



WOODLAND OWNER

WINTER
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Inside this issue...

Woodland Owner of the Year Award 2013 Celebrations!
... page 1

Announcements
... page 3

New Publications
... page 4

Upcoming Events
... page 4

WOYA 2014
Nomination Form
... insert A

Woodland Owner of the Year Award 2013 Celebrations!

The Nova Scotia Woodland Owner of the Year Award has recognized outstanding woodland stewards since 1990. The award promotes landowners who practice sustainable stewardship of their land with the goal to encourage other woodland owners to practice sustainable forestry, and to increase public awareness of the importance of small, private woodland in Nova Scotia.

This year the provincial winners are Georgie and Helen Uhlman of West Caledonia, Queen’s County, also taking the Western region title. Karl and Faye Crawford are the Central region winners, while Henry and Elaine Van Berkel received the award in the Eastern Region.

Over 750 people attended the public field day events, organized by the Department of Natural Resources, held at each winner’s woodland this past fall. Representatives from the Department and many other organizations were available to chat with the public.

Thank you to all who came out to celebrate this year and congratulations to all the winners!



Russell MacKinlay, DNR Western Region Director, congratulates Georgie and Helen Uhlman (either side of sign) on being named both Western region and Provincial Woodland Owner of the Year

PROVINCIAL/WESTERN CELEBRATION – OCTOBER 5TH IN WEST CALEDONIA, QUEENS COUNTY

Georgie and Helen Uhlman are no strangers to having visitors on their property – not a month goes by without some sort of community event on their land! Their October field day was a huge success with large crowds, good weather, and great food from the North Queens Visitor Information Centre. The Uhlmans describe their woodland as “multipurpose”, valuing it for its diverse recreational, environmental, and economic benefits. An extensive trail network, pristine beaver habitat, and private campground – complete with a stage for entertainment – are just some of the highlights of the 52 hectare (128 acre) piece of paradise.

2

WOODLAND OWNER

Visitors had the opportunity to meet the Uhlmans and learn about invasive species, yarding with oxen and horses, selection management, and woodland certification. Russell MacKinlay, Western Region Director, presented the Uhlmans with a commemorative sign and emphasized the importance of woodland owners like Georgie and Helen to sustainable forest management in Nova Scotia. He noted that, *“the Department truly thinks of woodland owners as our partners in preserving our wilderness areas for future generations.”*



Visitors to the woodland took in the fall colours while on a horse-drawn wagon tour of the property



Two of the Uhlman’s majestic horses. All harvesting and maintenance work on the land is done with the aid of horses or oxen.



Friends, family, and others interested in the Crawford’s woodland came out to celebrate with Central Region winners Karl and Faye Crawford, shown here planting a tree to mark the occasion.

CENTRAL CELEBRATION

– SEPTEMBER 28TH IN SCOTSBURN, PICTOU COUNTY

Karl and Faye Crawford warmly welcomed crowds to their woodland on a perfect fall day. Visitors toured the property to learn about wildlife habitat and protection, a variety of silviculture techniques, and recreation on the Crawford’s woodland, including use of ATVs – a favourite pastime of the family. Past Minister of Natural Resources, Charlie Parker, applauded the efforts taken by the Crawford family as a positive contribution to both Nova Scotia’s economy and environment. In caring for their 187 hectare (463 acre) property, the Crawfords have two full-time employees and have worked with a multitude of local organizations to share woodland knowledge and improve wildlife habitat in the area.



Volunteers of the Scotsburn Fire Department prepare lunch for the field day guests; behind them Adventure Motors, the Crawford’s family business, unveils a new electric zero-emission off-highway vehicle

EASTERN – SEPTEMBER 21ST IN ASHDALE, ANTIGONISH COUNTY

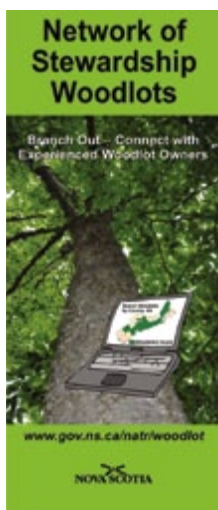


David Van Berkel celebrates, with DNR Resource Manager Bill English, being recognized for his efforts on the Van Berkel woodland as his parents, and Eastern woodland owners of the year, Henry and Elaine Van Berkel look on.

Henry and Elaine Van Berkel’s 130 hectare (320 acre) property in Antigonish county is a feast for the eyes with a picturesque cabin overlooking the pond and enchanting historical finds. Guests to their field day were able to learn about both forest management and a bit of local history, thanks to the diverse interests and knowledge of Henry and Elaine. The Van Berkels produce Christmas trees, harvest wood, and conserve wildlife habitat and historical sites on their land.



