

# NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

**June 2021**



## **President's Message**

Thanks to Paul De Cloet for the donation of his 125-acre Carolinian woodlot in Clear Creek to Norfolk County through the Government of Canada's Ecological Gifts Program. By doing so, Paul ensured that the woodlots biodiversity and environmental heritage is protected. Paul is a long-time member of NWOA. Good stuff, Paul!

Paul is most agreeable to conducting a tour through his woodlot that we are planning to occur around end of September going into October. Stay tuned for an update on exact day and time, after we know more about Covid-19 rules of engagement for the fall.

The Board has spent many hours going over the Draft Tree by law and NWOA has submitted their opinion to Norfolk County on April 28, 2021. Now that everyone has submitted their comments, we wait for the updated draft from Norfolk County.

NWOA also wrote letters of support that makes the case for emergency registration for Andermatt Canada BoVir, to control gypsy moth. There are several government organizations involved with approval but the Chief Registrar and Director General, Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada that ultimately approves the emergency approval of BoVir. The letter to the several government organizations involved in the approval process received the letter that is also in this newsletter.

There were a couple of enquiries as to who won the chainsaw in the Early Bird draw. So, thinking that there other curious members, we reiterate that Mike Whitehead is the winner of the chainsaw donated by Premier Equipment and NWOA. Congrats Mike! There are five winners of the Proxy Vote return each receiving a \$100 gift certificate for mulch donated by Townsend Lumber. And there are 35 door prize winners receiving items from generous local business owners. The donors are identified on NWOA website so you can support them by patronizing their business. Much thanks to Tracey Boerkamp and SpringView Farm Golf Course for soliciting donors for prizes, setting up the draws for the prizes and contacting the winners and holding the prizes until pick up.

Over this summer the Board will be investigating the pros and cons of joining with the Ontario Woodlot Owners Association as per suggestions by some of the NWOA membership. Many things have changed since the last time NWOA membership voted on this. The Board will gather all relevant information for presentation and discussion with NWOA membership before deciding on whether to put it to a vote at the next AGM.

Please note NWOA **new** mailing address:

**Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA)**  
**P.O. Box 1146**  
**Waterford, Ontario NOE 1Y0**

We welcome your comments, thoughts and ideas for our newsletter, workshops and AGM. We work hard to make them fun and informative, so your feedback is essential. Thanks. You can post them on our website [www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com) (Go to the 'About us' Tab then select 'Contact us' to complete the message box), direct email at [membership@norfolkwoodlots.com](mailto:membership@norfolkwoodlots.com), or call me at 519-426-2782 or email me at [john dewitt@kwic.com](mailto:john dewitt@kwic.com)

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Norfolk Woodlot Owner's Association  
P.O. Box 1146  
Waterford, Ontario N0E 1Y0

May 10, 2021

Peter Brander  
Chief Registrar and Director General,  
Pest Management Regulatory Agency  
Health Canada,  
2720 Riverside Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

**By email to:** [peter.brander@canada.ca](mailto:peter.brander@canada.ca)

RE: Emergency Registration of Sylvar Technologies Inc. BoVir pesticide

Dear Laura,

I am writing on behalf of the Norfolk Woodlot Owner's Association (NWOA) in support of Sylvar Technologies Inc. Emergency Registration of BoVir.

Based in Norfolk County, Ontario the NWOA was established in 1998 to "*promote wise use and stewardship of Norfolk's woodlots*". With over 150 members, the NWOA is the largest local woodlot owner's association in Ontario. Our membership includes farmers, rural residential landowners, conservation organizations, and forestry-related businesses. The NWOA board seeks to represent this diverse membership through outreach and education, networking, and advocacy.

Norfolk County is widely recognized as one of the most biologically diverse areas in all of Canada. It also has the highest forest cover (25%) in southwestern Ontario. The forests of Norfolk County support a thriving timber industry and a burgeoning ecotourism sector and provide important ecosystem services. Not unlike other locations across Ontario, the forests of Norfolk County have been impacted by many forest pests and diseases, most notably the loss of American Chestnut and most Ash trees, and significant declines in Flowering Dogwood.

