NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

Volume 3 Edition 15

May 2011



President's MESSAGE

Last month we received three bids on the logging of our timber. We learned that the logger who gave the highest bid is well known in Norfolk County. We walked our woodlot with him and talked about the condition this woodlot is in. Our woodlot was last cut about 25 years ago. A limited number of trees have since grown into big trees. There seems to be no middle size. Then there are many trees that are suppressed by the enclosed canopy. This time there are trees marked for timber and trees marked for fuel wood. When these trees are cut the woodlot will first look very open. There are many young trees that will get better opportunity to grow once the canopy is opened. Our intention is to harvest according to Good Forest Practice. We will replant trees in the open areas. We can choose local trees for more diversity and trees of higher value for future harvesting. In this way we allow young trees to grow into harvestable trees. We will then be able to harvest every 10 years in a sustainable way. This is good practice for harvesting, as well as for the health of our woodlot and wild life. At his moment while most leaves have not unfolded we can already see garlic mustard in our woodlot. This can be a good moment to pull or spray to control this invasive species.

Patrick Moore, former Greenpeace activist and now self-acclaimed Sensible Environmentalist, wrote a new book "Confessions of a Greenpeace Dropout". In it he states "that with few exceptions the countries that use the most wood have a stable or growing area of forest whereas the countries that use the least wood are losing forest as more land is cleared for agriculture. It is precisely because we use so much wood that the area of forest is maintained. It is no different from any other renewable crop; it's just that trees take longer to mature than annual farm crops. As long as the demand for wood is steady and strong landowners, both private and public, will plant trees to supply that demand. Therefore it is truly a win-win solution for the environment and the economy, maintaining the land in a forested state while providing an income for the owners. Of course it is important to maintain large areas of land as parks and wilderness, and make them off-limits to industrial development for factories, managed forests or farms. The World Wildlife Fund, one of the largest nature protection groups, states that (at least) 10% of the world's forests should be protected from development."

An interesting issue in the news is a proposal from Bolivia to the United Nations to develop Rights for Mother Earth. This proposal will grant the Earth a series of specific rights that include rights to life, water and clean air; the right to repair livelihoods affected by human activities, and the right to be free from pollution. In South America more countries see that their tropical rain forests are of great value to the well being of the Earth. This issue may affect our woodlots as well. We as woodlot owners can look at this as an opportunity to provide a valuable service.

Angelle van Kleef President of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS



Eastern Flowering Dogwood Twilight Tour Wednesday May 25th, 2011 – 7:00 PM

- Viewing of Norfolk's flower (hopefully) still in bloom
- Discussion about the threats facing the Eastern Flowering Dogwood
 & how you can help conserve this species

Directions:

399 Norfolk St South - located on east side of Norfolk St

- just north of the Evergreen Hill Road lights

For more information please call Dave Reid – 519-426-4259.

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Response to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources regarding the proposed Eastern Flowering Dogwood DRAFT Habitat Regulations



- 1. We strongly recommend clarification & scientific basis for 20 meter radius of EFD stem to provide better understanding.
- We strongly recommend MNR to include desirable management in their description of the habitat. Good stewardship of existing EFD would include:
 - Trimming trees to improve good air circulation which deters fungus growth like the anthracnose;
 - b. Keep individual EFD exposed to sunlight for most of the day by trimming/pruning competing trees & shrubs;
 - c. Watering individual EFD during droughts;
 - d. Removing of infected leaves & twigs & prophylactic sprays.
- We are unaware of any disease resistant EFD plants or research into same.
 We encourage MNR to conduct research on developing a disease resistant strain of native EFD or try to find this in adjacent states.
- 4. Sources of native EFD have disappeared since passage of the ESA. Interested property owners are forced to either choose a different species of shrub to plant or to purchase non-native EFD. This may not be related to the habitat regulation but it does relate directly to the sustainability of the native EFD. This is another example of where the ESA is having the exact opposite effect as intended. We strongly recommend that red tape regarding cultivation of native EFD is removed.
- 5. Including EFD stems within an urban or suburban (Brantford, Hamilton, London, Windsor) environment would be difficult to enforce due to given property ownership changes & 20 meters radius extending onto neighbouring properties.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



