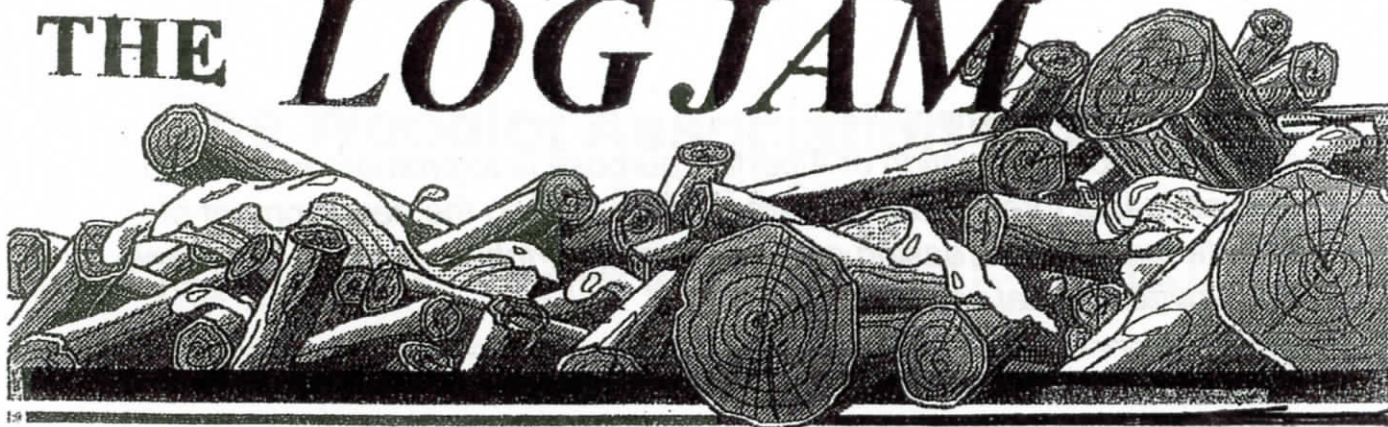


THE LOG JAM



Published by the Woodlot Association of Alberta (WAA)

March 2019



Lookin' Good

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 Woodlot Association of Alberta

will hold it's 23rd

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When ————— June 22, 2019
Where ————— Whitecourt AB
Location — Lutheran Church Basement
Time ————— 09:00 to 17:00 hrs.
Fee ————— \$ 20.00
Lunch — Served on location — is Free

Preliminary Agenda:

This primarily a business meeting in which there will be; a) a review and approval of the 2018 financial statement, b) a review of the past years performance of the board of directors, c) future objectives for the WAA in 2019, d) elections to the board, e) presidents message, f) general discussions. This portion of the meeting will last from 09:00 to 14:00

At 14:00 there will be a field tour of the Huestis Demonstration Forest which is some ten miles from Whitecourt, this is a forest that is operated by the Forest Service and the Forest Companies, to demonstrate forest management practices. It will take about two hours, and will be guided by a company representative.

The Lutheran Church is located at 55 Sunset Blvd. If coming on highway 48 from the south at the first traffic lights turn left go one block turn right and go one block. But if coming from the north on highway 48 turn right on the forth set of traffic lights go one block to the traffic circle and turn left go one half block.

There are ample hotels and motels plus numerous cafes, in Whitecourt, as to parking an RV there are several campground in town plus the Walmarts parking lot.

President's Report

Laval Bergeron

Quote from a friend, from a friend - if you're going for a walk in the forest, don't bring your phone, you'll have better reception -!!

Funding continues to be an issue but thanks to FRIAA our second year of a three year grant has been approved for this year again. Thank you.

CFWO, Canadian Forest Woodlot Owners, has requested that we support their effort at the federal level on three issues,

- An exemption for lumber from private sawlogs in the Softwood Agreement
- A Personal Silviculture Savings and Investment Plan
- A national silviculture and tree planting program

After discussion we think that it applies to us, at different levels I'm sure for us here in Alberta and so we are supporting the request. I want to thank Gordon Kerr, our representative at CFWO for the good work he puts into it.

AGM, Annual General Meeting is right around the corner again and again I am inviting everyone to come and meet and connect with other woodlot owners. It is a great opportunity for that. It will be accompanied with a tour which you will find all the details further in the Logjam.

As I'm writing this report, the weather so far this winter has been very pleasant but the forecast for the next two weeks, not so much. Hopefully the cold will be enough to get rid of some of the nasty critters decimating the pine forest.

Wish you all a happy end of winter and will be talking to you this spring. Thank you.

Up Coming Events

Board of Directors - Teleconference

January 29, 2019

February 26, 2019

All calls at 7pm

There will be a Face to Face meeting on March 22, 2019
in the Lutheran Church Basement, in Whitecourt.

The AGM will be on June 22, 2019
in Whitecourt.

Saskatoon replacing sand, salt with wood chips in test run to fix slippery streets

The City of Saskatoon is testing out an environmentally friendly way to make roads less slick this winter.

Inspired by cities in Switzerland and Quebec, city workers will be using wood chips on icy roads in the North Industrial Area rather than sand and salt.

The city's roadways director Brandon Harris told CBC Radio's *Saskatoon Morning* the city wants to make sure there are no problem with the chips.

"We have to make sure the traction is as good as sand, and we have to make sure we won't be plugging up catch basins," said Brandon Harris. "The last thing we want is for spring to roll around and us to have a whole problem with getting rid of water."

