



# WOODLOT

SUMMER  
OWNER  
2012

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 1

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## Woodlot Owner of the Year Awards – 2012

PAT AND JANET O'TOOLE – CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL WINNER



You quickly realize that Pat and Janet O'Toole enjoy living and working on their woodlot and farm in Carroll's Corner. After a tour of their beautiful property it is easy to see why.

Since 1984, when the couple purchased the original property, they have been busy restoring overgrown fields and a cutover portion of the 65 acre (26 hectare) site. In 2004 the couple purchased an adjacent 178 acre (72 hectare) woodlot.

A management plan for the entire property was completed in 2011 by the Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners certifying under Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

One of the main focuses on the property has been low impact selection harvesting, using chain saws and tractors. The O'Toole's have applied this practice to a large portion of the woodlot, resulting in uneven-aged tolerant stands. The O'Toole's sell firewood directly from their property and harvested logs to nearby sawmills.

The only time heavy machinery was used on the property since they purchased it was to clean up a 12 acre area affected by Hurricane Juan. The area has since regenerated naturally in a variety of species, and is a testament to nature's ability to renew itself. Pat O'Toole is anxiously awaiting for the regeneration to reach the proper height for pre-commercial thinning so he can "play" with his new spacing saw.

**The O'Toole's also run a maple syrup operation on their woodlot. Approximately 1200 taps are gravity fed to a camp where an evaporator turns it into delicious syrup. Some is bottled by the O'Toole's themselves, with the remainder shipped in bulk to Acadian Maple Products.**

Numerous access trails provide opportunities for hiking and horseback riding, while the lands provide habitat to many wildlife species, from goshawks to wood turtles. Over the years the O'Tooles have been kind enough to let groups like 4H and Scouts use and learn from their woodlot.



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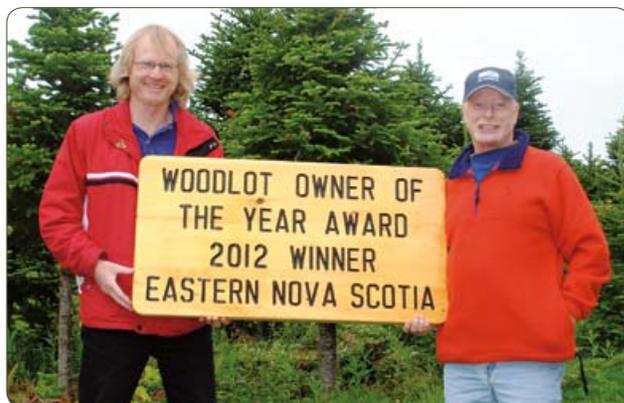
# WOODLOT OWNER

Pat and Janet represent what the woodlot owner of the year is all about. Congratulations Mr. And Mrs. O'Toole on being named the 2012 Provincial Woodlot Owner of the Year!

Learn about category 7 selection management which is designed to promote tree quality and manage for multiple age classes, maple syrup production and sugar bush management, and many more interesting topics at the O'Toole woodlot field day, September 29.

## MIKE AND MARY PENNY – EASTERN WINNER

In late summer near Lochaber Lake, you will most likely find Mike Penny busily shearing his Christmas trees. Mike has been managing his 205 acre (85 hectare) woodlot since 1988, when he purchased it from his father-in-law. Since then Mike has established over 40 acres of Christmas trees.



Through the ups and downs of the Christmas tree market, Mike has stuck with it and has enjoyed the financial benefits of his careful management - the Christmas tree lot is naturally regenerating and pesticide-free. This has meant a green Christmas for many families along the eastern seaboard.

Although Christmas tree production is the primary focus of the woodlot, Mike manages the rest of his woodlot sustainably. A 100 acre red pine plantation was established when Mike took over the woodlot and has been both pre-commercially and commercially thinned. Mike has also conducted periodic small scale intensive harvests that have subsequently been planted.

### **The range of forest conditions on the woodlot provide great habitat for deer, grouse and even beavers, which have colonized a pond on his property.**

Mike works closely with Scott & Stewart Forestry Consultants Ltd. in St. Andrews for all his harvesting and follow up treatments, and is currently creating a new management plan with them.

Mike is active in the forest community, he sits on the board of directors for the federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners and is also a member of the Northeastern Christmas Tree Association and Forest Products Association. Mike's hard work and dedication make him a deserving recipient of the Eastern region Woodlot Owner of the Year Award.

A field day will be held on September 22 to showcase Mike's achievements. The field day will focus on managed woodlots vs. unmanaged woodlots, Christmas tree management, and various silvicultural techniques.



