

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

September 2018



President's Message

That was a warm summer. This fall the NWOA Board continues to work on issues that involve invasive species, woodlot management and habitat creation. Not to mention preparing for the Annual General Meeting on March 6th, 2019.

Speaking of invasive species, the gypsy moth appears to be increasing in numbers. The County, via the NEST crew, monitored the egg masses of the gypsy moth this summer. This information showed several developing 'hot spots' with increasing population levels. Oak leaves are a favourite food, for this moth, amongst many hardwood species. The gypsy moth population in the County is sufficient to contemplate a spray program next year, using a selective biological control.

If you suspect gypsy moth presence in your woodlot you could assist in their control by contacting, Norfolk County Supervisor of Forestry. Be aware that there is much mis-information about gypsy moth (invasive species) resulting in Fall Webworm and Eastern Tent Caterpillar (both native species) being incorrectly identified as gypsy moth.

While Webworm and Tent Caterpillar are unsightly, rarely do their feeding habits endanger trees, unlike the Gypsy Moth. This invasive moth can completely defoliate all hardwood trees, over large areas, doing great harm and eventually death to the trees. Though the three caterpillars might look similar, these three species have distinct habits and characteristics that make it easy to tell them apart.

Characteristic	Eastern Tent Caterpillar	Gypsy Moth	Fall Webworm
Time of Year	Early spring	Mid-spring to early summer	Late summer to fall
Tent Formation	In the crotch of branches, not usually enclosing foliage	Does not create tents	At the ends of branches, always enclosing foliage
Feeding Habits	Leaves the tent to feed several times per day	Younger caterpillars feed at night near tree tops, older caterpillars feed almost constantly	Feed within the tent, expanding the tent as needed to enclose more foliage
Food	Usually cherry, apple, plum, peach, and hawthorn trees	Many hardwood trees, especially oaks and aspens	More than 100 hardwood trees
Damage	Usually aesthetic, trees can recover	Can completely defoliate trees	Usually aesthetic and damage occurs just before the autumn leaves fall
Native Range	North America	Europe, Asia, North Africa	North America

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. 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

What to Do If You Have an Infestation.

by [Debbie Hadley](#)

Three well-known caterpillars - tent caterpillar, gypsy moth and fall webworm - are often misidentified for each other by homeowners who are having problems with swathes of defoliated trees. Caterpillars that defoliate trees in your home landscape can be invasive and sometimes require control measures.

Homeowners have a few options to control defoliation of trees due to caterpillars.

The first option is to do nothing. Healthy deciduous trees usually survive defoliation and grow back a second set of leaves.

Manual control on individual trees includes hand removal of egg masses, inhabited tents and pupa, and installation of sticky tree wraps on trunks to capture caterpillars as they move up and down trees.

Do not leave egg masses on the ground; drop them in a container of detergent. Do not attempt to burn tents while they are on trees. This is hazardous to the health of the tree.

Various insecticides for tent caterpillars and gypsy moths are available at garden centers. Insecticides are divided into two general groups: microbial/biological and chemical. Microbial and biological pesticides contain living organisms that must be consumed (eaten) by the pest. They are most effective on small, young caterpillars. As they mature, caterpillars become more resistant to microbial pesticides. Chemical insecticides are contact poisons. These chemicals can have a potential impact on a variety of beneficial insects (such as honeybees), so they should be used wisely.

Spraying trees with insecticides is an option, too. Tent caterpillars are native and a natural part of our ecosystem and gypsy moths have "naturalized" in our forest communities. These caterpillars will always be around, sometimes in small, unnoticeable numbers. If dense concentrations of tent or gypsy moth caterpillars cause a decline in the trees' health or threaten a garden or farm, spraying might be the best course.

However, using insecticides do have some drawbacks.

It is not effective against pupae or eggs and is less effective once caterpillars reach 1 inch long. Nesting birds, beneficial insects, and other animals could be endangered by the use of chemical insecticides.

Good Riddance

The good news about caterpillars is that their populations fluctuate and after a few years of high numbers, their populations usually drop.

Populations of tent caterpillars reaching highly noticeable levels run approximately on 10-year cycles and usually last 2 to 3 years.

Natural predators of caterpillars are birds, rodents, parasites and diseases. Extremes in temperature can also reduce population numbers.

