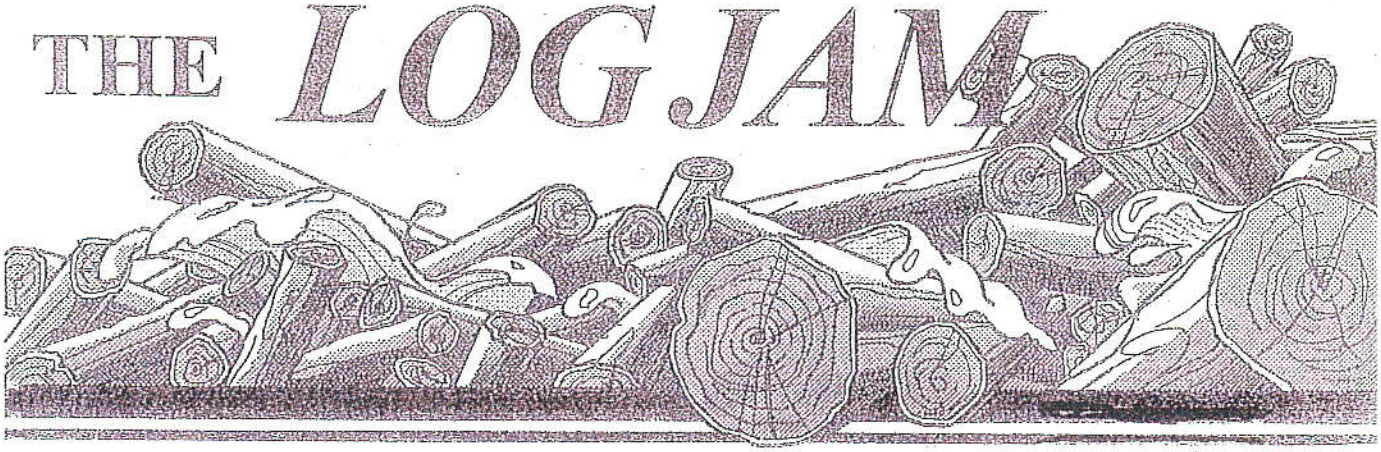
Peter M.

THE LOG JAM



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March, 2011

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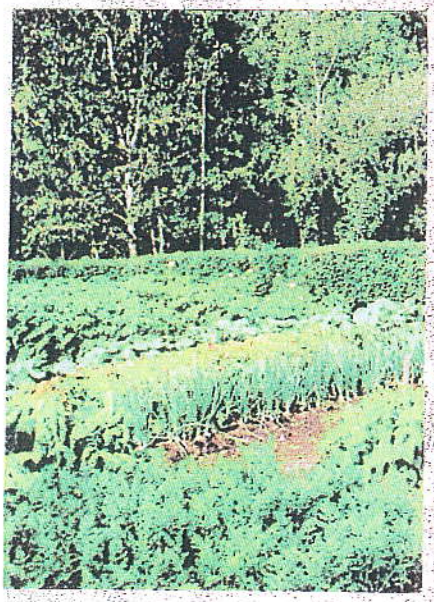

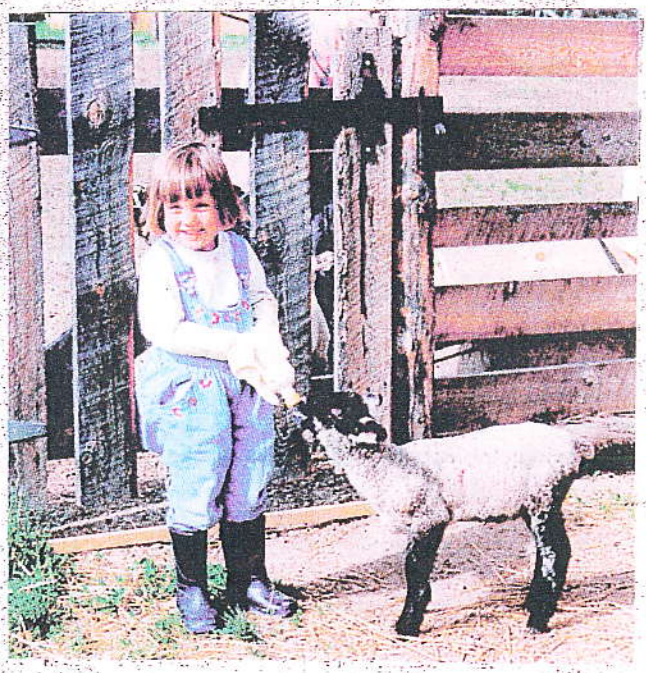

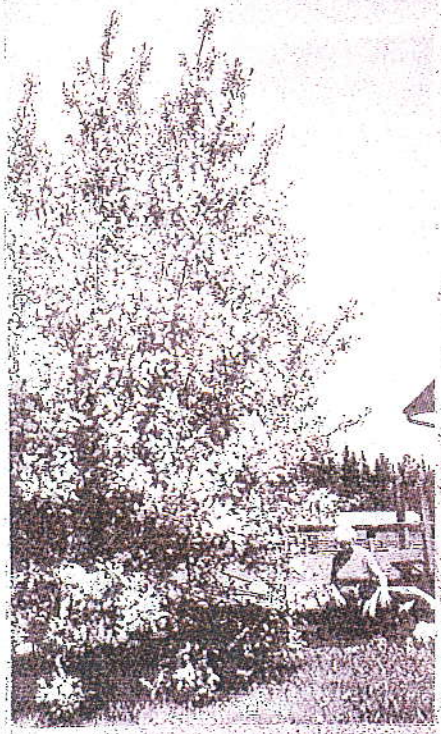

Our Mission Statement :

"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."