Harris said wood chips are better for the environment than salt and tend to cause less issues in the spring.

"In the spring, you don't get the dust," he said. "Most of that organic material will just wash away with normal runoff. Sand stays in place."

Every year, the city generates mountains of wood chips from activities like stump grinding with fallen trees. Harris said it just makes sense to use a resource the city already has.

The city plans to inform drivers well before the wood chips are used on roads.

If the pilot program is successful, the city may expand the project to other areas of the city

*" They call thee rich , I deem thee poor -
Since if thou dar'st not use thy store,
But sav'st it only for thine heirs
The treasure is not thine , but theirs ."*

The Miser

Study in China finds that Mixed Forests Absorb more Carbon

Forests with a diverse mix of trees can absorb more than twice as much carbon as areas with just a single species, research carried out in eastern China has found – a discovery that could help in the fight against climate change.

More than 150,000 trees were planted on a hillside in Jiangxi province in 2009 for the study. Over eight years, researchers found that an average of 32 tonnes of carbon was absorbed per hectare in the above-ground biomass – or living organisms – of the species-rich forest, according to the results published in *Science* on Friday. Single-species forests, in contrast, captured an average of 12 tonnes of carbon per hectare.

The experiment near Xingangshan, was the first involving a large cultivated forest to find out whether a greater diversity of tree species leads to increased greenhouse gas absorption, a process that can help to mitigate climate change.

More than 60 scientists from China, Switzerland and Germany were involved in the research, testing a hypothesis based on observations in the field.

“By only observing natural forests, it was impossible to conclude that higher biodiversity was the cause of the higher productivity [absorption of carbon],” said Ma Keping, one of four lead authors of the study and a botanist with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

“By planting 150,000 trees ourselves, we could control the conditions and prove that a forest with a large number of tree species is more productive than a monoculture,” Ma said.

Increasing the number of tree species in existing forests worldwide by 10 per cent could reduce carbon at a level that would cost US\$20 billion a year with other methods, according to the study.

The experiment measured forest productivity by determining how much carbon was stored in the above-ground biomass in the research areas. The team did this by cutting down about 100 trees, working out their biomass volume and how much carbon had been stored in it.

They found that about 47 per cent of the tree trunks and branches was stored carbon. By measuring the height and diameter of the trees, they could then calculate how much carbon they had captured – an indication of how much carbon dioxide they had absorbed from the atmosphere.

Plants absorb carbon dioxide from the air through their leaves and convert it to organic carbon compounds in the process of photosynthesis. When forests store more carbon, they help to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

“These findings have great ecological and economic significance,” said Bernhard Schmid, another lead author of the study and a biology professor at the University of Zurich.

Ma said the results also highlighted the need to increase forest diversity in any plan to fight climate change by planting more trees.

There are major reforestation programmes planned and under way worldwide with the aim of protecting the climate. In China alone, 1.5 million hectares of new forests were planted every year between 2010 and 2015, though they were mainly fast-growing monocultures, according to the study.

“The study shows that forests are not all the same when it comes to climate protection – monocultures achieve not even half of the desired ecosystem service,” Schmid said. “The full ~~level~~ of mitigation of global warming can only be achieved with a mix of species. In addition, species-rich forests also contribute towards protecting the world’s threatened biodiversity.”

Such forests were also less vulnerable to disease and extreme weather events, which are becoming increasingly frequent as a result of climate change, Schmid said.

Sixteen tree species were planted on the Jiangxi hillside for the

Undiscovered Country

A year in the life of a newly off
the grid woodlot owner

By David McGregor

Part IV – The not-so-tough winter

Years ago, my wife and I moved to Winnipeg from Alberta. Our first winter there was a nearly snowless and mild season. People would hear that we were new to the city and then immediately apologise for how mild the winter was, “It’s not usually like this.” That mix of embarrassment tinged with disappointment that they expressed informed the way I feel about this winter.

While I was nervous about testing the house against the real cold and snow, I was at the same time really looking forward to hunkering down with a hot wood stove and watching the winter be wintry. When people ask me how the house is faring I say “Fine,” and almost add, “...of course.”

Most of what I love about living in the woods with solar power is the winter darkness in the mornings. You are encouraged to have that extra cup of coffee or spend a bit more time with a book or notepad than you would let yourself if the sun was already shining. Inevitably you begin to plan and daydream in these dark mornings. Maybe while pouring over a seed catalogue or drawing up what might become the initial plans for a new workshop across the yard. The indoor hours I’ve spent haven’t been out of necessity, but living where we do encourages a person to live more seasonally, to feel good about slower mornings in the winter and look forward to getting outside when it is spring and summer.

The one completely positive aspect to the mild winter has been the ability to take long and regular cross-country ski outings. Much like the dark morning coffee times, the regular rhythm of your skis and the cool air combine to put you in a different space than your regular day. What skiing does for a person is put you on a path where you move through the woods in a way that you don’t at any other time of the year. More often than not I come back to the house energized about some idea or plan for managing the woods or breaking new trails. But perhaps the greatest thing about winter skiing is a clear moonlit night. You feel that same different connection with the woods and the land but it is like you are seeing everything in some secret dormant state. You are far from anywhere, even far from the daytime experience of your home.

It is difficult to imagine engaging with these experiences if they involved pre-planning or driving out into the country to be able to ski through the moonlight. These are the kind of experiences that help you begin to really know a place and know what it is like from a seasonal perspective.

