



WOODLOT

SUMMER
OWNER
2010

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

Inside this issue...

Woodlot Owner
of the Year Award 2010

... page 1

Central Region
Winners

... page 2

Western Region
Winners

... page 3

Non-timber Forest Products
Directory

... page 4

Becoming an
Outdoors Woman,
2010

... page 4

Woodlot Owner of the Year Award 2010

The Nova Scotia Woodlot Owner of the Year Award (WOYA), now in its 21st year, recognizes and rewards landowners for outstanding stewardship of their woodlots. It is truly inspiring to see the leadership that many of Nova Scotia's woodlot owners demonstrate in sustainable woodlot management.

Without further ado we are proud to present this year's WOYA winners...

Provincial and Eastern Region Winners:

Jim & Donna Webber and Family

After speaking with Jim Webber for only moments it is evident that he has an extensive knowledge of every corner of his property in North Lochaber, Antigonish. This intimate knowledge of his property has allowed Jim to establish a productive and sustainably managed woodlot.

The Webber property totals 77 hectares (190 ac.) with 14.5 hectares (36 ac.) in blueberry fields, 4 hectares (10 ac.) of grassland and the remainder in woodlot, including a Christmas tree farm. What is now a thriving and well planned woodlot was not always so. When Jim purchased the property in 1981 there was pest damage and disease, a house in need of major repairs, and certainly no blueberries or Christmas trees to speak of. It took a great deal of patience and hard work on the part of Jim and Donna, who managed to get their property in order while raising two young girls who were just beginning school.



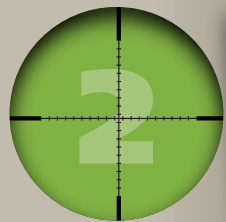
PHOTO BY WEBBER FAMILY

Jim developed a clear vision for his property early on, and the original management plan for the property, completed in 1984, has been followed almost to the letter. In keeping with contemporary forest practices, an updated management plan was completed within the past few months which follows the "Principles and Criteria" of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Maritimes Standard. Both management plans were done by Scott and Stewart Forestry Consultants Ltd., and the most recent plan was completed through the Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fiber Producers Association. Jim's thorough management also includes plans written through the Federation of Agriculture, including an Environmental Assessment Plan in 2004 and Nutrient Management Plan in 2009.

continued on page 2



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WOODLOT OWNER

Most of the woodlot has been harvested, with the exception of two small stands. After purchasing the land, harvesting was required in stands riddled with pests and disease, which have been replanted with white and black spruce. Jim's management philosophy is to cut only those areas which are unproductive, and replace them with species of higher value. Only small areas have been cut at any given time, allowing for the growth of uneven aged stands and maintenance of wildlife cover. Jim was a leader in recognizing the need for sustainable practices such as uneven-aged management.

The Webbers' have successfully generated income through their property, which contributed to tuition for their daughters Jennifer and Susan (both St. Francis Xavier University graduates), and allowed Jim to take advantage of the opportunity for early retirement. Jim served the Federal Government for 30 years before "retiring" 12 years ago to grow Christmas trees. He is active in the Christmas tree industry, serving in the past as president for both the Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia and the North Eastern Christmas Tree Association. For the past few years Jim has focused on working his own Christmas tree and blueberry farm. The Webbers' woodlot has provided the family with many other benefits. They enjoy walking, snowshoeing and skiing on their land, among other activities. The farm also allowed the Webbers' daughters to explore their personal interests in the land through participation in the 4-H program. Perhaps most importantly it has provided them with the lifestyle they desire.

FIELD DAY: October 2, 2010. North Lochaber, Antigonish County.

Central Region Winners – George Post, Deborah Elice and Family



PHOTO BY KATIE MCLEAN, DNR

When George Post decided to emigrate from the United States he settled in an area of huge potential. Years of hard work and determination have allowed George to turn his vision of a sustainable woodlot into reality.

