

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

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September 2008



President's MESSAGE



In the last month or so there have been a lot of questions about "tent Caterpillars" that people have been seeing on the trees around Norfolk and the damage that they do,

The silken webs that people have been seeing is really caused by a native insect called "fall webworm". They start out small, and as the food supply contained in the web is eaten they will enclose more leaves into their web, and so the web gets bigger as the worms eat more. This of course is very unsightly as we approach the fall season.

Tent caterpillars on the other hand appear in the spring time and they make their silken tents in the crotch of trees, I usually see them in the crotch of small cherry trees in my woodlot, but they also will use other hardwood trees as well.

The biggest problem with these pests is the ugly worm filled webs that can have a negative look to a well manicured property. The frass also comes down and is a messy thing to have all over your car. The good thing is fall webworm doesn't have a significant affect to your trees as the leaves are at the end of their cycle and will fall soon naturally.

Control of these pests range from mechanical control (cutting them from the tree branch), to sprays like BT that was used to kill the much more damaging gypsy moth this year, and non-selective insecticides. Burning the nest out with a pole and gas soaked rag will damage your tree. These pests have a peak every few years so some years are not as bad as others. The caterpillars will drop to the ground to pupate in leaf litter in the ground or under bark on the trees. They will appear in mid March to start the cycle again by laying their eggs on the underside of leaves.

The upside is they provide a food source to birds when they do fall from their protective nests and really do not cause damage to trees....

Mark Sommerville

WHAT's INSIDE?

- Caring for Nature in Norfolk
- Woodn't You Like To Know
- The American Badger
- Fall Webworm
- Forest Funnies
- The GREAT TREE Hunt

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Saturday, October 11th, 2008

FALL COLOURS WALKABOUT

TURKEY POINT BLUFFS

Meet on west side of Turkey Pt Rd (Cty Rd 10)

TIME: 10:00 Am

- Difficult terrain, but worth the walk
- Dress for weather

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Events Sponsored in part by the
NWOA – for further information visit
www.norfolkwoodlots.com

NORFOLK COUNTY FAIR & HORSE SHOW

October 7th – 13th



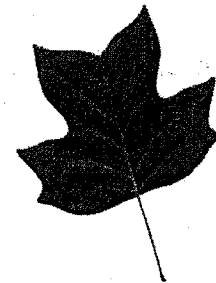
Come see the skills of professional
loggers demonstrate daily at the
Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show!

Caring for Nature in Norfolk

Wagon Wheel Produce and Corn Maze

Saturday, October 18th, 2008

9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.



A workshop for the rural landowner to encourage the conservation and enhancement of our natural environment will be held next month in Norfolk County.

In a followup to the successful March 2008 launch of the "Caring for Nature in Norfolk" factsheet, the Carolinian Canada Coalition and partners are hosting a "Caring for Nature Workshop for Rural Landowners in Norfolk" on Oct. 18 at Wagon Wheel Produce and Corn Maze on Charlotteville Rd. 7, west of Simcoe from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to learn about habitat stewardship projects in their county, how they can initiate projects on their land to create natural habitat and conserve biodiversity, and provide information on sourcing financial incentives and expert advice.

Norfolk County, located in the heart of the Carolinian Life Zone, is a place of vibrant natural diversity. It has many natural gems waiting to be explored - such as Backus Woods and Spooky Hollow, where lush Carolinian forests abound with wildlife, including the southern flying squirrel and redheaded woodpecker; such as the St. Williams Crown Reserve that features rare oak savanna on its northwest side; and such as the kilometres of Lake Erie shoreline, comprising in part, the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve. But there are also significant private lands that contain valuable habitat, such as woodlots, meadows, and marshes, and plentiful wildlife, such as the elusive American badger.

"Private landowners who take care of habitat in Norfolk and the rest of Carolinian Canada are protecting air, water and soil quality for everyone," stated Michelle Kanter, Executive Director of the Coalition, in a release. "This workshop is a tool to helping private individuals in actively leading the way in conserving resources for human and wildlife communities."

Workshop participants will be introduced to The Rural Landowner Stewardship Guide, developed by the University of Guelph's School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. The guide is fashioned after the successful Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) for agricultural landowners but it is aimed at engaging rural non-farm residents in the protection of their natural environment through individual actions.

