

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



June 2022

President's Message

There seems to be an urban legend floating around that Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) is a government organization. IT IS NOT! It is made up of a group of people like you and me to improve access to information about things that affect our woodlots. OWA is comprised of a few individual woodlot owner associations across the province to become more effective in finding out what is happening in the woodlot world. And, like NWOA, they apply for government funding to do things. NWOA was instrumental in setting up Norfolks' NEST program with the help of government funding.

To learn more about OWA please check out <https://www.ontariowoodlot.com/about-owa> . There is a lot of information at this site that can be useful on how to manage your woodlot for many different objectives. It is a website well worth exploring.

Becoming a Chapter of OWA would not curtail NWOA independence. We would continue to operate with our current Board members (we would welcome the addition of some new Board Members), continue to publish our own Newsletter, continue with our AGM event and tours. We would be covered by OWA insurance for our tours, directors, AGM and other such events. We will be able to attend OWA events including annual meetings and tours held in different locations across the province. And, a NWOA Board member has one seat, with one vote, on the OWA General Board which meets quarterly.

Next year NWOA 2023 AGM will be held at the German Home in Delhi on March 1, 2023 7pm. Please review the list of generous sponsors at www.norfolkwoodlots.com and make every effort to patronize their business. They make all the difference in making NWOA AGM as great as it is!

Contact Information:

Mail: Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA), P.O. Box 1146, Waterford, Ontario N0E 1Y0

NWOA website: www.norfolkwoodlots.com

NWOA email: membership@norfolkwoodlots.com

Call me at 519-426-278

email me at johndewitt@kwic.com

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association

President

John de Witt

Hosting a Tour of Your Woodlot

Spending an hour or two walking a woodlot and exchanging thoughts and questions is a relaxing and pleasant way to spend a Saturday morning. Every woodlot has something unique to offer in terms of knowledge exchange. We are working on increasing the number of tours of woodlots and/or unique farm woodlot operations for NWOA members. To accomplish this, it would be very helpful if members would contact us to organize a tour of their woodlot.

There is nothing formal about hosting a tour of one's woodlot. Most woodlot tours are attended by six to twelve members, including Board members. If you are interested in hosting such a tour, contact any Board member or notify us via our website with your contact information. Depending on the time of year and the type of site your woodlot is located on, it may take 3 – 6 months from request to actual tour. We can check out your woodlot, prior to the tour, to discuss with you the history and/or interesting points. This would involve visiting the site and chatting about your and our expectations. Then determining the tour date, time and parking. Once those details are set, we will let other members know about the tour in our Newsletter and by email. We could have a Board member conduct the tour if you are more comfortable going that route as opposed to doing it yourself.

Any NWOA member who works with us to conduct a 1-2 hour tour of their woodlot would have their name entered into a draw for a chainsaw. The Woodlot Tour Draw would be held at the AGM, like our Early Bird Draw. Looking forward to working with you, just give us a call.

Contact Information:

Mail: Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA), P.O. Box 1146, Waterford, Ontario N0E 1Y0

NWOA website: www.norfolkwoodlots.com

NWOA email: membership@norfolkwoodlots.com

NWOA field events spring 2022

With the easing of pandemic restrictions, the NWOA was able to organize two field outings this spring.

The first event was a walk through a Norfolk County bush lot near Pinegrove on April 23rd, 2022. The 99-acre "C1" tract is situated on the northwest corner of the Charlotteville West Quarterline and Charlotteville Road 10 intersection. It is a former pine plantation that was systematically cut in a series of harvests between about 2005 and 2015. The speed and quality of the natural regeneration of oaks, maples and many other native trees following the removal of the planted red pines has been remarkable.

The small group of woodlot owners (six in total I think) who were able to get out for this walk shared their diverse knowledge about trees and woodlot management. Mark Bacro led the walk having scouted the area earlier with Mike Penner.



Highlights for me were seeing Carolinian tree species such as Eastern Flowering Dogwood and Black Gum were becoming established, presumably from seeds dispersed by birds or other wildlife. We also spotted a small American Chestnut that was likely a root sucker from a chestnut tree that pre-dated the red pine plantation. Someone pointed out the tiny red female flowers on an American Hazel shrub, much less conspicuous than the male catkins. And we had a good discussion about how to distinguish between “Massey scars” versus deer rubs on young trees. The weather cooperated making for a pleasant walk along the access roads. We all learned lots of practical information about trees and woodlots in just a few hours. We also did our bit for Earth Day too by cleaning up some litter.