Next Time: Spring and taking stock of the past year

Editorial

Jurgen

While I sit here looking out of the window at my beautiful lawn area now all covered with two feet of snow, I start dreaming of the greening to come in several months and the weekly cutting of it and the hours the many hours I sit on the lawn mower every summer; suddenly the real world gives me an awakening. Which is there are about 3 acres of lawn to cut this takes about 4 hours to complete plus all the trimmings around the buildings and side walks with the weed eater that's another 1/2 hours.

So thinking about that I do a little rudimentary math and I find that one rides the mower for some 4.5 months at once a week which equates to 18 cuttings at 4.6 hours per cutting to a total of about 81 hours. Now at a minimum wage of \$15.00 an hour is about \$1200.00, but that is not the only cost but add two riding lawn mowers is some \$10,000.00 so this lawn has cost me some \$11,000.00.

How did I get to this point, well it is a creeping thing when we first built this place the first lawn was 50 feet around the house which I could easily cut with my \$100.00 push lawn mower. But being a progressive guy I kept expanding the lawn to ever make it larger, till I hit the wall as I just could not keep up to all that lawn with the old push model. So off to Canadian Tire and bought what every man needs "a riding lawn mower" Well now I had real power and expansion seemed the thing to do and it was so easy, in time I had reached the fence line, the trees and creek banking could go no further. Neither could my riding mower as the bearings were all gone, time to buy an other one, the price is high but it runs like a "deer".

Now when ever I finish for the week and I have parked it in the machine shed and I crawl off the mower and painfully unfold and stretch out my legs and back and get the circulation going again. I think what on earth am I doing this for I should down size this lawn area. Till I look at the job that was done and I see the beautiful manicured lawn and take a deep breath and smell the fresh cut grass. I suddenly know it is worth every penny and all the ached pains. It is like music to the soul.

So I will just keep on dreaming it is only three more months till the greening comes, it's a good dream.

Reminder - The Fire Season

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**

Why Finland is so good at handling forest fires. Hint: It's not because of raking.

By Rick Noack

Months before devastating wildfires caused havoc in California, firefighters from across Europe headed to Sweden as authorities there struggled to extinguish several massive blazes. Sweden is one of the continent's greenest countries, and officials there eventually got so desperate that they ordered an air force jet to drop a bomb in the middle of the wildfire's center to deprive the blaze of oxygen.

The strategy failed, and Sweden's fires continued to rage for weeks. But just a few hundred miles away, in neighboring Finland, officials worried about a far different problem: not enough wildfires. "From nature's point of view, the diversity of species and habitats suffers from too few fires," the Finnish Forest Association recently concluded in a report.

In Sweden, officials were stymied by their neighbor's luck: Weather maps showed that both countries were adversely affected by the same rare, extreme heat this summer.

Viewed from space, the differences appeared especially striking. As all of Finland's neighboring countries, including Russia, battled massive blazes, the skies over Finland were smoke-free.

But it wasn't really luck, Finnish researchers soon let everyone know. Instead, Finland has one of the world's most successful strategies to counter wildfires, and it is now being more closely examined in other nations recently struck by large-scale fires.

Over the weekend, Finnish President Sauli Niinisto was forced to clarify that this strategy does not consist of raking, however. He was contradicting his U.S. counterpart, President Trump, who said Saturday as he was touring California's wildfire areas that Finnish authorities "spent a lot of time on raking and cleaning and doing things, and they don't have any problem."

"You've got to take care of the floors. You know the floors of the forests, it's very important," Trump said.

The Finnish president confirmed that he discussed wildfire prevention with Trump, but rejected the suggestion that raking ever came up. The forest service in Finland does carry out controlled burns of the forest floor mostly to clear away underbrush and also promote new saplings.

Researchers aren't sure whether the country's approach can really hold any lessons for California, however, given that parts of Finland are located close to the Arctic Circle and have prolonged periods of rain and snow. Whereas below-average precipitation is still the exception in Finland, it has become the new normal in California.

Allowing some burns and clearing away undergrowth are also part of federal forest policy in California. In fact, some of the areas hit in the California fires burned 10 years earlier, so there hadn't been a major build up of undergrowth.

No, the key factor in California's vulnerability to fires (and Finland's resistance) appears to have to do with weather. The two countries are on very different trajectories, as Finnish scientists predict the annual number of days with a wildfire risk to increase by perhaps as little as 10 percent by 2100. According to some estimates, wildfires may burn almost 80 percent more area in California by 2050 than at the moment.

Finland does, however, offer an instructive example to its Nordic neighbors. It has managed to bring down the area annually destroyed by wildfires from sometimes more than 100,000 hectares a century ago to now less than 1 percent of that. That compares to 25,000 hectares lost in Sweden this summer.

"The difference between the two Nordic countries is not explained by vegetation or climate," Finland's Forest Association said, "but is believed to be based on differences in infrastructure and forest management."

Researchers say that Finland has a far denser road network than other nations in the region, which creates barriers to the expansion of the blazes. Lakes and rivers are abundant, too. With many of the California fires happening near population centers now, a lack of roads is probably not the issue.

Perhaps the most striking difference with California is of a historical nature: Northern Europe is greener today than it was 100 years ago, whereas California has lost about half of its big trees. Europe's medieval and industrial revolution-era need for wood turned former forest areas into grasslands, especially in southern Finland.

When reforestation became a more serious concern, Finland split up future forests into small compartments. One side effect of this was fewer wildfires, as blazes usually don't spread beyond single compartment, with borders that are usually marked by wide paths or by trees with different heights.