The Rural Landowner Stewardship Guide helps rural landowners evaluate their property and identify areas where they might positively impact the local environment. The guide also contains valuable stewardship tips and resource information.

Representatives from the Carolinian Canada Coalition, the Norfolk Land Stewardship Council, Long Point Region Conservation Authority, Long Point Basin Land Trust, Norfolk County, Norfolk Woodlot Owner's Association, Acorus Restoration, Tallgrass Ontario and Norfolk Field Naturalists will be on hand to answer any questions participants may have and for individual consultations and follow-up plans.

Rural landowners who would like to sign up for the Caring for Nature in Norfolk workshop can call 519-426-7124 or e-mail workshop@carolinian.org to reserve a spot. There will be a nominal registration fee of \$10 per person, payable on the day of the workshop. Lunch is included.

Our Wild Neighbours

Comprised of forests, wetlands, meadows, prairie and savanna, Norfolk is home to an amazingly diverse number of plants and animals. In fact, in Carolinian Canada, there are over 70 native trees, 2,200 plants and more than half of all Canadian birds. Some Carolinian Plants and Animals found in Norfolk:

Ground plants:

American Ginseng, Dwarf Blazing Star, Butterflyweed, Birds-foot Violet, Switchgrass, Little Bluestem

Shrubs:

Hazelnut, Spicebush, Burning Bush, Prairie Rose

Trees:

Tulip Tree, American Chestnut, Eastern Flowering Dogwood, Black Walnut, Dwarf Chinquapin Oak, Cucumber Magnolia, Black Gum

Mammals:

Virginia Opossum, American Badger, White-tailed Deer, Hoary Bat



AMERICAN BADGER (*Taxidea taxus jacksoni*) ENDANGERED

Look for:

- Grizzled gray with bold black and white stripes on the head and face
- Front claws extremely long

Did You Know?

The American Badger is a nocturnal carnivore – uses powerful claws to dig – Is at risk from habitat loss, road mortality and human persecution

HELP! Save grasslands – Leave grassy habitat on woodland edges undisturbed

REWARD: Control rodents and other pests

IF YOU SEE THIS ENDANGERED ANIMAL CONTACT:

wildlife@carolinian.org or Mary Gartshore, Badger Recovery Team
519-586-3985



Badger Tracks



Badger tracks are noticeably pigeon-toed and front and rear overlap each other. Fresh prints in light or wet soil will display long, pointed claw marks.

FOREST FUNNIES & PROSE

Trees



By Ron Tchorek – our resident artist

*I THINK that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree*

*A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;*

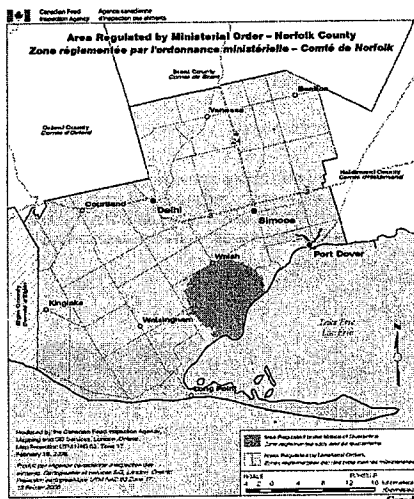
*A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;*

*A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;*

*Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.*

*Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.*

Joyce Kilmer



Don't Move Firewood

Throwing a few pieces of firewood into the truck 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 had 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!

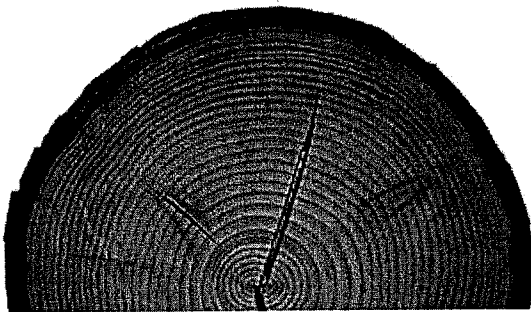
WOODN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW.....

Answers to questions from members....



Q1. How can I calculate the age of a tree?

- A1. It is easy to calculate the age of a tree by examining a cross section of the trunk and counting its rings.



How are rings formed?