Join us to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation

> SATURDAY JUNE 18TH 2011 Social at 5:00 pm - Dinner at 6:30 pm PORT ROWAN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Special Guest speaker Diana Beresford-Kroeger World renowned scientist, botanist and broadcaster Author of Arboretum America and The Global Forest A book signing will occur after her talk 'The Green Handshake – The Global Forest'

Delicious dinner by Chrissy's of Tillsonburg with complimentary local South Coast wines and a memento to commemorate the occasion

Silent auction items include: art work (Robert Bateman, Michael Dumas, Debra Lyn Ireland, Vic Gibbons, Liz and Bruce Milner), antique lamps, gift baskets, garden plants, and much more... Raffle item: 16' Scott Canoe with paddles Cash bar, ATM available

Tickets \$45

Contact Janice (519-875-1765), Paula (519-582-4264) or the Lighthouse Theatre (519-583-222; 1-888-779-7703 www.lighthousetheatre.com)







FRI. MAY 27 - SUN. MAY 29, 2011 NORFOLK COUNTY

A celebration of southern Ontario's nature featuring a weekend of birding, nature walks, night hikes, mountain biking, kayak and canoe trips, educational bus tours, youth and family-oriented activities, displays, and workshops throughout Norfolk County.

For more details visit www.naturefest.ca or contact us at info@naturefest.ca, 519-410-8878



Canada's Biodiversity Capital!

Home to over 250 species of birds, 70 tree species, 75 butterfly species, 40 species of dragonflies and damselflies, and 35 species of amphibians and reptiles.













Backus Woods: A 50-year Endeavour to Secure Permanent Protection

A Special Presentation by Michael Bradstreet Vice President of Conservation, Nature Conservancy of Canada

- followed by a Tim Hagen Video -The Beauty of Long Point

Location:

Education Centre, Backus Heritage Conservation Area

Friday, May 27th, 2011 at 7 P.M.

CANADA COALITION

Suggested Donation: \$10/person

Don't Move Firewood



Throwing a few pieces of firewood into the trunk of the car before a camping trip might seem like a good way to plan ahead, but those logs could destroy a forest.

Firewood can carry small but harmful hitchhikers that are often hidden in the bark or wood. The damage caused by invasive species such as the emerald ash borer can expand exponentially when they get rides from families on vacation—even if it is only a few kilometres away. In fact, the emerald ash borer has killed millions of ash trees across Canada.

When forests are destroyed, everyone bears the consequences. Workers who depend on the lumber industry can lose their livelihoods. Animals and birds can lose their habitat. And our environment can lose the cleaning power forests provide for the air we all breathe.

The solution is easy: leave your firewood at home and pick some up locally instead. If everyone takes care of our forests we will be able to enjoy them for years to come.

NWOA Directors - 2011 * year indicates the term the year expires, the (number) indicates the number of terms served

Name	Position	Term *	Phone	E-mail
Dolf Wynia	Past President		875-3350	wynia@kwic.com
Angelle van Kleef	President	2013 (1)	428-1421	vankleef@kwic.com
Clen van Kleef	Vice President	2013 (1)	428-1421	vankleef@kwic.com
Eric Ferguson	Treasurer	2014 (2)	443-7928	emferguson@silomail.com
Mike Rothery	Secretary	2014 (2)	586-9535	wmrothery@hotmail.com
Martin Perrin	Secretary Website Ctte	2012 (1)	875-2481	mkperrin@kwic.com
Paul Beischlag	Director	2012 (2)	426-8591	pbeischlag@hotmail.com
Vic Janulis	Director	2013 (1)	443-5828	vicj@kwic.com
Joe Stechly	Director	2013 (1)	428-0374	
Tom Bradstreet	Director	2013 (1)	426-3405	tom.bradstreet@natureconservancy.ca
Ron Tchorek	Director	2013 (2)	426-5708	tchorek@kwic.com
Brett Schuyler	Director	2014 (1)		brett@schuylerfarms.ca
Paul DeCloet	Director-at-large	2014 (1)		p.decloet@bell.net
John Morrissey	Director-at-large	2014 (1)		drjohn@xplornet.com
Garret Reid	Director-at-large	2014 (2)	429-9288	garretreid42@hotmail.com
Gunther Csoff	Director-at-large	2014 (1)		gandhcsoff@execulink.com
Mark Sommerville	St. Williams Conservation Reserve Community Council	Advisory	426-3762	markruth@flarenet.com
Tracey Boerkamp	Annual General Meeting Chairman	Advisory	443-8754	springview@simcom.on.ca
David Reid Stewardship Co-ordinator	Norfolk Land Stewardship Council	Advisor	426-4259	dave.j.reid@ontario.ca
Steve Scheers Superintendent	Norfolk County Forestry Conservation Service	Advisor	426-5999	steven.scheers@norfolkcounty.ca