Although that approach may work in other European countries with similar histories, California is facing a climate-change challenge that it can't confront itself.

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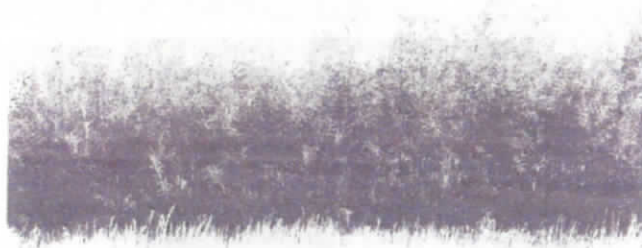
Experimental Beaverlodge plantation creates power, needs local help

The government of Canada is asking for Beaverlodge's help with harvesting a woodchip plantation.

Richard Krygier, Natural Resources Canada intensive fibre management specialist, said the Beaverlodge Irrigated Willow Biomass Plantation is part of a project for using woodchips to generate heat and power. "I hope you'll continue to work with us," Krygier told council in his presentation at its regular meeting on Sept. 24.

Growing since 2010, the Beaverlodge plantation and its infrastructure both belong to the Town of Beaverlodge, he noted. Beaverlodge and the County of Grande Prairie are two of five municipal collaborators in the larger research project, along with Whitecourt, Edmonton and Camrose County.

Grande Prairie Regional College is also one of three academic collaborators, along with the universities of Alberta and Calgary. The Beaverlodge plantation grows willows for woodchips, while the county plantation grows poplars for logs used in housing construction.



The Beaverlodge Irrigated Willow Biomass Plantation is located on the east side of town and is owned by the Town of Beaverlodge. It produces woodchips that can be converted for heat and power. The town joined the \$160,000 research project in 2009 after receiving a provincial grant.

Burning the woodchips creates heat and power, but he said the research network is also exploring "higher-end" usage of the chips, to create biochemical products such as sugars, ethanol and methanol. These products can be of higher value than the heat and power generated from the chips, he said.

Krygier said Beaverlodge can profit from the project if its participants find a party to take the woodchips. Beaverlodge itself doesn't have the wood boiler facilities to directly benefit from the heat and power, he noted. At the Sept. 24 meeting, Krygier presented on the Beaverlodge plantation, on the east side of town and across the railway tracks.

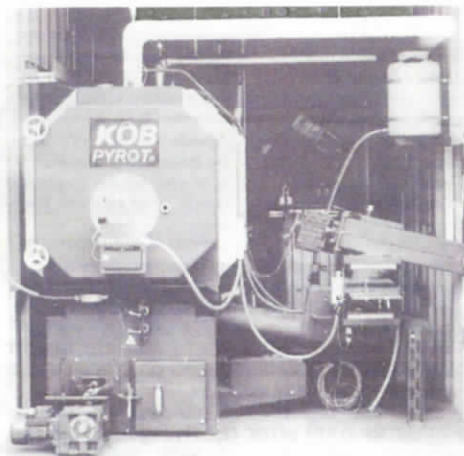
The harvest will take place when equipment is secured, sometime after the ground is frozen, or at the very beginning of the spring, he told the News.

Krygier requested onsite assistance each year with starting up the plantation and winterization, assistance with the harvest every three years and help with giving tours on the site. Specifically, he said he hopes the Town of Beaverlodge will help the federal department find tractors, trailers and other equipment that can be used in the harvest. Krygier said he hopes town public works staff could assist with setting up the systems in the spring.

According to Natural Resources Canada, the project looks at willow and poplar crops, as those are fast growing woody crops. On each plantation, the federal department aimed for 15,000 stems per acre on plantations, for produce of six to 10 oven dry tonnes (ODT) per hectare each year. Krygier explained only the tops of the crops are harvested, so the crops remain intact. The harvest is then transported by a chip truck, he said.

Natural Resources Canada previously addressed Beaverlodge council on the project in October 2008, but Coun. Judy Kokotilo-Bekkerus said the town then passed on the project which would cost \$160,000. One year later, the town received an Alberta Innovates grant, and reached an agreement with the department and PRT Growing Services to join the research network, Kokotilo-Bekkerus said.

The irrigation system in Beaverlodge was installed between fall 2009 and spring 2010, according to Natural Resources Canada. Planting began in June 2010, and he first crops were coppiced (cut back) in October 2010, Krygier said. He noted the county plantation project was also established in 2009, near the lagoon in Clairmont. It hasn't been harvested yet, and won't be for another six to 10 years, Krygier said. He said Aquatera helps with managing the county plantation.



Wood boiler facilitates like this one in Camrose is used to generate heat and power from woodchips. Camrose County, the County of Grande Prairie, Whitecourt and Edmonton are Beaverlodge's partners in the project.

Canadian folk anthem Log Driver's Waltz finds new life in children's book

Canadian folk legend Wade Hemsworth used to write songs and send them out to the world "like little boats."

Recently, one of his best-known works came 'birling' back as though riding on white water — the *Log Driver's Waltz*.

Written in the 50s, but popularized by a National Film Board video in 1979, the tune about a young woman's delight in dancing with a light-footed log driver has been turned into a children's book published by Simon & Schuster.

Written in the voice of a woman who loves to take a twirl with a nimble log driver, Hemsworth said the book sashays the song in a bit of a new direction.

