

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



June 2019

President's Message

This spring the weather was spectacular ... when we receive sunny days. When there is no sun then we can apply the saying "It never rains, it just pours." While I've never had a greener lawn with the rain and cooler temperatures, I see a lot of fields with puddles and people scrambling to plant the crop seed before it's too late for a decent harvest. The cooler than normal temperatures have generally slowed growth. The higher than normal water levels could potentially drown tree roots. The stress caused by roots starved for oxygen will make the trees less able to fight off disease and insect attack.

There appears to be some confusion identifying gypsy moth versus tent caterpillar and fall web worm. The main difference is that while tent caterpillar and fall webworm are unsightly they pose very little danger to the trees whereas gypsy moth defoliates the tree causing extreme stress and kills the tree if completely defoliated. Please note the ad for an upcoming educational tour about gypsy moth in this newsletter. There are several locations in Norfolk that are currently being attacked by gypsy moth and it is anticipated that the numbers will dramatically increase this year. The NEST crew, that NWOA helps sponsor, will likely be involved in counting egg masses to verify if the gypsy moth population is expanding to determine if control measures are required.

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.

John de Witt

Dukelow Family Woodlot Tour

The “After The Cut Tour”



After overcoming some scheduling issues April 27/19 was chosen for the “After The Cut” Tour.

Since the previous tour in Nov.2017, 765 trees had been removed from the woodlot in accordance with the marking prescription. I thought we might need the aid of P.T. Barnum himself to get people out to look at something that wasn't there. These concerns vanished quickly as a very congenial group assembled.

A brief history of the woodlot was presented. As to the present, tendering was carried out in late 2017. A contract with Townsend Lumber was signed in late January 2018 and work began shortly after.

The crew continued work into May when it became too soggy to continue. They re-grouped in the summer and finished up in August.

It was now our turn to observe and assess the nature and effect of the harvest. Our facilitator, David Holmes, introduced the “Logging Damage Assessment” protocol as a guideline for us to follow. It is a document that outlines the acceptable parameters within which loggers should operate.

The 4 degree temperature got us moving and soon we were looking down at stumps whose growth ring counts showed an average age of 75 to 80 years. Rapid early growth was indicated by rings at a healthy width of one half inch per year. During the last 15 years the rings had become increasingly narrow denoting growth suppression related to overcrowding.

Chain saw markings on the stumps also told of the complexities of directional felling and underlined the dangers of felling large multi-stemmed specimens.

Root damage, scraped bark, broken branches and tipped trees were sought out and the numbers found to be well within acceptable limits. Looking up we saw the opened canopy and discussed the effect of sunlight on regeneration and growth.

While travelling along the new trails there was continuous interchange of information, sharing of experiences, and just plain camaraderie.

Back at the gate there were donuts and coffee waiting.

During the conversational de-briefing I was staring at the treeless area where the Red and Scots pines had been harvested. I asked David if he thought a reforestation project was in order for that sector. He walked me into the area and immediately began identifying the small trees already well established—Black cherry, Hickory, Walnut, Oak, all in good numbers and some up at 2 feet tall. He quoted me the science and reassured me that natural processes were far more effective than anything I could do with seeds or plantings. Besides, as the tour had proceeded, the group had assigned me with about 18 other jobs to get at — soon.

Have you seen *Phragmites* on your land?

The Long Point Phragmites Action Alliance (LPPAA) is calling on landowners in the lower Big Creek watershed for help with the Long Point Phragmites control program. Phragmites is an aggressive invasive plant that can harm local biodiversity and impact farm crops and operations by clogging drains and blocking access to irrigation ponds. Until now, the control work has been focused in the marshes at Long Point and Turkey Point to restore biodiversity to these globally significant ecosystems.

In 2019, pending available funding, the Alliance will have resources to help landowners control Phragmites on private land in the lower Big Creek watershed (Phase 1). This is a very important next step toward a Phragmites-free Long Point region, but we need every landowner to participate so no Phragmites is left behind. Just one seed head can produce up to 10,000 viable seeds that are carried on the wind to new locations.

If you have Phragmites on your property and you live in the lower Big Creek area, please contact the LPPAA. This is your chance to receive financial and exterminator assistance to remove Phragmites from your property for good!

Please contact the Long Point Phragmites Action Alliance, Big Creek Watershed Subcommittee at

bigcreekphrag@gmail.com.



Forest Fest 2019
July 20, 2019 – 10:30am – 4:30pm



"Forest Fest 2019 " of the Port Rowan/ South Walsingham Heritage Association at Canada's First Forestry Station, 885 Hwy 24, just west of Forestry Farm Road, will be on July 20, 10.30 to 4:30. It will feature the official opening of the exhibition of "The Early Furniture Makers of Charlotteville and Walsingham". The opening reception will be at 2:00 p m. The exhibition explores the relationship between available wood and furniture, craftsmanship and utilitarianism during the 1850's to the 1900's. Several conservation organisations plan to be there as well as wood crafters and artists with outdoor exhibits. A great opportunity for all ages to learn about many interesting activities in our county.