Angelle van Kleef & her family moved to Norfolk County in 1999. They bought a 48 acre farm on the 14th Concession south east of Nixon, between Simcoe & Delhi. The woodlot on the farm is 16 acres of highland black oak. The soil type is sandy. The property is split in two by the old rail track.

She is not professionally involved in forestry. She & her husband are working on a Forest Management Plan. This includes describing what is growing in this woodlot & making a plan of how to improve the health of the woodlot. They enjoy their woodlot for walking & cross country skiing. Learning more of the habitat is another aspect of their interest.



They became members of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association in 1999 when they bought the property. To own a woodlot is own thing, but to know how to make the best of it needs education. The hand out of the NWOA helped to learn more about it.

Professionally they run an acre greenhouse operation. They grow house plants for the wholesale markets in the Beamsville area & Mississauga. They grow Hibiscus & Bromeliads, both tropical flowering plants.

They belong to other related organisations such as Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA), Norfolk Field Naturalists (NFN) & Tall Grass Ontario. They subscribe to Bird Studies Canada, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) & Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS). Angelle is participating in the Bird Feeder Watch of Bird Studies Canada this year for the first time.

Another significant activity that she would like to share with you is that they re-established 20 acres of prairie habitat under the ALUS program in 2008.



Ron Tchorek has been a member of the NWOA since its early days. He became a board member in 2007. Ron is married & has 3 children. He has lived on the family tobacco farm near the Halfway House Corner, (Hwy 24 & Hwy 6), all his life. Although he was formally educated as a landscape designer, he was drawn back to Norfolk where they eventually purchased the farm & continued to grow tobacco for over twenty years. During that time, they also developed real estate on the side. In 2005 they started a full service travel agency which they continue to operate from

their home. As tobacco production slowed down, they switched to mixed vegetables & expanded the development business to include condo management & landscape installation & maintenance.

Their farm includes a 12 acre parcel of plantation of Red Pine & 18 acres of mixed hardwood with mature White Pine throughout the site. He has been involved in managing the forest since his childhood. As a youngster, he helped clear the land to make way for efficient sized fields then later helped plant hedge rows for wind & erosion control.

He has been professionally involved with his woodlot through logging & firewood. They harvested twice & did a pine thinning. Poor trees & dead fall are harvested annually for fuel in their outdoor wood furnace.

They enjoy their woodlot recreationally through hiking, cross country skiing, horseback riding & motor biking on the trails. It is also used for hunting, scout camping & orienteering training.

He also belongs to other related organisations such as the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.



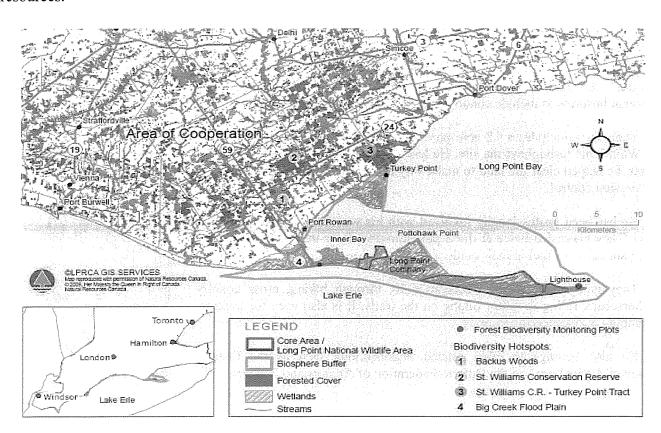
WOODN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW......