"The lyrics of the song are about growing up in a village, her parents wishing she would marry someone successful in the traditional sense, a doctor or a merchant or lawyer, when she really loves the log drivers and dreams of dancing with them," he explained.

"This book is, I would say, kind of a feminist take on it in the sense that it emphasizes the independence of her choice."

Great-nephew says he's looking forward to the song touching another generation of Canadians

His great-uncle spent years working as a surveyor, spending plenty of time in close contact with loggers whose experience he mirrored in his song.

To this day, Hemsworth still hears from people who love the songs or see their own traditions as memories reflected in the lyrics — especially when it comes to families with ties to the timber industry.

Foot Note: Wade Hemsworth sr. the author died in 2002, his great nephew Wade Hemsworth of the same name is the "keeper of permission and royalties" for the songs.

Canadian Christmas tree market a growing \$77-million seasonal business

Whether it's cut down on a festive excursion to a Christmas tree farm, bought from a big box retailer, or hauled home from our local neighbourhood tree lot, Canadians love the real thing.

Growing, selling and buying fir, spruce and pine Christmas trees is a \$77 million seasonal venture — with about half exported to the U.S. — that has been growing at a small but steady pace over the past few years. Growers say the costs of their supplies, labour and shipping have been going up about 10 per cent annually.

“This year in Ontario the cost of employment — the minimum wage — went up and that is going to play into it,” said Shirley Brennan, executive director of both the Canadian Christmas Tree Growers Association and the Christmas Tree Farmers of Ontario. “Each individual farm and grower sets their own prices. The bigger the farm, the more employees, hydro and other costs are involved, and that is reflected in their prices.”

However, Brennan added that at a meeting in September, growers from across Canada were positive about this season.

The cost to consumers buying a tree, nationally and provincially, has been going up about 20 per cent annually for about the last five years, with the average price of a tree being \$55 to \$60. A variety of fir trees, like Fraser and Balsam, are the most expensive because they take longer to grow and fewer are grown, than spruce and pine.

And the cost can vary depending on where you buy it — in a big city or a rural area.

Last year retail business netted between \$76 million and \$77 million, with about \$36 million worth of trees sold south of the border. Canadian Christmas tree sales are expected to increase by as much as 10 per cent this year.

“It is beneficial to have a real tree, not only is it good for the environment, but also for creating memories,” said Brennan. “People enjoy real trees, whether they grew up experiencing real Christmas trees when they were young, or if they are new Canadians, who embrace the tradition and want their children to grow up enjoying it.”

She said several years ago the Canadian market was flooded by a glut of cheaper trees imported for U.S. states, like North Carolina, but they haven't been shipped north in recent years, and the once popular artificial tree trend is no longer as popular as it once was.

According to Bloomberg, millennials opting for pines over plastic is going to make it a green Christmas for U.S. tree growers as prices there have surged 17 per cent in the past two years, driven by younger consumers who are increasingly seeking locally grown, natural trees, according to a new report from the National Christmas Tree Association and Square Inc.

Demand for Christmas trees had previously waned as baby boomers sought artificial trees as their kids moved out of the house, according to the report. Average prices for the natural trees rose to \$73 (U.S.) in 2017 from \$64 in 2015, and costs are expected to hold steady in 2018, the report said.

“This is the first time in more than a decade that many local tree farmers are profitable,” Tim O'Connor, executive director of the National Christmas Tree Association, said in a statement.

Scientists discover another cause of bee deaths, and it's really bad news

So what is with all the dying bees? Scientists have been trying to discover this for years. Meanwhile, bees keep dropping like... well, you know.

Is it mites? Pesticides? Cell phone towers? What is really at the root? Turns out the real issue is really scary, because it is more complex and pervasive than thought.

Scientists had struggled to find the trigger for so-called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) that has wiped out an estimated 10 million beehives, worth \$2 billion, over the past six years. Suspects have included pesticides, disease-bearing parasites and poor nutrition. But in a first-of-its-kind study published today in the journal PLOS ONE, scientists at the University of Maryland and the US Department of Agriculture have identified a witch's brew of pesticides and fungicides contaminating pollen that bees collect to feed their hives. The findings break new ground on why large numbers of bees are dying though they do not identify the specific cause of CCD, where an entire beehive dies at once.

The researchers behind that study in PLOS ONE

(<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0070182#authcontrib>) -- Jeffery S. Pettis, Elinor M. Lichtenberg, Michael Andree, Jennie Stitzinger, Robyn Rose, Dennis vanEngelsdorp -- collected pollen from hives on the east coast, including cranberry and watermelon crops, and fed it to healthy bees. Those bees had a serious decline in their ability to resist a parasite that causes Colony Collapse Disorder. The pollen they were fed had an average of nine different pesticides and fungicides, though one sample of pollen contained a deadly brew of 21 different chemicals. Further, the researchers discovered that bees that ate pollen with fungicides were three times more likely to be infected by the parasite.

The discovery means that fungicides, thought harmless to bees, is actually a significant part of Colony Collapse Disorder. And that likely means farmers need a whole new set of regulations about how to use fungicides. While neonicotinoids have been linked to mass bee deaths -- the same type of chemical at the heart of the massive bumble bee die off in Oregon (<https://www.treehugger.com/natural-sciences/25000-bumble-bees-found-dead-target-parking-lot.html>) -- this study opens up an entirely new finding that it is more than one group of pesticides, but a combination of many chemicals, which makes the problem far more complex.

