THE LOG JAM

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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."

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Board of Directors

News from the Board

As you may know, the WAA's (and RISA's) office moved over the summer. We are now located in the small business area across Highway #2 from Nelson Lumber. Our new address is: #104-14020-128 ave. NW Edmonton,AB. T5L-4M8
The local phone number remains the same (780-489-9473) and our 1-800 number is still in operation. When you phone, you will be greeted by the voice of Cathy Schofield, our new clerical assistant.

AGM planning took priority at our September Directors' meeting in Whitecourt. We believe we have put together a good mix of educational, social and business activities and look forward to seeing everyone, including meeting some of our new members. (See elsewhere for AGM details).

The WAA has purchased a small trailer to house our various materials such as Woodlot member signs, display panels, and other supplies that will not fit in the new office. At present the trailer is residing at Pete Mill's woodlot but it can be moved whenever required.

We have applied for permission to hold a casino and are awaiting the government's decision. We have also applied to Canada Póst for special mailing rates.

Future directions will be determined by our members at our AGM business session. If you are not able to attend, you can still have input through our resolutions form in this AGM package. And of course your ideas are always welcome at any time

Verbenone the anti mountain pine packet, some $800.00 worth of these packets were sold to member through the WAA THIS SUMMER.

The board will be contacting our members with poplar plantations under the Forest 2020 program, to ascertain how the plantations are doing.

Willow Leafminer—Minor Pest, or Major Pain in the Butt?

Willow Leafminer (*Micrurapteryx salicifoliella)* populations exploded in 2010, infesting willows over a vast expanse across northern Alberta. This summer, epidemic levels of this insect have again been seen in most areas where willows are present. This has had a lot of people concerned about the health of willows in north-eastern Alberta.

Many have observed that willow foliage, everywhere, has turned brown and withered. The browning foliage, resulting from damage caused by Willow Leafminer larvae, gives the appearance that infested willows (especially severely infested ones) are dead, or dying. In reality, this is normally not the case. Willows are pretty hardy and can handle quite a bit of damage from the larvae of this moth without being too adversely affected. However, this fact is not well known amongst the general public. That, coupled with the occurrence of more areas of severe willow defoliation further south (in more populated areas), the level of concern amongst the public this summer has definitely been elevated. We have lost track of the number of calls we have had, from all over the Waterways and Lac La Biche Area, regarding this pest. Suffice to say, it has been many (often several a day) and some folks are quite agitated.

Who knew the health of willows could elicit such concern? I expect that the natural enemies of the moth will, sooner or later (for SRD staff, preferably sooner), cause this epidemic to subside. Until then, we should expect more inquiries and maybe pause to marvel at how many trillions of larvae it must have taken to accomplish the amazing extent of defoliation this insect has caused this season.

Tom Hutchison —Athabasc

Presidents Message – September 2011

Hello everyone;
Welcome to another issue of your LOGJAM! I hope everyone has had both a relaxing and productive summer - maybe a chance to get away with the family. Being that we are now through the bulk of the summer I imagine many of you, like myself, are looking at playing a bit of catchup on our woodlot activities that were put off for the cooler weather. I know with everything in my life this summer (broken arm in July and the first of our kids marrying) I never seemed to get ahead so I'm sure there are others out there with a list at least as long as mine.

One important point that I should make to folks is that our "office" location has changed. RISA who do our office support have relocated to a smaller facility so our new location is:
Woodlot Association of Alberta
#104, 14020-128 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5L 4M8
Our 800 phone number is still the same 1-800-871-5680 so don't hesitate to contact the office with any issues or concerns. This move has forced us to do some house cleaning and remove a bunch of old files, signage and other materials from the old facility and into storage. The result was that your directors opted to purchase a small cargo trailer to house all of this material so that a) we wouldn't have to pay ongoing storage fees and b) we could easily move the material around the province as the directorship changes.

The big event coming up, of course, is our Annual General Meeting to be held early this November. We are looking at hosting this at a new venue this year - The Hinton Training Center. This is a provincial facility which is used for training of provincial personnel from firefighters to foresters and senior SRD people. It has training facilities in the form of classrooms and meeting rooms as well as accommodation and even some training forest - all at a really great price! You will find the agenda as we currently have it here in the LOGJAM so please mark the dates and I'll look forward to seeing everyone there.

