



Woodlot Owner Review

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2008 Nova Scotia Woodlot Owner of the Year Award

The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources is pleased to announce the Provincial and Regional winners of the 2008 Nova Scotia Woodlot Owner of the Year Award (WOYA).

Provincial Winner

Central Region - Russell & Marjorie (with daughters Sarah and Kelly) McNally. Nuttby Woodlot, Colchester Co.

Russell McNally, owner of the Nuttby Woodlot, is an innovative and dedicated woodland owner. The Nuttby Woodlot was purchased in 1981 and has been a family endeavour ever since. The 240 acre woodlot sits at an elevation of 800 feet above sea level in the Cobequid Mountain Uplands. The woodlot is comparable to an outdoor laboratory, where several sites are dedicated to experimental silviculture treatments. Russell is a strong believer in ecosystem-based forestry and focuses on intensive forest management.

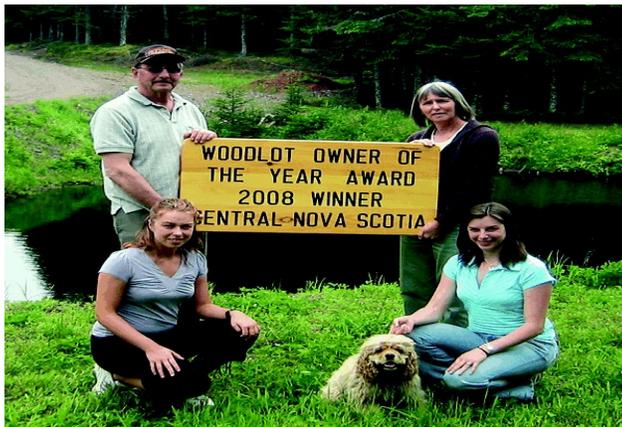


Photo: Russell, Christine, Sarah and Kelly McNally.

On the Nuttby Woodlot, you will find various silviculture treatments applied to several plantations of pine (Red, Scotch) and spruce (Red, White, Black, and Norway) along with beautiful hardwood stands.

The McNally family also manage a successful Christmas tree plantation and Sugar Bush on their woodlot, where maple syrup is produced on site and sold to the local community. Congratulations to the McNally family, the 2008 Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners of the Year! On Friday, October 3rd, the Nuttby Woodlot will host over 250 school aged children for a fun-filled, educational experience. The public field day, and the award for the provincial Woodlot Owner of the Year will be presented to the McNally family on Saturday, October 4th.

Regional Winners

Western Region - Christine and Royce Ford (with son Jason). Maitland Bridge, Annapolis Co.

Not far from the entrance to Kejimikujik National Park you will find the woodlots of Christine and Royce Ford. The original woodlot has been in the Ford family for three generations. Currently, the Fords own a total 750 acres in the Maitland Bridge area of Annapolis Co. Royce is an experienced and dedicated woodland owner. As a forest technician, and as the owner of "CR Trees Forest Management" there is no doubt that Royce is very knowledgeable of forest dynamics and practices in Nova Scotia. On the Ford woodlots you will find Christmas tree plantations, blueberry fields, apple tree orchards, and plenty of wildlife areas. Royce practices selection harvesting, shelterwood cuts, seed tree cuts, and PCTs. Take a walk on the Ford family woodlot, and witness the beauty of an uneven-aged Acadian Forest



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alongside the gentle murmur of the Mersey River. It is truly a relaxing and revitalizing experience.



Photo: Laurie, Christine, Royce and Jason Ford.

The public field day on the Ford woodlot will be held on Saturday, September 13th.

Eastern Region - Peggy Cameron and Neal Livingston (with son Geoffrey Livingston). Black River Woodlot. Mabou, Inverness Co.

Nestled in the rolling hills of the Mabou Highlands you will find the beautiful uneven-aged, mixed-wood Acadian Forests of the Black River Woodlot. The 420 acre woodlot was originally purchased in 1978. Neal has been working tirelessly since then to restore the over-harvested areas to a natural Acadian Forest. The Black River Woodlot is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and the woodlot is managed through sound, low-impact forestry practices. The woodlot is also the site of Black River Maple Products and Black River Hydro Ltd. The family harvests several non-timber forest products and services from their woodlot. Some of which include fiddleheads, maple syrup, a 220 kilowatt hydro-electric plant, trails for hiking and skiing, and even a downhill ski slope! The Black River Woodlot is a prime example of a woodlot that generates income from non-timber forest products. From the 220 kilowatt hydro-electric plant, Neal has been able to harness the power of the Black River. This enables

the family to be completely energy self-sufficient and to generate an income by selling excess energy to NS Power.