## JIM AND ANN CROOKER – WESTERN WINNER

As a youngster, Jim can vividly remember the countless hours of playing and exploring the far corners of what now makes up his 850 acre (344 hectare) property near Caledonia. That sense of satisfaction has not faded over the years as his wife explains "I have never met anybody who enjoys working in the woodlot as much as Jim."

Jim's woodlot is a showcase of what a firm commitment to sustainable and responsible woodlot management really is. Much of his mixed wood FSC certified property is managed under category 7 selection management, which provides Jim with a small income while still maintaining a natural landscape. Local truck drivers are always happy to get a load of logs from Jim's property since it's "like





# WOODLOT OWNER

driving through a park.” Over the years he has sold a variety of products to many buyers around the area with buyers always arranged a head of time.

**Aside from primary forestry activities the woodlot is also used by cross country skiers, hikers, hunters (with permission), and the Mersey Tobiatic Research Institute (MTRI) for demonstration tours. He has also allowed some local chanterelle mushroom harvesters to use his property.**



Jim’s commitment to forestry extends well beyond his boundary lines. As a member of the board of directors for the Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners he is a strong voice for woodlot owners in his area and across the province. His woodlot was also used for research purposes during a pale winged gray outbreak that was affecting hemlock trees in the area. The trial to control it proved successful and will directly benefit forest managers across the region should this pest ever flare up again.

While walking through the woodlot with Jim you get a sense of pride in the fact that he is the sixth generation of Crookers to manage this property. This has no doubt led him to manage the woodlot so that many future generations will enjoy and benefit from it just as he has.

The field day for the Crooker woodlot will be held on September 15th and will feature category 7 displays, various forest management techniques, and recreational aspects and options for woodlots.

## Announcements

### NEW SILVICULTURE FUNDING

The government of Nova Scotia is pleased to announce an investment of 1.7 million dollars towards private woodlot management. The fund will be administered by the Association of Sustainable Forestry. Approximately \$750,000 will be devoted to certified woodlots and will be coordinated by the Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners and the Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association. Up to 50 per cent of the total funding will be used for uneven aged management treatments. This funding is designed to not only help landowners pay for much needed silvicultural treatments, and help create a more sustainable and healthy forest for generations to come.

### ASSISTANCE FOR WOODLOT ROADS

The province is making \$1 million available private woodlot owners to reduce costs and improve access. Landowners can apply to receive assistance from the fund to construct new woodlot access roads or maintain and upgrade substandard roads on their woodland. The improved access will also help landowners to extract more forest products, and make forest fire protection easier.



Eligible woodlot owners must be planning to engage in forest management over the next five years, have land holdings of 20 to 20,000 hectares, and own, occupy, or have lease control of the woodlot. Forest management includes producing wood, doing silviculture activities to sustainably manage the wood fibre on their woodlot, or developing the woodlot to produce maple products and Christmas trees.

Producers of softwood lumber or other wood products covered under the Canada United States Softwood Lumber Agreement of 2006 are not eligible.

### FOREST SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Nova Forest Alliance (NFA) is pleased to announce the launch of an exciting new project for forest service providers and woodlot owners in Nova Scotia. Partnering with the Department of Natural Resources, the NFA has developed an online Forest Service Directory to promote sustainable forest management in the province.

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## WOODLOT OWNER

This free online directory permits contractors to advertise their services, allowing woodlot owners to search and compare contractors in their area.

Contractors interested in being included in the directory can create a forest service provider profile for themselves or their company. This includes a description of their business, information about the services they offer (both manual and mechanical), the counties they are available to work in, the size of jobs they can complete, and how to contact them.

A woodlot owner can also create a profile, which will include the services they require and the location and size of the job. The goal is to create an active community of people providing, requiring, and interested in private forest work in Nova Scotia.

The Forest Service Directory can be found at: [www.fsd.ca](http://www.fsd.ca)

### NSWOOA WOODLOT VISITS

The Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association (NSWOOA) is offering a new program for landowners who are interested in active woodlot management, and who want to explore alternatives to clear-cut timber harvesting and learn how to access silviculture funding.

With financial support from the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, a forester from NSWOOA will visit 100 small woodlots over the next six months to talk with landowners about their land. Participants will receive a summary report of opportunities on your woodlot, an aerial photo, introductory membership in NSWOOA and a list of resources and service providers for woodlot owners.

The cost to the landowner is just \$25. For more information about the project, please contact Stephen Cole at 902-309-1062 or [bradcole500@gmail.com](mailto:bradcole500@gmail.com).