Once again, 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 any of your directors or our editor, Jurgen Moll directly. 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
President
780-354-8226

Knowledge is proud that he has learned so much;
Wisdom is humble that he knows no more. *-Cowper*

Urban sprawl has hurt biodiversity, Ottawa warned

Biodiversity is deteriorating at an "unprecedented rate" due to urban and industrial development that's putting Canada's economic and ecological health in jeopardy, Environment Minister Peter Kent was warned in newly released briefing notes.

The dire advice, submitted to the minister when he took over the environment portfolio in January, said that measures taken by Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government since 2006 to protect Canada's natural wealth had failed to stop declines in a wide variety of species and ecosystems that provide clean water, clean air and food, among other services.

"Biodiversity is being lost at an unprecedented rate due to drivers, or major threats, which include habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species, climate change, over-exploitation of resources, and pollution," said the briefing notes, released through an access to information request and labelled under the "secret" classification.

"Although Canada is one of the few countries to still have relatively large, intact ecosystems, urban and industrial development, combined with a changing climate, are putting growing pressure on biodiversity and reducing the many economic, ecological and social benefits that biodiversity provides."

The briefing notes explained that preserving biodiversity was "critical" to the long-term health, prosperity and security of Canadians.

Kent was told that more than 13 per cent of Canada's Gross Domestic Product - the market value of the goods and services produced in the economy - depends on healthy ecosystems in terms of forests, agriculture, oceans and tourism.

"Biodiversity contributes to essential ecosystem goods and services, such as the production of food and fibre, carbon sequestration, clean air and water, disease and pest control, pollination of food crops and recreational, esthetic and spiritual benefits," said the briefing notes. "The wise management of genetic resources is increasingly seen as essential to innovation in key economic sectors, such as the agricultural, forestry, and pharmaceutical industries. Healthy and resilient ecosystems are one of our best defences to a changing climate."

It acknowledged that the government made efforts in recent years to expand protected areas and national parks but that it needs to do more to stop significant declines in migratory bird populations, commercially important fish stocks, amphibians, reptiles and freshwater mussels.

"Despite these actions [to expand national parks], Canada's biodiversity continues to show signs of decline, particularly as a result of ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation," said the briefing notes. "There have also been significant declines in key ecosystems such as prairie grasslands [tall grass prairie has been reduced to one per cent] and wetlands. The dramatic loss of sea ice as a result of climate change is having direct impact on northern species, including seals, polar bears and Arctic cod."

The advice to Kent, consistent with findings of recent research on climate change impacts by the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy - a government advisory panel - explained that invasive alien species were also having a "major impact on many ecosystems," including the Great Lakes, which had more than 180 alien species in 2007 "with many of them causing significant ecological and economic impacts."

A separate section of the briefing notes said that climate change, population growth and other development around the Great Lakes have "serious ecological, health, social and economic implications" in that region.

RISI: European biomass demand to grow 44% between 2010 and 2020

BRUSSELS, July 11, 2011 (Press Release) - Renewable energy policy in Europe will generate an increase in lignocellulosic biomass demand of 44% between 2010 and 2020. The increased use of biomass will be driven principally from the energy sector, but also from the industrial and residential sectors. These are the findings in European Biomass Review, a new study from RISI, the leading information provider for the global forest products industry.

What is the potential to increase regional supply for biomass from forest and other sources and what actions are being taken to release the potential? The key to the future development of European biomass markets resides in the region's supply potential and how well it can mobilize new sources of supply, such as forest residues, agricultural residues and energy crops. Three scenarios for the mobilization of new supply sources by 2020, are included for each region in European Biomass Review. A cost-curve analysis for each region and each scenario illustrates the implications for biomass pricing and imports.

While technologies such as wind, solar and geothermal are developing rapidly, lignocellulosic biomass is currently the largest renewable energy source (RES) and remains attractive due to its relative abundance and reliable supply. The economics of biomass versus other RES is analyzed in the study using macro demand drivers and the National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs), to forecast biomass demand by sector until 2020.

"The NREAPs offer insights into how governments plan to meet the renewable energy targets by 2020", says study author Glen O'Kelly, "but forecast biomass demand is based on announced investments, carbon costs and the relative economics of biomass, as well as an analysis of macro drivers: forecast GDP, population, household energy use, forest industry production - all considered in this study."

European Biomass Review covers the EU27 countries, combined with Norway and Switzerland, with breakdowns for five regions (North, West, East, & South Europe, UK and Ireland). It highlights opportunities for global biomass exporters, as well as the need to develop infrastructure such as ports and terminals for supply chains, biomass futures and hedging instruments.

