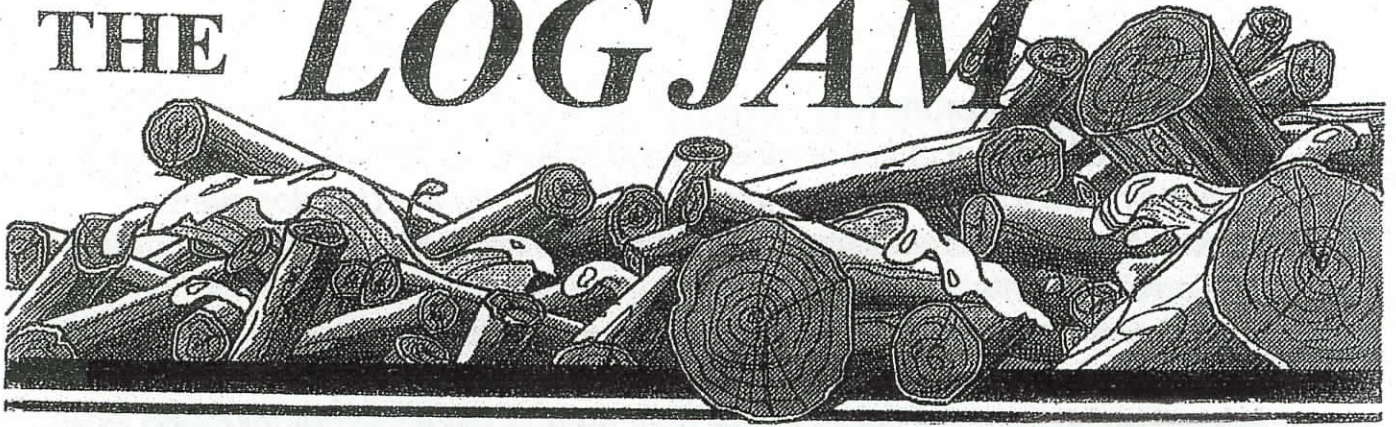


THE LOGJAM



Published by the Woodlot Association of Alberta (WAA)

March, 2018



The New Dawn

Our Mission Statement

"The Woodlot Association of Alberta's purpose is to promote leadership in sustainable forest management by encouraging the development of Private forest by increasing awareness of their inherent social, economic and environmental values."

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The Farm Woodlot Management Plan Approval

For those woodlot owners that are going to develop a management plan, to convert their woodlots to a farming operations as per the amended regulations (in the [Good News article on pg. 4](#)) of the Municipal Government Act.

These plans must be approved by either the Woodlot Association of Alberta (WAA) or a Registered Professional Forester (RPF).

The following will explain how the WAA will review and approve these plans

1. Check with your County Assessor whether or not they will require a management plan to change your woodlot to a farming operation.

If you do not need one you can stop here. But if you need one continue.

2. Contact Jurgen Moll for a copy of "Template for a Farm Woodlot Management Plan" this is free. It is guide that should help you make a management plan, step by step, but not all steps will apply to your woodlot.

3. Feel free to call anyone on the *registration committee* if you require some aid or explanation of what the plan requires.

4. When you have completed the plan mail it to (*Jurgen Moll, Box 84, Whitecourt AB. T7S-1N3*) complete with maps, arial photos and any other relevant information. [Along with the registration fee, cheque made out to the WAA.](#)

5. The *registration committee* will contact you on any items they do not understand in the plan asking for clarification and or changes.

If no changes are required the registration board will send to you and your county an approval letter, that would register your woodlot as a farm.

6. The *registration committee* consists of three (3) members who are [Dennis Quintilio](#), [Gordon Kerr](#), and [Jurgen Moll](#), who are volunteers but there are some travel costs and therefore there will be a charge of **\$ 200.00 for the approval of the plan**. It will also give you a one year membership in the WAA.

Good News

This is truly good news for Woodlot Owners, that being with this years Municipal Government Act Review. The regulations have been amended to include private woodlots as a farming operation.

As the farming regulation state:

(IV) an operation on a parcel of landform which a woodland management plan has been approved by the Woodlot Association of Alberta or a forester registered under *Regulated Forestry Profession Act* for the production of timber primarily marketed as whole logs, seed cones or Christmas trees.

The good news here is that a managed woodlot will be assessed as farmland rather than at market value. This will now allow owners of forest land to retain them as taxes will no longer make it financially impossible to retain these woodlots for the long term.

In order to develop a management plan you should use our -*Template for a Farm Woodlot management Plan* - which goes step by step how to build your management plan. To obtain a copy of the template contact myself, it will also be on our website.

This plan must be approved by either the WAA or the RPFs

This will come into effect in the 2019 taxation year

This is a reprint from the December Log Jam just in case you may have over looked it, as it is the most important information that we have had in the Log Jam, because it will places our woodlots as a farming operation, if we register it with a management plan, for taxation purposes.

The Woodlot Association fo Alberta

Annual General Meeting

When - June 22, 2018 - **Time** - from 10.00 to 4.00

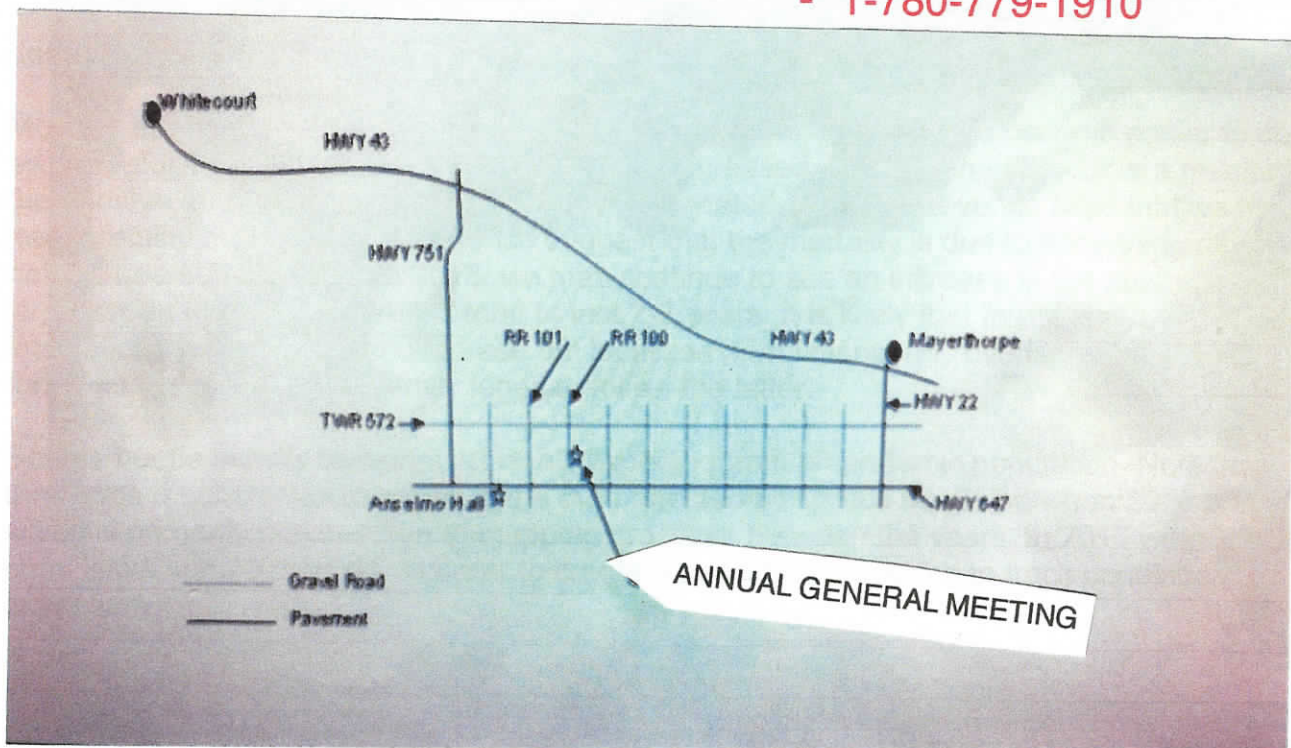
Where - Approximately 40 km SE of Whitecourt at the
Gordon Doherty's - Woodlot - Christmas Tree Lot - and - B & B