### WOODLOT MANAGEMENT HOME STUDY SERIES

This free program consists of 15 easy-to-understand modules on topics that relate to woodland stewardship. By following the principles and ideas in this series, woodlot owners can turn their woodlot goals into reality.

To request a copy of any of the modules please visit [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/Education/woodlot/modules](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/Education/woodlot/modules).

### NEW EDITIONS COMING SOON!

Fresh off the press is a new module entitled Woodlot Management Planning, which will replace An Introduction to Integrated Resource Management. This module will introduce the reader to the importance of planning, setting goals, and other woodlot aspects. Two other new modules, Working with a Contractor and Pests of the Acadian Forests are currently in the works and will help provide further guidance to landowners.

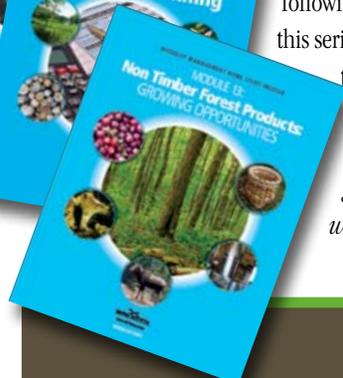
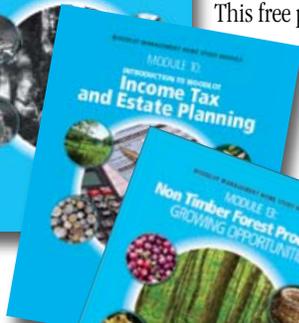
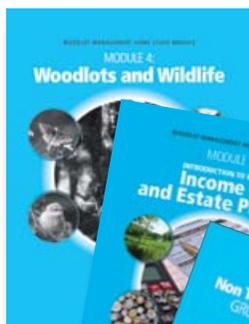
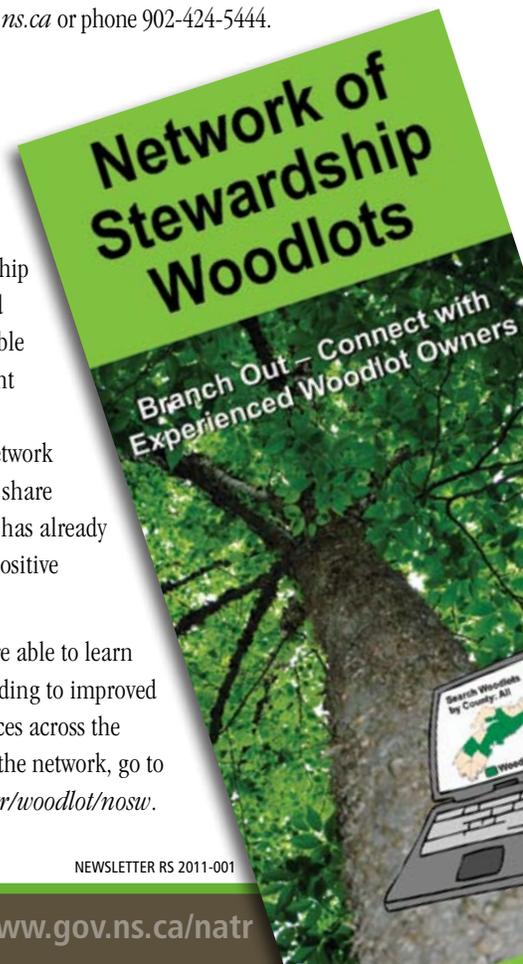
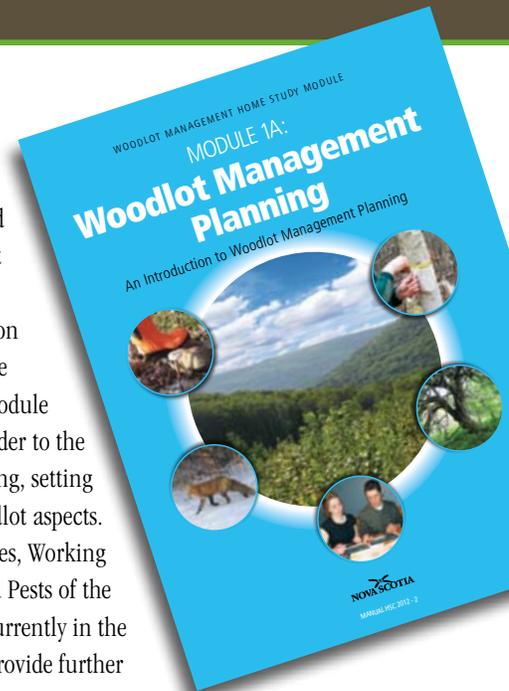
### TREES OF THE ACADIAN FOREST CD

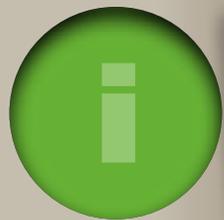
This interactive CD helps you identify tree species and provides information on tree characteristics. To request a free copy either email [woodlot@gov.ns.ca](mailto:woodlot@gov.ns.ca) or phone 902-424-5444.

