

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



March 2025

President's Message

The snow has melted, and the rain and sun have returned. The crocuses and hyacinths are poking through, but we will probably receive a few more minor tastes of winter before summer is officially here, but this is nice for now. The ground is saturated, which bodes well for a 'normal' spring start.

The Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association Chapter (NWOA) 2025 AGM was a tremendous success, thanks to AGM Convenor Tracey Boerkamp and our generous sponsors. He invited many interesting groups and vendors to display their work and services. Our first speaker, Lesley Sampson, Coyote Watch, shared information on how to co-exist with coyotes so that it is a win-win situation for all. She answered many questions from the audience. Adam Biddle, Norfolk County Forestry Superintendent, gave an update on Norfolk forests. The latest information associated with invasive species was presented. Of particular concern to Norfolk is Oak Wilt (Do not trim or cut oak trees during March to August.) and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

It was a fun evening chatting and learning with old friends and new friends. It was especially fun for the winners of the chainsaw draw available to paid-up NWOA members. Keith Hekketz won the 170 STIHL Chain Saw, provided by Premier Equipment and NWOA. And William Valoppi won the H+56C Pole Saw, provided by Norfolk Tractor.

Please note the NWOA 2024 AGM minutes in this newsletter. Due to technical difficulties, it was not possible to show them on the night of the AGM, so they are included in this Newsletter. Let me know if there are any corrections required.

Our aim is to bring together like-minded woodlot owners to promote and support the principles and practices of good forestry as they relate to us here in Norfolk. To help in that task, Terry Snively and Tina Binder volunteered to become Board members. Welcome Terry and Tina!

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

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us using any of these methods.

Mail: **Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association**
c/o Norfolk County – Forestry Department
50 Colborne Avenue,
Simcoe, ON N3Y 4H2

NWOA website: www.norfolkwoodlots.com
NWOA email: membership@norfolkwoodlots.com

Thanks, John de Witt, President

Have you renewed your membership?

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.

Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association Chapter

Ontario Woodlot Association

AGM

Minutes

Wednesday March 6, 2024

German Home, Delhi

7:00pm – Mr. John de Witt called the 2024 NWOA Annual General Meeting to order. 80 people were in attendance.

7:05 - Presidents report. Mr. de Witt Acknowledged the presence of representatives of the OWA. He thanked the many sponsors of AGM. He provided thanks to the current NWOA Directors. He thanked the Norfolk County Advisor, Mr Adam Biddle, for his continued support of the Board activities.

7:10 – Mr. de Witt asked for a motion to approve the 2023 AGM Minutes. Mr. Dolf Wynia moved to approved the Minutes. Mr. Mark Bacro seconded. Motion carried.

7:15 – Mr. Eric Ferguson provided the 2023 financial report. As of December 31, 2023, the Operating Balance was \$10,281.28, the Reserve Fund was \$15,428.68 and Total Assets were \$25,709.96. Mr. George DeMaiter moved to approve the report. Mr. Dolf Wynia seconded. Motion carried.

7:20 - Changes to Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association Chapter By-Law to recognize, that as of January 2023, Norfolk proudly became a Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association. Dolf Wynia moved to approve the By-Law changes. Dr. John Morrissey seconded. Motion carried.

7:25 - Nomination Advisor - No nominations were made at the meeting. Mr. de Witt invited attendees to contact any Board member if they develop an interest or wish to refer someone who might have an interest.

7:30 - Madison Struba, Program Development Coordinator at the Invasive Species Centre, provided a presentation on forest and agricultural invasive pests and what members can do to manage them.

8:10pm - Break

8:30 - Mr. Adam Biddle provided a presentation on how Norfolk County woodlot owners can plan for and manage harvesting their properties.

8:50pm - AGM Convenor, Tracey Boerkamp, announced the winner of the Early Bird Draw as Mr. Gary Chips and the winner of the AGM Meeting Draw as Ms. Barbara Hourigan.

8:55pm – Dr. John Morrissey moved to adjourn the meeting.