And it is not just the types of chemicals used that need to be considered, but also spraying practices. The bees sampled by the authors foraged not from crops, but almost exclusively from weeds and wildflowers, which means bees are more widely exposed to pesticides than thought.

The authors write

(<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0070182#authcontrib>), "[M]ore attention must be paid to how honey bees are exposed to pesticides outside of the field in which they are placed. We detected 35 different pesticides in the sampled pollen, and found high fungicide loads. The

insecticides esfenvalerate and phosmet were at a concentration higher than their median lethal dose in at least one pollen sample. While fungicides are typically seen as fairly safe for honey bees, we found an increased probability of Nosema infection in bees that consumed pollen with a higher fungicide load. Our results highlight a need for research on sub-lethal effects of fungicides and other chemicals that bees placed in an agricultural setting are exposed to."

While the overarching issue is simple -- chemicals used on crops kill bees -- the details of the problem are increasingly more complex, including what can be sprayed, where, how, and when to minimize the negative effects on bees and other pollinators while still assisting in crop production. Right now, scientists are still working on discovering the degree to which bees are affected and by what. It will still likely be a long time before solutions are uncovered and put into place. When economics come into play, an outright halt in spraying anything at all anywhere is simply impossible.

Quartz notes, "Bee populations are so low in the US that it now takes 60% of the country's surviving colonies just to pollinate one California crop, almonds. And that's not just a west coast problem—California supplies 80% of the world's almonds, a market worth \$4 billion."

The Pando (*I spread out* - in Latin) **aspen clone one of the worlds largest organism, is collapsing**

It is a huge underground singular root system that sends up tens of thousands of clone aspen trees, each one genetically identical to the next, over an area of more than 100 acres. It is located in the Fishlake National Forest in central Utah.

The reason that this clone is collapsing is that it is not regenerating it's self due to deer and cattle browsing on the new aspen shoots. The debate is how to control the deer population as their natural predator (wolves and Bears) have been removed many years ago and will not be reintroduced easily , so fencing of the 100 acres is an alternate idea, some also object to this.

It would be a shame if this clone were to disappear as it is estimated that it established itself some 14,000 years ago as the ice receded after the last ice age.

Seeing the forest through the trees

There's money in agricultural woodlots.

That was the message that Dave Pullen passed on at a session at the Southwest Agriculture Conference held at the Ridgetown campus of the

University of Guelph last Friday.

Woodlands have the high potential to generate a more significant part of farm revenue in southern Ontario, said Pullen, who is a municipal forester for Huron County, where his roles include forest conservation, management and extension services.

Input costs to manage woodlands are low and timber production potential is high, he said. There's money in woodlots in the form of financial returns on the timber harvested and protection against soil erosion in adjacent fields caused by both wind and water.

Sometimes there is a struggle within agriculture about the value of woodlots, but Pullen said the two can exist very well.

"I think woodlands and agricultural are existing very well in a lot of areas," he said.

He noted that Huron County has 16 per cent forest cover and a very strong agricultural industry.

"We have a lot of people who are maintaining (and improving) their woodlands while they intensify their production on their best land. Quite often woodlands occur on areas that are not suitable for agriculture anyway, so I do believe that they co-exist very well together," Pullen said.

The forester said in today's specialized agricultural landscape, many farm operators are again exploring the benefits of farm woodlands. Not only are there soil conservation and water management benefits, but forest

cover provides a home for pollinators and the high potential for carbon sequestration and bio diversity.

Maintaining and improving woodlands, in tandem with sustainable food production, provides opportunities for the farm community to provide solutions to pressing environmental issues, Pullen said, .

“We know that woodlands and forest cover are a major factor in protecting all those things. We really look at it as woodlands protecting agriculture, not competing with agriculture,” Pullen said.

Farm woodlands are an integral part of Ontario’s agricultural economy and history. In the 19th century, most forest cover in southern Ontario was either cleared or severely degraded. The resulting soil erosion and flooding impacts of excess deforestation left vast swaths of Ontario farmland unproductive for decades.

The successful efforts to restore agricultural production through the strategic planting of trees on marginal land demonstrated the value of woodlands for soil conservation and water management, Pullen said.

Income diversity and maintaining a renewable source of fuel and lumber are other woodland values that were well known to previous generations in the farm community, he added.

*“ He, who, by honest, hardy toil,
Reclaims waste land, or plants a tree,
Makes useful what is useless soil,
Is honoured, and should ever be.”*

The Od Farmer

My Woodlot

Larry and Christine Nofziger

Our wood lot consists of 3 properties that we acquired over several decades. In 1977, we purchased the first quarter section and moved into the repaired homesteaders dove-tailed log cabin that was built in the 1930's. This cabin was located on the north bank of the Sylvester Creek. This creek meanders along the south property line and begins cutting its canyon down to the Wapiti River about 5 miles east. This quarter became our "home quarter" in 1978 when we moved in with our infant daughter.

Half of our home quarter consists of a muskeg with black spruce and tamarack. Approximately 60 acres are mixed boreal forest and we have under-planted some of that to spruce. The remaining 20 acres was hand cleared by the homesteader. We recleared these 20 acres in the 1980's and farmed this piece for a couple of decades. In 2009 with the assistance of the WWA pine seedling program, we were able to reforest those 20 acres.

In 1989, we bought the S1/2-08-69-12 which is located ½ mile from our home quarter. That ½ section is mostly mature aspen with some stands of spruce up to 50 years old. There are 80 acres of the ½ section that was logged in about 1985 and the best aspen logs were sent to Japan. Those 80 acres have suckered profusely as aspen will. Now that aspen regrowth is a dense stand of 4"-5" trees ranging from 10-15m tall.

