

## NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

[www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com)

Volume 1 Edition 12

January ~ WINTER 2008



### President's MESSAGE



The later part of December was a reminder that we live in Canada, the snow really started the Christmas spirit. The bird feeders were also interesting with tiny pine siskens and red poles with there little red beret visiting us from up north. This usually means a poor seed crop in the north, so I think they were as dry as we were this year.

The Long Point Bird Count on the 15th had forty observers counting 36,229 individuals of 109 species. They also counted a new Canadian high with 265 Sandhill Cranes and even a Golden Eagle. A great day to go out to observe nature.

The new year has brought Norfolk the designation of Forest Capital of Canada. The schedule of events will be available at various locations, I have lots at Royal Oak Feeds which is 3km south of Simcoe. The first official day was January 8th, at Simcoe, at the County Council Meeting at 5.00 pm. We have been named officially named the Forest Capital, there were presentations and we even had a town crier. Thanks for the folks that attended.

I would like to send our best wishes for the new year to every member on behalf of the board of directors.

MARK SOMMERVILLE – PRESIDENT NWOA

### WHAT's INSIDE?

- EMERALD ASH BORER - NORFOLK
- Forest Health Bulletin – Black Knot
- Woodn't You Like To Know
- Forest Funnies
- Forest Capital of Canada

### UPCOMING EVENTS!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ....



ACTIVITIES IN THE  
WOODS

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
**DELHI GERMAN HALL, Delhi ~ Hwy #3**

**DISPLAY / INFORMATION FORUM**  
**Doors Open 5 pm / Meeting starts 7 pm**

#### Guest Speakers

- Glen Blouin, Author  
AN ECLECTIC GUIDE TO TREES EAST OF  
THE ROCKIES
- James Cowan  
CANADIAN RAPTOR CONSERVANCY

Events Sponsored by the NWOA – for  
further information visit

[www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com)



**VOLUNTEERS  
WANTED**

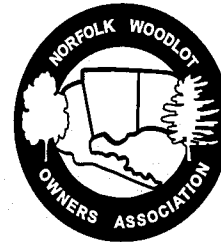
Interested in helping out with workshops or  
specific events for the 2008 Forest Capital of  
Canada Celebrations.

We need your expertise and help.

Please contact any director of the NOWA to get in  
touch with us!

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association



Wednesday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 7:00 PM  
Delhi German Home - Delhi

Forestry Information Forum & Information Displays – open 5 pm

Over 20 Information Displays! \$1200 in Door Prizes!

**SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN TODAY!**

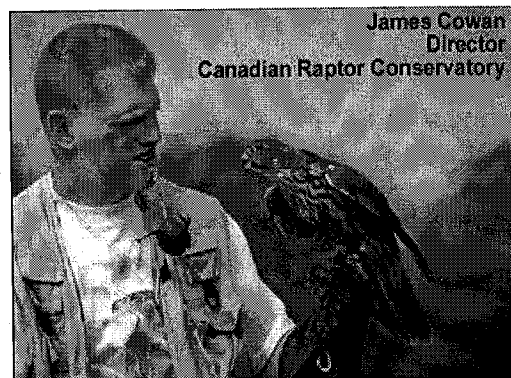
For more information call Mark Sommerville 519-426-3762

**MEETING STARTS AT 7 PM**

**BRING THE FAMILY.....**



James Cowan,  
Honorary NWOA Member  
... will be once again bringing his feathered  
friends to provide us a display of various  
raptors who make their home in our woodlots



**Canadian Raptor Conservancy**



R.R. 1 Vittoria, Ontario • Phone (519) 428-2637 • Fax (519) 428-2273 • Email: thebirdnerd@on.albn.com

**GUEST SPEAKER ~ Glen Blouin, Author**

### **AN ECLECTIC GUIDE TO TREES EAST OF THE ROCKIES**

A “one-of-a-kind” book on tree species occurring in N.A. east of the Rockies. Identifies close to 50 major tree species by their components (size, wood, bark, leaf, flower, fruit, twig, etc.). Goes beyond these details to provide: the history of each species; its range, record sizes, preferred sites, & seasonal changes; value as habitat for fauna; natural enemies (insects, blights, diseases); uses by humans; the properties of its wood, and; more. A valuable, multi-faceted book for those with an interest in trees.

### **WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A DIRECTOR?**

An interest in natural resources management .... We meet once a month except July & August....  
We need new members to keep the momentum of our associations growth moving forward.....

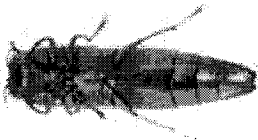
If interested please contact an existing director to learn more.....



**Don't Move Firewood ~ It BUGS me!**

**BUY LOCAL FIREWOOD!**

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**Subject: Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Norfolk County**

**STATUS: Quarantine Pending - Discussions Ongoing**

THE NWOA WILL BE WORKING WITH NORFOLK COUNTY ON IDENTIFYING THE NEXT STEPS AND HOW THE INFESTATION WILL BE MANAGED.

**THE QUARANTINE IS NOT YET TO BE DEFINED – CFIA IS WORKING ON SUCH.**

**IT IS CRITICAL UNTIL THE AREA IS DEFINED WHERE THE INSECT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT NO ONE RUSHES OUT TO MANAGE THEIR WOODLANDS.**

**IN OTHER AREAS, ie; MICHIGAN, MANY LANDOWNERS WERE TAKEN BY FAST TALKING LOGGERS WHO CONVINCED WOODLOT OWNERS THEY HAD TO LOG. THEY ENDED UP WITH THEIR WOODLOTS BEING OVERHARVESTED, NOT LIMITED TO ASH, AND NO PAYMENT..... SO PROTECT YOURSELF, OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS MORE INFORMATION WILL BE COMING OUT AND WE WILL MAKE SURE YOU ARE INFORMED.**

UNITENTIONAL SPREAD THROUGH THE SALE OF FIREWOOD OR HARVESTING CAN HAVE DISASTROUS RESULTS. THE CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY AND NORFOLK COUNTY HAVE ASSURED THE NWOA, THAT WE WILL BE WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE WE IMPLEMENT THE BEST PRACTICES TO PROTECT OUR WOODLANDS. STAY TUNED.

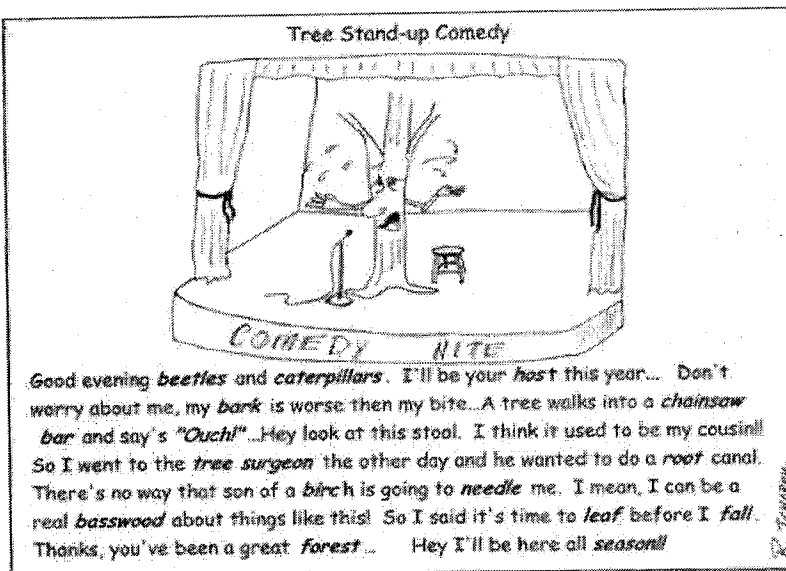
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Norfolk County staff will be available to assist woodlot owners once the quarantine boundaries have been defined and urge landowners to visit the CFIA website at [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca) for more information on Emerald Ash Borer.

# NWOA Directors – 2007

\* year indicates the term the year expires, the (number) indicates the number of terms served

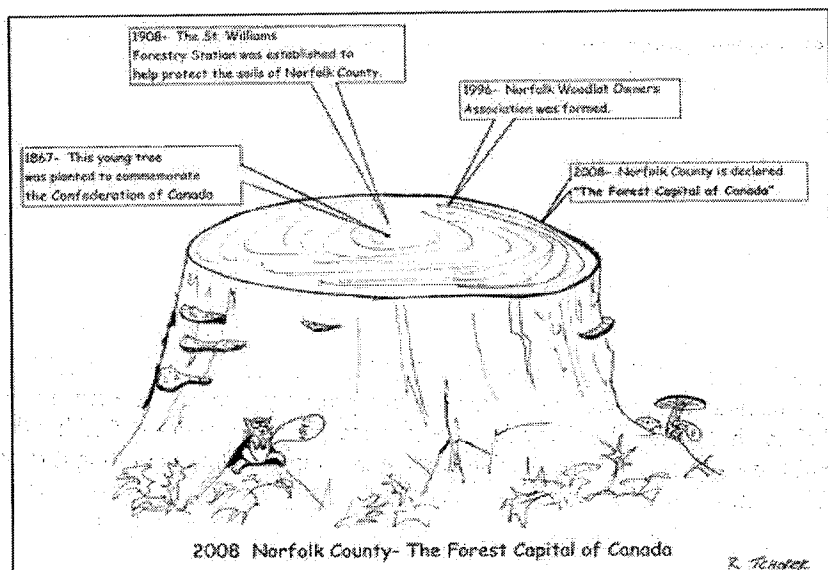
Name	Position	Term *	Phone	E-mail
Mark Sommerville	President	2008 (1)	426-3762	markruth@flarenet.com
David Sandor	Secretary	2009 (2)	875-4689	d.sandor@tvdsb.on.ca
Tony Boerkamp	Social Director	2009 (2)	443-8939	
Bauke Vogelzang	Director	2009 (2)	443-8128	
Paul Beischlag	Director	2008 (1)	426-8591	pbeischlag@hotmail.com
Ron Tchorek	Director	2010 (1)	426-5708	tchorek@kwic.com
Mark Bacro	Director	2010 (1)	875-1721	mbacro@porchlight.ca
Dolf Wynia	Director	2010 (1)	875-3350	wynia@kwic.com
George Demaiter	Director	2010 (1)	426-8956	gdemaiter@kwic.com
Tracey Boerkamp	Norfolk Federation Agriculture Liaison	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.on.ca



## FOREST FUNNIES

Thanks ...  
to our resident  
Cartoonist ...

Ron Tchorek

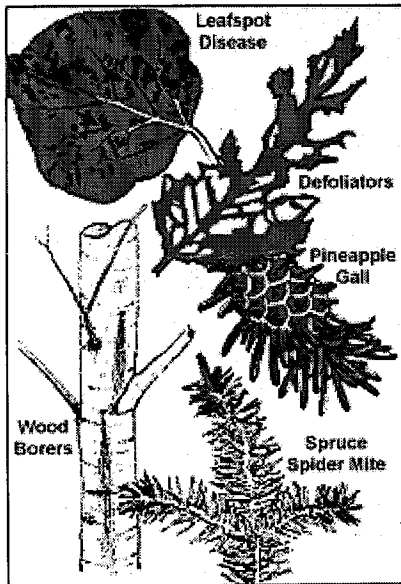


# WOODN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW.....

Answers to questions from members....



## Q. What's wrong with my tree?



A. Many people ask the question, "What's wrong with my tree?" The tree may have reduced growth and vigor, show physical injury, a change of foliage color, have external resin or sap flow, or have top dieback. They will want to diagnose the problem or be able to describe the symptoms to a tree expert so that a remedy can be prescribed. Accurate tree diagnosis is sometimes very difficult, and even the best advice may be only an educated guess. Accurate diagnosis is often difficult in urban areas because the planted sites usually have been disturbed with introduced soils and surface compaction; have a disturbed drainage pattern; and may have had various noxious materials added (e.g., salts, herbicides, etc.) that have contaminated the soils. These variables, combined with the effects of planting sites selected in relation to buildings, fences, cement walls and roadways, all impose changes and influences on tree root growth pattern and nutrient uptake.

Belowground influences are often difficult to predict, diagnose, or identify because their affects are transferred through the root system. Aboveground injuries caused by insects, diseases, air pollutants, or climatic factors are more readily recognized. For most homeowners, however, a systematic approach to tree examination will help to pinpoint the problem, or at least reduce the number of possible causes. Detailed observations and a knowledge of recent soil treatments and weather records can be helpful.

### Symptoms, damage, and causal agents

Planting-related problems. Survival of newly planted trees depends upon selection of healthy plant materials suited to the area, proper planting techniques and adequate postplanting care. Newly planted trees may suffer transplant shock as they adjust to the new environment. Little new growth, some branch dieback, or chlorotic (abnormally yellow) leaves may occur for 1-2 years until the root system becomes well established. Proper planting depth, good soil and suitable location, seasonal timing, and a regular watering schedule help to minimize transplant shock.

Noninfectious (abiotic) damage agents. Abiotic (nonliving) agents such as temperature extremes; mineral and nutrient deficiencies; water supply; chemical substances in the soil, water, and air; transplant shock; and mechanically induced injuries are all classed as noninfectious agents because the damage they cause does not spread from one tree to another. These agents may often weaken the tree, enabling living agents such as fungi, insects, or bacteria to gain entry and cause further weakness or death.

Trees suffering from the influence of nonliving agents may be diagnosed as having reduced growth of buds, shoots, branches, leaves, or needles; yellow, brown, or mottled foliage; or dead foliage and branch tips. Most tree problems transferred through the soil and roots, however, cause delayed and gradual effects that can usually be observed over more than one season. Road deicing salts and soil sterilants absorbed through the root system will cause a browning of the foliage (for example on pine and some other tree species) or a rust-purple color on spruce, often in one season. The symptoms may occur initially on the lower branches and on one side of the tree because of a concentration gradient in the soil, then later advance to other parts of the tree.

A sudden, sharp drop in temperature in winter may initiate a frost crack on the lower stem of some deciduous trees, and less commonly on coniferous trees. In the prairie provinces, late spring frosts are a common occurrence and can cause dieback in late April or May (e.g., cedars and junipers), delayed flushing (bud bursting), or death of newly flushed shoots and leaves on many introduced and native tree species. Summer drought may cause top dieback of birch and premature leaf fall. Winter burn (sun exposure) and drying result in the death and desiccation of the foliage of many conifers; affected needles may turn brown in the spring, often on the south or west side of trees and on portions of stems exposed above the snow level. Symptoms of nutrient deficiency mimic many other diseases but are most commonly expressed as reduced growth, abnormal leaf discolorations, browning, or mottling.

Infectious (biotic) damage agents. A large number of native and introduced infectious fungal and bacterial diseases as well as insect and mite pests attack trees in the prairie provinces. Many of these are easily recognized by the typical injury they cause, the tree species with which they are associated, the life stage causing the injury, and to some extent seasonal appearance. These biotic (living) agents may develop on weakened or infected trees and spread to adjacent trees.

Systemic infections caused by Dutch elm disease (a fungal parasite) and fire blight (a bacterium) initially cause wilt symptoms and browning of foliated branches, and gradually progress to kill an entire tree. Dutch elm disease infects only elms while fire blight infects mountain-ash, crab apple, pear, and other fruit trees. Silver leaf, a fungal disease of many fruit tree species, can be diagnosed by the silvery sheen of the foliage and the presence of fungal fruiting structures on the lower stem. A group of rust fungi such as the pine stem rusts cause cankered infections on the stems or woody galls (western gall rust) on stems and branches. Another fungal disease, Hypoxylon canker, infects the stems of trembling aspen, killing the trees after 4-6 years. Various other fungal pathogens attack the leaves and needles, causing a variety of symptoms on different tree species that include lesions, blotches, and discolorations (e.g., spruce needle rust, pine needle casts, and aspen leaf spot diseases).