2025 Norfolk Woodlot Owners Annual General Meeting



2025 NWOA AGM meeting being called to order. Always a tricky job to pry members away from the informative booths and displays where members get immersed in many interesting conversations. Or just catching up with friends and acquaintances.



NWOA member John Barkovsky chats with Norfolk Fire Prevention Officer Jade Mercier while Captain Cody Armstrong-Smith chats with Joelle Giles about fire prevention prior to the meeting being called to order.



Lesley Sampson of Coyote Watch Canada gave a very informative talk about coyotes that generated a lot of questions from the audience.



Phoebe Milne, an exchange student working for OWA and OWA Operations Manager Sionaid Eggett helping at the NWOA booth. Phoebe and Sionaid had a very scary drive through Toronto with dense fog. They barely made it to the AGM meeting. What dedication!

Adam Biddle, Superintendent Norfolk County Forests, chatting with NWOA members prior to his Norfolk County Forest update.



NWOA AGM Sponsors



Oak Wilt

An Invasive Pathogen Threatening Oak Trees in Canada



What is it?

Oak wilt is a vascular disease of oak trees, caused by the fungus *Bretziella fagacearum*. The fungus grows on the outer sapwood of oak trees, restricting the flow of water and nutrients through the tree.

Trees at risk:

All oak species are susceptible and at risk. The red oak group (red, black, pin) is the most susceptible, with mortality frequently occurring within one growing season. Oaks in the white oak group (white, bur) are also affected but are more resistant.

Where is it?

Oak wilt has spread throughout the Eastern United States. In 2023, oak wilt was confirmed for the first time in Canada in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Additional infected sites have been confirmed in Ontario.

Signs and Symptoms:






- Leaves turn dull green, brown or yellow
- Discoloration of leaves progressing from the edge of the leaf to the middle
- Wilting and bronzing of foliage starting at top of the tree and moving downwards
- Premature leaf fall (including green leaves)
- White, grey or black fungal mats just under the bark that emit a fruity smell
- Vertical bark cracks in the trunk and large branches as a result of the fungal spore mats (also referred to as pressure pads) exerting outward pressure on the bark

Impacts:



- Impacts property values and neighbourhood aesthetics
- Increased costs with tree maintenance, removal and replacement
- Loss of a valued shade tree
- Negative impacts to the forestry industry and production of high value oak products
- Reduction in food source for forest animals provided by oak trees
- Loss of habitat for some species
- Reduction of ecological services (air and water filtering)
- Safety and liability issues

How is oak wilt spread?

Roots	Insects	Humans
<p>The disease spreads from infected trees to uninfected trees of the same species through root-to-root contact.</p> 	<p>Insects such as sap-feeding nitidulid beetles can move spores from infected trees to healthy trees.</p> 	<p>Movement of wood products, (particularly those with bark), such as firewood can spread the pathogen over long distances as they can harbor fungal mats.</p> 
James Solomon, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org	USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry	Joseph OBrien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

What can you do?

There is no cure for oak wilt infected trees. The best approach is to avoid or reduce infection in areas where disease occurs by:

- Identifying and removing diseased trees
- Preventing or severing root connections between diseased and healthy trees
- Minimizing wounds on healthy trees during the flight period of potential insect carriers
- **DO NOT** prune oak trees from April to July. If pruning must occur, or if a tree is injured, apply a thin layer of wound paint immediately.
- **DO NOT** move firewood. Oak wilt is spread by the movement of infected wood.

If you see signs and symptoms of oak wilt, report the sightings to:

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/about-the-cfia/contact-us/eng/1299860523723/1299860643049>
- EDDMapS
<https://www.eddmaps.org>
- Invading Species Hotline
1-800-563-7711

For more information on oak wilt visit:

- Oak wilt species profile on the Forest Invasives Canada website
<http://forestinvasives.ca/Meet-the-Species/Pathogens/Oak-Wilt>

Produced in collaboration with:



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