



Woodland Owner Review

Summer 2006 Vol. 7, No. 1

Nova Scotia Woodlot Owner of the Year Award

Provincial Winner

**Provincial & Central Region Winner-
Duncan and Laurie Johnson in Hants
County.**

Field Day - September 30 , 2006

Duncan and Laurie Johnson are this year's deserving winners of the Provincial Woodlot Owner of the Year award.

Amazingly, much of their gorgeous property in Maitland, Nova Scotia has only recently been converted back to forest after serving as farm and pasture land for generations. A testament to Laurie and Duncan's tireless enthusiasm and hard work, the woodlot today consists of a healthy and diverse range of species and ages. An abundance of ash is just one of many encouraging features. Wildlife habitat has also been considered in the management of the lot, with legacy trees, riparian zones and corridor, along with untouched areas of natural regeneration, provided.

Recreation values have certainly been promoted on the woodlot, with a seasonal whitewater rafting business on the high tides of the Shubenacadie, along with the upkeep of beautiful walking trails and other recreational areas. The Johnsons have also taken advantage of the opportunities to produce non-timber forest products such as Christmas Trees , wreaths, and even a pet crematorium business.



Photo: WOYA judges at the Johnson's woodlot in early June.

Taken by Simon Mutabazi.

Regional Winners

**Western Region - Tom Ernst, Mahone Bay,
Lunenburg Co.**

Field Day - September 16th, 2006

**Eastern Region- Eldon Taylor, Lochaber,
Antigonish Co.**

Field Day - September 23rd, 2006

Congratulations to all of the winners on a job well done! **Check out our website for more information on the winners and the field days:**

www.gov.ns.ca/natr/extension/woodlot/course.htm

Conferences & Workshops

Upcoming Events

**Salt of the Earth: Creating a Culture of Environmental
Respect and Sustainability - EECOM/IC Conference
2006 - White Point, NS - October 19-22**

The Canadian Network for Environment Education and Communication (EECOM) and Interpretation Canada (IC) are co-hosting the 2006 Fall Conference, "Salt of the Earth: Creating a Culture of Environmental Respect and Sustainability. It promises to be an exciting and interactive event for anyone interested in education and interpretation for a healthy environment, and will feature distinguished keynote presentations from the likes of Edmund O'Sullivan, Professor Emeritus at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto and the Associate Director of the Transformative Learning Centre, as well as Jessica Lax with the Otesha Project.

More information is available on the conference website:
http://www.saltoftheearth.ca/index_e.php

**National GPS Training and Certification Courses-
Various locations and dates in late June and early July.**

Global positioning systems (GPS) are increasingly important tools in woodlot management. This one-day or evening workshop, part of the National Green Check GPS Certification Program. will teach you how to use the technology effectively. All of the learning tools are provided and



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no prior experience is required. Participants are told to come ready for outdoor activities.

Call 709 - 649 -6206 or check out www.OnTheGoGPS.ca for more specific dates and times.

Past events

'Forest Certification: An Economic Imperative for Nova Scotia?', Halifax, NS, May 15, 2006.

Marketing challenges facing Nova Scotia's forest industries was the focus of a one-day workshop at Dalhousie's School of Resource and Environmental Studies. Leading experts and workshop participants looked at the issues surrounding forest standards certification, which many experts see as key to gaining and holding market access.

The workshop was intended to help Nova Scotians, particularly in the forest industries, understand the changes that are occurring globally; what they mean for our forest sector, and how enterprises in the sector can respond.

Woodlot Owner Conferences, Spring 2006

Woodlot Owner Conferences were held for Western, Central, and Eastern Nova Scotia in March and April, 2006. These events were organized through a partnership of the Department of Natural Resources, Nova Forest Alliance, Regional Development Authorities, and members of the forest industry. The conferences provide a great opportunity for owners to meet, interact, and learn about current woodlot management issues.

Current Issues



Photo: Fire pond on 2006 WOYA winner Tom Ernst's woodlot. Taken by Simon Mutabazi.

Fire Protection

Forest fire season has begun in Nova Scotia. With just three common elements needed to start a blaze- fuel, oxygen, and heat- your woodlot may be at risk this summer. This is why planning for fire protection in your woodlot is serious business. A good plan can prevent fire or reduce damage significantly.

A first line of defense is simply the upkeep of a healthy woodlot, where diseased trees are removed, and slash and debris are distributed close to the ground. It is also important to provide good access to all parts of your woodlot, and to construct and maintain a network of fire ponds. Fire breaks may also be appropriate where potential risks have been identified.