Q. What is the Long Point Biosphere?

A. The Long Point area, comprising 26,250 hectares, was designated as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in April, 1986, the third to be named in Canada and one of 15 biosphere reserves found in this country today. It provides an example of the Great Lakes coastal ecosystem and a unique blend of habitats – long uninterrupted beaches, undisturbed sand dunes, grassy ridges, wet meadows, woodlands, marshes and ponds, coldwater streams, and the shallow Inner Bay. Its delicate dunes and marshes teem with songbirds, spawning fish, turtles and frogs.

Long Point is a world-renowned refuge and stopover for migrating birds in fall and spring, and waterfowl viewing is excellent in March and April. In August and September tens of thousands of Monarch Butterflies congregate on Long Point, briefly resting before continuing on their way to their Mexican wintering grounds.

The Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation promotes research, monitoring, community outreach and education, partnerships, and projects that support the goals of biodiversity, conservation and sustainable communities in the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve. We exchange information and work collaboratively with the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association and other biosphere reserves in Canada and internationally. Our UNESCO/MAB Biosphere Reserve designation does not bring with it any new authorities over lands, water or resources.





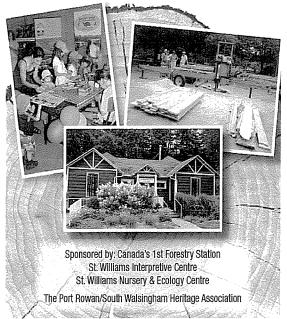
August 13 & 14, 2011

St. Williams Nursery & Ecology Centre

885 Hwy. 24 (at Forestry Farm Rd.) St. Williams, ON • 519-875-3350

Celebrating all things wood, featuring wooden boats!

- Wooden Boat Show
- Juried Craft Vendors
- Tours of St. Williams Nursery & Ecology Centre Greenhouses with Green Roof Viewing
- · Guided Walks in the Forest
- Dog Trials & Demonstrations
- Children's Activities
- Performances by Bruce (House) Milner
- Interpretive Centre Tours



Woodlot owners will find many exhibits of interest at the 2011 Forest Fest at the former St. Williams Forestry Station this summer. The family friendly event will "celebrate all things wood, featuring wooden boats". Many of the boats will be the traditional kind, that were made in Norfolk County from local woods, especially for use on Long Point Bay. Also there will be woodcrafts on display and for sale and local forest products. There will be wagon rides, tours of the greenhouses of the St.Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre, the retriever dogs will be back; there will be chainsaw carving and a portable bandsaw mill. The A.L.U.S program will have bus tours of some of their projects. Several local produce sellers will show and sell their wares and food and refreshments will be available. There will be some forest trail walks and a demonstration of measuring standing trees. There will be a special children's program organized by "When Nature Calls"

Forest Fest is organized by the members of the Port Rowan / South Walsingham Heritage Association and the St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre to help promote good land and forest stewardship and an appreciation of the important role that Norfolk County played in the early days of conservation as displayed in the Forest Interpretive Centre on site.

Two events of far reaching Provincial significance will take place during Forest Fest 2011. The biography of Dr. Zavitz, written by Dr. John Bacher will officially be launched. Dr. Zavitz was the kingpin, who got the St. Williams Forestry Station and the reforestation program in Ontario started in 1908. The book "The Legacy of Dr. Zavitz: Two Billion Trees and Counting" describes some of the tremendous challenges the early conservationists had to overcome to turn the tide in Ontario. The book will be on sale at a special, discounted price of \$22.00 per copy, including taxes.

