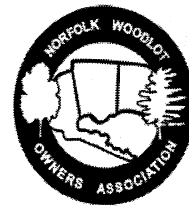


NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



Volume 3 Edition 13

April 2009

President's MESSAGE

Since this is my last Presidents message I would like to congratulate Dolf Wynia as the new President of the NWOA.

I have known Dolf and his wonderful wife Anne for many years and consider them friends. Dolf brings an incredible bank of knowledge to the NWOA, from his long history in the forestry industry and I look forward to the future, with Dolf as President.

There are many issues that confront the woodlot owners in Norfolk. Invasive plants and insects is the top of this list.

Currently the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is considering creating one large regulated zone from Toronto to Windsor. This they say is based on sound science. We as woodlot owners are at the mercy of this Government Agency. Two calls to our minister Dianne Finley have gone unanswered!

I have asked for a meeting with the minister and have been ignored. Even a busy minister has time for a phone call if the Minister believes in helping the 350 woodlot owners in her riding.

We do not have the tax base for the potential cost to our county from the effects of EAB. The city of London has spent over 10 million to cut down there dead Ash trees. We have asked the CFIA to give us 2 years to reduce the huge Ash inventory in Norfolk. Along our roads, in our parks, and in our woodlands. We need the NWOA more than ever to look after our interests. Our Governments response is woefully inadequate to the magnitude of the problem of invasive species.

We will fight on, I ask that we vote in the future for those that consider our problems, their problem!

Mark Sommerville Past President

Mark Sommerville ~ President



UPCOMING EVENTS!

We are looking for new ideas and a few twilight tours....

Contact your Woodlot Director to suggest a topic which maybe of interest to others.....

Welcome to the new Directors

Steve Timmermans

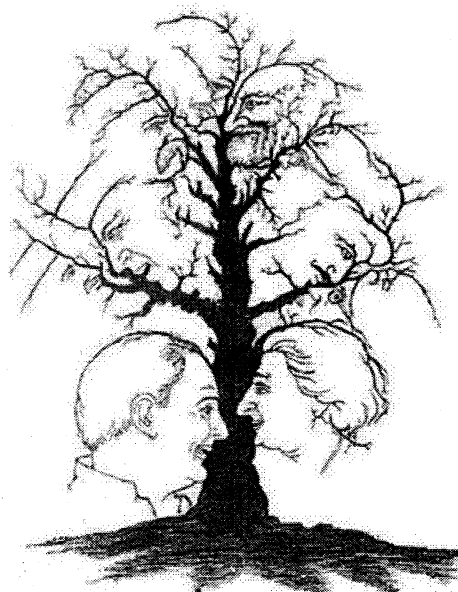
Kyle Racz

Martin Perrin

And our New President

Dolf Wynia

HOW MANY FACES CAN YOU SEE?



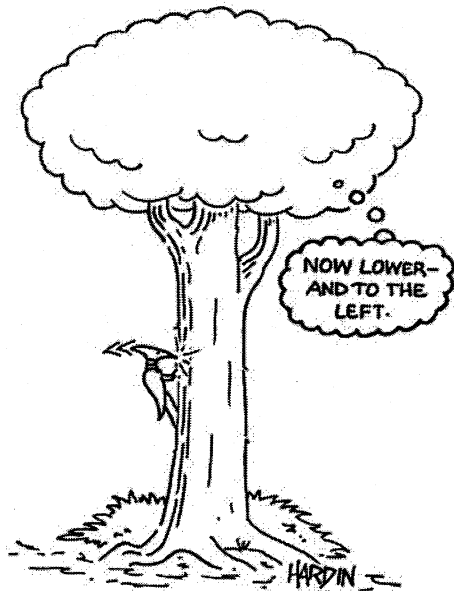
NATIONAL LEADERS TREE

WHAT's INSIDE?