Advertisements in the News Letter may be purchased at the following rates:
Full page - $100.00; One half page - $50.00; Quarter page - $25.00

To place an advertisement - write, draw, etc. how you want it to appear in the News Letter, and fax or e-mail to the editor.

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News from Your Board

Your WAA Board of Directors met in Whitecourt in January in addition to holding teleconference calls in December and February. Some of the decisions from these meetings are summarized below.

Mission Statement

The Board reaffirmed the WAA's mission statement, which is:
"The Woodlot Association of Alberta's purpose is to promote leadership in sustainable forest management by encouraging the development of private forests by increasing awareness of their inherent social, economic and environmental values."

New Board Members

At the AGM in October, seven Directors were elected. As the Board has the authority to appoint more directors (to a maximum of 12) to serve until the following AGM, and as it was felt that more directors are needed to carry on the work of the Association, the Board has recently welcomed the addition of Herb Cerezke and Bernice Cassady to the Board.

Woodlot Tours planned for 2011

Several half- day (afternoon) woodlot demonstration tours are being planned for this summer to be held in different parts of the province. Also a 2-day tour in west-central Alberta in the Drayton Valley area. **See the UP COMING EVENTS for locations, dates, and times.**

Advertise your business

The Log Jam will carry ads from business card size to full page (see separate article)

Website

Our website is in need of a host to update it periodically. We are presently comparing costs of website hosts. If you know of a reasonably priced one that you would recommend, contact Warren Stewart (spr@telusplanet.net).

Date of Membership Renewals set for October 1st

The Board voted to set the date of October 1 of each year for membership renewal for all members. **For details see "Membership Renewals", in this copy of the Log Jam.**

Presidents Message - March 2011

Hello everyone;
For those who may not be aware I'd like to take this opportunity to let everyone know that I am the new president of the WAA. As you may recall we had a vacancy after the last annual general meeting in Whitecourt and since that time I have been nominated in by the board. This is my second turn as president of our organization and I hope that together we'll be able to carry on a lot of the good work from the past couple of years.

One question that has been raised by several members is the status of the tree plant program for 2011. While you may not be aware of it we managed to run this very expensive program for the past two years as a result of some co-operation and funding with both industry and other agencies. Unfortunately this year it has not been possible to put that funding into place so we will not be offering such a program. The directors recognize that this is one of the more successful and well received programs the WAA has run in recent years and we are actively looking at some options for a possible replacement for next year. If we can put it together it definitely won't look the same as previous years but hopefully we can put together something that will benefit everyone.

Also in this issue of the Logjam you will find a fairly wide range of articles dealing with operational issues of managing your woodlot. These range from management planning to forest health issues and even deer proofing. I'm sure everyone will find something of interest.
One area I would like to point out is the article on Mountain Pine Beetle. As you know this has become a serious problem in many areas of the province and of great concern to many of our members. Hopefully the article will be of some use. Related to this you will also find a proposal for the bulk purchase of Verbenone anti-aggregation pheremone patches that the directors are looking at. We need your feedback on this with respect to how many are interested and how many patches you might need. If we can put the numbers together I'm sure we can save you all a great deal off money.

Should there be articles that you would like to see or better still that you would like to write please don't hesitate to contact our editor, Jurgen Moll.

With that I'm sure, like me, everyone is looking forward to spring. In the meantime if there is anything that either I or any of the other directors can help you with please don't hesitate to contact us or the WAA office.

Best regards, Pete Mills, Presiden

The luck that I believe in
Is that which comes with work,
And no one ever finds it
Who's content to wish and shirk.
The men the world calls lucky
Will tell you, every one,
That success comes, not by wishing ,
But by work, bravely done.

Up Coming Events

Board of Directors teleconference **March 27/11 @ 1900 hrs.**

Board of Directors meeting **May 28/11 @ 1100 hrs. in Whitecourt**

Tours

Woodlot Demonstration Tour (1/2 day 1300 to 1700 hrs.)

June 4/11 Jurgen Moll's Woodlot by Whitecourt (132026 Twp Rd 590)
For information call jurgen @ 780-778-4272

July 9/11 Dan MacPherson's Woodlot by Newbrook (8 mi. north)
For information call Dan @ 780-676-1956

August 13/11 Peter Mill's Woodlot by Beaverlodge (723028 Rge Rd 92)
For information call Peter @ 780 354 8226

Bus Tour of Several Woodlots (2 days)

August 27 & 28/11 Tour will be in southwestern Alberta
For information call Pieter Van der Schoot @ 780-696-2436

Note - For more information on the tours you can call Darrel @ 1-800-871-5680

Reconciling our membership renewal dates for the WAA

We have been using sign-up dates for individual membership renewals and this means that our administration is dealing with over 200 renewal dates. The Board has voted to reconcile all membership renewals to a fixed date and the suggestion is October 1 each year. Whether you sign up for one or two years you will renew October 1 and this will simplify the record keeping. To start this process one year memberships should renew October 1, 2011 and two year memberships should renew October 1, 2012. New memberships after June 1,2011 will be allowed to go through to the October 1,2012 or 2013 depending on whether they sign up for one or two years. All current members and new members joining before June 1, of any year should mark their calendars to renew their membership October 1 of that year. Thanks for helping us make less work for our bookkeepers.