The other main event will be the unveiling of a new memorial to Dr. Zavitz, dedicating the forests of the St. Williams Conservation Reserve, surrounding the nursery to him. This ceremony will take place at 2:30 at the "old picnic grounds". After the ceremony at 3:30, the re-surrected plaque, dedicating the Turkey Point forests of the St. Williams Conservation Reserve to Dr. J.H.White, who although he was less known than Dr. Zavitz was responsible for designing many of the forests in that area, and as well did many years of field research as the first Canadian graduated forester and professor. The White ceremony will be held across the entrance of Turkey Point Park. Many citizens and organisations, including the Norfolk Woodlot Owners have donated to this project.

Woodlot owners who have some products or crafts which they would like to display or sell at Forest Fest 2011 are invited to call Rosemary Ryerse at 519 586 9018. Public admission will be free although a donation would be appreciated by the Heritage Association.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dolf Wynia 519 875 3350 wynia@kwic.com

Putting Trees On Farms Fundamental To Future **Agricultural Development**

Posted on: Thursday, 10 February 2011, 01:38 CST

ICRAF hails International Year Of Forests

Trees growing on farms will be essential to future development. As the number of trees in forests is declining every year, the number of trees on farms is increasing. Marking the launch of the International Year of Forest by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF9) in New York on 29 January, Dennis Garrity, the Director General of the World Agroforestry Centre, highlighted the importance of mixing trees with agriculture, the practice known as agroforestry.



OF FORESTS : 2011

"Over a billion hectares of agricultural land, almost half of the world's farmland, have more than 10 percent of their area occupied by trees," said Garrity, "& 160 million hectares have more than 50 percent tree cover."

Growing trees on farms can provide farmers with food, income, fodder & medicines, as well as enriching the soil & conserving water. As natural vegetation & forests are cleared for agriculture & other types of development, the benefits that trees provide are best sustained by integrating them into agriculturally productive landscapes.

Speaking at the High Level Dialogue of UNFF9 on 3 February 2011, Garrity said, "Agroforestry is a crucial bridge between forestry & agriculture. Essentially, agroforestry is about the role of working trees in agricultural landscapes, particularly on, but not limited to, small-scale farms."

Over the next two decades, the world's population is expected to grow on average by more than 100 million people a year. More than 95 percent of that increase will occur in the developing countries, where pressure on land & water is already intense. A key challenge facing the international community is, therefore, to ensure food security for present & future generations, while protecting the natural resource base on which we all depend. Trees on farms will be an important element in meeting those challenges. In some regions, such as Southeast Asia & in Central America, tree cover on agricultural lands now exceeds 30%.

"The transformation of agriculture into agroforestry is well under way across the globe," said Garrity. "& there are drivers, including climate change, that ensure that this transformation will accelerate in the coming years, since agricultural systems incorporating trees increase overall productivity & incomes in the face of more frequent droughts, & agroforestry systems provide much greater carbon offset opportunities than any other climate mitigation practice in agriculture."

In many countries, it is now quite clear that the future of forestry is on farms. In countries such as India, Kenya, & many others, the majority of the nation's wood is derived from farm-grown timber.

Practiced by farmers for millennia, agroforestry focuses on the wide range of working trees grown on farms & in rural landscapes. Among these are fertilizer trees for land regeneration, soil health & food security; fruit trees for nutrition; fodder trees that improve smallholder livestock production; timber & fuelwood trees for shelter & energy; medicinal trees to combat disease; & trees that produce gums, resins or latex products.

Reinventing agriculture

Evergreen Agriculture is a form of agroforestry that integrates trees with annual crops. "We see Evergreen Agriculture as nothing less than the radical, but entirely practical, pathway to a reinvention of agriculture," said Garrity. "It is a vision of a future in which much of our food crops will be grown under a full canopy of trees."

Combining fertilizer trees with conservation farming techniques is doubling & tripling cereal crop yields in many parts of the African continent. The nitrogen-fixing tree Faidherbia or Acacia albida, is increasing unfertilized maize yields in Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, Ethiopia, & in numerous other countries. They are now being grown on millions of hectares of crop land throughout Niger, at densities of up to 200 trees per hectare, & show a tripling of yield in the crops growing beneath them. Producing food crops like maize, sorghum, & millets under these agroforests dramatically increases their drought resilience in dry years, because of positive soil moisture regimes, & a better microclimate.