Fee - \$ 25.00 - **Lunch** - a free lunch will be served

Accommodation - Rooms are available at the B & B
and there is ample room to park RV's (no power or water)

The first half of the meeting will consist of a business meeting
followed by a tour of Gordons Woodlot, Christmas Tree Lot
and sawmill.

For more information contact Gordon at - 1-780-786-4520
- 1-780-779-1910



President's Report

Laval Bergeron

If you remember last year's march issue, the editor had put a picture of a snow sculpture done here at the St. Isidore Carnaval. Well he has asked me again for this year's sculpture and at first I was against the idea because it is not related to woodlots.. but I just had my regular Public Advisory Committee with DMI and after one of the fellows heading the meeting tells me, you obviously do not want to become a millionaire in your retirement days, 1st you play drums, 2nd you make sculptures out of snow and 3rd you look after a woodlot and it's association and so if the editor decides to show it, well I guess it is related.. in the ephemeral world.

To serious business, we had a face to face meeting on January 24th accompanied with several guests, Noël St. Jean with AWES, Dennis Quintilio WAA member, Con Dermott with Vanderwell and Gordon Doherty WAA member and the host of this year's AGM in the Mayerthorpe area.

The purpose of the meeting was first to establish a better relationship between WAA and AWES. Develop a workbook material for BMP « Best Management Practices on Private lands ».

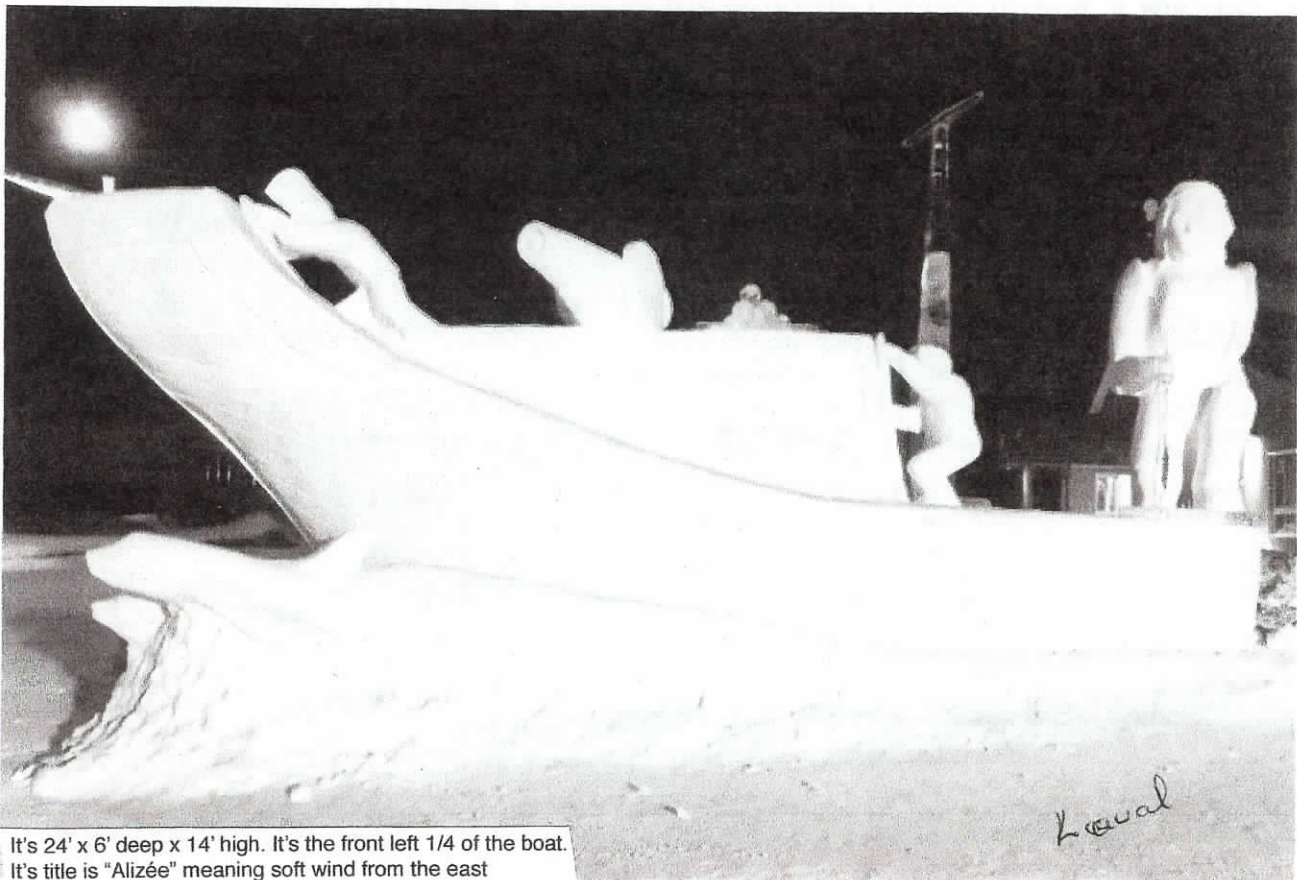
The delivery of workshops and this is where you can let your name stand to help, to have your woodlot as a demo, when it is coming to your county. I assume you would know well in advance the format of the workshop.