In Canada, tree growth comes to a halt during the winter months when growth cells become dormant. In the springtime, the growth cells become active again. During this time, thin walled cells form light coloured rings called earlywood or springwood. Later in the summer, growth cells with thicker walls form darker rings know as latewood or summerwood. In tropical

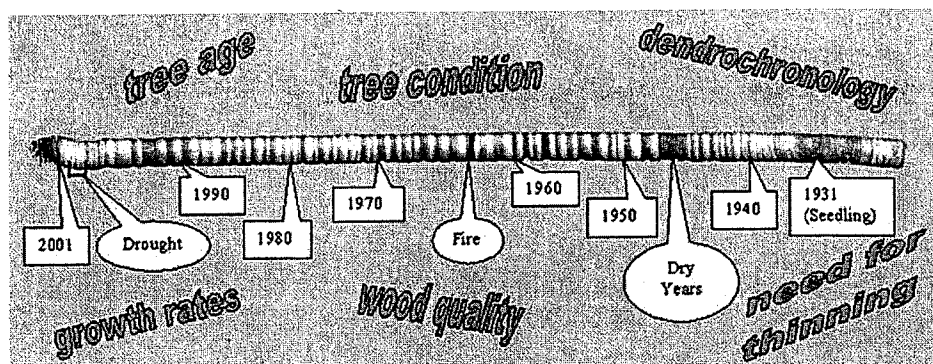
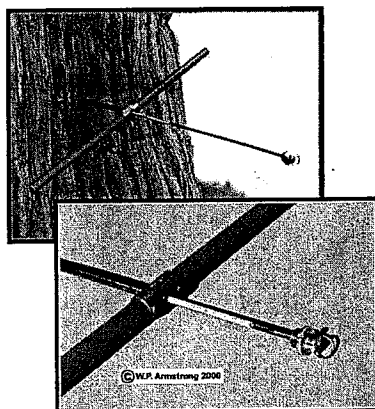
climates, cells continue to grow during the winter. The continuous growth makes the rings less visible, so it is harder to count rings in tropical trees.

One can determine the length of the growing season by the distance between rings. A long growing season results in more tree growth. Narrow distance between rings means that the growing conditions were poor.

Poor conditions may be due to a short growing season, drought, fire, or tree spacing. Remember trees don't heal, they conceal. The tree keeps its injuries and builds around them.

Fire scars are present on the tree after a fire. Some trees do not die in a fire and have the ability to grow new layers the very next year. The result is the presence of a fire scar in the cross section.

USING AN INCREMENT BORER... what you can find



NORFOLK COUNTY FAIR & HORSE SHOW

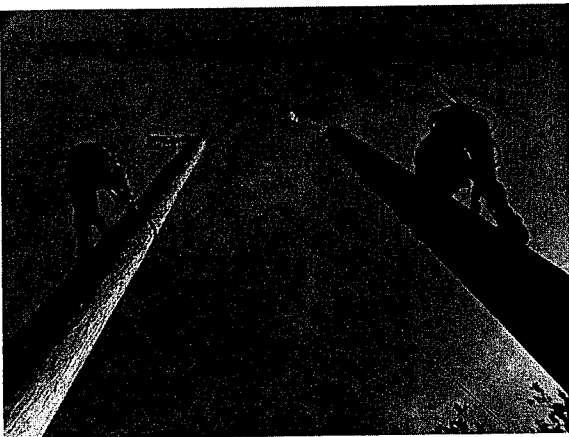
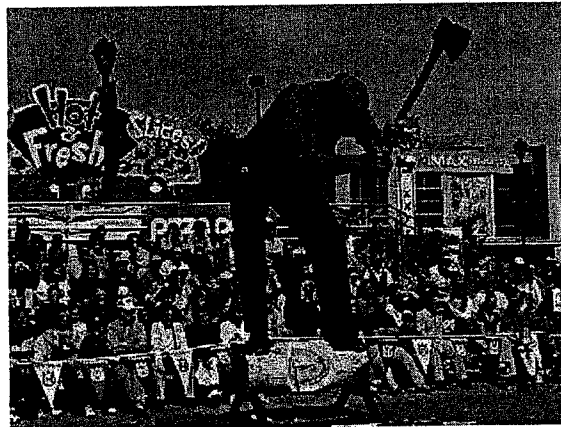


What's New at the Fair?

October
7-13, 2008



Norfolk County has been voted the Forest Capital of Canada for 2008—In keeping with this theme we have the **West Coast Lumberjacks** appearing with 3 shows daily! Watch two climbers race up trees to a height of 40' and back down again! Also enjoy log rolling, logo carving, Double buck races and axe throwing!