- Woodn't You Like to Know
- Wild Turkey Fast Facts
- Tree Planting 101
- EAB - HAWOA
- Species @ Risk

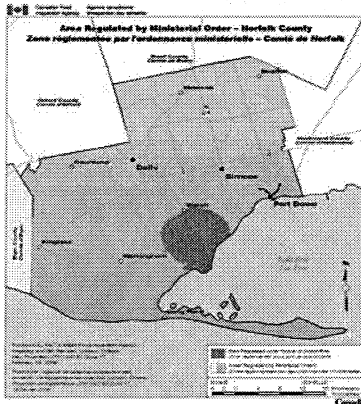
FOREST FUNNIES

You've gotta be kidding!



Why was the cat afraid of the tree?

Because of its bark.



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.

Buy Local!

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

Answers to questions from members....



Q1. I want to know more about wild turkeys...

Imagine going on a turkey hunt only to find there are no wild turkeys! It sounds far fetched, but in the early 1930s this grand game bird was on the verge of extinction. But today, thanks to hunters and wildlife restoration programs, the wild turkey is abundant and thriving in its homeland.

Wild turkeys are native to North America and there are five subspecies: Eastern, Osceola (Florida), Rio Grande, Merriam's and Gould's. All five range throughout different parts of the continent. The eastern is the most common and ranges the entire eastern half of the United States. The Osceola (Florida) is only found on the Florida peninsula, while the Rio Grande ranges through Texas and up into Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado. Rios are also found in parts of the northwestern states. The Merriam's subspecies ranges along the Rocky Mountains and the neighboring prairies of Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota. And you can find Gould's throughout the central portion of Mexico into the southernmost parts of New Mexico and Arizona.

Between 5,000 and 6,000 feathers cover the body of an adult turkey in patterns called feather tracts. A turkey's feathers provide a variety of survival functions – they keep him warm and dry, allow him to fly, feel and show off for the opposite sex. The head and upper part of the neck are featherless, but if you look close, you can see little bumps of skin on the bare area.

Most of the feathers exhibit a metallic glittering, called iridescence, with varying colors of red, green, copper, bronze and gold. The gobbler, or male turkey, is more colorful, while the hen is a drab brownish or lighter color to camouflage her with her surroundings.

Two major characteristics distinguish males from females: spurs and beards. Both sexes have long, powerful legs covered with scales and are born with a small button spur on the back of the leg. Soon after birth, a male's spur starts growing pointed and curved and can grow to about two inches. Most hen's spurs do not grow. Gobblers also have beards, which are tufts of filaments, or modified feathers, growing out from the chest. Beards can grow to an average of 9 inches (though they can grow much longer). It must also be noted that 10 to 20 percent of hens have beards.

Wild turkeys have excellent vision during the day but don't see as well at night. They are also very mobile. Turkeys can run at speeds up to 25 mph, and they can fly up to 55 mph.

When mating season arrives, anywhere from February to April, courtship usually begins while turkeys are still flocked together in wintering areas. After mating, the hens begin searching for a nest site and laying eggs. In most areas, nests can be found in a shallow dirt depression, surrounded by moderately woody vegetation that conceals the nest.

Hens lay a clutch of 10 to 12 eggs during a two-week period, usually laying one egg per day. She will incubate her eggs for about 28 days, occasionally turning and rearranging them until they are ready to hatch. A newly-hatched flock must be ready to leave the nest within 12 to 24 hours to feed. Poults eat insects, berries and seeds, while adults will eat anything from acorns and berries to insects and small reptiles. Turkeys usually feed in early morning and in the afternoon.

Wild turkeys like open areas for feeding, mating and habitat. They use forested areas as cover from predators and for roosting in trees at night. A varied habitat of both open and covered area is essential for wild turkey survival.



**WILD TURKEY SEASON OPENS MONDAY APRIL 27th, 2009
HUNTERS MUST BE SPECIALLY LICENSED.**

WILD TURKEY FAST FACTS – www.nwtf.org

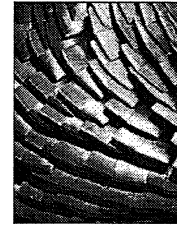


Size:

- The wild turkey is the largest of North America's game birds.
- Adult males, known as toms or gobblers, normally weigh between 16 and 24 pounds.
- Females, known as hens, are smaller than males and usually weigh between 8 and 10 pounds.
- The largest wild turkey on record weighed 37 pounds.