Our third property is a 4 acres piece located in the Hamlet of Elmworth, Alberta adjacent to the Mountview Curling Rink. We took possession of that acreage just a few days before the planting crew arrived at our wood lot in 2009. We were able to have them plant trees and now we have a 10 year old crop of pine trees on this acreage thanks to the WWA seedling program.

When the OSB mills in Dawson Creek and Grande Prairie got rolling, we had the chance to harvest the mature aspen on the 1/2 section. They were paying \$3/tonne with an estimated 80 tonne/acre. That was tempting, but instead we purchased an old head saw rig with an edger that was set up on a hi boy trailer. We started sawing our own mature aspen trees. There was demand for pipeline skids and 3" planking for the oilfield, so I learned to run the head saw with my wife, Christine, and our 2 sons canting, tailing and stacking the lumber. We also sawed 4-8's from the clear aspen and I showed my youngest son, then a high school student, how to dove-tail the corners for a 12x16' cabin. We first laid down 3 timbers, put 3" plank flooring on top of them, and stacked the 4x8" walls. This became our office cabin. After the top wall logs were up, I added two 4x10" purlins down the center of the cabin, about 8" higher than the top side logs. The roof was placed on top with 1x10x16' green aspen lumber in a caboose style deck. Since the aspen was green and flexible, it was easy to nail one end down to the top wall log, and then stand on the other end to bend it over the purlins and nail it to the opposite top wall log. I found out that it was easiest to cut the 1x10 lumber a bit on the thin side, about ¾", so they would bend easier. We nailed down the first layer and started to nail the second layer by staggering the seams. Our son was up on the roof nailing away when the top wall logs let loose. What a surprise! The tension of those bowed 1x10" board was strong enough to lift the top wall log away from the bottom logs.. We had to remove both layers of 1x10's, bolt the top wall logs down to the logs below them, then restart the roof deck. The second attempt was successful! We covered the lumber roof with a layer of rolled roofing and later added tin.

This office mostly served as a lunch room for a few years. We could start a fire every morning and have a warm spot for coffee and lunch breaks. In 2003, our oldest son had a couple of friends visiting for a week. They were staying at our house and keen to see our saw mill in operation. On Saturday while they were here, our son Lee and one of his friends went to the mill yard and parked in front of the office. They were going to start a fire and take the lunch into the office. So when Lee opened the office door, he was confronted by a man inside with a revolver pointed at him. The "guy" was a bit agitated and gave him orders. "Get in here." "Get your partner in here." "Is anybody else coming?"

I soon arrived in my F250 with 3 toolboxes, 3 chain saws, my briefcase and 2 full tanks of fuel. As I walked to the office, the guy stepped into the open doorway of the office and now the pistol was pointed at me! The boys say the hammer was cocked, but I didn't notice that detail. What I did notice was 2 extra people crouching down in the corner behind the door. They had their t-shirt collars pulled up over their noses to prevent us from seeing their faces. (This wasn't his first rodeo!). I first thought they were hostages, but it turned out that it was his girlfriend and their 13 year old son. The guy kept the pistol pointing at us as he gave orders.

"Give me your keys". They were in the ignition.

"Give me your cell phones". We didn't have any.

He then directed Lee to come outside of the office and open the hood to the Nissan pickup. The rest of us stayed in the office but we could hear the conversation outside. Mr. Bank-robber grabbed the coil wires off the Nissan pickup and tossed them into the F250. Then he asked Lee, "Where are we? How do I get out of here?" Lee asked him where he wanted to go. The robber replied, "Which way is BC?" He then ordered the woman and kid to get into the F250. Lee asked if he could get the chain saws out of the back of the truck to which he replied, "No, you'll get them back soon enough." Then he drove off.

As soon as my red F250 was out of sight, the 4 of us climbed onto the tractor, the fastest vehicle available, and drove to the nearest neighbour a mile away. There I dialled 911 for the first time in my life. That shut down our mill operation for that season as I had no tools or chain saws. On top of that we had to deal with stolen bank cards, the stolen truck, and the police investigation.

Unbeknownst to us, there had been road blocks and an aerial search started the evening before. We weren't even aware that there had been a bank robbery in Chetwynd, BC the day before. The woman had been carrying a couple of plastic grocery bags that must have been full of the cash from the robbery.

Mr. Bank-robber was smart enough not to try to get out of the area in my truck. He knew I would report it soon and he knew there would again be road blocks looking for him. So he hid my truck about 20 miles away in some heavy brush. They all walked across the Beaverlodge River and spent another night in the bush. The following day they found an unlicensed farm truck in an abandoned farmyard, the police later found that truck abandoned in Prince Albert, (he was on parole from the jail there). They continued on to Ontario and then back to Alberta on a crime spree for 3 more months. Finally the three of them were captured in a motel in southern Alberta just before Christmas. Lee and I were able to identify him out of a photo line-up and he was given another 7 year sentence for robbing us.

The police couldn't find my truck, they must have given up looking for it, but I got a tip from a neighbour a month later. When I passed the info on to the police they got in a helicopter and found my F250 the same day. All the tools, saws, briefcase with cash and bank cards were still in the truck. Mr. Bank-robber had wrecked the truck while hiding it in heavy brush, the police told me they had to use my chainsaws to cut brush to extract the truck.