Photo: Geoffrey, Neal, and Peggy.

The Black River Woodlot showcases many ways to manage a woodlot in a profitable and sustainable way! The public field day on the Black River woodlot will be held on Saturday, September 27th.

All of the regional winners have demonstrated outstanding stewardship of their woodlots with a focus on sustainable forestry practices. We hope you can join us during the field days to experience these award winning woodlots for yourself!

WOYA 2008 Public Field Days

Eastern Region - September 27
Western Region - September 13
Central Region (Provincial) - October 4

Current Issues

Seeking an outlet to advertise your Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)?

The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources is teaming up with representatives in all four Atlantic Provinces and the state of



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Maine to create a non-timber forest product (NTFP) directory called “From Our Atlantic Woods” where you can publish your NTFPs and services for free.

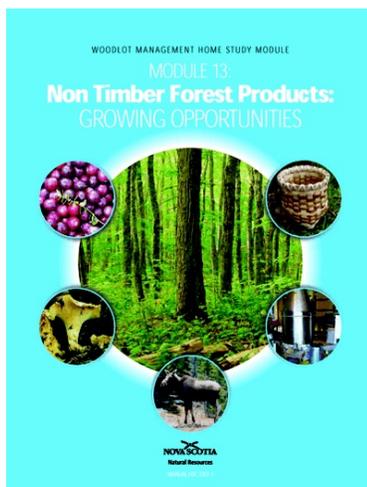
“NTFPs consist of any goods or services that come from the forest excluding conventional wood products like timber and pulpwood. Examples include, fiddleheads, mushrooms, berries, maple syrup, and eco-tourism.”

The goal of the “From Our Atlantic Woods” directory is to facilitate the development of a vibrant, diverse and sustainable NTFPs industry in the region. The directory, which will include photos, recipes, information on historic and modern uses, harvesting information and more pertaining to NTFPs will be available online and in a printed format. Copies will be distributed at Sobeys outlets, farmers’ markets, NS-DNR offices, tourism booths, craft fairs and other venues as well as from the listees’ places of business. If you, or someone you know, is interested in advertising your NTFP business in the directory, please fill out and return the attached “From Our Atlantic Woods” form. Or, if you wish to seek additional information on this project, please visit www.ntfp.infor.ca

Home Study Series

New Module!

The latest addition to the Woodlot Management Home Study Program is now available. Module 13 “**Non Timber Forest Products:**



Growing Opportunities” (by Dave Sutherland) aims to educate woodlot owners on seeing beyond the trees, and to consider the many benefits non-timber forest products (NTFPs) may bring to your woodlot.

The 8 lessons in the module provide basic information on NTFPs in Nova Scotia. Also included in this module is information on wild edibles, natural medicinal products, and recreational products; to name a few.

The goal of this module is to help woodlot owners learn about the many potential uses of their land while giving insight into the possible challenges of growing and harvesting NTFPs.

The module is available online or you may also request a hard copy. Support is available as you work through your module. Feedback is also welcomed, as it helps us modify the module to suit your needs.

New Natural Resources Strategy!

Nova Scotia aims to have one of the cleanest and most sustainable environments in the world by 2020. To help realize this vision, the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources has launched a new strategy through Voluntary Planning to encourage public participation in the management of our natural resources. The new strategy will be developed in three phases. Public consultations will be held during Phase 1 of the development, and is taking place this summer between the months of May-July. If you did not get the chance to attend a community meeting you can still submit a form until July 31st. By December 2008, Voluntary Planning will present the findings to a panel of experts and will release a report to the public. Phase II will consist of an in-depth analysis of the findings in Phase I. After careful consideration from the previous reports and



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with input from key stakeholders, a final development strategy will be written in Phase III by the Department of Natural Resources.

The views of small, private woodlot owners are extremely important, and we hope you can help us develop a sound strategy for the sustainable management of our valuable natural resources in Nova Scotia.

For more information, please consult Voluntary Planning online at: www.vp.gov.ns.ca, by phone: (902) 424-5682 or by e-mail: volplan@gov.ns.ca

Did you know...

Forest Certification

Forest certification is the process of having an independent, third party audit your woodlot to ensure that it meets the standards set by the certifying agency. The standards take into consideration the environmental, economic and social values of your woodlot. In Canada, there are several certification options for small, private woodland owners. These include the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and the Pan Canadian Woodlot Certification Program. There are many benefits to having your woodlot certified, such as ensuring healthy forests, rich biodiversity and clean water for future generations, and it also may allow you access to new markets. If you are interested in having your woodlot certified or would like more information on the certification programs out there please visit: www.certificationcanada.org



Sporting Lake Island. 300 year old hemlock.