Presently, the Gypsy Moth population in this region and across Ontario is on the upswing of its cycle. Many forested areas in Norfolk County experienced significant defoliation in 2020.

Numerous egg masses have been documented locally and across Ontario, an indication that there will be a significant hatch in 2021. Many members of the NWOA are concerned about the potential impact of Gypsy Moth on the health and growth of their woodlots, as well as the nuisance factor. Unfortunately, there are very few viable control options available to private landowners.

The only product registered in Canada to control this serious forest pest is Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*). Though effective in knocking back gypsy moth infestations, Btk is non-selective and fatal to caterpillars of any species which are at the right stage and are active at the time of spraying. Norfolk County forests support a wide range of butterfly and moth diversity including many rare species. Several of these species are active during the spray window for Gypsy Moth caterpillars, meaning they are susceptible to mortality from Btk spray.

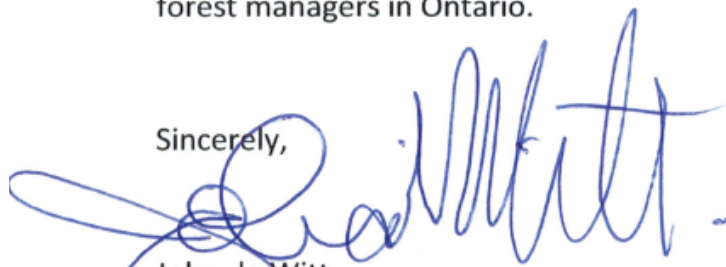
Declines in butterfly and moth abundance has broader impacts, as Norfolk's forests are also home to several forest birds at risk, such as the globally threatened Cerulean Warbler, that rely on caterpillars to feed their young.

There are several habitat conservation organizations in the area actively involved in programs to help enhance and restore populations of rare and endangered butterflies and birds. These organizations are reluctant to spray an insecticide that will impact the species they seek to protect. This sentiment is shared by other private landowners who are interested in products that are effective and safe for non-target species.

We are aware of a virus-based spray product being manufactured by Sylvar Technologies Inc. that has been shown to have no effect on other lepidoptera. It is not available for general use in Canada but could be a viable tool in the suppression of Gypsy Moth in areas where non target impacts need to be avoided. Minimizing impacts on non-target species is a fundamental principle of integrated pest management and having a target-specific product available to private woodlot owners would be beneficial to the environment.

The NWOA would like to provide support for the emergency listing of BoVir to ensure that an alternative to Btk is available next year and in the years to come to our members and other forest managers in Ontario.

Sincerely,



John de Witt  
President  
Norfolk Woodlot Owner's Association

Cc Laura Forbes, Sylvar Technologies Inc.

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# Controlling Gypsy Moth On Your Property

## What Can You Do?

Sometimes it can be difficult to watch as trees on your property or in your neighbourhood are stripped of their leaves. The droppings from the caterpillars, referred to as frass, can also become quite a nuisance and make a mess of decks, driveways and pools. However, unless your trees have been defoliated for multiple years in a row, or are stressed due to other factors, it is likely that the trees will survive a gypsy moth outbreak.

Having some comfort level knowing your trees will likely survive an outbreak can be helpful, but you may still feel the need to want to do something. You may also be in an area that has been impacted by Gypsy Moth for multiple consecutive years and want to provide some protection to your trees for the coming year.

There are several control options to consider when trying to manage Gypsy Moth on your property, especially if you are dealing with few trees.

## Important Note on Controlling Gypsy Moth!!!

It is important to note, that regardless of the approach used to control Gypsy Moth, in all instances, the objective is to **protect targeted trees from defoliation** and reduce the nuisances associated with Gypsy Moth within a target area. The control measure implemented is **not intended to control an entire Gypsy Moth population**, and will only be effective for that growing season, at most.