Feathers:

- **Males:** Gobblers have iridescent red, green, copper, bronze and gold feathers. They use these bright colors to great advantage when attracting females during breeding season.
- **Females:** Hens have drab, usually brown or gray feathers. They make great camouflage and hide hens when they sit on their nests.
- **Color Phases:** A few wild turkeys grow unusually colored feathers. These are known as color phases. There are four color phases, a smokey gray color phase, a melanistic color phase (all black), an erythritic color phase (reddish coloration) and an albino color phase (very rare).



Head:



Males: Males have brightly colored, nearly featherless heads. During breeding season the color of their heads alternates between red, white and blue, often changing in a few seconds.

Hens: A hen's head is gray-blue and has some small feathers for camouflage.

Caruncles and Snoods: Both males and females have fleshy growths on their heads known as caruncles. They also both have snoods, fleshy protrubances that hang over their bills and can be extended or contracted at will. The snood of an adult male is usually much larger than that of a female. No one knows for sure what these growths are for, but both probably developed as ways to attract mates.

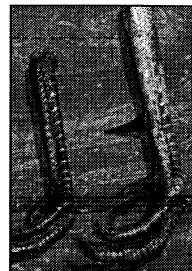
Beard:

- A male turkey grows a cluster of long, hairlike feathers from the center of its chest. This cluster is known as the turkey's beard.
- On adult males, these beards average about 9 inches long.
- 10 to 20 percent of hens also grow beards.
- The longest beard on record is more than 18 inches long.



Legs:

- Wild turkey legs are reddish-orange.
- They have four toes on each foot.
- Male wild turkeys grow large spurs on the backs of their lower legs. These spurs are pointed, bony spikes and are used for defense and to establish dominance.
- Spurs can grow up to 2 inches in length. The longest spurs on record are 2.25 inches long.



Tail:

- Wild turkey tails are usually 12 to 15 inches long and are banded at their tips. The color of the bands in the tail varies by subspecies.
- Male wild turkeys fan their tails when displaying to attract a mate.
 - You can usually tell the difference between an adult male (a tom) and a juvenile male (a jake) turkey by looking at a turkey's tail. All tail feathers of adult males are the same length. The feathers forming the center of a jake's tail are usually longer than the rest of the feathers in the tail.

Species at Risk

By Daniel Hartlen

The provincial government has recently updated the Species at Risk Act (SAR) for Ontario. There are more than 180 SARs in our province alone. Some of them are known by the public as endangered, while others are not well known at all. Those listed range from animals to insects to plants. Most of the species have laws to protect the species itself and/or its habitat, which it lives in. However even with these laws, there are still people who do not follow them and kill the endangered species.

One example from this list is the Butternut Tree. The Butternut is rapidly decreasing in its numbers in Canada and the United States. They are dying off because of the butternut canker - a virulent fungal disease. In some areas, 90% of the Butternut trees have been killed. Completely free-standing trees seem better able to withstand the fungus than those growing in dense stands or forest. However, there is hope, researchers have found 200 possible resistant trees to the canker. Therefore the trees that are most resistant stay alive.

While the Butternut tree's future is still unknown, there are numerous successes of maintaining the life of an endangered species. For an example, the Bald Eagle is living proof that an endangered species, with proper laws and protection, can slowly make its return to North American landscapes. In Southwestern Ontario we went from having less than 10 tagged Bald Eagles to having 31 active nests in 2007. The eagles were dying off because of pesticide use, pesticides which included DDT. DDT thinned the eagle eggs causing them to break before they could hatch. When conservation specialists saw the rapid decline in Bald Eagle population numbers, governments passed laws to help protect and maintain the life of this creature. Some of the laws, which still exist today, included making it illegal to: shoot, trap, poison or electrocute Bald Eagles.

