

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



JANUARY 2024

President's Message

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on March 6, 2024 at the Delhi German Home. Doors open at 6pm for you to view the many booths displaying lots of ideas on woodlot management and chat with people tending the displays. The formal part of the meeting starts at 7pm and concludes at 9pm with the chainsaw draw.

Invasive species are the bane of woodlot owners. Currently, Norfolk is contending with Emerald Ash Borer, Spotted Lanternfly, and Oak Wilt, to mention a few of many more. It is always good for us to learn the Do's and Not Do's when dealing with new pests. Talking to us about dealing with local invasive species, is our guest speaker, Madison Struba. She is a Program Development Coordinator at the Windsor Invasive Species Centre. There she focuses on training and outreach, particularly on forest and agricultural pests. She graduated from the University of Windsor with an MSc in Biology and an Honours BSc in Behaviour, Cognition, and Neuroscience. Followed by our second speaker, Adam Biddle, Norfolk Supervisor Forestry Parks with an update on Norfolk forests. Be sure to attend and listen to the latest info on what to do when these unwanted critters show up in your woodlot.

In this Newsletter are the restructured by laws of NWOA Chapter of OWA to consider the changes in our Association that have occurred over the past couple of years. Please read them carefully before the AGM since we will be voting on accepting the new NWOA Chapter by laws at that time.

Anyone out there interested in being part of the NWOA Board? Perhaps you want to improve your woodlot value for improved cashflow or better habitat for monarch butterflies or whatever. By joining the Board you could better influence strategies to gather and disseminate the desired information for yourself and other interested members. Think about it. We welcome team players who care about properly managing their woodlots while sharing that information with other NWOA members.

The current NWOA Chapter Board

John de Witt – President

Dr. Bob Dukelow - Vice President

Dr. John Morrissey – Secretary

Eric Ferguson - Acting Treasurer /Website Membership

Tracey Boerkamp - Annual General Meeting Chairman

Mark Bacro – Director / Norfolk
Chapter Representative for OWA

Mike Penner - Director

Dolf Wynia - Director

Audrey Heagy – Director

Kristen Bernard – Director

_To control cost, NWOA newsletters are emailed to NWOA members and posted on NWOA website. The few who do not have internet are still being mailed out.

The Canada Post box was too expensive, so going forward our NEW NWOA mailing address:

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association
c/o Norfolk County – Forestry Department
185 Robinson Street, Suite 100
Simcoe, ON N3Y 5L6

We welcome your comments, thoughts and ideas for our newsletter, workshops and AGM. To make them fun and informative, we require your feedback to show what is of interest. Thanks. You can post them on our website www.norfolkwoodlots.com (Go to the 'About us' Tab then select 'Contact us " to complete the message box), direct email at membership@norfolkwoodlots.com .

Annual Chainsaw Draw for Early Bird Renewal of NWOA Chapter OWA Membership

The draw will take place at the end of NWOA Chapter Annual General Meeting (AGM)

on March 6, 2024 6pm – 9pm

The winner will be drawn from the list of NWOA Chapter members who renewed their membership

by December 15, 2023.

Last Years Annual Early Bird Renewal chainsaw winner was Keith Hekker

A 2nd chain saw will be used as door prize (among many other great prizes) for NWOA Chapter members present at the NWOA AGM on March 6, 2024 6pm – 9pm

Last Years Door Prize chainsaw winner was Anton Jobko

Have a good time chatting with experts, friends, fellow woodlot owners at the NWOA AGM on March 6th while your attendance gives you a chance at winning a chainsaw as a door prize.

Have you renewed your membership for 2024?

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.



The Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice (NHCH) is a vital resource that offers a range of services, including palliative care education, caregiver and family support, spiritual support and bereavement services for both adults and children. We are on track to build a 10-bed centre for hospice and palliative care to serve both Haldimand and Norfolk that will not only provide beds, but a variety of day programs, pain and symptom management clinics, consultation, and respite support.

In Ontario, hospice services are provided FREE of charge, however they are NOT fully funded by the government. Annual operating costs are estimated at 1.5 million dollars, in addition to the 15 million in capital costs to make a bricks and mortar home a reality. Operating a hospice requires significant financial resources through fundraising. Our Hospice Tree fundraiser provides an opportunity for people to plant trees in honour or in memory of loved ones.

We are grateful to The Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA) for supporting our tree fundraiser with J.C. Bakker Nurseries. We will begin taking orders in early February and trees will be delivered towards the end of April. An order form with more details will be distributed in the coming days. Thank-you for your support.

Note: Shannon Porter, NHCH fund raising volunteer and James (Barney) Barnes, J.C. Bakker Nurseries will tend a booth at NWOA AGM on March 6, 2024 6-9pm to answer questions, discuss trees and take tree orders.

Norfolk Woodlot Owners' Association Bylaws

Proposed Bylaws to be presented to the NWOA membership for approval at the Annual Meeting on 6 March 2024.

OPERATING FRAMEWORK: As of January 2023, the Norfolk Woodlot Owner's Association became a chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association. Within that framework, the NWOA continues to operate as an independent, volunteer-lead, nonregistered, unincorporated non-profit association.

MISSION STATEMENT: to promote wise use and stewardship of Norfolk's woodlots.

BYLAWS

I. OBJECTIVES

1. To promote woodlot stewardship and to assist in the distribution of ideas and information on woodlot uses and values at meetings, field events, workshops, newsletters, a website, and social media.
2. To support the best interests of the members with respect to legislation, taxation, and regulations as they affect private forest property in Norfolk County.
3. To encourage research and development projects as they relate to the objectives of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners' Association (NWOA).
4. To ensure the interests of the NWOA members are represented within the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA).
5. To increase public awareness of the many and diverse ecological and economic values provided by private and public woodlots in Norfolk County.

II. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership shall be open to any individual or organization that is a member of the OWA and chooses to join the Norfolk chapter.
2. The current NWOA membership list will be maintained by OWA and made available to the NWOA directors on request.
3. Only individuals who are OWA members in good standing and have opted to join the Norfolk chapter, as determined by the OWA membership list, shall have the right to vote at any NWOA meeting.
4. Any member whose membership is lapsed or has been terminated in any manner shall forfeit all interest and property belonging to the NWOA and all rights and privileges extended by the NWOA or by the OWA.

III. MEMBERSHIP DUES

1. Membership dues shall be determined by the OWA and paid directly to the OWA.
2. The OWA membership year extends from September 15 to September 14 of the following year.
3. OWA will remit a portion¹ of the OWA membership dues paid by Norfolk Chapter members to the NWOA.
4. Membership services provided directly by NWOA are generally free to all NWOA members, but the Board of Directors may from time to time determine that additional fees or surcharges are required for certain membership services (e.g. mailed newsletter) or events as needed to maintain the fiscal sustainability of the organization.

¹ \$17.00 per membership in 2023, which is approximately 1/3rd of the current OWA membership fee.

IV. INSURANCE

1. Liability insurance coverage for NWOA meetings and events is provided through the OWA insurance package provided that a NWOA representative provides advance notice to the OWA administrative staff of all upcoming NWOA events.
2. The NWOA will maintain Directors and Officers insurance coverage through OWA or directly.

V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The governing body of the NWOA shall be known as the Board of Directors and shall include up to 12 members.
2. The Board of Directors shall be elected at the NWOA Annual General Meeting².
3. The term of each elected Director shall be three years.
4. Directors may be re-elected for one or more additional three year terms.
5. The Board of Directors may appoint a director to fill a vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting.
6. The Executive members of the Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and NWOA Chapter Representative to OWA and shall be decided at the first board meeting following the annual meeting. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined. The NWOA Chapter Representative may hold another Executive office.
7. A quorum of the Board of Directors will be a majority of the directors, but the President and/or the Vice-president must be in attendance to chair the meeting.
8. In the event of a tie vote the meeting chairperson has a second vote.

VI. ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Only individuals who are NWOA members shall be eligible to be a NWOA director.
2. No later than 30 days prior to each NWOA Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors will prepare and present a slate of nominees for the consideration of the membership.
3. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.
4. All elections and meetings will be run in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

VII. DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The President shall preside at all meetings and carry out other duties incident to the office.
2. The Vice-president shall act in the absence of the President.
3. The Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring Minutes of all Board and Members meetings are properly kept, conduct any correspondence necessary, and develop and maintain a filing system for all correspondence and other materials incident to the operation of the NWOA with the exception of the financial records which shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer.
4. The Treasurer will be responsible for the handling of all financial activities and money by the NWOA and will be accountable to the Board of Directors for the keeping of accurate records capable of external audit. In doing so, the Treasurer will develop and maintain an accurate accounting system. The Treasurer will regularly provide current financial information to the Board at all its meetings and communicate with regulatory authorities regarding taxes, audits and the like as necessary. The Treasurer will assist a new replacement incumbent by giving advice and support as requested and necessary.
5. The Treasurer will maintain an account in the name of the NWOA in a registered bank or trust company.

² NWOA Annual General Meetings are held independently of the OWA Annual Meetings.

6. All cheques and other financial instruments require the signatures of two Directors. Signing officers for the NWOA bank account shall be decided at the first board meeting following the Annual General Meeting and will include the Treasurer and two or more other Directors.
7. The NWOA Chapter Representative will represent the NWOA on the OWA Board of Directors and will report back to the NWOA Board of Directors on relevant matters.

VIII. SUB-COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

1. To facilitate the NWOA objectives, the Board of Directors may establish Ad Hoc Committees or Task Forces with specific mandates and defined lengths of existence.
2. All such Committees will be chaired by a designated Board member who will report to the Board about Committee activities.
3. Committee membership may be drawn from the membership at large.

IX. MEETINGS

1. The Board of Directors will meet no fewer than four times annually.
2. There will be at least one general membership meeting annually.
3. The NWOA Annual General Meeting will be held within three months after the fiscal year end and its location will be determined by the Board of Directors.
4. At the Annual General Meeting, reports will be given by the President on the previous year's activities and any issues which are of concern to the membership, and by the Treasurer on the financial position of the NWOA, including a full written summary of the revenue, expenses, and current financial resources. Other reports may also be made by the Chairs of any other committees.
5. A quorum for the NWOA Annual General Meeting shall be a quorum of the Board of Directors plus 20% of all other members present.
6. All NWOA business meetings will be held within Norfolk County. Other meetings of a special nature such as field trips and visits to certain facilities for training programs, of necessity, may be held elsewhere. Meetings may be held by electronic means when necessary.

X. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the NWOA is the calendar year.

XI. CHANGES TO NWOA BYLAWS

1. Changes to the NWOA Bylaws may be made only at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special Meeting called for such purpose and only if the membership has been given 30 days written notice (including by electronic means) of such recommended change.
2. Changes require a two-thirds majority of those present at such a meeting.
3. Any member may recommend changes to the NWOA Bylaws to Board of Directors. This must be done in writing and include the reasons for such recommendation. The Board will determine whether it will recommend such changes to the Annual General Meeting and, if not, it will report to the member the reasons for not doing so.

DRAFT This By-Law was adopted by the NWOA membership on **March 6, 2024** and replaces the NWOA Constitution created October 27, 1997 and subsequent revisions of the Constitution.