At the age of 20, George, a resident of New York, took a road trip to Canada that exposed him to its beautiful natural landscapes. It was the end of the 1960s when North America was in the midst of a "back-to-the-land movement". In 1971 he and his wife, along with two high school comrades, decided to return to Canada. They headed to Nova Scotia to acquire land, and after searching door-to-door, they found a woodlot to purchase. George has continued acquiring neighbouring land over the years and today the Post Forest Farm is an impressive 263+ hectares (650 ac.) in West River Station, Pictou County. George, who continues to work as a silviculture contractor, is a member of both the Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia and Silviculture Contractors Association.

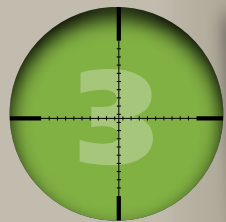
George's main goal is to enjoy his land, and to have it provide economic benefits in the process. What was originally an undeveloped woodlot with no roads or buildings, has been developed into a property with multiple values. It is now the setting for his idyllic family home, greenhouse and workshop. A windmill supplies about one third of the family's electricity. Post Forest Farm has been certified by the FSC and specializes in organic Christmas trees, greens and firewood. As a proponent of multiple-use management, Post Forest Farm also produced maple sugar for 25 years. Another impressive feature of the woodlot is its 101 hectares (250 ac.) of hardwood forest much of which has been managed using Category 7 Crop Tree Release.

Post Forest Farm is an excellent example of sustainable forest management, and we commend the Post family for their contribution to the stewardship of natural resources.

FIELD DAY: September 18, 2010. West River Station, Pictou County.



PHOTO BY DON CAMERON



WOODLOT OWNER

Western Region Winners – David & Sheila Thomas



PHOTO BY SIMON MUTABAZI

Listening to David Thomas as he shows his woodlot is like experiencing a living history of the forests of western Nova Scotia. With ties to the land extending back to the mid 1800s David's deep connection to his woodlot is evident.

David and Sheila own a 192 hectare (475 ac.) woodlot dominated by beautiful, healthy red spruce in North Range, Digby County. David's careful selection of trees to harvest has increased the vigor of the forest, and resulted in almost no signs of the insect pests that often wreak havoc on woodlots across the province. Harvested trees are used as saw-logs or for pulp. The woodlot also includes

about 4 hectares (10 ac.) of Christmas trees, a maple sugar bush and is a refuge for wildlife with its 18 hectares (45 ac.) of bogs and wetlands.

In the past, David opened and operated a sawmill with partner Harold Alexander under the name North Range Forest Products. Located only a few minutes away from his woodlot, David continues to benefit from use of the mill, where his son Brian has now taken his place.

The Thomas family has lived on the land since the 1830s, allowing David to present rare insight into the history of the property. The woodlot was inherited by David and Sheila from David's parents, Alan and Phyllis Thomas, making them the 6th generation on the land. David has been formally managing the woodlot since 1978. The Thomas' sustainable management practices have passed the test of time, and their main goal for the land is to maintain healthy forests with natural regeneration. A range of different treatments and techniques have been used over the years and David is now able to show the long term results of these different practices.



PHOTO BY KATIE MCLEAN, DNR

FIELD DAY: September 25, 2010. North Range, Digby County.

We would like to commend all of the nominees for their achievements. We encourage everyone to attend the woodland owner field days being held at the winners' woodlots. Remember, it is never too early to start considering a nominee for the 2011 season! For more details visit our website, or contact your local DNR office.



WOODLOT OWNER

Non-timber Forest Products Directory

Have you received a copy of the 2009-2010 From Our Atlantic Woods non-timber forest product directory? To order copies for yourself, or for distribution at your place of business, please contact us.

We are also collecting submissions from those who would like to be listed in the 2011-2012 second print edition. Don't miss this opportunity for free advertising.



Becoming and Outdoors Woman Workshops

The Becoming an Outdoors -Woman® (BOW) program is a workshop primarily aimed at women but is an opportunity for anyone 18 years or older to learn outdoor skills - skills usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful for many outdoor pursuits.

Originally started in the United States in 1991, Nova Scotia began offering the program to women in 1997. Its primary focus is assisting people to overcome barriers, whether social or financial, to learning outdoor skills.



