

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



April 2023

President's Message

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NWOA Vice President, Dr. Bob Dukelow, welcomed approximately 110 people to the meeting. He acknowledged that the Board has been consistently looking for new ways to inform NWOA members to manage their woodlots, and that the Ontario Woodlot Association has access to a lot of information that will benefit NWOA members.

Dr. Dukelow provided the President's Report. He acknowledged the support and gave thanks to the sponsors of the AGM, the work of Eric Ferguson and Tracey Boerkamp for their efforts in organizing the AGM as well as the other Directors for their contribution to the Association. The sponsor list was included in the February 2023 NWOA Newsletter and was displayed on the screen during the meeting. Dr. Dukelow thanked Premier Equipment for the donation of a chainsaw as a prize for the Early Bird Draw and Stihl Norfolk Tractor for the donation of a chainsaw as a prize for the Digital AGM Attendance Draw. He recommended members support the businesses shown in the sponsor list to show our appreciation.

Dr. Dukelow then acknowledged the work of the NWOA Board of Directors and thanked them for their work over the last year.

The current Directors are shown in the chart below:

John de Witt – President	Marc Bacro – Director
Dr. Bob Dukelow – Vice President	Mike Penner – Director
Dr. John Morrissey – Secretary/Newsletter Editor	Audrey Heagy – Director
Eric Ferguson – Web Committee/Acting Treasurer	Dolf Wynia – FSC Committee/Past President
Kristen Bernard – Director	Adam Biddle – Norfolk County Advisor
Tracey Boerkamp – Director/AGM Convenor	George Demaiter – Nomination Advisor

Mr. Glen Prevost, Program Coordinator for the Ontario Woodlot Association, provided Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association members an up-to-date on relevant OWA programs and initiatives. They will cover the OWA's Private Land Forestry project, forest certification and carbon offsets for private landowners, and harvesting co-ops. They will also highlight some of the partnerships the OWA uses to promote the interests of private woodlot owners.

Mr. Bernie Solymar, Executive Director of Nature's Calling Environmental Education, provided an overview of the activities of the not-for-profit organization, which is dedicated to providing outdoor learning opportunities for children. He reported that a search is being conducted for a site that would be convenient to the Simcoe area and be able to provide the participating children with opportunities to learn about our environment. He described the various conditions that would provide these opportunities and emphasized that Nature's Calling is seeking a permanent location. He asked the NWOA membership to contact him if they believe they might have a suitable property.

Mr. Adam Biddle, Supervisor of Forestry for Norfolk County, who serves in an advisory role with the NWOA, provided the Norfolk Woodlot Owners with an overview of the updated Norfolk County Forest Conservation By-law, that was adopted by Council last November 2022. One of the most significant revisions in the new by-law is with respect to the size of woodland that is regulated (previous by-law regulated woodlands as small as 0.5 acres, the new by-law only regulates woodlands 2.47 acres or larger). There have also been changes made that affect large scale tree removal activities such as timber harvesting. Under the new by-law timber harvest operations must ensure trees being left behind after the harvest are healthy and good quality and will be there for the next cutting cycle or at least 15 years. Also, there must be consideration given for the retention of large trees, or trees greater than 50 cm at breast height. Finally, in order to encourage management in conifer plantations, especially young plantations with very little commercial value, regulations have been developed so that any logging contractor or timber buyer can mark timber within these forest stands, similar to any other hardwood forest. There were also a number of exemptions to the by-law that were refined or added in so that landowners are still able to maintain their properties or harvest wood products for personal use without being encumbered by the by-law.

Mr. Biddle also presented on 2 forest pests that Norfolk Woodlot Owners should be on high alert for: Oak Wilt, and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

Oak Wilt is a forest disease, specific to oak trees. Once infected, an oak tree may succumb to the disease in just one season. It is found in 24 states, including Michigan where it can be found only 1 kilometer from the Ontario border. This disease could show up in Norfolk at any time if movement is aided through the movement of infected wood products such as firewood.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is an insect thought to have originated in Japan and China. The insect feeds on our native Eastern Hemlock and does not seem to have any significant predators here. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid has already been found in the Niagara area in Ontario and most recently in Grafton, Ontario, on the north shore of Lake Ontario. This insect may be transported around by migratory birds moving from area to area, so it is important for Norfolk Woodlot Owners to monitor their hemlock trees for any signs of stress or decline. The insect is hard to detect in low population levels, but active monitoring on the foliage of hemlock trees is also recommended.

Mr. Tracey Boerkamp announced that the winner of the Early Bird draw, provided by Premier Equipment and the NWOA, was Mr. Anton Jopko who received a Stihl 170 chainsaw. Mr. Keith Hekker was the winner of the Stihl 250 chain saw donated by Norfolk Tractor D/W Group. Mr. Boerkamp reported that he would be notifying winners of other prizes donated by other sponsors.



The Harry B. Barrett Fund

I am writing on behalf of the Norfolk Field Naturalists based in Norfolk County, Ontario.

Our club wishes to start an ongoing bursary to honour one of our founding members who was a dedicated naturalist, teacher, and local historian as well as author with many books on local history and nature. Harry B. Barrett passed away in 2017 at the age of 94.

It is our intent that this bursary be given to an outstanding student specializing in nature, the environment and doing conservation and environmental science-based study and field work in Norfolk County, Ontario. At present, we intend to give \$2,000 to whomever is chosen as the winning recipient.

To learn more about the Norfolk Field Naturalists, go to <https://norfolkfieldnaturalists.org>.

The application form is in the Menu Tab under HBB Bursary.

Len Grincevicius, Program Director

Forest History Ontario Tour

June 9, 2023

9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

The Rewards of Planting Trees

A forest tour through the St. Williams Conservation Reserve and Backus Woods.

The St. Williams Forest Station was established in 1908 to grow tree seedlings for reforestation purposes and to stop the encroaching blow sands by growing permanent forests. The Turkey Point Forest Station was started in 1927 to grow permanent forest cover on the Charlotteville blow sands. Backus Woods is a spectacular older-growth forest, one of the best remaining examples of Carolinian forest in Canada.

Registration is required. Cost is \$40 for Forest History Ontario members and residents of Norfolk County, \$60 for non-members and \$20 for students. Fees are payable by e-transfer or cheque to Forest History Ontario. Lunch will be provided. Please indicate any dietary needs.

Please register by June 2nd. Fees are non-refundable after this date but can be substituted. Seats are limited. We will travel by school bus.

Meet at 849 Charlotteville Road 1, St. Williams. (It could also be found as 849 Concession Road 1). This is a large sand parking area less than a km. west of Turkey Point Road.

For more information contact: Terry Schwan (519) 362-2098 or schwell1@rogers.com.

To register, please contact: Brooke McClelland at (416) 803-3177 or bmcclelland@forestsontario.ca.

This tour is hosted by Forest History Ontario, and made possible by the generous support of our sponsor, Norfolk County. Proceeds go to support the activities of Forest History Ontario.

Canadian Chestnut Council Presentation

This is to invite you and your membership to a presentation on GENETICALLY ENGINEERED AMERICAN CHESTNUT: Discussion of the Risks on Sunday April 30th at the Simcoe Research Station at 2:00 PM. The speaker is Dr. Ricarda Stienbrecher of the UK. Dr. Steinbrecher is a biologist and molecular geneticist. I have attached a flyer with all the details which I hope you will email out to your membership.

Sincerely Yours in the Preservation and Restoration of the American Chestnut.

Ron Casier, Chair

PUBLIC FORUM

**GENETICALLY
ENGINEERED
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT** | **A DISCUSSION
OF THE RISKS**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30
2:00PM**

Simcoe Research Station

1283 Blueline Rd, Simcoe, Ontario

**Refreshments
provided.**

**Free
admission.**

A genetically engineered (GE) American chestnut tree could soon be approved for planting in the wild in the US and Canada. Join us for a discussion about the risks of GE trees, and about the ongoing work to bring back the American Chestnut without genetic engineering.



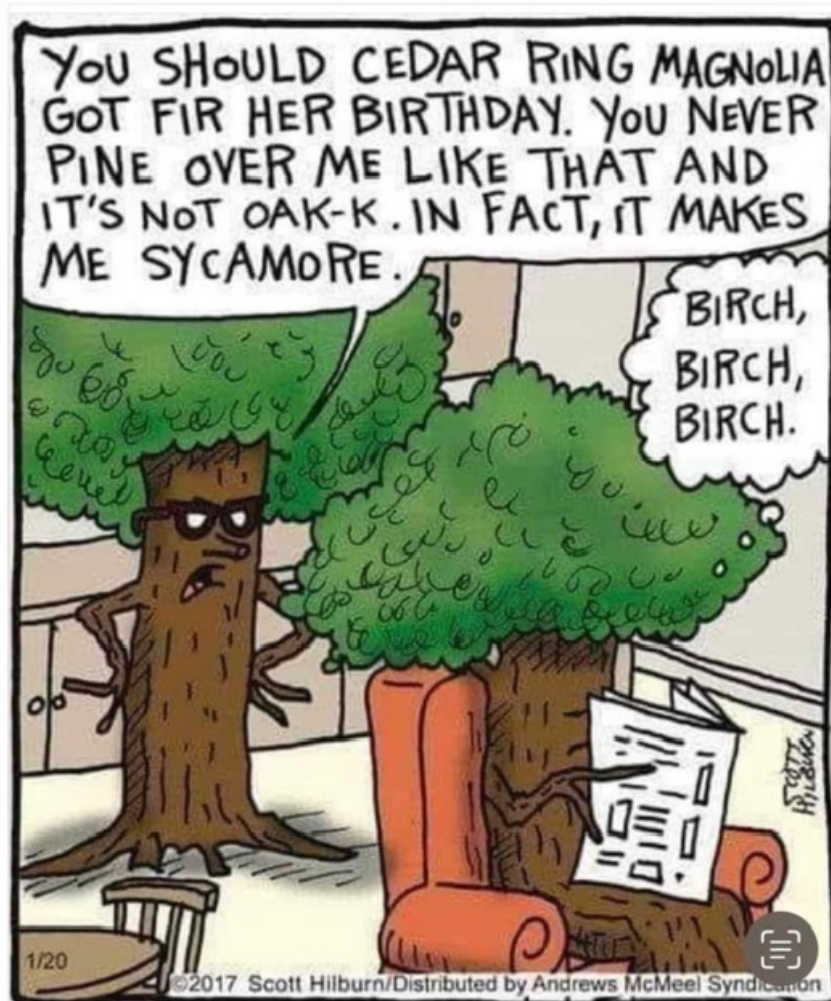
Speaker: Dr. Ricarda Stienbrecher, UK

Dr. Ricarda Steinbrecher is a biologist and molecular geneticist. She has been examining the risks and impacts of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) on agriculture and the environment since 1995. She is involved in UN-led processes and has been appointed to international expert groups on the risk assessment of GMOs, as well as synthetic biology.



Presented by the Canadian Chestnut Council and the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network.

www.cban.ca/events



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

go to: <https://www.ontariowoodlot.com/Sys/Login>

If you have never logged into your profile, enter the e-mail address that is on your account and select **“Forgot Password”**

The system will send a temporary password where you will be asked to create your own password.

Once you are into your profile, there will be an option to renew your membership.