With the new rules on taxation, the forming of a committee was necessary and so a motion was carried to form a three member « Registration Committee » and they are Gordon Kerr- Fish and Wildlife, Jurgen Moll- District Ranger Forest Technician and Denis Quintilio Registered Professional Forester and may I add that they are all retired from their profession and I want to thank them very much for taking on this task. So do not be shy... very nice people.

I had inquiries on how and where to pay your membership. Go figure! Maybe that's why some members are not up to date and so in this Logjam and the ones to come this information will be available at all times. Keep reading your preferred Newsletter to find out.

A big thank you to the board members again and has we get closer to the AGM I hope to see many of you out at Mr. Doherty's Xmas Tree Farm.

Have a great spring



It's 24' x 6' deep x 14' high. It's the front left 1/4 of the boat.
It's title is "Alizée" meaning soft wind from the east

A Bird's Eye View of Alberta's Forests in 2017

Every summer the Forest Health area staff conduct aerial overview surveys (AOS) to map forest disturbances that are visible from the air. Historically these surveys were limited to the assessment of defoliating pests (e.g. forest tent caterpillar and spruce budworm), but the scope of the surveys has been broadened to include a wide variety of damage agents. Symptoms of these disturbances include tree defoliation, dieback, mortality, and damage caused by climate/weather (e.g. blowdown, hail, drought stress). AOS are timed to capture the activity of as many damage agents as possible and are performed between mid-June to the end of July.

Aerial overview surveys are one of the most important activities that Forest Health undertakes for a number of reasons. The data provides a baseline from which we can gauge when disturbances exceed the natural range of variation. The data can be used as an early warning system to identify disturbances at an early stage. Quick detection is important from not only an invasive species perspective but also when considering native pests that undergo eruptive population dynamics. Aerial overview survey data has been used to identify situations that subsequently influenced forest management plans/harvest sequences. Ultimately, our goal is for the Forestry Division to be recognized as a national leader in forest disturbance management in the prevention, detection, and management of high risk forest disturbance events.

In 2017, an impressive 286 hours were spent surveying Alberta's forests and 212 hours of ground-truthing were performed. An estimated 1.79 million ha of disturbance were mapped in 2017 (Table 1). Aspen defoliators were responsible for 48 per cent of the damage observed during the surveys. Almost half of the defoliation was attributed to forest tent caterpillar even though populations have been decreasing since 2015. Large aspen tortrix populations have been on the rise in southern Alberta since 2015, while aspen two-leaf tier defoliation dropped from 18,786 ha in 2016 to zero in 2017. Willow leafblotch miner activity has been observed in the northern reaches of the province since 2013, although 2017 was the first year that defoliation was formally reported. Spruce budworm represented 2% of provincial defoliation and decreased slightly between 2016 and 2017.

Much of the observed dieback occurred in aspen stands. Dieback has become easier to detect as the defoliation by forest tent caterpillar has decreased. Much of the dieback is a result of the additive effects of drought combined with repeated defoliation events. Note that we map tree mortality but only when evidence suggest that the mortality is due to something other than natural tree senescence. In 2018, we may continue to see an increase in the area affected large aspen tortrix as outbreaks tend to last 2-3 years. It is likely that forest tent caterpillar infestations will continue to decrease but localized populations may overlap with large aspen tortrix as the presence of former tends to follow the latter.

Spruce beetle activity remained at levels expected from an endemic population. Note that there was a substantial increase in the area affected by spruce beetle between 2015 and 2016 which is primarily due to differing mapping practices between the years. In 2016 we mapped cumulative spruce mortality in order to create a baseline from which to track population expansion.

The prevalence of pine needle cast increased dramatically in 2017, which can be expected in the years following moist summer weather. It is difficult to predict what level of pine needle cast we can expect next year as summer moisture conditions across the province were quite variable. There is a large amount of inoculum present in the forests which may support overall higher-than-normal infection rates given local moisture levels. Rest assured that whatever happens out there, our Forest Health staff will be ready to map it!

Table 1. Summary (in hectares) of Alberta forest disturbance agents mapped during aerial overview surveys.

	2015	2016	2017
Bark beetles			
Eastern Larch Beetle	918	6,583	2,927
Spruce beetle	1,405	10,465	3,139
Total bark beetles	2,323	17,048	6,066
Defoliators			
Aspen serpentine leafminer	--*	--*	1,277
Aspen two-leaf tier	536	18,786	--
Bruce spanworm	3,564	--	--
Forest tent caterpillar	1,586,486	525,135	394,286
Large aspen tortrix	54,444	213,316	294,123
Linden looper	--	--	25,504
Spearmarked black moth	--	--	710
Spruce budworm	51,750	19,265	17,337
Unknown	--	859	8,321
Willow leafblotch miner	--*	--*	118,539
Total Defoliators	1,696,780	777,361	860,097
Diseases			
Armillaria root disease	--*	--*	11,665
Lodgepole pine dwarf mistletoe	--*	--*	7,195
Pine needle cast	20	36,097	354,898
Other	--	--	3,224
Total diseases	20	36,097	376,982
Other			
Dieback	23,657	115,728	350,158
Flooding	5,457	2,415	9,075
Foliar damage	--*	34,000	38,640
Hail	1,419	1,050	11,416
Mechanical - unknown	--	--	1,869
Mortality	--*	144,693	130,631
Windthrow/blowdown	1,204	1,338	2,376
Winter desiccation	15,341	7,766	--
Total Other	47,078	306,990	544,165
Total Disturbance	1,746,201	1,137,496	1,787,310

*Observed on the ground but not formally assessed from the air.

Caroline Whitehouse—Edmonton

WAA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For those WAA members wishing to renew their membership, please detach and use the form at the bottom of this page.

Annual membership fees are due on or before October 1.

The membership fee structure is as follows:

One-year regular membership is \$30.00, or \$50.00 if paying for two years

Corporate membership is \$100.00 annually.

Please make payment by cheque, made payable to "Woodlot Association of Alberta" and mail to the address given below along with your name and address. Olson's Office Management will provide a receipt for your payment and will update your membership status.

Thank you.

.....
Name

Address

Make cheques payable to "Woodlot Association of Alberta"

Mail this form and cheque to: Woodlot Association of Alberta

c/o Olson's Office Management Ltd.

P.O. Box 303, Beaverlodge, Alberta, T0H 0C0

New rules for wood burning appliances in Montreal, two decades after ice storm

Montreal's strict, new rules regarding wood-burning appliances are set to kick in this year, two decades after the heating systems regained popularity in the aftermath of the crippling 1998 ice storm.

By October, it will be illegal for Montrealers to use what's considered a solid-fuel-burning heating system unless the appliance has been certified as emitting no more than 2.5 grams per hour of fine particles into the atmosphere.

Anti-pollution activist Andre Belisle says Montreal's frequent poor wintertime air quality is partly due to the legacy of the ice storm when, over a several-day period in January 1998, cities along the St. Lawrence Valley received more than double the normal amount of freezing rain for the year.

Electricity blackouts lasted weeks in certain areas and people rushed to buy wood-burning stoves and other similar heating systems to survive the cold and to be prepared for a similar weather crisis.

"There was literally an explosion of people going back to wood-burning heating systems (in 1998)," said Belisle, president of a Quebec association that fights atmospheric pollution.

"We ran a recycling program to try and eliminate slow-burning stoves and we did an analysis and learned that following the ice storm, stores all over the city went out of stock, and people from Montreal started buying wood-burning appliances from all other regions of the province."

In 2009, Quebec passed provincewide legislation banning the fabrication, selling and distribution of wood-burning appliances that weren't certified by the Canadian Standards Association or the American Environmental Protection Agency.

Montreal started taking action against the roughly 50,000 wood-burning appliances on its territory, also in 2009, when it banned the installation of any new, non-EPA-certified wood-burning heating system.

The latest bylaw was passed by Montreal city council in 2015, but the appliance ban takes effect this year.

Under the rules, Montrealers can't use any wood-burning appliance, regardless of certification, during smog alert days.

Citizens won't be forced to get rid of their less-performing, wood-burning appliances such as fireplaces but they won't be able to use them after October.

The law, however, includes one exception: if a power outage lasts longer than three hours, citizens can use any wood-burning appliance they own.

Additionally, the new rules don't apply to wood-burning appliances that cook food for commercial purposes, such as the city's famed bagel shops.

CHRISTMAS TREE SPECIES

FIRS



Firs (Abies)

Tradition, as well as the symmetrical shapes, attractive green color, softness and fragrance of these trees make firs the number one Christmas tree.

Balsam fir (Abies balsamea)

Especially in eastern U.S. and Canada, balsam is the leading fir. It is sometimes slow and difficult to grow outside its optimum range, but commands premium prices.

Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii)

Taxonomically not a true fir, but it is similar enough in many features to make it one of the top three Christmas trees. It grows well both East and West on a range of sites.

Other favorite firs

California red fir (*A. magnifica*)

Fraser fir (*A. fraseri*)

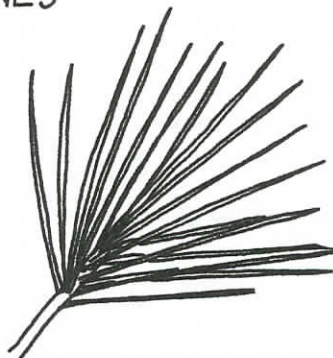
Grand fir (*A. grandis*)

Noble fir (*A. procera*)

Pacific silver or silver tip fir (*A. amabilis*)

White or concolor fir (*A. concolor*)

PINES



Pines (Pinus)

Fast growth, greater site tolerance and good needle retention have made pines popular with growers in recent decades. Some consumers, however, still harbor a bias toward short needled trees.

Scotch pine (Pinus sylvestris)

The number one Christmas tree pine. In addition to its rapid growth and site flexibility, it responds well to shearing and can be baled without damage.

Other favorite pines:

Austrian pine (*P. nigra*)

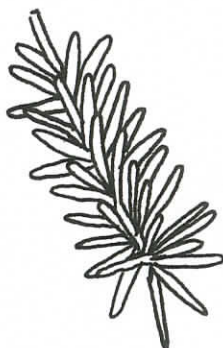
Red pine (*P. resinosa*)

Eastern white pine (*P. strobus*)

Western white pine (*P. monticola*)

Virginia pine (*P. virginiana*)

SPRUCES



Spruces (Picea)

A beautiful, symmetrical tree, but relatively slow growing, difficult to bale and transport, and loses its needles rapidly after cutting.

Blue or Colorado blue spruce (Picea pungens)

Its slow growth makes this a very expensive tree that will sell only in well-to-do or special market areas. In addition to its beauty, an advantage of this species is that little or no shaping is necessary. It is also popular for live tree sales either in burlap balls or potted as tiny table trees.

Other favorite spruces

White spruce (*P. glauca*)

Norway spruce (*P. abies*)

China to create new forests covering area size of Ireland: China Daily

SHANGHAI (Reuters) - China will plant new forests covering an area roughly the size of Ireland this year as it aims to increase forest coverage to 23 percent of its total landmass by the end of the decade, China Daily reported on Friday.

Planting trees has become a key part of China's efforts to improve its environment and tackle climate change, and the government has pledged to raise total coverage from 21.7 percent to 23 percent over the 2016-2020 period, said the China Daily, citing the country's top forestry official.

Zhang Jianlong, head of the State Forestry Administration, said at a meeting on Thursday that China would aim to grow at least 6.66 million hectares of new forest this year.

He said 33.8 million hectares of forest had been planted nationwide over the last five years, with a total investment of more than 538 billion yuan (\$82.88 billion), bringing the country's total forest area to 208 million hectares.

Three new state forests with a total area of 483,000 hectares would also be built in the new Xiongan development zone in Hebei province, he said.

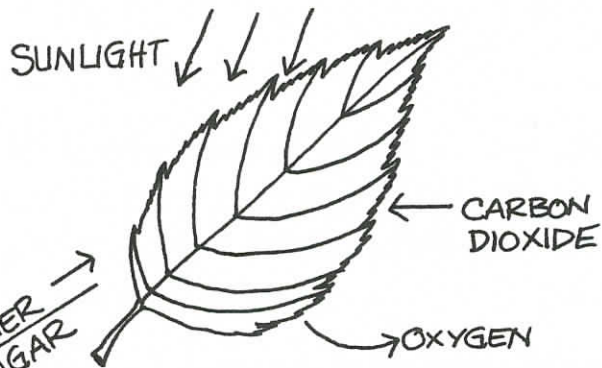
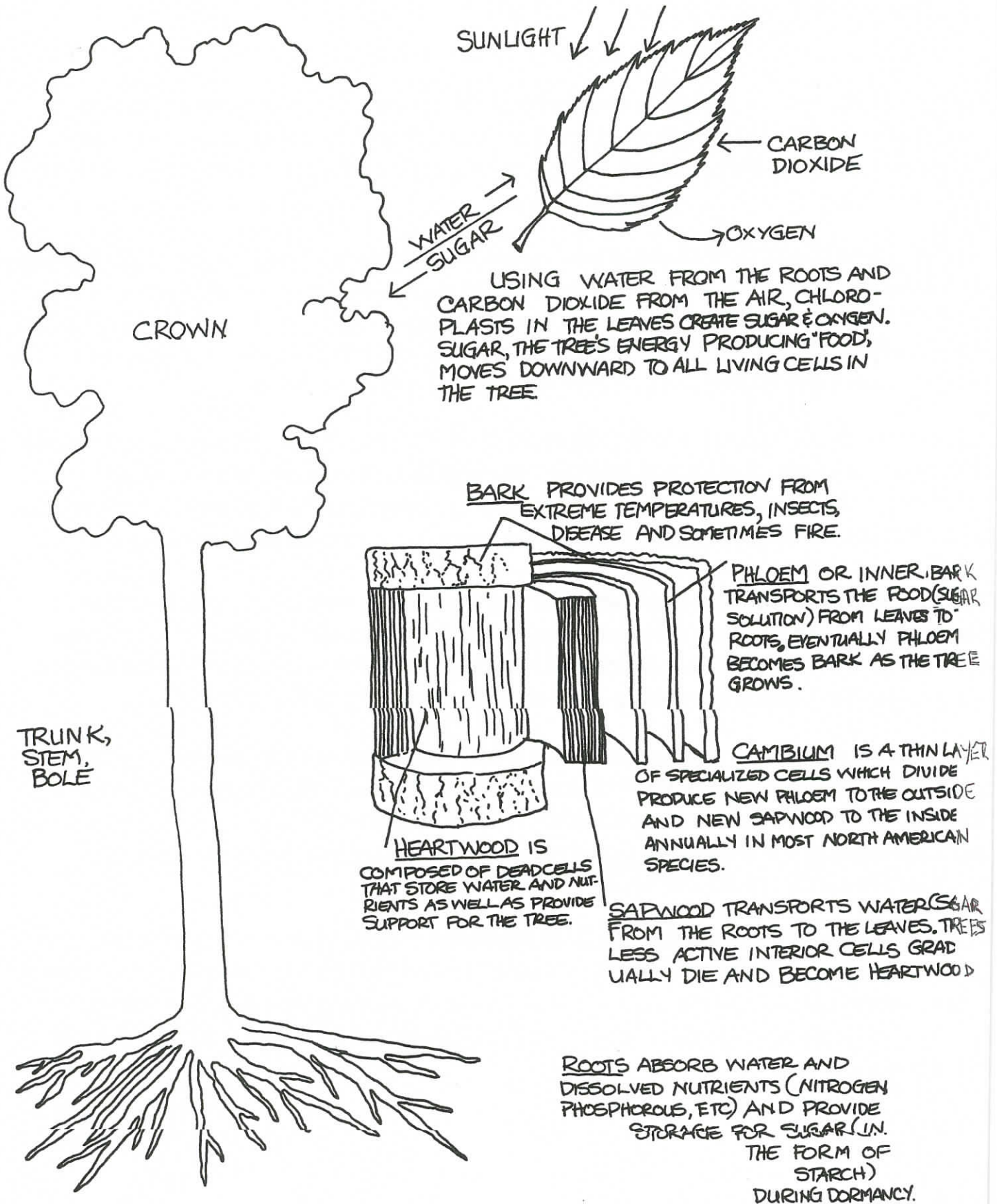
The heavily polluted Hebei, which surrounds the capital Beijing, has also pledged to raise total forest coverage to 35 percent by the end of 2020.

China, which has to feed a quarter of the global population using just 7 percent of the world's arable land, has long struggled to strike a balance between industrial growth, maximizing food production and protecting its environment.

The government is currently promoting an "ecological red line" program which will force provinces and regions to restrict "irrational development" and curb construction near rivers, forests and national parks.

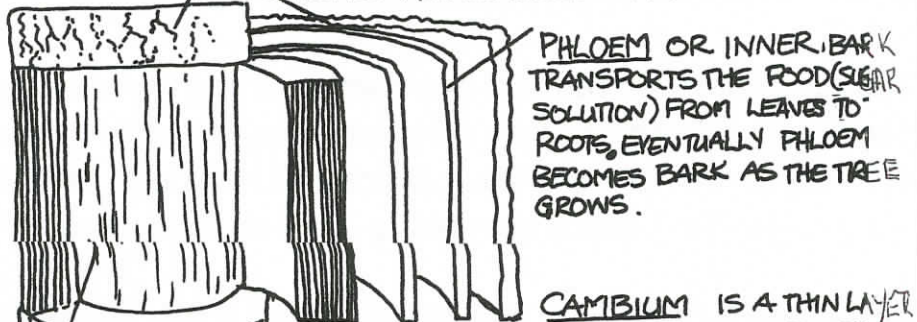
The environment ministry said last month that 15 provinces had already drawn up plans, with the remaining 16 aiming to do so this year, but it is not yet clear what impact the policy will have on the country's farmland.

A MOST MARVELOUS MECHANISM



USING WATER FROM THE ROOTS AND CARBON DIOXIDE FROM THE AIR, CHLOROPLASTS IN THE LEAVES CREATE SUGAR & OXYGEN. SUGAR, THE TREE'S ENERGY PRODUCING "FOOD", MOVES DOWNWARD TO ALL LIVING CELLS IN THE TREE.

BARK PROVIDES PROTECTION FROM EXTREME TEMPERATURES, INSECTS, DISEASE AND SOMETIMES FIRE.



PHLOEM OR INNER BARK TRANSPORTS THE FOOD (SUGAR SOLUTION) FROM LEAVES TO ROOTS. EVENTUALLY PHLOEM BECOMES BARK AS THE TREE GROWS.

CAMBIUM IS A THIN LAYER OF SPECIALIZED CELLS WHICH DIVIDE PRODUCE NEW PHLOEM TO THE OUTSIDE AND NEW SAPWOOD TO THE INSIDE ANNUALLY IN MOST NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES.

HEARTWOOD IS COMPOSED OF DEAD CELLS THAT STORE WATER AND NUTRIENTS AS WELL AS PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE TREE.

SAPWOOD TRANSPORTS WATER (SUGAR) FROM THE ROOTS TO THE LEAVES. TREES LESS ACTIVE INTERIOR CELLS GRADUALLY DIE AND BECOME HEARTWOOD

ROOTS ABSORB WATER AND DISSOLVED NUTRIENTS (NITROGEN, PHOSPHOROUS, ETC) AND PROVIDE STORAGE FOR SUGAR (IN THE FORM OF STARCH) DURING DORMANCY.

Can Gene Editing Save the World's Chocolate?