You can check fire hazard conditions across the province at your local DNR office, or online. When the hazard is high, you may want to avoid conducting harvesting operations. If forestry operations do occur, it is important to ensure that workers carry proper equipment, including fire extinguishers, and carry fuel in appropriate containers.

When the hazard index is high, it is also advisable to limit public access to your woodlot. After all, in Nova Scotia up to 98 percent of forest fires are started by humans, with only 2 percent attributable to lightning. Fires are particularly common in spring and summer as people head outdoors for a variety of activities, from recreation pursuits like camping to the setting of spring grass fires.

Check the fire index online:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/protection/wildfire/fwil/default.htm>

Community Based Social Marketing

The outreach section of the Nova Scotia Department of Resources is currently planning a community based social marketing campaign to encourage sound woodlot stewardship in the province. This strategy works to identify the perceived barriers to the adoption of more sustainable practices, while emphasizing and working to increase the benefits.

Part of this project involves an informal survey of landowners who have recently completed a timber harvest. The survey would involve a short conversation about opinions and experiences with different aspects of the operation, including the hiring of contractors, harvesting techniques, and tree identification.

If you have harvested recently, your participation would be valuable and appreciated. The visit would provide you with a chance to share your knowledge and experience on issues around woodlot management. Please contact us for more information or to arrange a visit.



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Seeing the Forest Beyond the Trees

More and more woodland owners are looking beyond the immediate to more diverse values contained in a forest. Non-timber forest products, such as berries, mushrooms, and ground hemlock have gained prominence, as well as the services of carbon sequestration water purification, and leaving a legacy for future generations.

Managing for wildlife is also increasingly important to owners. For example, taking care to leave snag trees can provide a source of food as well as habitat for an amazing variety of species, such as the woodpecker pictured below. The Forest/Wildlife Guidelines and Standards for Nova Scotia, recommends leaving a selection of large snags over 50cm (20") diameter at breast height because they provide habitat for both large and small wildlife species.



Photo: Black-Backed Three-Toed Woodpecker courtesy of DNR Wildlife

Our Home Study Series

New Module !

A new home study module is nearly complete. Module 12, entitled, **Small Scale Harvesting Equipment - What's Right For You?** has been designed to help woodland owners who want to harvest wood from their land themselves.

The seven lessons provide basic information on different types of equipment and attachments, and skidding and forwarding systems.

The goal is to aid in decision-making, rather than providing extensive technical details.

This volume is part of the Woodlot Management Home Study series produced by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The series is meant to help woodland owners make informed decisions about the various uses of their land.

Please remember as you work through your modules that support is available by phone, fax or email. Feedback is also welcome, as it helps us tailor the home study series to your needs.

Access to Woodland Information

Trying to find out more about managing your woodland? Have you completed some or all of the Woodlot Home Study Modules, and still want more information? Why not try an **interlibrary loan**?

The DNR Library has many books that may be interesting and useful to woodland owners. Some popular titles include:

The Woodland Management Handbook by Stewart Hilts and Peter Mitchell

Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Habitat: Forest Management for the New England Region by Richard M. DeGraaf

Ask your local public library for more information on how to make an interlibrary loan. This service is provided free of charge. Would you like to review any of these books for other owners? Please send your reviews to woodlot@gov.ns.ca and they may be included in a future newsletter or on our web site. Feel free to recommend other books you have found interesting or helpful!

How to reach us:

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Did you know...

..that a plant that may help women battling with ovarian or breast cancer might be found growing on your woodlot? This valuable shrub, pictured right, is called ground hemlock, and can be found throughout the Maritimes on the forest floor. The most noticeable feature of this low-growing evergreen are the red, open-ended berries that grow on the boughs.



Ground hemlock is currently in demand because of its ability to produce the compound Paclitaxel, an active ingredient in the anti-cancer drug Taxol®. An Eastern Canada Ground Hemlock Working group has recently been formed between government, industry and NGO interests to help ensure the sustainable harvest of this species, which is also important to deer, moose and other wildlife who browse on the thick foliage and use it for cover. If managed responsibly, it could become an significant sustainable resource for the region.

Ground Hemlock. Photo courtesy of the Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada

Woodlot Owner of the Year Award - 2007 Nomination Form

Owner's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Woodlot Location(s): _____ Size (ha or acres): _____

_____ Size (ha or acres): _____

_____ Size (ha or acres): _____

Nominator's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Nominator's e-mail address : _____

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