SOME PERSPECTIVES ON THE SPRUCE BUDWORM IN ALBERTA

By

H. Cerezke

The spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) is a moth native to the fir and spruce forests in Canada. Its damage to trees is contributed by its larval stages, which feed on needles, buds and current year shoots, causing defoliation of the tree crown. In Alberta, severe outbreaks (an "outbreak" is defined as the period when defoliation is most severe) of this insect have occurred periodically in the past and have caused extensive damages to primarily white spruce forests. The budworm also readily attacks black spruce, balsam fir and occasionally tamarack. Outbreaks of defoliated forests may persist for 5 to 15 years and re-occur at infrequent intervals. Outbreaks typically begin in mature forests dominated by white spruce older than 120 years. As populations increase, the larvae and adult moths disperse and expand the outbreak area, and can spread to younger stands, including understory spruce, plantations and planted ornamentals.

Larval feeding commences in the upper crown on current year buds and foliage, and may progress downward in the crown as the larvae mature. As a result of partly chewed needles, silken webbing and feeding frass, the tree crown takes on a reddish-rust color by the end of June. This coloration change provides a convenient visual means to aerially map the extent of infestation areas as well as to rate the severity of defoliated trees. For example, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) staff conduct annual aerial surveys of spruce budworm infested areas and rate these areas into light (trees have <35% crown defoliation), moderate (tree crowns are 35-70% defoliated) and severe (tree crowns have >70% defoliation) defoliation categories. Trees with top kill and budworm-killed trees may also be discerned and mapped. This information provides comparative data for monitoring the annual progress of a budworm outbreak, and is crucial for developing appropriate management strategies for outbreak areas. ASRD also conducts various ground surveys in the infestation areas, such as of the egg, larval and moth stages, to obtain data on population trends, tree damage assessment, and to predict population changes during the coming season or in the following year.

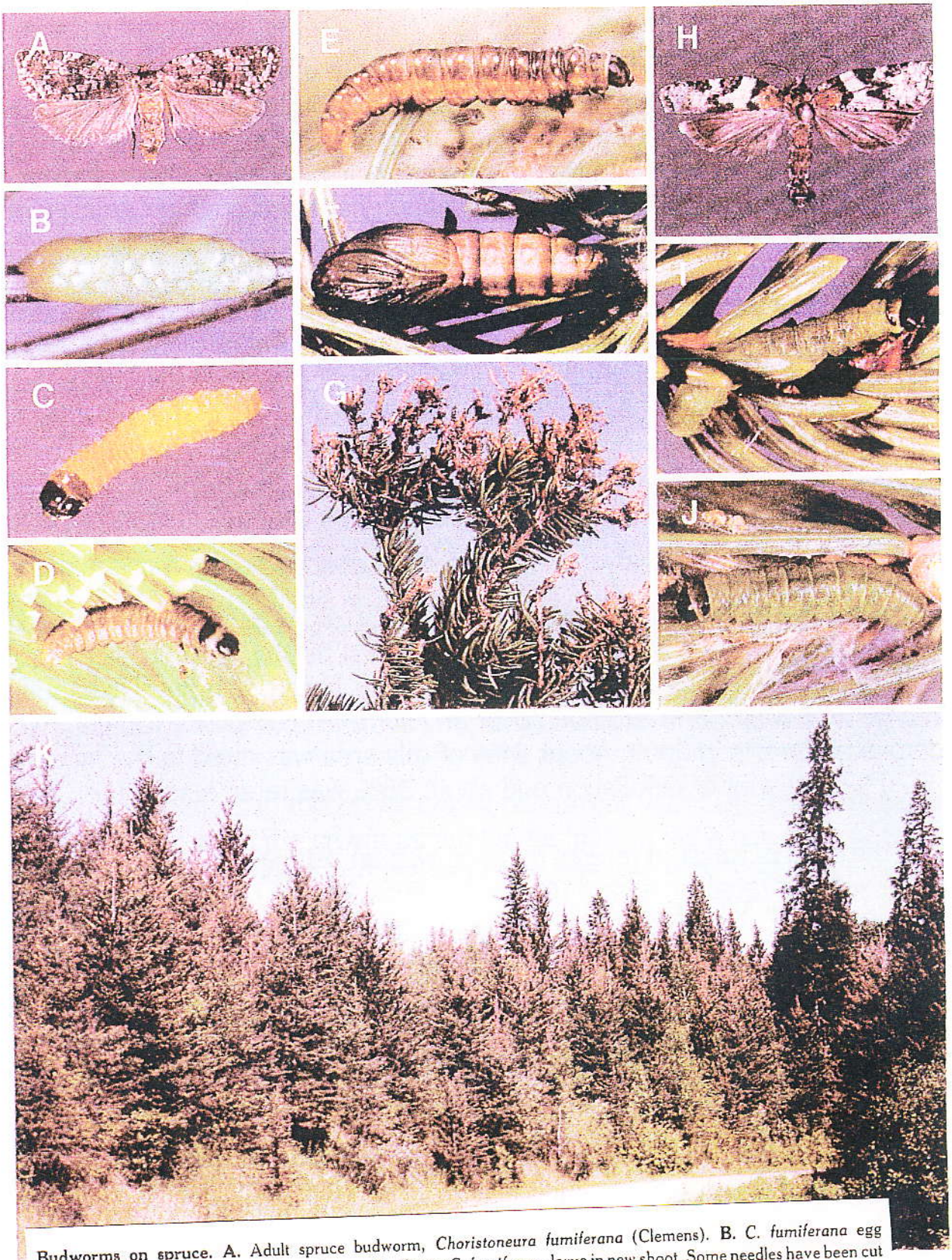
While low endemic populations of the spruce budworm may be present in most white spruce forests throughout the province, the historical pattern of severe outbreaks has occurred in the northern half of the province along major river drainages such as the Peace, Athabasca, Chinchaga and Hay rivers and their tributaries. Other smaller areas that have experienced periods of severe defoliation have occurred in Central Alberta and in the Cypress Hills.