### NETWORK OF STEWARDSHIP WOODLOTS

Now entering its second year, the Network of Stewardship Woodlots is designed to promote sustainable woodlot management practices by helping woodland owners network with their peers and share their experiences. It has already started to generate positive outcomes.

Woodland owners are able to learn from each other, leading to improved management practices across the province. To search the network, go to [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot/nosw](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot/nosw).





# WOODLOT OWNER

## EVENTS

### BECOMING AN OUTDOORS-WOMAN (BOW)



Fall Workshop: September 14-16  
Mount Traber Bible Camp & Retreat Centre  
Cooks Brook, Halifax County, NS

The *Becoming an Outdoors-Woman*® Nova Scotia Association began in 1997. The workshops, are designed for women 18 years and older who want to experience a new activity or enhance existing skills in the areas of hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. All half day classes are delivered at an introductory level. Some examples include archery, shooting rifles, fly fishing, outdoor cooking, canoeing, and wilderness navigation.

*Becoming an Outdoors-Woman* provides a wonderful opportunity for women to experience fun and exciting outdoor adventures in a safe environment with knowledgeable instructors.

For more information contact Pam Grace at 902-424-5832 or [bawns@gov.ns.ca](mailto:bawns@gov.ns.ca). For registration information on the 2012 Fall BOW workshop please visit [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/outdoor](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/outdoor).

### INTRODUCTION TO GPS USE FOR WOODLOT MANAGEMENT

The Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners and the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute are offering introductory training sessions for woodlot owners on the basic use of GPS for woodlot management and navigation.

The one-day sessions include indoor computer and theory time and outdoor field exercises. Participants learn how to navigate to pre-determined GPS waypoints, measure distance and area on the ground make/update basic woodlot maps and much more.

All woodlot owners are welcome but preference will be given to landowners who are participating in the Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners' or the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute's woodlot certification program. The course will be limited to 12 participants per session. The sessions are free for landowners in the certification program and a \$20 for all other participants.

GPS units will be provided for the training sessions. Participants are responsible for their own lunch and snacks.

### LOCATIONS

- Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources Training and Education Center, Musquodoboit, Friday, August 10th, 8:30am to 3:30pm Contact Andrew Fedora at 902-639-2041 or [afedora@fnsws.ca](mailto:afedora@fnsws.ca)
- Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, 9 Mount Merritt Road, Kempt, Friday, August 17th, 9:00am to 4:00pm Contact Jane Barker at 902-682-2371 or [jane.barker@merseytobeatic.ca](mailto:jane.barker@merseytobeatic.ca)

### Past Events

#### KIDS IN THE FOREST/ SCIENTIST FOR A DAY



It has been another successful year for the Kids in the Forest/ Scientist For a Day Program. Close to 800 students from across the province participated.

These programs provide students from grades 4, 5 and 6 with hands on exposure to a variety of natural resource management topics. Some of this year's topics included shooting a cross bow, aquatic life, and forest harvesting and regeneration. These events help interest students in outdoor activities and maybe even inspire them to consider a future career in resource management.

Be sure to like us on *Facebook*, search for *DNR Woodlot Education*.

### OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Stewardship and Outreach Section

Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 698, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2T9

Phone: (902)-424-5444 or  
Toll Free: 1-866-226-7577 Fax: 902-424-7735  
E-mail: [woodlot@gov.ns.ca](mailto:woodlot@gov.ns.ca)  
Web: [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot/)

Like us on





# WOODLOT OWNER

## Woodlot Owner of the Year Award 2013 Nomination Form

*(Please note: Deadline for nominations is April 15, 2013)*

### WOODLOT OWNER INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Woodlot Location(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Woodlot Size: \_\_\_\_\_

### NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Why is this owner a good candidate for the Woodlot Owner of the Year Award?

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### PLEASE RETURN FORM TO:

Stewardship & Outreach Section, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 698, Halifax, NS B3J 2T9, Phone: 902-424-5444

Toll-Free: 1-866-226-7577

Fax: 902-424-7735

E-mail: [woodlot@gov.ns.ca](mailto:woodlot@gov.ns.ca)

Web: [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot)