



Woodland Owner

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- Woodland Owner of the Year Award Nomination Form

(902) 424-5444 or 1-866-226-7577



Martha is the second sole female in 26 years of Woodland Owner of the Year history to receive the Award. She is the Provincial and Eastern region winner.

2015 Woodland Owner of the Year Award Winners

For 26 years the Woodland Owner of the Year Award has been recognizing and awarding woodland owners for outstanding stewardship of their woodlots. It is inspiring to see the leadership that many of Nova Scotia's woodland owners demonstrate in sustainable woodland management.

EASTERN AND PROVINCIAL – MARTHA BROWN

The 2015 provincial and eastern region winner is Martha Brown of West Lochaber Lake in Antigonish County. Martha, a retired teacher, is a living example of sustainable land management, and a continuing piece of her family legacy that has allowed her 400 acre (162 hectare) property to flourish.



Stack of Birch and Maple trees from a recent patch cut.

"If I would have inherited a beauty salon, it wouldn't have been of much interest to me, especially compared to my woodlot. This is a family legacy that I really enjoy." – Martha Brown

Martha stresses the importance of talking and working with other woodland owners and forestry professionals. Over the years, Scott and Stewart Forestry Consultants and other land management service providers have worked with her in various capacities.

Martha also utilizes her woodland for Non-Timber Forest Products; her 10 acres of naturally grown blueberries certainly sweetens up the Eastern Region.

With a keen interest in learning about woodlands and forest management, Martha Brown has a wealth of knowledge to share about her experiences and hopes her woodland can serve as an example for others. **Come get a taste of what managing your woodland is like by visiting Martha's woodlot on open public field day on October 3rd!**

CENTRAL – MIKE OULTON AND FAMILY

Despite owning an 800 acre (324 hectare) woodlot in Windsor Nova Scotia, Mike Oulton knows his lot well enough to know individual trees. The Oultons have thinned some patches of forest two or three times in the last 40 years. To minimize damage and facilitate the harvesting process in rough areas, they wait until winter when there is snow on the forest floor. As a safety precaution the woodlot also has five fire ponds.

As Mike and his son Victor showed us the enormous Hemlock trees on their property, wide smiles ran over their faces. Mike spoke about how the ancient management plan called for harvesting the Hemlocks but he knew he would never cut them down.



The Oulton family and central region forester Don Cameron holding the Central Woodland Owner of the Year Award.



Mike and his son Victor standing in front of a large, old Hemlock tree.

The Oulton family also have a farm roughly the same size as their woodlot. It started as a single farm bought by Mike's grandfather in 1912. Mike has a licence to operate a zoo which is home to Yak, Wild Boar, Peacocks, hundreds of deer and more. He says *"farming is always supposed to be fun!"* Mike also has a meat shop that employs 14 workers.

Come explore and enjoy the woods on the Martock hills this September 19th, 2015.

Open Forest Day

On October 24th 2015, come to the Maskwa Aquatic Club and the Blue Mountain Birch Cove wilderness area to explore Nova Scotia's natural resources. The Department of Natural Resources has partnered with over 35 organisations, communities and companies to create a fun for all outdoor educational event. The event will include outdoor recreational activities, woodlot management opportunities, hiking trails, nature camps for youth, as well as geocaching and face painting. All of the partners will be sharing their unique expertise with you. **Come on an adventure and celebrate Nova Scotia's natural resources this October!**

WESTERN – NORMAN, GARY AND BRIAN MELANSON



Brian, Norman, Patrick and Gary Melanson (left to right) with their Woodlot Owner of the Year Award.

The Melansons allow their 525 acre (212 hectare) woodlot ample time to regenerate after a cut because they are always thinking long term. They use the appropriate machinery, employ skilled and experienced workers, and practice pre-commercial thinning and partial-cut methods which results in great natural regeneration. As Gary said "Back then if you wanted to harvest wood, you would just do it and cut whatever you pleased. Now it is all about the long term plan." Their woodlot

in Concession, Digby County holds over a 100 years of family history, and they want to pass along a sustainable, well-managed forest to their kids. The Melanson family operates a business that supplies wood to *Freeman and Sons Lumber Ltd.* as well as to other buyers.

Besides finding value in their property for timber, the Melansons also value relaxing, exploring and hunting on their land. They encourage others to use their property for recreational purposes as well, asking only in return "to use it as if it were yours, and leave it as if it were yours."