During an outbreak period, lasting several years, the spruce budworm can severely impact the forest, affecting its multiple use functions and timber resources. Affected trees begin to lose growth increment in the second year of severe defoliation, while top kill, nil radial growth and understory spruce mortality begin to appear after four consecutive years of severe defoliation. Overstory trees may begin to die after seven or more years of severe defoliation. A prolonged outbreak can result in significant growth reduction, up to 40% tree mortality, consequent changes in stand structure, and affect the aesthetic and recreation values of the forest.

Historically in Alberta, the last spruce budworm outbreak began in 1987, reached a peak in 1995 and collapsed in 2005, and was confined mostly to the Lower Peace and Athabasca regions. Since 2005, budworm populations have again been expanding in the same general areas, and extended over an estimated composite total of 167,861 ha of defoliated forests in 2009. About 64% of this area was rated in the moderate (i.e., 35-70%) category of defoliation and about 36% was rated severe (i.e., >70%).

Last year, the total of infested forests mapped was an estimated 269,367 ha, with similar percentages rated moderate (66%) and severe (34%). However, some 2010 fall sampling of the egg and young instar larvae suggested a possible decreasing trend in population levels for 2011. The main infestation areas mapped in 2010 included: Lac La Biche, Waterways,, Lesser Slave, Peace, and Upper Hay. Wood lot owners with spruce forests within the northern half of the province may be advised to monitor their spruce forests in late May to early June for the presence of spruce budworm larvae and their feeding damages.

Information on the identification and management strategies of the spruce budworm are readily available from Forest Health staff of ASRD. For example, the Forest Health Section of ASRD has an information report available titled "Integrated Spruce Budworm Management Strategy" (2002), that gives useful information and guidelines on management strategies, including silvicultural and biological control treatments. Diagnostic information on spruce budworm identification is also available through ASRD



Budworms on spruce. **A.** Adult spruce budworm, *Choristoneura fumiferana* (Clemens). **B.** *C. fumiferana* egg mass. **C.** Second-instar *C. fumiferana* larva. **D.** Young *C. fumiferana* larva in new shoot. Some needles have been cut off to reveal larva. **E.** Mature *C. fumiferana* larva. **F.** *C. fumiferana* pupa. **G.** Close-up of *C. fumiferana* feeding damage. **H.** Adult eastern blackheaded budworm, *Acleris variana* (Fernald). **I.** Young *A. variana* larva on new shoot. **J.** Mature *A. variana* larva. **K.** White spruce stand defoliated by *C. fumiferana*.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

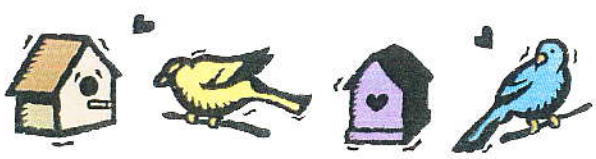
Denise Leroy

TEN BOOKS FOR SPRING

Renew your acquaintance with the Woodlot Extension Library, located at the Northern Forestry Centre in Edmonton, with this selection of spring time readings and your knowledge will grow along with your garden and trees.

1. Growing Woodland Plants – Clarence and Eleanor G. Birdseye
2. Woody Ornamentals for the Prairies – Hugh Knowles
3. Hobby Greenhouses in Alberta – M. Mohyuddin
4. The Complete Book of Plant Propagation – Graham Clarke and Alan Toogood
5. Secrets of Plant Propagation: Starting your Own Flowers, Vegetables, Fruits, Berries, Shrubs, Trees, and Houseplants – Lewis Hill
6. Tree Detailing – Michael Littlewood
7. Plant a Tree: Choosing, Planting and Maintaining This Precious Resource – Michael A. Weiner
8. Landscaping For Wildlife – Carrol L. Henderson
9. Earth Ponds: the Country Pond Maker's Guide to Building, Maintenance and Restoration – Tim Matson
10. To Plant or Not to Plant That is the Question: a Tree Planter's Guide – Byron Goerz

For a complete list of titles search the online catalogue at: www.nrcan.gc.ca/libraries under Canadian Forest Service and Edmonton subheadings or make direct inquiries to the library manager, Denise Leroy at 780-435-7324 (dleroy@nrcan.gc.ca). You can contact your local library to arrange for interlibrary loan delivery if you live out of town.