Norfolk Environmental Stewardship Team Sponsorship (NEST)



The Norfolk Environmental Stewardship Team (NEST) is a program organized by the Norfolk County Community Services Division. The NEST is comprised of local youth who are enrolled in an environmentally related post-secondary education program and provides them with hands-on experience in various aspects of natural resource management.

This program would not be possible without the on-going support of various local organizations involved in the management and promotion of our local natural resource throughout Norfolk County. The various partner organizations include Long Point Region Conservation Authority, Alternative Land Use Services, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Long Point Basin Land Trust, St. Williams Conservation Reserve Community Council, Ruffed Grouse Society of Canada, and the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association.

The Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA) has provided funding to the NEST program to support initiatives such as the forest health monitoring associated with gypsy moth outbreaks, and mapping of Species at Risk on

properties owned by members of the NWOA.

The NEST would like to reach out to members of the NWOA to initiate opportunities for involvement and assistance in other management activities on your lands. The NEST works closely with Norfolk County Forestry staff who lend assistance on forestry specific projects. Included in the 2019 and 2020 summer work plans is time allocated to working with NWOA members.

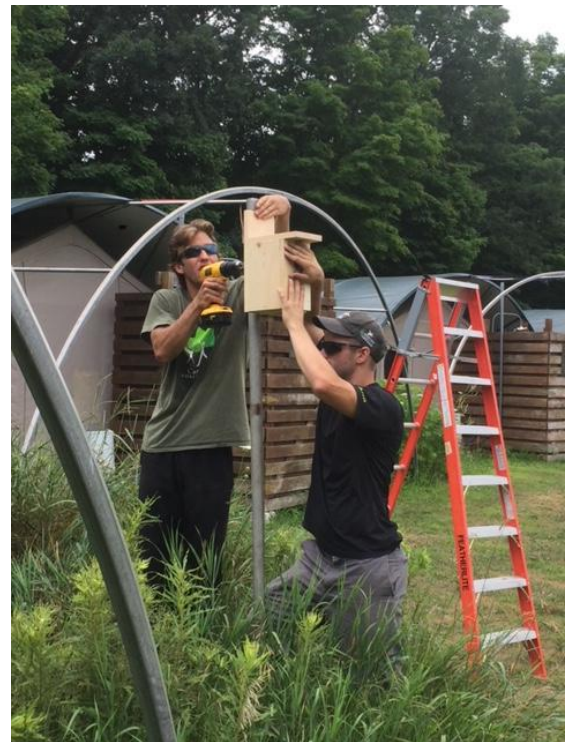
The NEST is capable of performing the following tasks:

- Invasive species control
- Young plantation management - pruning, pre-commercial thinning
- Gypsy moth monitoring - defoliation mapping and egg mass surveys (late August)



If you are interested in having a consultation regarding any of the above mentioned activities on your property, or want to discuss any other management objectives you may require assistance with, please contact Jaclyn Hart, Forest Technician with Norfolk County at 519-426-5870 ext. 2217 or email

Jaclyn.hart@norfolkcounty.ca.





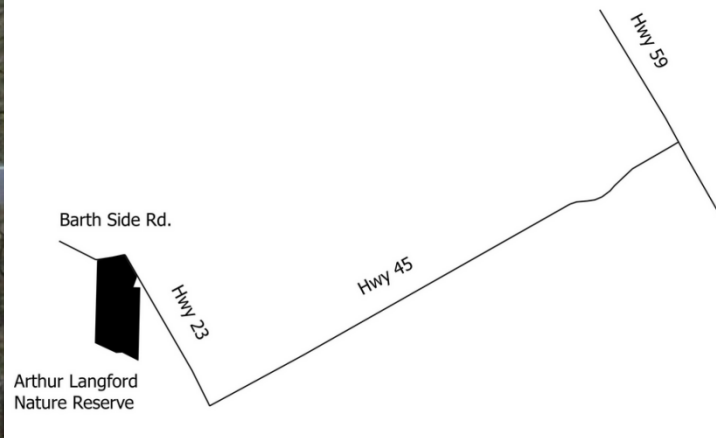
HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR FOREST?

August 10, 2019 – 1:00pm – 4 pm

Arthur Langford Nature Reserve

Barth Side Road

Frogmore, ON



Do you ever wonder how to determine if your trees are healthy? Want to learn how to identify the different types of diseases and insects that may affect your trees? Would you like some helpful tips on assessing the condition of a tree? Then this workshop is for you!

Led by Dan Marina, Forest Conservation Officer with Norfolk County, this workshop will teach participants the basics when it comes to determining a tree's health, including what signs or symptoms you should be aware of in order to spot a tree with declining health. Also included will be a lesson on common tree defects that tree markers look for when selecting trees for harvest. Taking into account the rising gypsy moth population we have locally, we will also take some time to show you how to determine the population of gypsy moth in your woodlot and assess the damage done.

Website: <https://healthyforest.eventbrite.ca>

NWOA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members can renew their membership, online, using the NWOA website and pay online with PayPal. Go to the website (www.norfolkwoodlots.com/) 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.