This development is not happening only in Africa. The South Asia Network of Evergreen Agriculture has been launched to advance an evergreen revolution throughout the subcontinent.

Feeding the hungry

Planting trees that provide natural fertilizers on farms with poor soils helps farmers restore fertility & increase yields. Gliricidia bushes fix nitrogen in their roots & act as natural green fertilizer factories, tripling yields of maize on farms in Malawi. The prunings are fed to the animals. The bushes also reduce the risk of crop failure during droughts & prevent waterlogging when it rains too much. The nitrogen-fixing tree Faidherbia increased unfertilized maize yield four times in Zambia. The trees are being grown on over 5 million hectares of crop land in Niger.

Relieving poverty

Domesticating wild fruit trees in the Cameroon has allowed smallholder farmers to increase their earnings five times. Thousands of farmers in Tanzania are planting Allanblackia trees & earning much-needed income by selling the oil-containing seeds to companies to make margarine.

Trees grown on homestead farms, in woodlots & on communal lands are an important source of wood & other products. In humid-zone West African countries, Burundi, Rwanda & Uganda in particular, trees grown in home gardens meet most household needs for fuelwood & timber. In many cash-crop systems, trees are grown for shade & eventually provide wood – an example is Grevillea robusta in tea plantations in Kenya. In the Sudan, Acacia senegal, the source of gum arabic, is largely grown in agroforestry systems.

Accumulating carbon

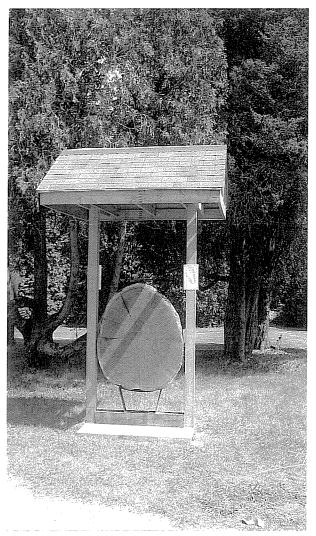
Investments in agroforestry over the next 50 years could remove 50 billion tonnes of additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Most of the deforestation in Africa, & in parts of Asia, is caused by agricultural expansion, largely by smallholder farmers. Agroforestry activities curb emissions of greenhouse gases by slowing the conversion of forest to farm land & holding carbon in the trees on the farms. Developing smallholder agroforestry on land that is not classified as forest could capture 30-40 percent of the emissions related to land-use change. Encouraging farmers to plant trees has the potential to increase farmers' income, sequester more carbon & benefit biodiversity.

"The International Year of Forests is a momentous opportunity to more fully recognize the tremendous importance of agroforestry & evergreen agriculture in building a better world," noted Garrity. "Agroforestry is one of mankind's best hopes to create a climate smart agriculture, increase food security, alleviate rural poverty, & achieve truly sustainable development. &, thereby, better ensure that our world's forests can indeed be conserved far into the future."



WHERE IN THE WOODS is the 275 year old cookie?

by Dolf Wynia



This white oak tree lived its life in what is now called Lynnwood Park. It was about 275 years old and started growing along the Lynn River in Simcoe about 1735. This was a time when no white settlers had ever set foot in the area. Farmers began to arrive about 1800 and they started clearing the land. Small villages formed around the water driven sawmills and gristmills such as our nearby John Backhouse Mill.

By looking closely at the annual growth rings, one can see that the tree grew very slowly during the first 70 years of its life but then something happened that gave the tree more room and it grew much faster for the next two hundred years, while the park was being developed around it

Legend has it that Governor Simcoe who gave the town of Simcoe its name camped in the shelter of this tree or one very much like it during his visit in 1795.

During the last 25 years, the tree started to decline due to age, a gypsy moth outbreak, drought and eventually an attack by two-lined chestnut borers and sapwood rot.

The dark blue stains in the cross section are evidence of metal embedded in the tree. This could be fence staples or bullets. We will never know what the tree may be hiding.

ANSWER:





WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

www.longpointbiosphere.com

The **Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation** is dedicated to conserving biodiversity; promoting sustainable communities; & partnering in research, monitoring, outreach & education.