Deer and your garden

Gardens are a luscious source of fresh green vegetables, beautiful blooming plants, and newly sprouting trees. People often plant gardens for sources of food, to add to the beauty of their yard, or as a hobby to help pass the time. Quite often, these lush gardens, budding trees, and blossoming flowerbeds also serve in another capacity, as a wildlife viewing areas for deer and other ungulates that line up to what surely appears to be a buffet.

Deer can be a very troublesome animal. Once they discover a food source, such as a garden or saplings, they will continue to return to it as long as it is easily available. Further, as they eat they defecate, ruining a far greater amount of potential food than they consume. There are many wives tales about how to deter deer from gardens and include covering plants in soap or human hair. These are largely ineffective and won't protect your investment.

The most effective way to prevent damage to your garden is to erect a fence. Deer are capable jumpers, so a fence should be at least two meters (seven feet) high, stand vertically, and not have any gaps in it for deer to squeeze through. Laying an electric material over the plants to shock the deer is another possible use for fencing materials. Common materials that are used include page wire, plastic snow fencing, electrified wire, electrified plastic polywire, and wood. This will keep the deer out and protect your garden quite effectively!

However, fencing of this height can be expensive, ruin a view, or be difficult to set up. As a result, there are other, less effective methods that exist, but none that are as permanent as fencing. A common technique is to use motion activated scaring devices. When a deer walks in front, it sets of a loud screeching tone, scaring away the deer. Other methods including using sprinklers set off at irregular times or by motion and covering plants with bear spray (which contains a hot chili derived chemical). However, once the

deer realize that they are not receiving any harm from these arrangements, they will continue to feed on the plants.

There are more effective methods that can be employed. Removing any potential cover near your garden, such as trees and tall shrubs, will help to minimize deer by removing hiding spots. In addition to this, putting non-edible ornamental plants around the outside of the garden will prevent initial forays as deer may not immediately realize that there are edible plants farther in. Deer will eat coniferous and deciduous saplings if food is scarce so these should not be used as ornamental plants to deter deer. These techniques are not long term, as the bold deer will venture into open spaces to feed, and ornamental plants will only slow down a deer desiring fresh plants and trees.

While there are many ways to prevent deer from venturing into your garden, none are as effective as a fence. Eventually, the deer will realize the lack of harm from sound and water deterrents or will uncover the delicious plants hidden amongst the ornamental ones. This will permit for them to become established and once a habit develops it can be extremely hard to break. And while teaching one deer not to eat is effective, it does not prevent new deer from visiting, thus a permanent solution is required. As a result, to protect your garden, trees, and other plants, a tall, strong fence is the only permanent solution. If set far enough out to prevent deer nibbling through, high enough to prevent jumping, and strong enough to not fall over, your deer problems will ultimately cease as the animals seek an easier source of food.

- David Thomson, Wildlife Biologist with Fish and Wildlife out of Whitecourt

You Ask Us :

Should have something that you are wondering or puzzled about with respect to things that affect your woodlot, please contact any of the directors on the board and we will find the answer for you or find someone that has the answer.You may also want to contact Denis Leroy at the Canadian Forestry Service library at 780-435-7324 who could supply text on most subjects.

Establishing the Plantation

Jurgen moll

For those who intend to plant trees on your woodlot, there are some general rules of thumb that could be followed, which are :

The Planting Site

There are three main types of sites that you may which to reforest by planting and each one will require a different site preparation, these are.

The open grassed in field, this could be herbicide to remove the grass, then either disc or rototilled prior to planting.

The logged over area, this at best could be treated with heavy equipment, there are a number of implements that the large forest industry uses, but for the woodlot owner it may not be practical therefore hand scraping to remove the duff layer where each tree will be planted may be the most effective.

Under-story planting, this would require hand scraping of the duff and debris and perhaps spot spraying of a herbicide where each tree will be planted.

There are two sites where planting would not be required, these are logged areas one being that had been a predominantly pine, this site can be reforested by dragging a heavy implement that will tear up the duff layer. The pine cones that are still closed will open releasing the seed and start a new forest. The other is a site that was an aspen logged area, no treatment will be required as the aspen will sucker a new aspen forest. On this site you may want to plant some spruce to create a mixed wood forest.

Species to Plant and Spacing

In Alberta we largely deal with 3 to 5 different species, these are.

White spruce, this is the most versatile tree as it is shade tolerant therefore it can be planted under other tree cover, or in the open field and in a wide range of soil types and moisture regimes.

Lodgepole pine, this is an intolerant species therefore it must have full sunlight and will do well on a dry site.

Larch, this again is an intolerant species and does best on a moist site, even to a wet muskegs.

Deciduous species are the poplars and birches which again are intolerant and most have full sunlight. The aspen do best on high land that is well drained, whereas the birches require a higher water table

The spacing of your trees can vary dependent on what you desire the end product to be. For Christmas trees or ornamentals 10' X 10' gives them room to bush-out ,a pine plantation of 5' X 5' will allow you to remove every second tree at age 20 to 25 for post or poles, in the aspen cutover 16' X 16' conifer will make nice mixed wood forest.

Maintaining the Plantation

Now that you have gone to all effort and expense to establish a plantation do not leave it unattended, for it to become what you have dreamed it will require some TLC from you.

Let us see what this TLC entails, each site will require some or all of these for the first few years following reforestation. In the open cultivated field one may want to rototill between the trees to reduce competition and raise soil temperature. In the logged and under-story planted areas, each tree should inspected to ensure that other competing vegetation is not smothering the seedlings, whereas the deciduous species will out grow any competition. But in this site note areas where suckering did not take place for future fill-in planting.

