

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



September 2019

President's Message

I'm writing this while sitting inside, in air conditioned comfort! On September 22 it is hot and hazy with numerous butterflies flitting from flower to flower in a dance with the buzzing and energetic bees. Simcoe weather for the most part was near perfect this year aside from the wet and cold early spring, which was mitigated by generous heat and opportune rainfall.

I have never witnessed the large number of butterflies that this year has produced ... in particular the Monarch butterfly. Perhaps the ongoing efforts by individual gardeners and property owners to supply the necessary habitat for 'butterfly' plants are starting to help? Plants from the milkweed family are growing in popularity for gardens not only because of their beauty but they attract beautiful butterflies. My grandfather would croak seeing 'noxious' weeds being cultivated in flower beds. Times are changing ...

There appears to be an increasing number of landowners willing to create habitat for flora and fauna that hopefully will reverse the trend of too small an area for sustainable populations for many species. The 3 billion decline in our bird population over the past decade comes to mind. But with increasing people managing their woodlot to create habitat for our feathered friends, alongside managing for profit, perhaps we can improve circumstances for our feathered friends. Remember, managing for habitat and for profit are not mutually exclusive; they can be managed together to the benefit of all.

Another note about the 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 will kill the tree if completely defoliated every year for two or three years in a row.

A reminder, our Norfolk Woodlot Owners Annual General Meeting will be held at the German Home in Delhi on Wednesday March 4th from 5pm to 9pm. More details in future Newsletters.

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

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.

Canada's softwood lumber industry hasn't harmed U.S. producers, NAFTA panel finds

U.S. now has 3 months to rethink tariffs imposed on Canadian softwood in 2017

The Canadian Press • Posted: Sep 05, 2019 1:28 PM ET | Last Updated: September 5



A joint NAFTA panel has given the United States 3 months to rethink tariffs put on Canadian softwood lumber in 2017. (Jonathan Hayward/Canadian Press)

A joint NAFTA panel has given the United States three months to rethink its tariffs on imports of Canadian softwood lumber.

The five-member panel of Canadian and American representatives says there is no evidence that Canada's softwood industry has harmed United States softwood producers.

The most recent softwood agreement between the two countries expired in the middle of the last federal election.

Eighteen months later the U.S. imposed a new round of import duties, arguing Canada unfairly subsidizes its softwood producers by underpricing lumber cut on government-owned land.

Canada has filed complaints under both NAFTA and World Trade Organization rules.

The Canadian industry is struggling with numerous mill closures and layoffs amid the tariffs, depressed prices from lower international demand and supply issues in Canada related to forest fires and pest infestations.

From: Ontario Woodlot Owners Association

Forests Ontario's 50 Million Tree Program: Fact Sheet

- The 50 Million Tree Program (50 MTP) is an Ontario-based tree planting program run by not-for-profit charity, Forests Ontario.
- Starting in 2019, the 50 MTP receives funding from the Government of Canada, corporate sponsors and donors. The program was previously funded solely by the Government of Ontario.
- The 50 MTP reduces the cost of large-scale tree planting for land and property owners, leading to an increase in forest cover in Ontario.
- Forests Ontario has planted more than 27 million trees through the 50 Million Tree Program since 2008. In total, Forests Ontario and our its partners have planted almost 33 million trees through our various programs.
- Trees planted since the program began now sequester more than 21,000 tonnes of carbon annually.
- The forests planted to date under the 50 MTP now generate over \$83-million in annual ecosystem services such as pollination, recreation, athletics and water supply regulation.
- Forests Ontario works with more than 80 partners to deliver the 50 MTP. These partners include private tree nurseries, conservation authorities, stewardship groups, First Nations, forestry consultants and municipalities
- Trees are planted predominantly using tractors and machines, however, in many cases hand planting is necessary in tougher terrain or when underplanting.
- Landowners plant trees to improve wildlife habitat, connect forests, to leave a legacy for future generations, for recreation or to reap sustainable forest products.
- The 50 MTP supports more than 300 full-time seasonal jobs annually in Ontario.
- Forests Ontario stays accountable through our online reporting system that collects data on our seed sources, planting sites, and survival rates.
- Forests Ontario works with tree nurseries to grow tree seedlings up to four years in advance of planting; seed collection begins in some cases five years ahead of planting.
- For more information, or if you are wishing to plant trees, call us at **1.877.646.1193** or email Forests Ontario at info@forestsontario.ca.
- For media inquiries, please email mkettleborough@forestsontario.ca.

