by growing over 300 native species of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, sedges and grasses and supplying native, source-identified seed mixes.

During your tour you will be walked through the process of how we gather, prepare and grow our native Ontario seed. You'll learn about the complexities involved in finding and harvesting seeds from nature. Next, you'll learn about how we tailor the preparation of the seed to each species' particular needs. Then we'll head over the greenhouse where you'll be walked through the process of planting and growing our native Ontario seed. In early March you'll be able to see the facility gearing up for spring planting and perhaps see the early sprouts of some species. Finally, we'll wander through and learn how a nursery operates throughout the seasons.

Get a sneak peek of the tour: <http://stwilliamsnursery.com/facility/st-williams-nursery-virtual-tour/>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association
Wednesday February 28, 2018 7:00 PM
Delhi German Home – Delhi

Forestry Information Vendors & Information Displays – open at 5 pm
Over 36 Information Displays!

DOOR PRIZES

Members can enter their name for a chance to win over \$1000 in Door Prizes!

SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN TODAY!
& WIN A CHANCE AT A SPECIAL DRAW FOR A CHAINSAW!

DEADLINE – APPLICATION WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED AT
NORFOLK FORESTRY 95 CULVER ST. Simcoe (or On-Line)

BY Noon February 23 , 2018

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 draw.

Be an early bird



Renew your membership before the annual meeting

And have a chance to win a chainsaw at the meeting