Come explore the Melansons' woodlot on Saturday September 12th, 2015 to learn about their excellent woodlot management practices.



Successful regeneration on the Melanson woodlot.

HONOURABLE MENTION TO OTHER 2015 WOYA NOMINEES

Warren MacMullin – Cape Breton

Howard & Joan Zwicker – Maplewood, Lunenburg County

SAVE THE DATE!

WOODLOT MANAGEMENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FIELD DAY

ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 29TH, there will be a field day in Digby County hosted by Dave Thomas. Dave is the 2015 mentor for the Woodlot Management Mentorship Program. The program aims to target less experienced woodlot owners and those new to woodlot management. It gives forest owners an opportunity to learn from one another, and gives experienced owners a chance to share their knowledge. It seeks to bring to life the topics of "Thinning for Value" and "Small Scale Harvesting Equipment" as a part of the Department's Woodlot Management Home Study Series.

If you are interested in finding out more, please call Jane at **902 682 2371** or email jane.barker@merseytobeatic.ca.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events Calendar

AUGUST 10-14

Teacher's Tour, Truro, Colchester County
teacherstour.com

AUGUST 29

Woodlot Management Mentorship Program, Barton, Digby County

SEPTEMBER 12

Western Woodland Owner of the Year Field Day, Concession, Digby County

SEPTEMBER 18-20

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman® NS Workshop, Cooks Brook, Halifax County
novascotia.ca/natr/outdoor

SEPTEMBER 19

Central Woodland Owner of the Year Field Day, Windsor, Hants County

OCTOBER 3

Eastern and Provincial Woodland Owner of the Year, Lochaber Lake, Antigonish

OCTOBER 24

Open Forest Day, Maskwa Aquatic Club, 91 Saskatoon Ave, Halifax County

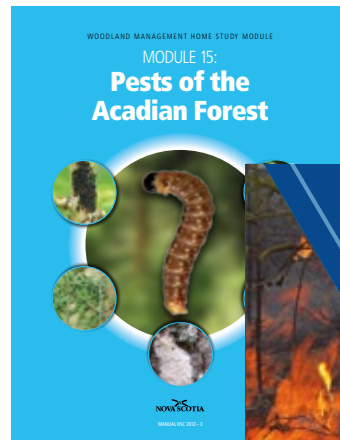
Announcements

NATURE LEARNING & PLAY SPACE

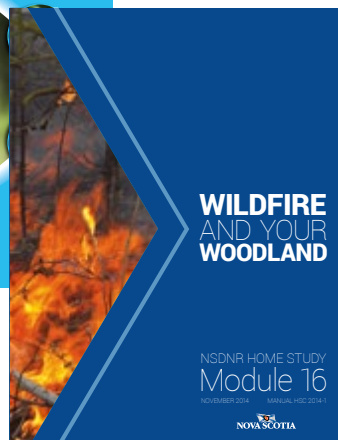
Coming this fall, *Nature Learning and Play Space, all-natural playground*

The Nature Learning & Play Space being created at the Natural Resources Education Centre in Middle Musquodoboit, focuses on unstructured, free play using natural features and elements such as water, rocks, clay and sand. These elements give participants an opportunity to balance, climb, build, use their senses and explore. Partners include local schools and community organizations to create this family-friendly space, and offers opportunities for healthy human and community development, and a chance to demonstrate our commitment to natural resources education and stewardship. The first play space elements are scheduled to be ready by the fall. For more info, contact nrec@novascotia.ca.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT HOME STUDY PROGRAM



Module 16: Wildfire & Your Woodlot is the newest addition to the Home Study Program! Learn about the preventive wildfire measures you can take to best protect your woodlot.



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. Each booklet is comprised of helpful tips, case studies and chapter quizzes to help you remember the material. Contact us today to get your free copy!



PESTS OF THE ACADIAN FOREST GUIDEBOOK

This new guide is the companion of Home Study Module 15 *Pests of the Acadian Forest*. They are both designed to provide woodland owners, homeowners, forest workers, and naturalists with information on the province's pests (native, non-native, and invasive alien species). The guide provides specific pest information and the home study module provides pest management techniques for woodlands. For further information related to non-regulated forest pests, contact any regional office of the Department of Natural Resources. novascotia.ca/natr/staffdir/offices.asp

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