You can make a difference in keeping these species alive as well. One simple way to make a great effect on the world around us and the species living with us is to stop littering. Currently some animals and insects might think your litter is food and die of eating something that is not intended for their ingestion. In addition to putting garbage where it belongs, we can also try to protect forests, wildlife preserves and other natural habitats where SAR species may be protected from predators.

If we all do something today, we could see a future with less SARs species in it

Daniel Hartlen is 13 years old, in Grade 8 at the Port Dover High School. Daniel has asked the NWOA if he can contribute articles to the newsletter regarding forestry – we thank Daniel for interest and look forward to future articles he can research and submit for our newsletter.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT SPECIES @ RISK LEGISLATION
AT**

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/index.html>



MORE SPECIES GET PROTECTION IN ONTARIO
McGuinty Government Acts To Implement Scientific Committee's
Recommendations

NEWS

One bird, one aquatic species and two plant species are being added to Ontario's endangered species list.

The province is acting on a report from the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario to add the four new species, remove two species, and reclassify four species on the Species at Risk in Ontario List.

Of note, the committee has determined that:

- Ontario's population of American white pelican is now stable enough to be changed from endangered to threatened.
- The Karner blue butterfly, which hasn't been reliably reported in the province since the late 1980s, remains protected on the list but was reclassified from endangered to extirpated.
- Eastern Flowering Dogwood, Ogden's Pondweed, Eastern Pondmussel and a subspecies of Red Knot should be added to the list as endangered.

Species can be classified as extinct, extirpated, endangered, threatened or of special concern. Under the terms of Ontario's Endangered Species Act, 2007, all species newly designated as endangered and threatened are automatically protected, along with their habitat.

The committee also released a prioritized list of 53 species to be reviewed and the criteria for classification.

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is home to more than 30,000 species, of which more than 180 are currently identified as being at risk.
- The American white pelican's nesting colony on Lake of the Woods is one of the largest in the world.
- Ontario's new Endangered Species Act took effect on June 30, 2008, making the province a North American leader in species at risk protection and recovery.

Fall Seminar's will be sponsored by the NWOA to raise awareness of this new legislation and where YOU fit into the picture.

The Four Categories, or Classes, of "at risk" are:

EXTIRPATED - a native species that no longer exists in the wild in Ontario, but still exists elsewhere

ENDANGERED - a native species facing extinction or extirpation (e.g. Cucumber Tree)

THREATENED - a native species at risk of becoming endangered in Ontario (e.g. Fowler's Toad)

SPECIAL CONCERN - a native species that is sensitive to human activities or natural events which may cause it to become endangered or threatened (e.g. Monarch Butterfly).

HELP FROM HALDIMAND AND AREA

WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION



Ms Carole Swan
President CFIA
1400 Merivale Road, Tower 1, Floor 6, Room 100
Ottawa, ON K1A 0Y9

April 22, 2009

Dear Ms Swan:

In response to the incursions of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) into Ontario, a Ministerial Order regulating and quarantining certain areas of the Province came into effect on February 15, 2008. This order, among other things, isolated certain parts of the Province where infestations were found and made it illegal to move wood across the defined boundaries of these areas to prevent extension of the threat. On the web site of the CFIA these words appear (see addenda for further details): ***The pest is primarily spread to new areas through the movement of infested firewood, ash tree and other materials.*** It was an effective protocol in limiting the spread of this invasive and very damaging species.

Recently, it has come to our attention that there is an intent on the part of government to amalgamate these areas into a single large zone which would encompass a vast and currently unaffected land mass. Areas of the Province to be affected would include the City of Toronto and Norfolk, Middlesex, Elgin and Lambton Counties and all areas surrounding and in between them.

This would be an egregious error in the management of this pest incursion!