USDA FOREST SERVICE

FALL WEBWORM

The fall webworm, *Hyphantria cunea* (Drury), is most often discovered when the unsightly, light gray, silken webs on the trees in late summer and early fall are observed. Webworms enclose leaves and small branches in their nests, unlike the tent caterpillars which make a smaller nest in the crotch of branches.

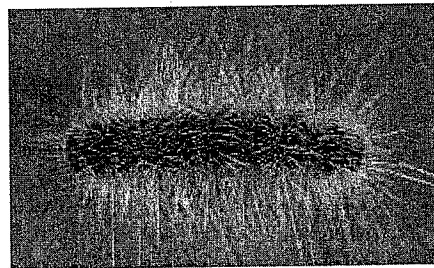
This pest is native to North America and is common from Canada into Mexico. It attacks over 100 species of trees on our continent.

Description and Life Cycle

The fall webworm has one generation per year. Adult moths are white and are active from late June to mid-July. Females lay eggs on the underside of leaves of the host plant. Eggs hatch about two weeks after being laid and larvae feed within nests constructed of foliage and silk. The caterpillars make distinct jerking movements in unison if the nest is disturbed. The larvae are covered with long silky hairs that arise in tufts from the tubercles. They are pale yellow with a broad black band across the back. Larvae feed throughout the summer and when mature, seek out sheltered spots for pupation. Cocoons are woven and the pupae overwinter.



USDA FOREST SERVICE



USDA FOREST SERVICE

Symptoms and Damage

Larvae construct silken tents at the top of individual plants. Foliage is webbed together to form a nest that the larvae feed, defecate and pupate in. Nests may cause some branch deformity in years following infestation but otherwise cause little permanent damage. Nests are very unsightly in orchard and ornamental plantings.

Control Hints

Though the webs are very unsightly, damage to most trees is considered to be insignificant. Outbreaks every four to seven years may last for two to three years and then natural control agents greatly reduce the activity.

Strategy 1: Mechanical Control - Removal of Nests - Small nests can be pruned out of small to medium trees. Monitor trees early to detect the nests when only several leaves are involved. These small nests can be easily crushed. Do not burn or torch the nests in trees as this may do additional damage to the tree.

Strategy 2: Biological Control - Encourage Predators and Parasites - Over 80 species of parasites and predators have been identified in North America. Social wasps (yellow jackets and paper nest wasps), birds, predatory stink bugs and parasitic flies and wasps are the most important. Delay destruction of wasp nests until August when social wasps change from carnivores to sugar feeders. Try to withhold contact insecticide sprays until it is certain that predators and parasites are not present in sufficient numbers to control the webworms.

Strategy 3: Biological Control - Apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) - The bacterial insecticide, Bt, is quite effective against fall webworms if it is applied when the larvae are small. Use formulations with UV protectants and thoroughly cover leaves next to nests. As these leaves are incorporated into the nest and eaten, the Bt will be ingested.

Strategy 4: Chemical Control - Standard Insecticide Sprays - Involves applying a contact insecticide which comes into contact with the larvae. It is advised that landowners contact a licensed pesticide applicator if this option is being sought.

Strategy 5: Chemical Control - Use Systemic Insecticides - Extensive nests may occur in tall trees which are difficult to spray with ground equipment. These trees can often be treated with translocated systemics applied to the soil for root uptake or injected. It is advised that landowners contact a licensed pesticide applicator if this option is being sought.

Special Notes of Interest

Larvae are an important food source for migratory birds.

NOTE: Disclaimer - The information in this material is for educational purposes. The recommendations contained are based on the best available knowledge at the time of printing. Any reference to commercial products, trade or brand names is for information only, and no endorsement or approval is intended. This publication may contain pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. No endorsement is intended for products mentioned, nor is criticism meant for products not mentioned.



For more information on Forest Health Issues, visit
www.norfolkcounty.ca or www.norfolkwoodlots.com

Or contact Norfolk County Forestry Division ~ 519-426-5999.



NORFOLK COUNTY GREAT TREE HUNT

A Celebration of Our Community Treasures

Do you know of a GREAT Tree?

THE LEAVES ARE FALLING, THE LEAVES ARE FALLING.....