Source:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. [Tent Caterpillars.](#)

THE SAWMILLS OF YESTERYEAR A CUT IN TIME

This is the fourth in a series of articles describing the development of the sawmill industry in Norfolk County from the mid-1700s to the early 1900s. The information has been provided by the **Forestry Station Interpretive Centre**.

FROM THE FOREST TO THE SAWMILL THE SAWMILL

Moving logs was a laborious and dangerous task because of their size and weight. Horses or dogs and equipment such as peaveys, cant hooks, and chains were used to reduce the amount of labour. When the logs arrived at the mill, they were drawn from the mill-pond or from the mill yard onto the skid-way at the foot of the ramp leading into the mill.

Once on the skid-way, the logs were loaded onto the log trolley that pulled the logs into the mill through a system of chains and pulleys. The trolley operated on a wooden track that brought each log right up beside the saw carriage upon which it would sit throughout the sawing operation. A single log was transferred to the saw carriage and held securely in place with metal “dogs” while the log was sawn into boards.

When the sawyer activated the powering mechanism, whether water wheel or steam engine, the saw came to life. The saw carriage was pulled toward the saw which would cut the log. The carriage was then reversed the length of the log to make another cut. Once sawn, the boards were piled with spacers between them allowing the lumber to air dry. Some mills continued the process by using slab saws to cut boards to length, and eye saws to trim board edges. The best example still in existence, of a sawmill in Norfolk County is the Quance Mill located at the Quance Park in Delhi.



Photos by Betty Chanyi

TREE PLANTING BY DRONE

By Dolf Wynia

Two articles in the summer edition of “The Working Forest”, the National forest newspaper / news service caught my eye and interest, especially as a forester who spent most of his career developing and running a large Northern Ontario tree nursery. All of Ontario’s nurseries have now been privatized and now Manitoba is closing its big nursery as well and trying to privatize it. The second article was about tree planting using a drone. The drone does not plant trees but it plants tree seeds. The seeds are enclosed in a small pod, where they are germinated with some nutrients prior to planting and then fired into the ground using compressed air. The drone is programmed to select suitable spots, using high resolution imagery. It can plant up to 120 trees per minute. Two operators with 10 drones each can plant as many as 400,000 trees per day. The first Canadian test was near Great Slave Lake in Alberta. The Company, BioCarbon Engineering has done projects in 6 countries already.

The drones can remember where they planted each seed so, should release from competition become a need for the young trees, drones can again be used to spray a small amount of herbicide in the exact spot.

It seems even the private tree nurseries currently supplying the seedling requirements for Ontario may have an uncertain future if the new system works and the seeds grow into forests.

The news paper also featured an article about a family firm near Thunder Bay in Ontario which has contracts for planting 10.5 million trees, using 145 planters – a job that some day will take a crew of two less than a month should the new technique work.

Pheasant Hunting Opportunities

Submitted by Norfolk County Community Services

Calling all hunters in Norfolk County! Pheasant hunting season begins on September 25, 2018 and goes until December 31, 2018. Hunters must obtain a Provincial Small Game License and a Norfolk County Pheasant License which can be purchased at the County administration buildings. Norfolk County will be releasing pheasants on public lands throughout the County beginning the week of October 1, 2018 until the end of the season. The daily limit for pheasants is three (3) of either sex and the possession limit is ten (10) of either sex.

The rural areas of Norfolk County provide great hunting opportunities for anyone wishing to enjoy the outdoors. Hunting is permitted seven (7) days a week at the nine (9) release sites. For further information on Hunting Opportunities in Norfolk County including maps of release sites and license purchasing locations, please visit <http://www.norfolkcounty.ca/living/parks-and-recreation/hunting-opportunities/>



The Working Forest is the national newspaper for those who work in Canada's forests. For 2018, the paper has been re-designed and re-focused with an emphasis on analysis, commentary and in-depth coverage of the issues that affect the future of the forest products industry.

With eight print editions and a bi-weekly newsletter, *The Working Forest* provides up-to-date and comprehensive coverage of the news and trends that matter to readers in the forest products sector.

Members are invited to visit the site of *The Working Forest* at www.workingforest.com

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.

~1790 Vegetation in the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve
(adapted from Szeicz and MacDonald, 1990)