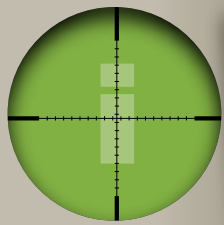
PHOTO BY JODY CONRAD

If you are a novice or have no experience in fishing, hunting or other outdoor sports but want to learn, this program is for you. BOW® is a mix of fishing, hunting and other outdoor pursuits that combines a fellowship experience with women. The 2010 Fall BOW is now fully booked. The next workshop will be held in September 2011 and information will be available in June.



For more information contact:

Pam Grace, BOW NS Coordinator
 bowns@gov.ns.ca
 (902) 424-5832
www.gov.ns.ca/natr/outdoor



WOODLOT UPCOMING EVENTS

Atlantic Teachers Tour

August 2011, location TBD

The Atlantic Teachers Tour is an annual event, held in mid-August, in the Maritime Provinces. Interested forestry companies and organizations sponsor the event, covering all costs to educators. It is a unique opportunity for teachers who want to know more about Canadian forests.

The tour includes visits to working forests to see and discuss:

- How forests are harvested, managed and protected;
- How harvest and management decisions are made;
- What types of legislation and regulations affect forests;
- What kinds of forest related careers are available to students.

Further information on the Atlantic Teachers Tour can be found at www.teacherstour.com/Content/about.html.

Contact: Peter Robichaud, probichaud@cwfcf.org

2010 National Forest Week:

"Canada's Forests - Strong Roots, Green Shoots"

September 19 – 25, 2010

Visit: www.canadianforestry.com

Nova Scotia Mycological Society, 2010 Foray

September 24-26, 2010. White Point Lodge, Queens County.

Visit: www.nsmushrooms.org/2010_mushroom_foray/

Contact: Bruce Stewart, beeruce.honey@gmail.com

2010 Trails Conference:

"Trails for Tomorrow Today"

October 1-3, 2010. Cornwallis, Nova Scotia.

Visit: www.novascotiatrials.com

Contact: nstrails@sportnovascotia.ca

Canadian Urban Forest Conference:

"Water, Trees and Communities"

October 5-7, 2010. Truro, Nova Scotia.

Visit: www.cufc9.ca

Contact: cufc9info@truro.ca



*Simon Mutabazi
thoroughly enjoying his
visit to the Thomas' woodlot.*

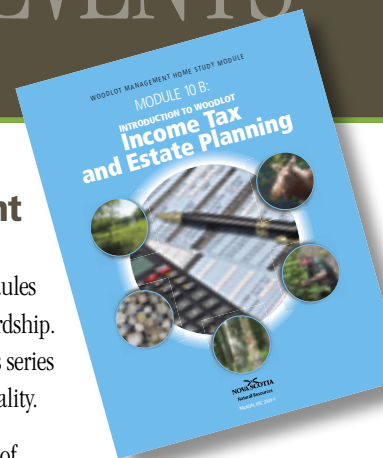
PHOTO BY KATIE MCLEAN, DNR

Woodlot Management Home Study Series

A series of 15 easy-to-understand modules on various aspects of woodland stewardship. Follow the principles and ideas in this series and turn your woodlot goals into a reality.

If you are interested in receiving any of these free modules contact Simon Mutabazi in the Stewardship and Outreach Section or your local DNR office.

Visit: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/education/woodlot



International Year of Biodiversity

Biodiversity, the variety of life on Earth, is essential to sustaining the living networks and systems that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services our lives depend on.

2010 has been declared the International Year of Biodiversity.

Woodlot owners in Nova Scotia have the potential to play a huge role in the conservation of biodiversity. Our forests:

- Are home to about 1900 seed-bearing plants, including trees, shrubs and herbs, as well as many types of fungi, lichens, mosses and ferns;
- Provide habitat for approximately 160 species of birds and 50 types of mammals;
- Contain ponds and waterways required by over 35 species of fish;
- Provide habitat for over 20 types of reptiles and amphibians;
- Are home to thousands of insects and other invertebrates.

This includes about 2000 types of moths and butterflies alone!

All of these living things serve a vital function in the health of our forest ecosystems. Through good forest management practices we can help to safeguard local biodiversity.

Visit: www.cbd.int/2010

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

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