

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



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President's Message

Beginning of December and it's raining, nice start to the winter season ☺

The emerald ash borer is continuing to play havoc with our ash trees. There are increasing safety concerns with cutting dead ash trees. The vibration from the chainsaw is sufficient for branches to break and drop on the operator. So far this year, 17 chainsaw operators have been killed by dropping ash tree branches. Be aware!

Joe Stechly will be sadly missed by our Board. The contribution of his home made wine to our potluck was highly valued. His stories and explanation of his wine making process was always fascinating.

The Board is gearing up for the Norfolk Wood Lot Owners Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Mark in on your calendar; it is a must attend event.

If you are really impassioned on a given woodlot topic the best way to learn more is to contact us and we can work together to organize a tour and/or workshop on the idea.

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

In Celebration of
Joseph (Joe) Stechly
December 1, 1934 - October 24, 2016

It is with great sadness that the family of Joe Stechly announces his passing after a short battle with cancer on Monday, October 24, 2016 at the age of 81. Joe was a NWOA Board member and an avid supporter of the NWOA Annual AGM held at the German Hall in Delhi every March. He had the longest driver club ever witnessed at SpringView Golf Course and he could crank the ball in spite of his bad shoulder. Joe spent his entire career working for Esso (Texaco) and will be greatly missed by the members of the Esso Retirees Group and his many friends in the Waterford and Simcoe area. He will be remembered for his strength and endless energy and for his passion for gardening, making wine and maple syrup, sharing all he had with his family, friends and neighbours. In memory of Joe, memorial donations may be made to Camp Trillium Rainbow Lake, 433 Thompson Rd W, Waterford, ON N0E 1Y0.

Fun With Dead Trees

Barabara Hourigan, a Director of the NWOA Board, used some of the dead trees in her woodlot for visual entertainment. A few examples of her work are shown below.



Barbara



Mary Dempsey

The faces mark dead trees along Cockshutt Road. They have glow in the dark paint. The crow decoys are on a dead crabapple. The pencil crayons are ash and walnut.



Member Site Visit

Oct. 15/16 NWOA Tour – Paul DeCloet’s woodlot in former Houghton Township
By Dave Reid

On a relatively mild fall day in October, about 14 members of the Norfolk Woodlot Owner’s Association met with Paul DeCloet at one of the first woodlot’s Paul purchased to manage for timber and personal enjoyment. His knowledge and passion for this woodlot shone with every stop we made while traversing the beautiful woods located within former Houghton Township. The NWOA toured this same woods about 10 or 15 years ago where I saw the largest sassafras trees I’ve ever seen.

Paul is intimately familiar with the woods having managed it for over 3 decades. In fact, when he was still tobacco farming in the area, he loved nothing better than to get his farm labour organized for the day and then slip away to spend time in this woods! We saw quite a diversity of Carolinian trees including sassafras, tulip and black gum and, of course, some stately red and white oaks, white pine and hard maple. It is quite a healthy looking woodlot that anyone would be proud of largely due to Paul’s management which included periodic harvests of mature timber. At the end of the tour Paul’s wife Josey served us all refreshments and homemade cookies that capped this tour off just right! Paul is a past director of NWOA and has had a lengthy career in conservation in this area.

Paul, with large Oak



White Baneberry or Doll’s Eyes



Garrett Reid of Long Point Tours



The Mystery of the Lady Slippers

by Dolf Wynia

It sounds a bit like a mystery novel and it is a mystery to me but it is a story that other woodlot owners might like to know about:

When I moved down from Thunder Bay in 1983 to take over the management of the St. Williams Crown Forest, I did so because I wanted to get back into forest management after 17 years of running a nursery. The 4000 acres of Carolinian forest and conifer plantations appealed to me. In the first spring after I moved, I started to get phone calls from many places, even in the United States from people who wanted to see the orchids in bloom. Although I had heard about wild orchids I had only seen them in the bogs in Newfoundland. Don Robertson, one of the senior technicians knew where they were and sure enough in late May we found thousands growing under the 50 year old red pine plantations. No one had ever planted them; they had just moved in from somewhere. They were indeed very attractive "Pink Lady Slippers" (*Cypripedium acaule*).

The red pine stands where the orchids thrived had been thinned several times and were approaching maturity. Natural White Pine and other regeneration was moving in under the over story and I prescribed what would probably be the last thinning of the plantation before final harvest some twenty years from then. I left a few acres un-thinned just in case the orchids might be damaged. Then I retired.

A few years later I heard that all the orchids had disappeared and I confirmed that indeed they had; including those in the reserved area. It left me wondering but no one had an answer.

Now it just so happens that we own a red pine plantation in Northern Ontario near North Bay. It is now about 50 years old and growing on the same kind of well drained sandy soil. It has been thinned twice. The trees are doing very well. Two years ago, we noticed that pink lady slippers had moved in from nowhere in quite large numbers. I worked in the North Bay area for 7 years and the only place I remember seeing them was on a rocky island in Lake Nipissing, some 50 miles away and again growing in association with mature red pine.

I am sure there are other places where pink lady slippers grow but it seems to me that there are some really interesting factors at work in these plantations. To me they are an indicator of good forest management practices because the two plantations were thinned properly. Just how the chemistry works is a mystery to me. Maybe some scientist somewhere already has an answer. Some of our members may have had the same experience. The seeds of lady slipper orchids are very tiny and can travel in the wind.

Norfolk County Survey

Norfolk County is conducting a survey related to the Norfolk County Official Plan Five Year Review. The survey is seeking input on issues and options that will be considered to update and create new policies for Norfolk County Council to review in early 2017. It is available, on line at the link provided below. The survey is relatively short and easy to complete. Submissions are anonymous.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/officialplanreviewissuesandoptions



TALKIN TREES

A recent pod cast of CBC radio called Talkin-Trees by Bob McDonald of Quirks & Quarks revealed some very interesting research from the university of BC. It demonstrates how trees actually communicate with one another. The link is included below.

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/quirks/quirks-quarks-for-september-24-2016-1.3774759/talkin-trees-1.3774946>

WEBSITE INFORMATION

WEBSITE UPDATE

We would encourage all our Members to explore the various sections of the website. We welcome any feedback as to what could be added, changed, updated or removed.

For more information, and access to Newsletters, visit our Website - www.norfolkwoodlost.com

No Password Required.

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

Once on the website, select **Members Area**, then go to **Current Newsletter** page. Once there, you can select the latest or any newsletter you would like to read.

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.