THE GREAT TREE HUNT IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE.....

As part of our community's celebrations for the Forest Capital of Canada designation of 2008, the Norfolk Field Naturalists, working in partnership with the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association and Norfolk County are challenging the residents of Norfolk to find these rare gems in our Carolinian Forest which hold a special significance or stature.

The *Great Tree Hunt* is being support by various partners including the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Southwestern Ontario Loggers Association.

Due to overwhelming interest, an extension has been granted until **October 22nd, 2008**.

The *Great Tree Hunt* awards will be presented to each nominee and owner of a *Great Tree* that has achieved the distinction of being the greatest tree of that species. The *Great Tree Hunt* awards will be presented at the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association Annual General Meeting in February, 2009 ~ Delhi German Hall.

The *Great Tree Hunt* is a commitment to our natural community treasures found amongst our Carolinian Forests and greenspaces. Many Norfolk County trees deserve recognition for their great beauty, their ecological and economic importance, and their place in history.

Don't miss your chance - over this Thanksgiving weekend take to the woods with your family
and find your ***GREAT TREE!***

TOP SCHOOL WITH MOST NOMINATIONS TO DATE

TEETERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

TOP SCHOOL WINS 12 CAROLINIAN TREES PLANTED AT THEIR SCHOOL!

STILL LOOKING FOR THE BIGGEST TREES (we know there are bigger ones out there!!!)

White Pine
American Beech
Ginkgo
Norway Spruce
Sycamore
Copper Beech

White Birch
Chinquapin Oak
Hop-tree
Osage-Orange
Balsam Fir
White Cedar

Yellow Birch
European Larch
Jack Pine
Purple Beech
Black gum
Flowering Dogwood

Basswood
European Mountain Ash
Hop Hornbeam (Ironwood)
Shagbark Hickory
Black Maple
Black Spruce

384 Nominations thus far!!!

Over 169 Species ~ Native and Non-Native!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

www.norfolkwoodlots.com

UPDATED LIST OF NOMINATED TREES AND SCORE TO BE POSTED ONLINE - October 4th, 2008

GREAT TREE NOMINATION FORM

Mail: Norfolk Forestry ~ 95 Culver St. Simcoe, ON N3Y 2V5

Fax: 519-426-0059 EMAIL: greattrees@norfolkcounty.ca



FORM **MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL** TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ASSESSMENT AS A GREAT TREE AND MUST BE CO-SIGNED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN IF NECESSARY. Please print clearly in black ink.

INDIVIDUAL NOMINATION INFORMATION

Surname		Given Name	
Mailing Address		Town	
Postal Code		E-mail	
Daytime Phone No.	()	Business No.	()

Tree Species (Type)	
---------------------	--

Is the tree you are nominating located on your property?	YES		NO	
Is the tree you are nominating located on public property	YES		NO	
If this tree is not located on your property or on public property- do you have permission to nominate this tree on behalf of the landowner?	YES		NO	

If yes, please complete below and have the landowner in which your tree is located co-sign this application.

If no, unfortunately we cannot process your nomination.

Surname		Given Name	
Mailing Address		Town	
Postal Code		Phone No.	()
Landowner Signature		Date	

General Location of Nominated Tree														
Tax Roll No. (if known)	3	3	1	0										
Concession		Lot		Former Township										
Circumference – indicate units used (cm or in)					Estimated Height (m or ft)									
(1.3 metres above the ground measure the distance around the tree)														
Is this a yard tree?	YES		NO		Is this tree located in a woodlot?	YES		NO						
GPS COORDINATES		N		0		,		.	W		0		,	
Datum NAD 83														

MAP TO TREE LOCATION

- show nearest road(s), 911 #, buildings, preferred entrance

I understand that by nominating this tree I hereby give permission to Norfolk County staff and Great Tree Hunt volunteers to enter upon my property to assess the tree described above. Each nominee will be contacted to arrange a meeting time or more specific details or information about my nomination. Once the assessment is complete and the final judging completed, individual trees which will be proclaimed GREAT TREES for their individual species category will be given notice and provided an opportunity if they wish to disclose the specific location of their tree. Private landowner rights will be respected and such decisions to withhold the exact location of a Great Tree located on private land will not preclude participation in this contest.

Nominator Signature

Date

School (if applicable)

Parent or Guardian Signature