Particularly in Norfolk County which is heavily forested - and adjacent to our Haldimand County - the EAB has been tightly restricted to a small area. Large amounts of money and many volunteer hours have been spent in attaining and maintaining this level of control as a result of the Order. ***The proposed amalgamation would totally compromise the progress already made in containment.***

The members of the Haldimand and Area Woodlot Owners' Association are **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to this proposal and wish to convey this to the officials and politicians responsible for containing this devastating threat to both our urban trees and rural forests which are an invaluable economic resource and an important part of curbing global warming through carbon sequestration.

The spread of the EAB infestation and a reduction in our ability to fight against global warming are not the only dangers in implementing such a decision. Public confidence in the government's ability to govern intelligently will be very much compromised. After having ruled that citizens must not move wood outside of the restricted zones lest the disease be spread into them, to now rule that diseased wood can move safely into large areas which have been spared the impact of the EAB and ignoring (or knowingly allowing) the impact, is simply foolish. Ontarians are not unthinking beings. They will recognise the decision for what it is. The implication is that the scientific facts and well-established protocols behind the initial decision not to move wood must have been wrong! The members of our Association do not believe so. This proposed action, if implemented, sadly signifies that the government believes, wrongly, that the science and protocols were wrong!

For all our sakes, whatever the cost, PLEASE do not implement the proposal!

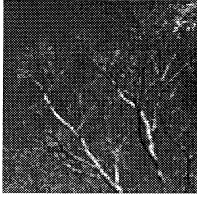
Signed

Peter L. Hill,
Board Member - on behalf of all the members of the
Haldimand & Area Woodlot Owners' Association

Dutch Elm Disease

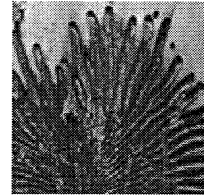
(*Ophiostoma ulmi* or *Ceratocystis ulmi*)

FOREST HEALTH UPDATE



Biology

- Dutch elm disease is a fungal disease of elms
- the fungus is spread by both a native and an introduced bark beetle whose larvae tunnel under the outer bark and create distinctive feeding 'galleries'
- the adult beetles are very small (2-3 mm or 1/8 in)
- the first signs of the disease are upper branches dying and leaves turning yellow in mid-summer
- gradually, the damage spreads to the rest of the tree which eventually dies
- some trees will resprout from the base and the sprouts may live for a number of years



History in Canada

- lumber infected with the fungus arrived in North America about 1930
- the disease reached Eastern Canada in the 1940's
- it arrived in Manitoba in 1975 and Saskatchewan in 1981
- the disease does not occur in Alberta or British Columbia where American Elms were planted beyond their natural range (Saskatchewan to Nova Scotia)
- the majority of elms in Eastern Canada died of the disease in the 1970's and 1980's
- scattered healthy trees, generally young, do still occur in the east

Impact on Trees

- there are three native species of elm in Canada and all have been affected to varying degrees by Dutch elm disease
- the greatest impact has been on American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) and Rock Elm (*Ulmus thomasii*)
- Red or Slippery Elm (*Ulmus rubra*) is least affected by the disease

Control

- there are fungicide treatments available for individual trees but they are costly, must be repeated regularly, and may only prolong the life of the treated tree by 5-10 years
- in the early stages of the disease, infected branches may be pruned and destroyed
- selection programs are ongoing to find and distribute resistant trees and several cultivars are presently available
- hybridization studies are also underway to find trees not susceptible to the fungus
- it will be many years before most of these cultivars or hybrids reach maturity and prove their resistance to the disease



TREE PLANT 101

Plan Ahead

A tree's biological needs, its shape and size at maturity, and its function in your landscape help determine the best tree to plant in a particular location. Select trees that grow well in your local climate and soil. Each species has a different tolerance to late spring or early fall frosts, flooding or drying, to high winds or low light levels, and to compacted, heavy, acidic or alkaline soils.

Think about what the trees will look like at maturity. How tall will they grow? What shape will they be? Are coniferous (evergreen) or deciduous species preferable?