Fungi and viruses are poised to doom chocolate, which is why scientists are racing to save cacao — the tree that sprouts the colorful, football-size pods containing beans used to make chocolate — with the gene-editing tool known as CRISPR-Cas9, according to a new report.

Cacao trees (*Theobroma cacao*) grow in tropical environments, within about 20 degrees north and 20 degrees south of the equator. Unfortunately for chocolate lovers, fungi also flourish in tropical conditions and can easily infect entire cacao tree farms, causing harmful conditions such as frosty pod, black pod and witch's broom, according to a 2016 report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"Cacao can be afflicted by several devastating conditions," Brian Staskawicz, a professor in the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology at the University of California, Berkeley, said in a statement on Jan. 2. "We're developing CRISPR editing technologies to alter the DNA in cacao plants to become more resistant to both viral and fungal

Human-caused climate change is also putting the trees at risk, as rising temperatures caused by greenhouse-gas emissions may alter climatic conditions where cacao trees typically grow, mainly in West Africa and Indonesia. These warmer and drier conditions may cause chocolate shortages as early as 2050, according to the 2016 report.

Chocolate is more than a delicious treat. Cacao helps employ up to 50 million people worldwide, according to the World Cocoa Foundation. In an effort to save the tree and its crop, Mars Inc. — which makes M&M's, 3 Musketeers and Snickers — has teamed up with scientists at the Innovative Genomics Institute (IGI) to engineer trees that are resistant to certain fungi and viruses.

Their main tool is CRISPR-Cas9, a pair of molecular scissors that can precisely cut out chunks of DNA and replace them with new stretches of DNA. Myeong-Je Cho, director of plant genomics and transformation at IGI, is already working with cacao seedlings, looking for ways to help cacao growers stay put even as the climate warms and fungi invade their farms.

Any lessons learned during the cacao project could be applied to other crops.

"Similar strategies should be useful for protecting a variety of plants from infection, including important crops like cassava, rice and wheat," Staskawicz said.

CRISPR-Cas9 will likely help researchers find fungi- and virus-resistant trees sooner than cross pollinating plants the old-fashioned way. Cacao trees take between five and seven years to grow their colorful pods, and it isn't clear whether these pods will be susceptible to disease until they are grown. With CRISPR-Cas9, scientists can engineer the plants to be resistant from the get-go.

Classified ads

*These ads are **free** to all members , for the - sale and purchase of any item, or a service you can supply - or pets/livestock , etc.*

Maximum of 30 words , no pictures - Send ad to the editor



Contact: _____ Ph: **780-452-1863**
11010 Mayfield Road N.W. Fax: **780-451-0287**
Edmonton, Alberta T5P 4B6 Toll Free: **1-877-303-3373**
info@timberlandsupply.ca www.timberlandsupply.ca



Reminder

Just a reminder that the **fire season** starts on **MARCH 1 to October 31** when a fire permit is required, continue to use caution when in your woodlot either working or recreating ; by:

*Carrying some fire fighting tools ie, axe, shovel, water bag, etc. * **Keep the exhaust clean on quad or other motorized equipment.** * **Check the spark arrester on power-saw.** * **Don't smoke , or sit down when having a smoke , make sure the butt is out cold.** * **Carry a cell phone to ask for help if you have a fire.** * **Get a fire permit for any burning** * **good Luck**

Residents say Coyotes Becoming more Aggressive

SARNIA - After a coyote threatened her two-year-old grandson, Donna Laird and her husband decided they had to do something.

Laird and her husband, Ron, grow crops and raise goats, fowl and other animals on an Arkona Road farm in Lambton Shores where his parents and grandparents farmed before them.

Donna Laird said coyotes always have been around, but have never been as bad as during the last two years.

Days ago, her husband shot a coyote that killed six ducks and bloodied the couple's two large dogs. That was a week after a coyote appeared ready to leap at her grandson who was outside with family members.

Laird said she and her daughter were doing chores when a coyote came out of a bean field within about three metres of the child, who was holding a guinea pig at the time.

The boy's mother screamed and threw what she could find at the coyote.

"It crouched down like it was going to spring on him, and then she ran and kicked, and it ran," Laird said.

"That's pretty scary, when they're that bold."

Chris Martin, bylaw and protection services officer with Lambton Shores, said three "very aggressive" coyote attacks on livestock have been reported in less than a year in the Lambton County municipality, in an area between Forest and Thedford.

"In the previous three years, there might have been one," he said.

"Particularly in agricultural areas where livestock is plentiful, I think people have to be increasingly vigilant," Martin said.

Laird said she says coyotes they would see on the farm didn't appear as aggressive years ago.

"They didn't come in broad daylight, which they do now, and it was occasionally you'd see them. Now, we see them every day."

Laird said their approach has been to leave coyotes that weren't bothering them or their livestock alone.

A Walk in the Woods Reveals the Reason for Fallen Leaves

Raking those leaves is a nasty chore. The job starts in late October with willows, poplars and ash falling earliest. In mid-November when maple leaves have dropped the work is about halfway done. Oaks are the nastiest because they begin falling in November and keep dropping through much of December.

It is not uncommon for some oak leaves to persist until Christmas, at which time we have run out of both steam and cooperative weather so we let it go until spring.

But we should not be too quick to curse those falling leaves. We are our own worst enemy because we insist on picking up every fallen leaf as if we were vacuuming the living room carpet.

A walk in the bush teaches a lesson that we already know. In the dense bush where there are no rakes and leaf blowers, leaves fall and cover the forest floor. All winter long these leaves freeze, thaw, dry, get wet, blow around and are stepped on by wild animals. The forest floor serves to insulate the roots below, keeping the soil moist and warm in order to protect the delicate ecosystem under our feet.

In good order leaves continue to rot until they are no longer recognisable and look like soil. By this time leaves are almost fully composted and are adding valuable nutrients benefitting trees that produce more leaves. It is both a simple and complex circle of plant life.

When we city dwellers rake up leaves and put them in plastic bags destined for the municipal compost site, we interrupt nature's order resulting in a slow depletion of soil in our own backyards. Sandy soil becomes sandier and clay soil becomes heavier. In due time it becomes necessary to replenish our soil.

The best way to rejuvenate tired soil is by adding organic matter. Compost, triple mix, manure, and peat moss will do the job just fine.

The best time to add organic matter is fall. Nutrients in organic soil amendments are not immediately available to plants and need time to break down and become fully functioning. Adding compost in spring will improve soil texture before improving soil nutrient levels.

Adding organic soil amendments to flower and vegetable gardens is easy. Add a generous layer of organic material on the surface of the soil. Next, till the soil so the new material is mixed with the existing soil. Take the cue from farmers who plough down manure and corn stalks in the fall rather than spring.