The second event was a guided bird walk held on May 14th near Frogmore in the western part of Norfolk County. This was a joint event with the Long Point Basin Land Trust. It took place at the 186-acre Arthur Langford Nature Reserve, one of 13 nature reserves owned by the Land Trust and managed to protect and restore important natural habitats in this region. Almost thirty people attended and we split into three groups each led by a forest bird expert from Birds Canada. I tagged along with the beginner birders group, which included several people who first started watching birds in their backyards during the pandemic. The weather was perfect – which was pleasant for people but meant that there were very few migrating birds to be seen (during spring migration songbirds generally fly at night and stop and feed during the day but if they encounter light winds and clear skies, they use less fuel and don’t need to stop as often). There was lots of bird song to be heard as the local breeding birds were busy setting up their territories. Unfortunately, the leaves on the trees were out far enough that it was very difficult to actually see many birds.

This situation can make for a frustrating bird hike but was an excellent opportunity to learn about a free bird identification app you can load onto your phone. This app is called “Merlin” and was developed by Cornell University. It includes several features including all the information you might find in a bird book, plus bird photos and recordings of their songs. It also has a series of questions that will help you figure out the identity of a mystery bird you have seen. Better yet, if you can take a photo of a bird the app will try to identify it for you. The feature I like best (and only learned about because I went on this hike) is the Sound Id feature. Just hit the button and the phone starts listening. Within about 30 seconds the name the bird making that lovely song or weird sounding call will pop up on the screen! So much easier than the way I tried to learn to identify forest birds by song which involved hours of straining my neck trying to spot the bird singing away in a leafy treetop or trying to memorize the song and then listening to bird song recordings on cassette tapes when I got home. Even if you aren’t trying to become an expert birder, having Merlin on your phone is an easy way to impress your friends and family with your ability to identify bird songs.

Audrey Heagy
NWOA Board Member

Report on attendance at the 2022 Provincial Annual Meeting of the ONTARIO WOODLOT ASSOCIATION (OWA) at Mattawa Ontario

The meeting was well publicized through email but not much through “snail mail”. Registration was simple and efficient through internet, by telephone and credit card. Organization at the facilities of the Canadian Ecology Centre in Champlain Provincial Park was superb; particularly because the meeting was a combination of in person presentations and “Zoom” ones. Catering and facilities were faultless. Officials and staff of the O.W.A. were well prepared and efficient.

The opening address by Derek Nighbor of the Forest Products Association of Canada gave me confidence that Canada is playing an important role on the world scene and I felt comfortable with his assessment and leadership and that the OWA is a relevant player.

The annual business meeting of the OWA was impressive. The joining of the Eastern Model Forest with the OWA is a major administrative challenge to President Paul Robertson and Executive Director John Pineau and will take time. It is very obvious that by having an organized professional provincial voice for our woodlot owners we are getting much value for our membership fees, especially because our membership fees are being matched by external organisations that have an interest in healthy productive private forests. Some of these services are still developing. Provincially, OWA is working on co-operative co-ordinated marketing and harvesting, particularly in plantation thinnings, Lidar forest inventories and pest monitoring and control.

We should remember that before the existence of the OWA, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources maintained forest advisory and forest resources inventory services to all southern Ontario municipalities and landowners. This service was discontinued and the OWA was expected to pick up the slack. Therefore there has been some financial support from the Province. Other organisations that lend support to the OWA are CRIBE (Centre for Research and Innovation in the Bio-economy), Ontario Power Generation, Forestry Futures Trust of Ontario and several forestry educational institutions. The International Model Forest Network is connected to the OWA.

The field tour was well organized with several professional foresters on board as well as owners and professional foresters at the stops. It was particularly interesting for me to see and hear about the local undertakings as I was the provincial forester for the area near Mattawa for 6 years, 60 years ago. We visited a very modern maple syrup operation, an extensive forest plantation research area (which I had started) and an indigenous forest educational centre.

At the membership meeting it was announced that Glen Provost P.Eng., R.P.F., of the OWA is working on FSC certification for interested members and access to Provincial Lidar forest resource information – the Province has discontinued F.R.I. surveys.

In summary, I am convinced that the OWA is being led professionally in the right direction and that we will see many tangible benefits for our membership as we partake in the opportunities presented

Dolf Wynia, Board Member, Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association.

Members can renew their membership, online, using the NWOA website 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.