While inspecting your plantation make note of the amount of mortality there is as there will be some in every plantation, this can be caused by wildlife, such as, deer, mice, or rabbits; insects and disease; drought or poorly planted trees. Should there be more than 10% mortality replanting the missing trees should be considered. Also when carrying out the inspection have at hand a pruning shear to remove abnormalities such as forked tops, diseased or insect affected branches.

With respect to fertilization it may well benefit the high value plantations such as Christmas trees and ornamentals, but this would take a degree of research with soil samples, economic return and with some discussion with experts in this field.

Through-out the life of the plantation it should be inspected often as spacing and pruning is an ongoing event, for without proper care your plantation will just become another patch of wild brush land not a plantation that you could take pride in.

Wood Heating and Public Policy

John Gulland

Energy is actively debated on several fronts these days. The Gulf of Mexico oil spill, drilling in the arctic, and the Alberta tar sands spark debate about the environmental wisdom of continued oil exploitation. Climate change is caused mainly by the combustion of fossil fuels, something that goes on at a spectacular rate around the world. Peak oil - meaning the maximum possible global production rate of conventional oil - has entered the mainstream discussion after a decade of lurking in the shadows.

But judged by policy discussions about our energy future, wood heating is virtually nonexistent.

Most politicians are unaware of its role, much less debate its merits or plan for its strategic use. The one area where wood burning does attract attention is the problem of air pollution. As a result, wood burning has become most often identified as a problem to be solved rather than as an opportunity to be harvested. Almost no governments encourage homeowners to heat with wood. Fuelwood is the only renewable energy resource that most public officials and environmental organizations don't seem comfortable with.

Fuelwood is the ultimate populist energy resource

The low profile of wood heating in energy policy discussions and in the media reflects the fact that policy — even rural policy — is developed in big cites, and that the large media outlets are all urban in location and outlook. Large corporations are not involved in wood heating, so there are no high-priced lobbyists or special interest groups prowling the halls of government pleading the case of wood burning. Despite the fact that millions of families heat their homes with wood, its role as an energy source rarely appears on government or media radar.

Hand-made fuel standing to dry in an isolated field.

In a world of touch-screen convenience, pocket-sized computers and automatic climate-controlled environments, wood heating is in every way rough, basic and steadfastly hands-on. People who heat with wood seem out of step with the modern world swirling around them. Maybe wood burners and those who labor to supply them with fuel have slipped through a crack in the cozy consensus of modernity. Or are they onto something meaningful that has been missed by the mainstream?

The producers and consumers of fuelwood are engaged in an activity that reduces net greenhouse gas emissions while others merely fret about global warming. The fuelwood fraternity uses a renewable energy resource, taking pressure off dwindling supplies of ever-pricier and scarce fossil fuels. Buyers of fuelwood create jobs close to home and strengthen their local communities at a time when local commerce is gaining prominence as an economic survival strategy.

Families that heat with wood know more about the cause-and-effect relationships of energy production and consumption than those who simply pay utility bills. The story of wood heating early in the 21st century is about average families making decisions based on how they see their future unfolding.

Heating with wood is about a lot more than home heating. It is a tangible expression of self-reliance, of the courage to buck the trends and to resist the appeal of sedentary, push-button convenience. Heating with wood reinforces links to the land and is a willing submission to the cycle of the seasons. It provides stability and security in a turbulent world.

To its owner, the woodlot is a living community in constant evolution, while to the urban observer it may be seen as a museum in which the removal of a tree exhibit renders it diminished. The woodlot owner watches its quality improve over the years, even as it yields products and creates employment. The owner's household earns part of its income by being a fuel supplier to the neighbors, which is a gentle way to produce energy compared to mountain-top-removal coal mining and nuclear reactors.

Fuelwood is the ultimate populist energy resource, the most easily accessed and affordable of all renewable energies. The major environmental impact of wood heating is visible for all to see in the form of smoke emissions, making those who use it instantly accountable for their actions. The families that heat with wood and those that supply them with fuel do so quietly, without fanfare or acknowledgement. This is a private activity in which virtually everyone involved is content to remain anonymous as they keep their families warm through their own labor and ingenuity.

But with so few individuals and groups speaking up to defend the responsible use of wood fuel, the families that depend upon it may soon be faced with unreasonable restrictions. Those who want to see wood heating banned are gaining influence, and more governments are treating wood heating as a pollution problem and not as a renewable energy resource that needs to be improved.

With governments preoccupied with economic turbulence and households worried about meeting monthly payments, it would seem a good time to take wood heating seriously as one possible response to the environmental and economic mess we find ourselves in. Clearly, wood heating is not suitable for every household, and firewood is not a good fuel for urban areas. But more households in forested regions might turn to firewood if they were exposed to a balanced discussion of its pros and cons.

The most reliable commentators on energy and environmental issues say we can't keep doing business as usual. We can't keep burning fossil fuels forever because we've used up the cheap stuff and we've disrupted the climate in the process. There are no perfect energy sources on the drawing board poised to fill the gap left by peaking fossil fuels.

We need to have a grown up discussion of energy issues and part of that discussion should include the place of wood heating in the mix.