Henry Van Berkel (far left) shares stories about the unique history of his woodland – the property where a rich gold prospector, Big Alex MacDonald, once lived.



Would you like to visit a Woodland Owner of the Year's woodland for tips and advice about woodland management?

Many of the past winners are part of our Network of Stewardship Woodlots! Visit novascotia.ca/natr/woodlot to learn about the Network and how it can help you!

Announcements

GO REAL! GET A NOVA SCOTIA GROWN CHRISTMAS TREE

Support your fellow tree growers by choosing a real Nova Scotian tree this Christmas season. Real trees provide not only beauty and fragrance for your home, but habitat for wildlife, environmental benefits and thousands of jobs for rural Nova Scotians. Be a part of the tradition – choose a real tree!

Visit <http://iloverealtrees.com> for more fun facts about real Christmas trees in Nova Scotia!

Submitted by the Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia



Every winter, Nova Scotia sends a real Christmas tree to the City of Boston to thank them for their kindness following the historic Halifax Explosion.



NEW MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Hon. Zach Churchill, MLA for Yarmouth, has been named Minister of Natural Resources. Minister Churchill brings a fresh perspective and proven leadership skills to the position, having served as Saint Mary's student union president for two years and as the national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. Join us in sending a warm welcome to Minister Churchill!

The Honourable Zach Churchill, Minister of Natural Resources



Clean Annapolis River Project

ATTENTION:

AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP PROJECT SEEKS INTERESTED FARMERS AND LAND-OWNERS

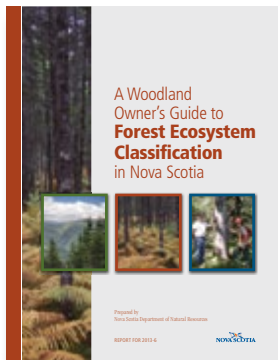
The *Clean Annapolis River Project* is pleased to introduce their *Annapolis Watershed Agri-stewardship Project*, which addresses issues with agricultural run-off.

We are currently recruiting farmers throughout the Annapolis River watershed to participate in this project. Participants will receive an on-site assessment, which will be used to inform a report outlining recommended actions or site improvements aimed at improving the health of riparian areas. Participation is free, and there are no obligations placed on participants.

For more information please contact:

Angela Hughes (Project Leader), (902)-532-7533, toll free 1-888-547-4344, angelahughes@annapolisriver.ca

New Publications



Now woodland owners can learn about how the **Forest Ecosystem Classification (FEC)** system may be used on their land! The *Woodland Owner's Guide to Forest Ecosystem Classification* provides a brief introduction to FEC and how a trained FEC professional can help landowners make more predictable and sustainable forest management decisions. This brand-new, easy-to-understand guide is available through the Department of Natural Resources – call us or visit us online today to get your copy!

Get involved in the *Woodland Management Home Study Program!* The *Home Study Program* is a series of booklets on topics related to woodland stewardship and sustainable land management. Participating in the program is free and open to anyone with an interest in woodland management. We are always working to update and expand our program offerings – **Updated** **Module 2: Harvesting on your Woodland** and **New** **Module 15: Pests of the Acadian Forest** are now available for order!



Upcoming Events



Winter Workshop: February 21 – 23, 2014, Gaelic College of Celtic Arts & Crafts, St. Ann's, Cape Breton, NS
BOW® provides a wonderful opportunity for women to experience fun and exciting outdoor adventures in a safe environment with knowledgeable instructors who are sensitive to the learning styles of women.

For more information contact Pam Grace at (902) 662-5043 or bowns@gov.ns.ca. Also, please visit gov.ns.ca/natr/outdoor.

The Woodland Conferences 2014

Join us this spring at the 2014 Woodland Owner Conferences to hear experts and woodland owners talk about woodland management issues and how to resolve them. Explore various objectives such as harvesting timber, providing wildlife habitats, or simply maintaining

forest health. Cost is \$25 and includes lunch. Mark your calendars with the following dates; more details on location and how to register will be available in early 2014.

CONFERENCE DATES

March 1st: Western Nova Scotia, Lunenburg | **March 22nd:** Central Nova Scotia, Halifax | **April 6th:** Eastern Nova Scotia, Guysborough

Keep up-to-date on events happening around the province with our online Stewardship Calendar:
novascotia.ca/natr/woodlot/calendar.asp

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Private Lands, Stewardship & Outreach Division
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
Web: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot/





WOODLAND OWNER

Woodland Owner of the Year Award 2014 Nomination Form

(Please note: Deadline for nominations is April 15, 2014)

WOODLAND OWNER INFORMATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Woodlot Location(s): _____

Woodlot Size: _____

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO:

Private Lands, Stewardship & Outreach Division, 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 Web: novascotia.ca/natr/woodlot