Most insect defoliators feed in the larval or caterpillar stage and use leaves (forest tent caterpillar and cankerworms) or buds and needles (spruce budworm and yellow-headed spruce sawfly) as their food source. Sucking insects such as aphids may cause a yellowing of foliage, distorted, rolled, or discolored leaves (wooly elm aphid), or pineapple-like galls (spruce gall aphids) on spruce twigs, or secrete a sticky honeydew. Faded, older needles with fine silk webbing on spruce and other conifer foliage may suggest high populations of the spruce spider mite. Holes in the bark or stems of trees, often with associated resin flow and sawdust, indicate the presence of bark beetles, wood borers, or carpenter ants. Wilted or dying new leader growth of young spruce trees may denote attack by terminal weevils.

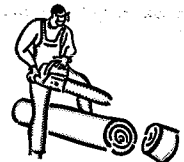
### **Examination procedure and diagnostic assistance**

When diagnosing their tree for various ailments or assessing its general health, people should examine all tree parts carefully from the root collar base to the buds and foliage, especially during the summer growth period. They should make note of any feeding or damage symptoms and associated insects or fungi; foliage discoloration and its location on the tree; branch or twig kill; and the recent growth pattern of buds, shoots, and foliage. If the damage appears to originate aboveground they should try to define the symptoms as clearly as possible. Once the examination is complete, there are several good color-illustrated books, brochures, and tree pest leaflets available to assist the homeowner with identifying most of the common insect, disease, or other damage causing agents in the prairie provinces. Injury that originates belowground may be difficult to diagnose, but possible causal agents can often be identified. A confirmed diagnosis may, however, require additional analysis of soil, foliage, or nutrients. If the problem cannot be adequately diagnosed by the homeowner, the symptoms on the tree should be accurately noted and samples of suspected causal agents and injury taken to a tree expert.

## **Haldimand & Area Woodlot Owners Association**

### **CHAIN SAW MAINTENANCE & SAFETY WORKSHOP**

with instructor BRIAN KINGTON



**Sat. Jan. 19, 2008 9 am - 4 pm** (lunch included)

**at the Haldimand Ag Hall near Kohler**

**following lunch we will go to a site close by for a cutting demo - please dress for the weather.**

**co-hosted by The Haldimand & Area Woodlot Owners' Association and The Haldimand Federation of Agriculture**

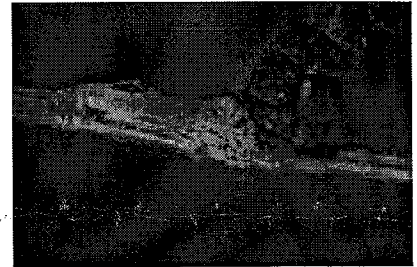
**\$5 per person - payable in advance**

**Call or email Dan at 905 765 9740 / [danromanowski@hawoa.com](mailto:danromanowski@hawoa.com) )**

**Anyone can attend, but space is limited ~ so don't miss out!**

## *What are those black lumps on my trees?*

Plums are a favorite fruit tree, grown by many homeowners in the Canada. Unfortunately, there is a serious disease that commonly infects both plum and cherry trees throughout Ontario. Black knot is caused by a fungus with the scientific name *Apiosporina morbosa*. The disease can be very damaging, particularly to trees raised for fruit production, as it kills the smaller fruit-bearing limbs. Infected trees are often stunted but seldom killed by the disease.

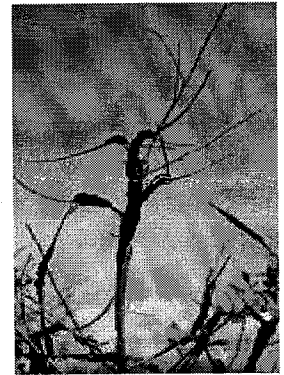


Black knot fungus  
(*Apiosporina morbosa*)

Infection by the black knot fungus is easily recognized by the presence of rough, elongated, black, cylindrical swellings on the twigs and smaller branches of the infected tree. These knots vary in size and often reach 2 ½ centimeters in diameter and 20 centimeters in length. When the disease is severe, infection may also appear on some larger branches. When first produced, the knots are a greenish color; they later become jet black and very hard. Insects often feed on the older knots.