The “collapse” of a Gypsy Moth population is reliant on naturally occurring viral and fungal agents. Gypsy Moth is a cyclical insect, and history has shown they will go away once their natural control agents take effect.

Zimmer Air Service conducted the majority of the Gypsy Moth aerial spraying in Norfolk County in 2008. To contact Zimmer Air Service to request a quote or to have your property evaluated for potential control in 2022, please visit

<https://zimmerair.com/> .

## Other Control Options for Gypsy Moth on Your Property

### Stem Injection of Pesticide

If you know you are going to be dealing Gypsy Moth defoliation on your property, you may choose to treat valuable ornamental or landscape trees on your property with a pesticide that can be injected into the stem of the tree.

TreeAzin is probably the most widely used stem injection pesticide in Canada, as it has been used to protect thousands of ash trees across the country against Emerald Ash Borer. The same product will provide protection against Gypsy Moth defoliation if administered correctly. The pesticide is taken up through the conductive tissues of the tree and into the leaves. When gypsy moth consume the leaves, and thus the pesticide, it inhibits the growth of the larvae which reduces the amount of defoliation.



*Fig. 2. TreeAzin is administered to an ash tree for protections against Emerald Ash Borer*

### Application of Foliar Pesticide (small plants and shrubs)

For smaller trees, shrubs, ornamental and garden plants, you may purchase approved pesticides that can be applied to the foliage of the vegetation for protection against Gypsy moth defoliation. *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (or Btk for short) is a recommended pesticide for control of Gypsy Moth.

Safer's BTK Insecticide is one such product approved for use against Gypsy Moth, and it can be found at many garden/hardware stores or online. The pesticide is applied to the leaves of the plants after larvae have hatched and began feeding. After consuming the Btk, the larvae become ill and will die.

*Fig. 3. Safer's BTK may be purchased at most local hardware stores or online*



### **Folded Burlap Band around Stem of Tree**

One non-chemical control method involves the use of burlap and twine to capture caterpillars on the trunk of a tree. A piece of burlap, approximately 2 feet in width or greater, is wrapped fully around the circumference of the tree trunk. The burlap is secured with a piece of twine or rope around its centre, so that at least half the width of the burlap is draped over the rope. The burlap should be tight enough around the tree that caterpillars cannot crawl behind the burlap and up the tree. The caterpillars will crawl into the folded burlap to escape the heat of the sun, or accidentally as they try to climb the tree. The burlap needs to be inspected regularly, and caterpillars need to be manually removed and destroyed.



*Fig. 4+5. Burlap bands used to capture Gypsy Moth larvae.*

### **Sticky Band around Stem of Tree**

Another non-chemical control method involves placing a sticky band around the trunk of the tree. The sticky band will trap caterpillars as they travel up the tree to feed, or down the tree to escape the heat of the day. There are specific products designed for this purpose, such as Tree Tanglefoot, but home remedies such as duct tape with the sticky side out, or Vaseline smeared on the non-sticky side of the duct tape may be used. These methods work best when caterpillars are still relatively small.



*Fig. 6+7. Container of Tanglefoot used to catch Gypsy Moth larvae, and home-made sticky band using duct tape and Vaseline.*

## Scraping Egg Masses off Trees over Winter Months

Gypsy moth lay their eggs mostly on the trunks of trees, but in dense populations may lay them on houses, downed woody debris and in the leaf litter of a forest. In the winter months, egg masses can be scraped off the tree into a container of soapy water. The eggs masses, after soaking in the soapy water for a couple days, can then be discarded in the trash. Each egg mass can contain 100 to 1000 eggs, so destroying these egg masses can have a significant impact, particularly in low population levels.



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## Ontario Strongly Opposed To Proposed Lumber Duties

May 25, 2021

By: The Working Forest Staff

CKDR—The provincial government is speaking out against proposed U.S. Commerce Department preliminary duties on softwood lumber imports from Canada.