Reprint from Ontario Woodlot Association Newsletter

WAA MEMBERS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

VERBENONE anti-aggregation Pheremone Patches

Peter Mills

The directors of the WAA are looking into the possible bulk purchase of Verbenone anti-aggregation pheremone patches. These are used for the control of Mountain Pine Beetle. They do not work to kill the beetle but rather to repel it from high value pine trees. While these patches can be of great benefit in the control of the beetle they are also very expensive ($13.00 - $17.00 per patch) when purchased in unit quantities from retail outlets. The WAA directors feel that they will be able to place a bulk order for these patches at approximately half of the retail price ($7.50 - $8.50 per patch plus S&H). What we need to know is how many members might be interested and how many patches you feel you might require. This is not a commitment at this time but rather just an expression of interest so we can determine the feasability of proceeding.
Please contact the WAA office at 1-800-871-5680 and let Michelle know of your interest. Alternately if you have questions or are unsure of your requirements please don't hesitate to contact myself (780-354-8226) or one of the other directors

Mountain pine beetle in your woodlot?

Brett Spady

The current mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic in Alberta may continue to have management implications for your pine trees in years to come. Like any natural forest health disturbance, diversity is the key to keep your woodlot healthy.

"Diversity, both in species and age structure, can help to make forests more resistant to damage inflicted by many tree pests. When dealing with an insect, such as MPB, that can become epidemic, diversity will help prevent large-scale tree mortality in woodlots" says Mike Undershultz, forest health officer with Sustainable Resource Development (SRD).

Manage your stands for diversity

This may be easier said than done in some cases: pure pine stands may not have a significant understory or a diversity of tree ages that help encourage growth immediately following an infestation. In this case, awareness, prevention and direct beetle control are the best options.

Keep a regular watch for pitch tubes on your pine trees in the late summer after the beetle flight. The earlier you detect and control beetle-infested trees on your property, the higher are your chances of preventing an infestation. Don't let a small infestation grow to a larger one: strategically harvest and debark your recently infested pine trees before a new generation can infest even more trees.

This is the time of year to perform strategic control on recently attacked pine and still get some value for your hard work.

1. In trees that are not heavily attacked (less than approximately 40 hits per tree), expose beetle larvae to cold temperatures. Using a knife, carefully peel the bark away upward from entry holes. Trees that are heavily attacked will likely not survive and should be cut and debarked in order to control the infestation.
2. Protect your understory when controlling infested pine trees: your forest will renew faster with younger trees when compared to harvesting and planting.
3. Resequence your harvest plan: consider harvesting older pines to change the age class of your stand. The goals of your harvest schedule should aim to renew the diversity of a stand, where possible.
4. Consult your local SRD forest health officer to discuss management solutions (including appropriate pheromone use) for your particular situation. Local, up to date information will help you assess the threat and risk of infestation on your woodlot.

Managing forests for the future involves many people using a coordinated plan. Talk with your neighbours, municipal leaders, SRD forestry staff, and local industry leaders to make sure that your strategy will help to create a healthy forest for tomorrow.

Safe Guard Your Woodlot

Jurgen Moll

We the woodlot owners either live in or next to our woodlot or some distance from it. Reguardless of where you may live the most devastating thing that can happen to your woodlot, is fire for in a matter of hours it can destroy it, far worse than any insect or disease would.

Therefore it is prudent that as a responsible woodlot owner, one makes every effort to safeguard it from accidentally starting a fire and easing the control and extinguishing a fire should one get into your woodlot.

Firstly the one thing that you have control of is to prevent a fire start, for instance should you live in the woodlot, safeguard the residence yard by following the commonsense maintenance as laid out in *Fire Smart Home Owners Manual. (Publication No. I/189 or srd.infocent@gov.ab.ca*) Secondly if working or recreating in the woodlot, go prepared to extinguish an accidental fire start by; ensuring that your equipment is fire safe such as, quads, skidders, and power saws. Have on hand tools to extinguish a fire ie; a filled water bag c/w hand pump, shovel, pulaski. Also check with your local Forestry office as to the type and amount of equipment to have on hand and the current fire hazard.

Even though you may make your woodlot safe from fire starts. This does not ensure that you are completely safe from wildfire, as there are acts of God such as lighting or fire starting on lands surrounding your woodlot and invading it.

What can you do to slow a wildfire if one is invading your woodlot . Start with a good timber type map and on it show, all roads and trails both around and within the woodlot, any sources of water indicate if they will support a fire pump or only a water bag. In addition show all man made installations such as, power lines, oil and gas installations, pipelines etc.

With respect to work in the woodlot to aid in controlling a wildfire, start with numbering or naming all roads, point the way to water sources, all to correspond with the map, use GPS locations if available. Prune and thin conifer stands, if reforesting a clearcut encourage the establishment of deciduous trees around it and strips within the block, as these become a permanent fire break.

Lastly visit your local Forestry office and Fire Department and present them with a copy of the map of your woodlot, makeing them aware of the value in your woodlot. Also what aid you would be able to give in case of a wildfire.

Editorial

Jurgen

With winter being nearly over our thoughts turn to spring the best of seasons, with the greening of of our world and the awakening of the woodlot to the sound of the song birds.

For the woodlot owner this is the time to review and update ones management plan. Because the woodlot is a living organism and in a constant state of change,Therefore a management plan can not remain static but must change with the conditions at hand. By updating the plan you will keep it currant to the conditions in the forest, the changes you make yearly may be very minor, over time the plan will look quite different from what you started with. Thus in this manor it will remain a working document and a meaningful guide for the operation of your woodlot.