There's less than 1% of Old Growth Forests left in Nova Scotia.

Old growth forests are forests that are in the late stage of natural succession. They are ecologically significant, as they contain many unique biological entities. Old growth forests are

sometimes defined as "climax forests that are at least 125 years old". Old Growth Forests offer many benefits to the private woodland owner. They are aesthetically pleasing, provide a unique habitat for many species, and offer an insight into historical forest data. Some things you may find in an old growth forest are:

- *old trees (living and dead) with large diameters*
- *primal conditions with multiple vertical layers*
- *indicator species (Boreal Felt Lichen, American Marten, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, etc...)*

If you would like more information on Old Growth Forests in Nova Scotia please visit the Department of Natural Resources website at: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestry/planresch/oldgrowth/index.htm



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Thinking of becoming a forestry professional?

Do you have a passion for the outdoors, wildlife, and forestry? Are you seeking an exciting educational experience in a fast paced industry that provides you with multiple career options upon graduation? Why not pursue an education program in professional forestry? There are plenty of schools in the Atlantic Provinces that offer professional forestry degrees. Why not check out some of the programs the following schools have to offer:

- [The Maritime College of Forest Technology](#)
- [University of New Brunswick - Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management](#)
- [Nova Scotia Community College - Natural Resources Environmental Technology](#)

An innovative way to attract or distract deer!

Planting a food plot on your woodlot can benefit you in many ways, especially if you're a hunter. You can increase the presence of game on your woodlot by planting food plots that attract



the desired wildlife. Planting food plots for deer and other grazers will also distract them from munching on those expensive seedlings you just planted last year. There are many native plant species that are suitable for food plots. Corn, rye, alfalfa, and clover can all be planted to attract deer. Please note that growing each plant has its own advantages and disadvantages. Some are more expensive to maintain, there are short lived and long lived species, and some are more resilient. There's also different climate and soil requirements for each species, and they all vary as a food source for deer among the four seasons. For more information please consult your local agronomist with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.

Upcoming Events

**Sustainable Hardwood Management Conference Membertou Trade and Convention Centre, Membertou, NS
July 8-9**

The Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources will be hosting a conference on "**Sustainable Hardwood Management in Today's Acadian Forests**" from July 8th to 9th at the Membertou Trade and Convention Center in Membertou, NS. The conference will be lead by keynote speaker, Dr. Ralph D. Nyland. Registration is \$50 and includes lunches and snacks. To register for this event or to find more information, please visit the website at www.uinr.ca (under the Forestry Section).



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DEMO International 2008 Devon, NS - September 18-20

The Canadian Woodlands Forum (CWF) has officially announced its flagship event: **DEMO International 2008**. Ledwidge Lumber Ltd. will be hosting the 11th edition of North America's largest, live forestry exhibition between September 18-20, 2008 in Devon, Nova Scotia (near the Halifax International Airport).



Photo courtesy of DEMO International 2004.

DEMO International will showcase the latest technology in wood harvesting and sustainable forestry practices. There are currently over 100 exhibitors scheduled for the event, who will be showcasing woodland machines and systems for all types and sizes of woodlands. The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources will have a booth at the event, where you can find information on sustainable forestry practices and a meet n' greet with former Woodlot Owner of the Year Award (WOYA) winners. This is the first time DEMO International has been held in Atlantic Canada. We hope you can come!

For more information please consult www.demointernational.com

Access to Woodland Information

Have you completed the entire Woodlot Management Home Study Program and want more information on woodlot management? The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources Library has an excellent collection of forestry resources. Here are some titles you may find interesting:

Woodlot Management by B. Wiskel

**A guide to improving
and maintaining sugar
bush health and
productivity**
by Dave Chapeskie



The NS-DNR library provides interlibrary loans where you may request and pick up items from your local library. This service is free of charge. For more information on interlibrary loans contact your local library. Or, you may wish to first browse the NS-DNR library catalogue online at:

www.gov.ns.ca/natr/library/library.htm

Fun Tree Facts!

- Trees are the longest living and largest living organisms on Earth
- By cooling the air and ground around them, the shade from trees helps cool the Earth's temperature



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- Hospital patients heal faster, require shorter stays and less painkillers if their room windows face trees
- Trees increase property values by 5 to 20% due to their landscaping value
- Each average-sized tree provides an estimated \$7 savings in annual environmental benefits, including energy conservation and reduced pollution.

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Email: woodlot@gov.ns.ca

Web: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/extension/

Think Green, Grow Trees!



Photo: Mersey River on Royce Fords' Woodlot. Taken by Simon Mutabazi.