Adding organic soil amendments to the lawn is not as easy. Adding a thin layer of screened compost in late spring when growth is active will work fine, but adding a thick layer will smother and harm the growth of turf. The easiest way to add fertility to lawns is by adding commercially prepared lawn food.

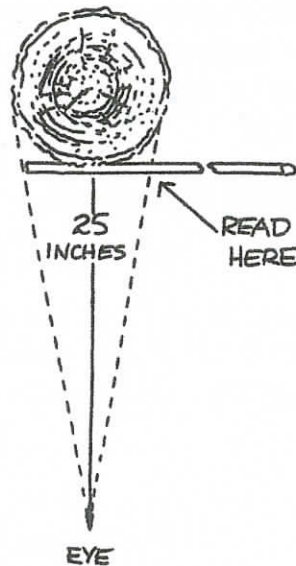
Lawn fertilizers are effective and convenient. Granular fertilizers are higher concentrated than organic soil amendments and nutrients are available to roots almost immediately.

Diameter

By general agreement, a tree's diameter is measured at *breast height*, or 4½ feet above the ground (on the uphill side). This is expressed as diameter at breast height, or DBH. Exceptions are made when an irregularity or unusual swelling occurs at this point, or when the tree forks less than one *log* (usually considered to be 8 or 16 feet) above the approximate stump height. In these cases, measure at the nearest point that represents a more typical diameter of the tree, and treat forked trees as two.

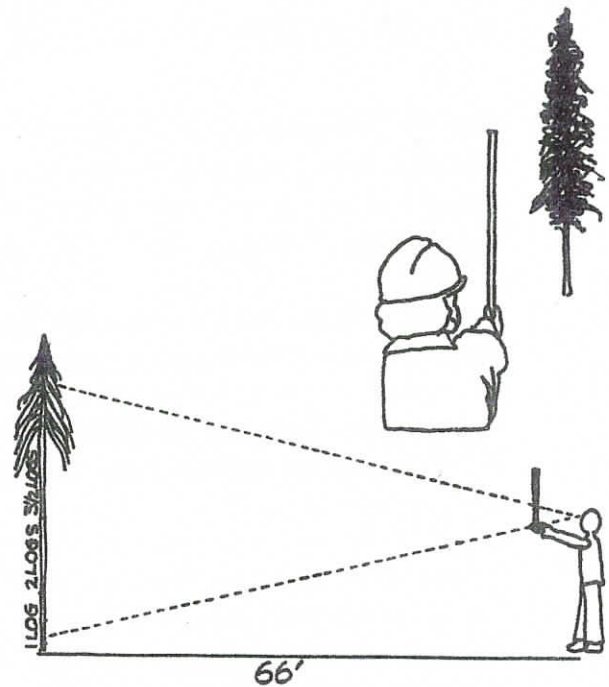
You are able to make your own
Biltmore Stick and Merritt Hypsometer
Both can be put on the same stick
For direction on how to build one
see the March, 2015 issue of the
Log Jam, that has the directions

Diameter is sometimes measured with large calipers, but more commonly a Biltmore stick is used.



Using a Biltmore Stick to Measure Diameter

1. Hold the stick 25" from your eyes. This will probably come naturally. It's the most comfortable distance for most people and is why the calibrations were made for that distance. But check with a measure tape until you get the proper distance.
2. With the left end of the stick in your line of sight to the left edge of the tree, without moving your head read the scale where your line of sight intersects it when looking at the right edge of the tree.
3. On trees that are oblong instead of round, take two readings and use the average.



Using a Merritt Hypsometer

1. Pace out 66 feet (1 chain in forester's lingo) from the tree, and level with it — neither uphill nor downhill from its base.
2. Hold the hypsometer vertically and 25 inches from your eye.
3. With the bottom of the stick in your line of sight to where you estimate the tree would be cut (stump height), read the scale where your line of sight intersects it looking at the minimum useable diameter (usually 4"-6") near the top of the tree.

A more accurate method is to measure the circumference with a specially graduated diameter tape. The units allow you to read in inches of diameter. Or you can use a regular cloth measuring tape, then convert circumferences to diameters using the table below (or the formula, $\text{Circumference} \div 3.1416 = \text{Diameter}$):

Circumference	Diameter (inches)	Circumference	Diameter (inches)
1½"	4	7'4"	28
1'7"	6	7'10½"	30
2'1"	8	8'5"	32
2'7½"	10	8'11"	34
3'2"	12	9'5"	36
3'8"	14	9'11½"	38
4'2½"	16	10'6"	40
4'9"	18	11'0"	42
5'3"	20	11'6½"	44
5'9"	22	12'½"	46
6'3½"	24	12'7"	48
6'10"	26	13'1"	50

(These figures are rounded because diameters are commonly recorded in two-inch categories.)

Study Shows Forests in Europe Has Halved Over Six Millennia

More than half of Europe's forests have disappeared over the past 6,000 years thanks to increasing demand for agricultural land and the use of wood as a source of fuel, new research led by the University of Plymouth suggests.

Using pollen analysis from more than 1,000 sites, scientists showed that more than two thirds of central and northern Europe would once have been covered by trees.

Today, that is down to around a third, although in more western and coastal regions, including the UK and Republic of Ireland, the decline has been far greater with forest coverage in some areas dropping below 10 percent.

However, those downward trends have begun to reverse, through the discovery of new types of fuel and building techniques, but also through ecological initiatives such as the ongoing National Forest project and the new Northern Forest, announced by the UK Government in January 2018.

The study is published in Nature's *Scientific Reports* and lead author Neil Roberts, Professor of Physical Geography at the University of Plymouth, said:

"Most countries go through a forest transition and the UK and Ireland reached their forest minimum around 200 years ago. Other countries in Europe have yet to reach that point, and some parts of Scandinavia – where there is not

such a reliance on agriculture – are still predominantly forest. But generally, forest loss has been a dominant feature of Europe's landscape ecology in the second half of the current interglacial, with consequences for carbon cycling, ecosystem functioning and biodiversity."

The research, which also involved academics in Sweden, Germany, France, Estonia and Switzerland, sought to establish precisely how the nature of Europe's forests has changed over the past 11,000 years.

It combined three different methods of analysing pollen data, taken from the European Pollen Database, and showed that forest coverage actually increased from around 60 percent 11,000 years ago up to as much as 80 percent 6,000 years ago.

However, the introduction of modern farming practices during the Neolithic period sparked a gradual decline which accelerated towards the end of the Bronze Age and has largely continued until the present day.