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Forest Health Workshop

By: Terri Groh

Have you ever wondered what makes a healthy forest? Long Point Basin Land Trust (LPBLT) held a workshop about forest health on Sunday, August 10th at the Arthur Langford Nature Reserve near Frogmore. The workshop was led by Dan Marina, Norfolk County's Forest Conservation Officer and was well attended with 25 participants eager to learn about trees, forests and the threats they face. It was a hot, humid 30 C day. However, the workshop was held under the cool forest canopy where participants learned how to identify the different types of diseases and insects that may affect our trees along with helpful tips on assessing the condition of a tree. Other topics included types of forest health conditions, tree health, forest and pest management strategies and how to determine the age class of a forest.

Dan used the trees found in the forest as examples allowing firsthand opportunities to learn about forests and trees specifically. He focused on how to examine a tree to diagnose what its health is from the form of the basal skirt to evidence of disease as indicated by the presence of the disease-producing organisms such as cankers, bacterial ooze or fungus structures. A short background lesson on tree biology was provided describing how the cambium is a vascular tissue that produces phloem and xylem cells which become bark and the heartwood and when enough damage caused by insects and pathogens or mechanical damage occurs, a tree may die.

He described how pests such as Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect from Asia which is now decimating our forests, kills Ash trees. We walked around the reserve looking for signs of Gypsy moth and how trees naturally prune themselves when light conditions are poor. Dan was ever-informative answering the many questions posed about Gypsy Moth population fluctuations and forest management in other parts of the province. By the time the 3 hours zoomed by we were able to look at trees in an entirely new light to see what factors in the past could lead to problems in the future and how pruning early in a tree's life can eliminate problems later. The program ended with a look at a new mystery threat facing our Beech trees.



Environmental students gain valuable experience

Aug 21 – Norfolk of environmental some real-world – and experiences this summer.

A team from Norfolk and NEST (Norfolk Stewardship Team) with Paul Gagnon, lands the Long Point Region (LPRCA) to do some Simcoe Aug. 16. A crew researched and re-the corner of Highway 24 Road in Simcoe.

With the Department of requiring classifications been doing so across Norfolk. At the same time, they've taken part in a brook trout study being compiled by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Norfolk County and LPRCA.

“Water quality is very expensive to sample,” Gagnon noted. “We have a partnership with the Ministry of Environment to sample ten sites in the watershed but that’s a very small portion of our watercourses. Brook trout are canaries of the watercourse – they need cold, pristine systems.”

“If we can get brook trout re-established in these systems, we don’t have to do water quality sampling, we just monitor those brook trout,” he added.

The good news for all involved was that brown trout (another sensitive species), along with several other species, were present in a small pocket of water that runs in a shallow stream to the Lynn River.

“That tells us that one, the stormceptors that take out grit and stuff from parking lots, they’re working because the water quality is good,” said base flow and the trout are as nursery habitat. You get a October/November and system and be a little bit predators.”

In the water netting fish was and Joseph Auger, while Coordinator Morgan Van “electroshocker”, a device



County’s next generation stewards have gotten very valuable –

County’s public works Environmental program joined forces and water supervisor with Conservation Authority important research in of seven inspected, classified a storm drain at South and Evergreen Hill

Fisheries and Oceans to drains, the crew has



Gagnon. “We’re getting a cold using this stormwater drain couple rains in they’ll flush down into the bigger and stronger to avoid

NEST members Caleb Girard Norfolk Drainage Program Laeken worked the that temporarily stuns fish so

they can be recorded, studied and

“When we started on this site, we find fish, so it was a really because now we can show we’re sure areas like this have diversity as a drain,” said Van Laeken.

Now a full-time employee of the career as a student on the NEST studies.

“I was new to the environmental exposure,” she noted. “It’s nice to the experience that may help them obtain a full-time job in their field within Norfolk County.”

“That is what the NEST program was formed to do,” Van Laeken added. “That and make connections with local environmental organizations such as the LPRCA that they otherwise wouldn’t have.”

Van Laeken said being able to classify drains and be part of a brook trout study wouldn’t be possible without partnering alongside Gagnon and the LPRCA.

“Paul has the knowledge base to link between what’s going on in the drain and the habitat aspect of it,” she said.

An 18-year member of LPRCA, Gagnon is happy to share his expertise with youngsters looking to work in the field.

“This project in particular is an important one because there’s so many drains in Norfolk County that provide baseflow and nursery habitat to the downstream watercourses,” he said. “These watercourses provide both an important fishery in Norfolk County and also support the recreational fishery and tourism in the Long Point Bay and Lake Erie. If we can make sure that the larval habitat and the recruitment of the fishery and the water quality is really good in our systems, we’re going to support everything down the line.”



quickly released.

didn’t have any expectations to positive thing that we found them doing the proper things to make and habitat as well as functioning

county, Van Laeken started her crew assisting with similar

field and this was how I got see a new group of people getting