The disease does not infect the fruit and has no effect on its edibility. There is no known cure for the disease but its spread can be successfully controlled with the proper care. The first step is to remove all knots by pruning all infected branches at least eight centimeters back from visible swelling. Pruning should be done during the winter, but no later than the latter part of March. New infections are caused when the black swollen fruiting body produces spores, or "seeds" in the spring. These spores will be carried by the wind to infect other trees. Even those knots detached from the tree can cause infection for some time after removal, so it is important to destroy all branches removed from the tree.

Pruning knots from infected trees will help stop the spread of the disease to other trees but will not stop its spread within the pruned tree. The disease will continue to spread, and the production of new knots is inevitable. While the disease seldom kills trees, a severe infection will usually weaken the tree and allow other fungi and insects the opportunity to attack and finish the job started by black knot. The best advice is to keep removing infected branches until the tree form is so sparse that the tree is not worth keeping.



Black knot fungus  
(*Apiosporina morbosa*)

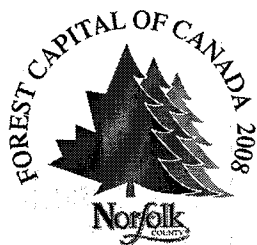
Fungicides can be used to prevent new infections. Liquid lime sulphur applied as a dormant spray in the spring before bud break has been used with good results in some areas. If you want to grow plum trees in areas where this disease is present, I strongly recommend applications from the time of planting. Always remember, when using chemicals of any type on your lawn, trees and shrubs, or in your garden to carefully read all safety and application instructions on the product and follow them carefully.

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

Hmmm ... we chop down trees and chop up wood.

Author unknown





## FOREST CAPITAL OF CANADA ~ 2008

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Forests have always played an important role in the daily lives of the residents of the County of Norfolk. To the early settlers in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, forests and trees were an enemy to be cleared from their land so they could qualify for their deeds and grow crops in their fields.

The deep sandy soils of the county were very fertile for trees but often could not support the primitive agriculture of the times for very long. Soon in many places, the exposed soils began to blow away, covering nearby fields with subsoil, destroying the crops and the lives of many farm families.

Some enterprising residents turned to logging and sawmilling as a source of income and many prospered. Pine from Norfolk was in good demand in the United States. Soon that industry too fell on rough times as the timber ran out.

One entrepreneur, Walter McCall of St. Williams operated a small sawmill for his furniture factory when he noted a serious decline in the quantity and quality of the timber that he could buy. He decided to do something about this by starting a small nursery plot behind his sawmill.

McCall sought advice from one of the few professional foresters in the Province at time: Edmund Zavitz, who had a cottage near Turkey Point. They Approached Arthur C. Pratt, Member of Provincial Parliament for the County. Together the three men pioneered legislation through the Provincial Government to start a tree nursery that would supply free seedlings to farmers that wished to reforest their "waste" lands.

The first tree seed were sown in 1908. Thus the St. Williams Forest Station soon became a centre of forest seedling production, shipping all across Southern Ontario where many new forests were started that are now part of our landscape. The Station also provided much needed work and became a centre of forest research activity as well as a place for family picnics, sports events and fishing in the irrigation pond.

Eventually, six additional forest stations were established by the Provincial Government, restoring land wherever needed and in later years producing nursery stock for replanting cut-overt forest lands in Northern Ontario. All have now been turned over to private management but their legacy will benefit many more generations of Ontario residents.

Today Norfolk has 25% forest cover as a result of years of good forest management, educating landowners to plant trees and provision of trees at little or no cost.

To mark the Centenary of the St. Williams Forest Station, of "Forestry Farm" as it is called locally and to show case local forest conservation efforts, the Canadian Forestry Association has awarded Norfolk County the title of Forest Capital of Canada for 2008. Local organizations with an interest in heritage and trees are joining in the celebrations and invite others to enjoy the many benefits of our beautiful "Carolinian" forests.

For upcoming events please visit [www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com).