For those who have not yet developed a management plan for their woodlot. I would strongly recommend that you do indeed develop one. Which can be as brief or as complex as what best fits your goals; some of the most common goals are:

* providing habitat for birds and other wildlife
* preserving a natural area
* generating income
* having a place to hunt, fish and camp
* firewood production
* providing a private place for relaxation
* encouraging environmental sustainability
* other--

Once you have determined your goals, the next step is building the management plan; the steps are :

* identify ways to achieve your goals
* develop an action plan
* monitor the plan regularly
* adapt the plan if conditions change

A very good aid in making a management plan is the **manua**l *WOODLOT MANAGEMENT GUIDE* , which can be obtained from the WAA office.There are also other guides that you can obtained from the CFS library.

Although doing a management plan may seem some what difficult or needless, once you start you will find a very rewarding exercise. In that you will understand better the value of the woodlot, and things you may not have been aware of what it all contains prior to doing the plan.

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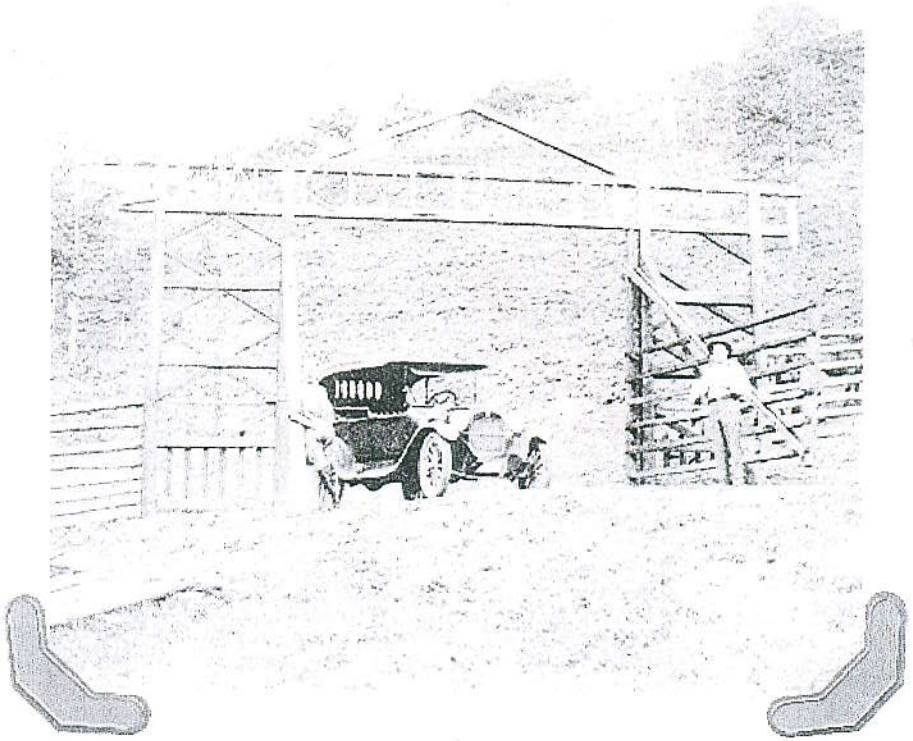

THE FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

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KEY FACTS

Society

- Most of Canada's forest land (93%) is publicly owned—77% under provincial or territorial jurisdiction and 16% under federal purview.
- The rest is on private property belonging to more than 450 000 landowners.
- The provinces and territories have legislative authority over conservation and management of forest resources on provincial/territorial Crown lands.
- The federal government is responsible for matters related to the national economy, trade and international relations, and federal lands and parks. It also has constitutional, treaty, political and legal responsibilities for Aboriginal peoples.
- In 2009, direct employment in the Canadian forest industry fell by 13% compared with 2008.
- For about 200 communities, the forest sector makes up at least 50% of the economic base.
- About 80% of Aboriginal communities are in forested areas.
- Public participation is an important aspect of forest management planning in Canada.
- There were 11.9 million visitors to Canada's national parks in 2009.

Economy

- Canada is the world's largest exporter of forest products.
- The forest industry's contribution to Canada's gross domestic product is about 1.7%.
- The United States is by far the largest buyer of Canadian forest products, 70.6% in 2009.

Environment

- Canada has 397.3 million hectares of forest, other wooded land and other land with tree cover, representing 10% of the world's forest cover and 30% of the world's boreal forest.
- About 8% of Canada's forest area is protected by legislation. About 40% of the total forest landbase is subject to varying degrees of protection such as integrated land-use planning or defined management areas such as certified forests.
- Annually, less than 1% of Canada's forests are harvested.
- By law, all forests harvested on Canada's public land must be successfully regenerated.
- About 72% of harvested areas on Crown land are regenerated through tree planting and direct seeding, while the remainder is regenerated naturally.
- By December 2009, 142.8 million hectares of Canada's forests were certified as being sustainably managed by one or more of three globally recognized certification standards.
- Bioenergy now constitutes more than 60% of the total energy used by the forest industry.

Source: The State of Canada's Forests: Annual Report 2010, p.7, Natural Resources Canada, 2010. Reproduced with the permission of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services, 2010, courtesy of Natural Resources Canada, 2011.