Professor Roberts said this was one of the more surprising elements of the research because while forest clearance might be assumed to be a relatively recent phenomena, 20 percent of Britain's forests had actually gone by the end of the Bronze Age 3,000 years ago. He added:

"Around 8,000 years ago, a squirrel could have swung tree to tree from Lisbon to Moscow without touching the ground. Some may see that loss as a negative but some of our most valued habitats have come about through forests being opened up to create grass and heathland. Up until around 1940, a lot of traditional farming practices were also wildlife friendly and created habitats many of our most loved creatures. This data could then potentially be used to understand how future forestry initiatives might also influence habitat change."

Up Coming Events

Board of Directors - Teleconference April 30, 2018
May 28, 2018

All calls at 7pm

The Annual General Meeting on - June 22, 2018 held at
Gordon Doherty's - Woodlot - Christmas Tree Lot and
Bed & Breakfast, Approximately 40 km SE of Whitecourt
(See map)



One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been

Will Rogers

It is indeed a new dawn, no it is not just because spring is here or that we are on day-light savings time again, these are what we have been looking forward to since last October and we are glad they have come. But for us the woodlot community it is truly a "new dawn" in that with the changes in this years review of the MGA our woodlot can now be classed as a farm. All it takes to become a farm is having a management plan approved.

What does this mean for the woodlots owner it means that your woodlot will be taxed as a farm starting in the 2019 taxation year, and not at market value. This will now allow your woodlots to be passed on to the future generation as the tax burden has been removed and it will no longer be the governing factor wither or not to convert the land to an other use.

There is a universal question which is why keep a woodlot, the answer of course is the great number of benefits in owning one and there are so many therefore I will only make reference to a few. The first benefit is that there will be a financial reward, this is because trees never stop growing regardless of their age, every years growth increases the value of you woodlot. Therefore some harvesting will be carried out depending on, the age , condition and markets value. *(if you are interested in how much it increases in volume there are growth and yield tables with which to calculate it)* There is a benefit that is being recognized more and more which is that those who live in or near a forest tend to have better health both physically and mentally. An other use is that it is a great place in which to recreate in with family and friend, during all seasons.

But the real value is to all Albertans in that these small woodlots are in some parts of the province the last remaining islands of biodiversity that has been developed here since the last ice-age. That is because this province is still expanding in, agriculture, oil & gas, forestry, our cities and towns are enlarging at an alarming rate. All of these and others are converting the land to a single use, and an excessive use of chemicals. Thus eliminating all biodiversity. Some may say that growing trees is a single use, not so the woodlot also grows, berries, mushrooms, wild flowers, and is the home to both the smallest to the largest wildlife found in your local area.

[Read this to see our advantage when it comes to taxation of woodlots](#)

Woodlots a Valuable Investments: expert

chance to learn about forestry but also many related fields. Booths included woodworking for sale, conservation groups, public health information about ticks and lyme disease, and invasive species.

"The woodlots are critical in this part of the country ... I think they're undervalued by government," keynote speaker Dr. Warren Mabee told a crowd of more than 200 people in the Batawa Community Centre.

"Woodlots are an essential part of any ecosystem protection or restoration program in eastern or southwestern Ontario," Mabee added in an interview. "It's where a lot of the biodiversity exists."

More experienced woodlot owners should come to such conferences to share their ideas for better management of those lands, he added.

Privately-owned forests have benefits lasting through many generations, Mabee said, adding governments should recognize those benefits and the time the trees need to yield them.

He spoke of their ability to capture carbon, helping to manage the climate. Every tonne of wood represents about 1.7 tonnes of captured carbon dioxide, he said, adding Canada likely produced about 740 megatonnes of carbon in 2015, about one-quarter of it from oil and gas.

Mabee said there is the potential for woodlot owners to make money by participating in cap-and-trade programs, selling carbon credits to carbon-emitting businesses.

Yet southern Ontario's forests are dwindling.

"We've lost about 9.7 million hectares" since the early 1600s when southern Ontario was 90 per cent forested, he said.

A "fragmented" 2.6 million hectares remain, he said, and 87 per cent of that is owned privately. He asked owners to continue their "good work" in managing it.

Greater Napanee farmer Vic Schamehorn said governments are making life difficult for farmers and woodlot owners.

His family owns 200 acres of former cow pasture in Tyendinaga Township but is letting the trees grow.

The Municipal Property Assessment Corp. isn't making it easy, he said.

"They're trying to double the valuation in the next four years," Schamehorn said, adding he and his wife opposed their assessment and won a reduction in value.

Mabee nodded, saying even while Ontario's Greenbelt program is unpopular, "it preserves the character of the landscape.

"It recognizes the land is valuable for something other than building houses," said Mabee.

"They should encourage the farmers (to manage the land) instead of taxing it more," said Schamehorn.

His father bought the "marginal land" in the 1950s. But Schamehorn said after the death of his father, he opted to let the trees grow. It's now a source of firewood.

"I thought there was probably as much value in that, or maybe more value, than there was in having pasture.

"From an environmental point of view it's better to let nature take its course."

He said he now enjoys working there, where deer, coyotes, turkeys and other birds live. Cattle would have reduced the number of tree species by eating them, he said.

Mabee said wildlife need forests for travel, but interior forests are remaining, leaving only fringes and limiting the wildlife species there. He recommended creating wooded connections between forests and properties, minimizing paths and keeping livestock out of woodlots.

My Woodlot

Denis Reist

My wood lot is 25 acres subdivided from land my grandparents homesteaded in the early 20th century. My mother was born here and my grandparents were mixed farmers who lived off the land.

My orchard still has some of the original plum and apple trees.

Within my wood lot, I have approximately 5 acres of natural bush, another 10 acres planted with spruce, willows, whited birch planted from seed, and many berry trees. An orchard consisting of apples, plums, sour cherries is fenced to keep deer out. Another area has saskatoons, chokecherries, in addition to the native pincherries, raspberries, cranberries and hazelnuts.

Over the years my orchard has provided fruit for family, friends and the birds. 2017 was a particularly abundant harvest.

In addition on my wood lot there is a small dugout of approximately 3 acres. In previous years I have stocked it with trout, however it was not deep enough to winter the trout. My plan is to deepen the pond and keep enough trees for the song bird nesting/

I am not happy about the pair of ravens that have moved in but enjoy the other birds that come to my feeders and orchard. I frequently have great horned owls nest here. In a small clearing there are some osprey.

We have had some unusual temperature fluctuations the early winter. Temperatures from - 40 C. to above 0 in two to three weeks. Very little snow, so winter kill could be a problem in the spring. Black knot in the choke cherries is very pronounced this winter. It is a big job to cut out the knots and burn them. I also have some pine trees that are showing signs of insect infestation.

The rest of the original homestead is rented out for agriculture production.



Sour Cherries in Orchard



Birch trees started from seed
six years ago



Picking Sour Cherries



Spruce & Poplar - planted 10 yrs ago