If approved, anti-dumping rates will more than double from 8.99% to 18.32%

Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry John Yakabuski says Ontario is disappointed with the decision and stresses this is a missed opportunity to bring back free trade and stop what he calls unjustified duties on Canadian lumber exports.

Yakabuski says, “As we take deliberate action to combat COVID-19 and look ahead to economic recovery, it is critical to support our forestry industry and defend the integral role it plays in the economies of Canada and Ontario.”

He adds the U.S. decision signals rising rates, and unfairly disadvantages the softwood lumber sector and the workers, families, and communities who rely on it.

The move comes at a time when demand for lumber is at an all-time high and prices are at historic levels.

Yakabuski believes the punitive trade duties will add unnecessary costs to home buyers and hurt consumers on both sides of the border.

He adds the government will continue to work with the forestry sector, other provinces, and the federal government to challenge the duties and fight for open access to the US lumber market.

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## **Ontario Provides Funding to Two Ontario Universities to Support Forestry Research**

May 27, 2021

By: The Working Forest Staff

Ontario has entered into collaborative research agreements with McMaster University and the University of Toronto to help promote healthy, resilient and sustainable forests while supporting the forest industry.

A collaborative project with McMaster University will study the effects of a changing climate on forest growth, and a collaborative project with the University of Toronto will research the effect of the eastern spruce budworm in Ontario's boreal forests.

"These collaborative research agreements with McMaster University and the University of Toronto are tremendous steps forward in research to sustain forests and the forest industry in Ontario," said John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. "The research will not only further our understanding of environmental pressures on Ontario's forests by harnessing leading technology, but also ensure Ontario's forests remain healthy today and for future generations."

These investments align with the province's commitment under *Sustainable Growth: Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy* to support applied research and monitoring to inform evidence-based decision-making and policy.

### **COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AGREEMENT WITH MCMASTER UNIVERSITY**

A collaborative research agreement with Hamilton's McMaster University, valued at \$45,000 over three years, will make use of a subset of artificial intelligence called machine-based learning to create a model to better understand the effects of climate change on Ontario's forest growth and yield.

Machine-based learning uses computer technology to analyze large volumes of diverse data to reveal patterns, trends, and relationships that are difficult to identify using traditional analysis methods.

The research agreement will help Ontario further refine our practices of sustainable forest management, and it will supply the forest industry with updated growth and yield information needed to carry out forest management planning and wood supply analysis.

"There is a growing interest in considering climate change effects in forest management activities. Through this partnership, we are leveraging 70+ years of Ontario growth and yield program data on forest site conditions, soil properties and stand structure across the province," said Alemu Gonsamo, Assistant Professor at McMaster University's School of Earth, Environment & Society.

### **COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

A collaborative research agreement with the University of Toronto, valued at \$56,000 over three years, will assess the effect of the eastern spruce budworm in Ontario's boreal forests, to mitigate timber losses in support of the forest sector.

The research will involve applying remote sensing satellite technology to analyze and model tree mortality caused by eastern spruce budworm in Ontario's forests to support forest management planning.

The eastern spruce budworm is one of the most widespread and destructive pests in Ontario, capable of affecting millions of hectares of boreal forest.

“This work will improve our ability to accurately map where and when budworm outbreaks are occurring, which will be key to addressing other research questions related to forest health, wildfire risk, and forest management,” said Patrick James, Associate Professor at the Institute of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Toronto.

### Quick Facts

- The forest sector generates approximately \$18 billion in revenue and supports approximately 143,000 direct and indirect jobs across Ontario.
- *Sustainable Growth: Ontario’s Forest Sector Strategy* includes a commitment to conduct applied research and best science. This research is used to support forest management policies and planning.
- Forest companies in Ontario are regulated by some of the world’s strictest standards to ensure sustainable forest management.

Members can renew their membership, online, using the NWOA website [www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com) and pay online with PayPal.

Go to the website and then to **Members Area**, then to **Member Renewal**.  
You may also print the membership application form and renew by mail.