Minimize stress to your trees

- Protect your tree well during transport
- Be prepared to plant – do not leave your tree seedlings stored too long – when you pick them up be prepared to plant!
- When planting store access seedlings in a cool spot until needed – think of how you will carry the tree seedlings you will be planting – a pail of water is a good idea for transporting from bag to planting spot.

Prepare the planting spot

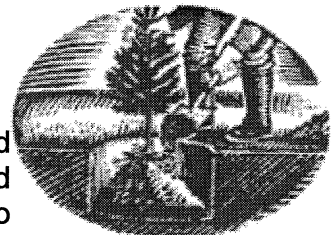
- Remove grass, weeds and ground cover (turf) within a 50-cm radius of the planting hole. These plants compete with the tree for water and nutrients.
- Dig the hole at least twice as wide as the container or root ball (to accommodate the entire root system), and to the depth of the root ball.
- Roughen the sides and bottom of the hole to allow root penetration.
- If good quality soil is not available, break up the turf taken from the top and put it in the hole around the root ball, where it will break down into good rooting soil. Peat or loam, if added, would improve this mixture.
- Soil in the hole should be moist, not too wet or too dry.
- A cone-shaped mound of soil at the bottom of the hole is advised for bare-root trees. This will allow the roots to develop downward and outward into the surrounding soil.

Prepare your trees for root growth

Bare-root: Loosen the roots with a spray of water and straighten them to prevent doubling-under, crowding, and crossing. Do not expose the roots to direct sunlight or drying winds for more than a minute to avoid damaging the fine root hairs.

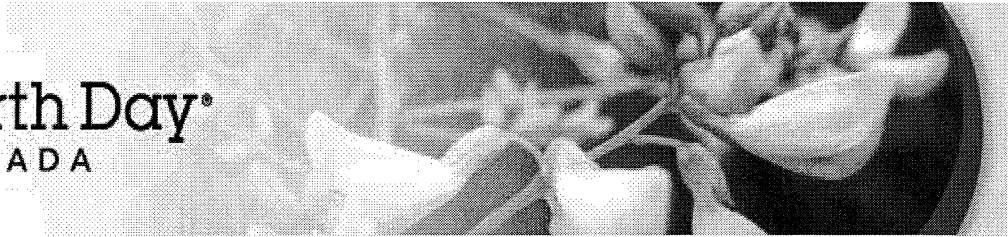
Plant your tree with care

Bare-root: The root crown is set on the mound and the roots spread over and down the sides of the mound. Refill the hole with good quality soil, gently raising and lowering the tree while filling to eliminate air pockets.





Earth Day®
CANADA



History of Earth Day

Celebrated every April 22, Earth Day is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide.

More than 6 million Canadians join 1 billion people in over 170 countries in staging events and projects to address local environmental issues. Nearly every school child in Canada takes part in an Earth Day activity.

Environmental challenges abound as our daily actions pollute and degrade the fragile environment that humans and wildlife depend on to survive.

What can we do?

Earth Day provides the opportunity for positive actions and results.

First launched as an environmental awareness event in the United States in 1970, Earth Day (April 22) is celebrated as the birth of the environmental movement.

Earth Day is a powerful catalyst for change. The first Earth Day, spearheaded by Wisconsin Governor Gaylord Nelson and Harvard University student Denis Hayes, involved 20 million participants in teach-ins that addressed decades of environmental pollution. The event inspired the US Congress to pass clean air and water acts, and establish the Environmental Protection Agency to research and monitor environmental issues and enforce environmental laws.

In 1990, two million Canadians joined 200 million people in 141 nations in celebrating the first International Earth Day. In many countries, the global event brought pressure on heads of state to take part in the UN Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to address issues such as climate change and the world wide loss of species.

In Canada, Earth Day has grown into Earth Week and even Earth Month to accommodate the profusion of events and projects. They range from large public events, such as Victoria's Earth Walk (5,000 participants), Edmonton's Earth Day Festival at Hawrelak Park (30,000 participants), and Oakville, Ontario's Waterways Clean-up (2,000 participants) to the thousands of small, private events staged by schools, employee groups and community groups.