After the robbery, and a two month hiatus, we continued sawing for 8 more years.

Our wood lot continues to mature, the sawmill is for sale, and we are enjoying retirement as we ski, gather mushrooms, hike, fish and relax in the hexagonal log home we completed in 1990. Attached are some photos of our wood lot and its progression over the last 40 years.

Photos of - Larry and Christine Nofziger's - Woodlot



Pine Planted in 2009 & Office Building



Sylvester Creek



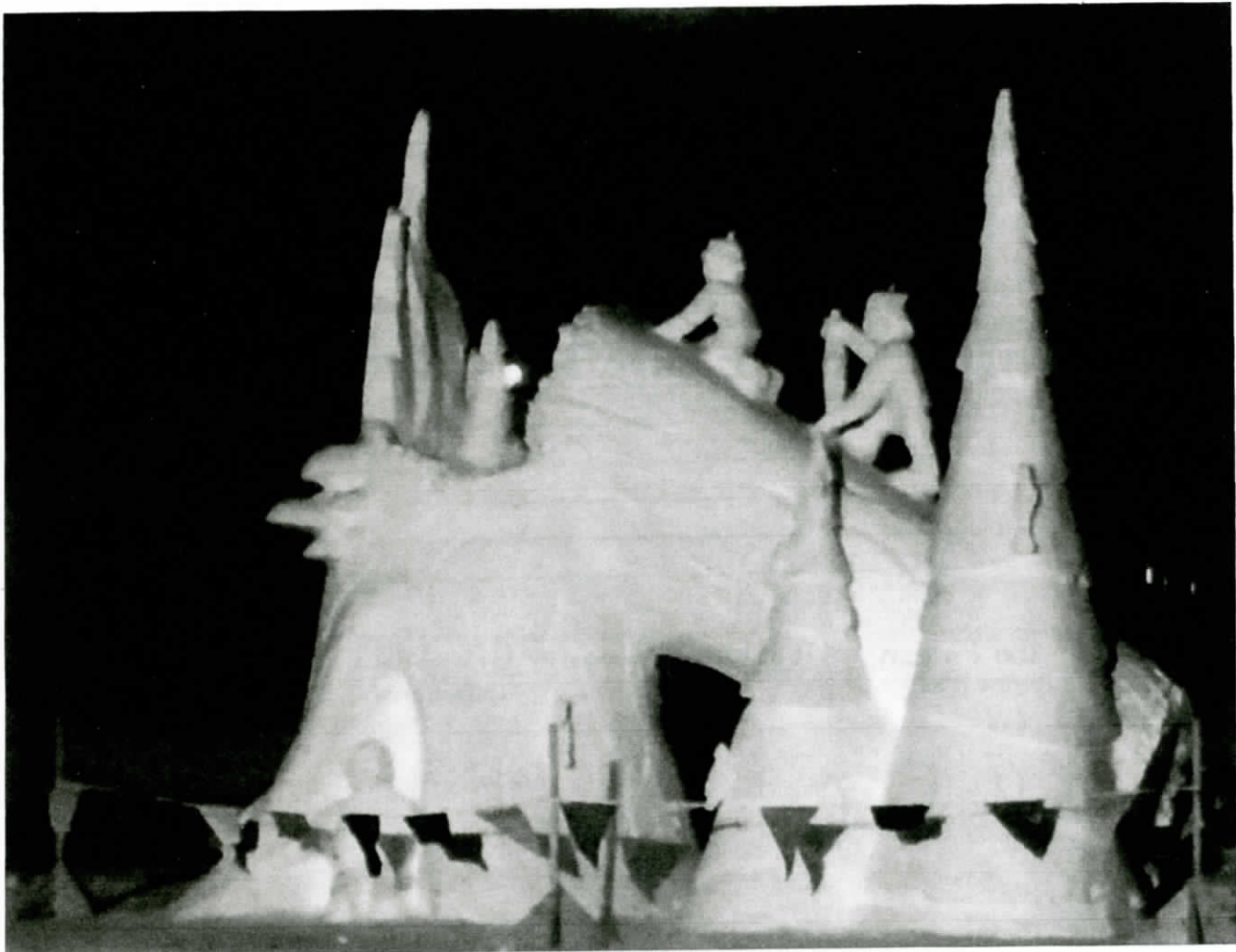
Sawing pipeline skids & bundles of them



One of six dugouts on our woodlot

The Enchanted Forest

By - Snow Carver - Laval Bergeron



What a talent few of any have it



CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

Resolution ~~2019~~-2019-01

Where As, (Describe the issue, basis, or background to the Resolution)

The name of the News Letter was for the first four years named "The Log Jam then the editor was changed and several new names were used. This caused a considerable confusion as the members did not recognize these new names. From 2010 the name has been used again

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors give consideration to:

(Describe what it is you wish in terms of addressing your issue or the background)

In order to ensure that our News Letter have a name that is recognized by by all our members and the public . That the name of the News Letter be The Log Jam for all future issues, and the name can not be changed other than by resolution at a General Meeting.

Moved by Jurgen Moll
(please print)

Seconded by Gordon Kerr
(please print)

Signature

Signature

Note: Only Woodlot Association members in good standing are permitted to Move and Second Resolutions to be tabled at the Annual General Meeting. During the introduction of the Resolution at the Annual General Meeting the proponent may be required to speak to the Resolution for clarification and respond to questions. All Resolutions are provided to the Board of Directors for consideration

This will be discussed and voted on at the AGM on June 22, 2019