Labor is - Rest from the sorrows that greet us;
Rest from all petty vexations that meet us ,
Rest from sin promptings that ever entreat us ,
Rest from world-sirens that hire us to ill .
Work - and pure slumbers shall wait on thy pillow ;
Work - thou shalt ride over Care's coming billow ;
Lie not down wearied ' neath Woe's weeping willow !
Work with a stout hear and resolute will !

Frances S. Osgood

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Not All Ornamental Plants are Created Equal

When the original settlers came to Alberta a century or more ago, many of them brought treasured reminders of their homeland in the form of favorite flowering plants and shrubs. It was a way of holding on to something familiar from their family past, while moving forward into a new life in a wild and unknown land. Over the years, other ornamental garden plants have been introduced from other natural and exotic environments.

While these were plants that were non-invasive in their home settings, in the climatic and growing conditions of Alberta, and elsewhere across North America, they did not continue their ordinary contained growth. What looked beautiful and was non-invasive in their native environment did not hold true once they were planted in the North American growing conditions.

Probably the best example that is most widely recognized, and has spread throughout the continent, is the lowly dandelion. Brought from Europe with the original American settlers, it has managed to spread and proliferate, almost unchecked, across the continent into every growing condition imaginable.

Plants which jump the garden fence to become invasive in the natural environment have several common characteristics which render them invasive. They are prolific seeders, capable of aggressive expansion, often outcompeting native flora, forming a monoculture which degrades native biodiversity, and they lack natural enemies in their new environment. They do not have the natural growing conditions or pests that kept them in check in their native habitat. This latter characteristic may be the most significant factor in invasiveness. [1]

These invasive alien plants are part of the second largest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss from human activity.[2] Loss of biodiversity impacts soil composition, distribution of insects, and habitat for birds and wildlife, which ultimately influences even human habitation. In the wild, some of these invaders can affect fire regimes, increasing fire frequency, which can also permanently alter native plant distribution.

There are economic costs in losses to agriculture and livestock industry, as well as the costs of control. Prevention is the most cost effective way of managing these species.

Common examples of invasive ornamentals include Oxeye Daisy, Creeping Bellflower, Yellow Clematis and Himalayan Balsam.

Becoming "weed wise" gives the opportunity to stop these invaders before they have a chance to become established and cause harm to the environment.

The *Weed Wise Gardening* brochure is available for viewing on the AIPC website, www.invasiveplants.ab.ca and can be ordered from the AIPC by contacting Virginia Battiste, Administrative Coordinator at aipc.coordinator@gmail.com.

Editorial

Jurgen

Well I guess that was summer such as it was, but there is no use dwelling on it's short comings as I am sure that everyone has done so over the past season. But what we should dwell on is our Canadian deteriorating biodiversity, as stated in the article "*Urban sprawl has hurt biodiversity, Ottawa warned*" *(see pg. 4)*.

I know that most of us think that the little effect we have in altering the landscape will cause no damage to the ecosystem. For most believe that our forests are limitless, this is similar to that belief held by the early settlers that 70 million buffalo were inexhaustible, but were are they today, for they very nearly disappeared, as did the passenger pigeon and many others. Therefore we should not presume that our forests will always remain as they are today.

For we know that industry, cupeled with population growth will never stop clearing forest land. The forest industry will continue to reforest their clear-cuts, by herbciding the area in order to promote growth, but thereby creating a mono culture with very little if any biodiversity.

Therefore when one dwells on this as to who will become the guardian of our native biodiversity other than the Nation Parks, I believe that we the woodlot owners will be -come one in that there are woodlots in four of the six ecoregion in Alberta. Most woodlots contain the native species for that ecoregion and very few if any have gone to a chemical induced mono culture. This augurs well to assist in the preservation of our biodiversity which took eons to develop, and is truly a great reason for keeping your woodlot from the developers axe, for they will become islands of biodiversity in a sea of mono-culture

Our knowledge is the amassed thought and experience of innumerable minds.

- Emerson

Tree Identification a snap with a mobile app

If you've ever wondered what type of tree was nearby but didn't have a guide book, a new smartphone app allows users with no formal training to satisfy their curiosity and contribute to science at the same time.

Scientists have developed the first mobile app to identify plants by simply photographing a leaf. The free iPhone and iPad app, called Leafsnap, instantly searches a growing library of leaf images amassed by the Smithsonian Institution. In seconds, it returns a likely species name, high-resolution photographs and information on the tree's flowers, fruit, seeds and bark.

Users make the final identification and share their findings with the app's growing database to help map the population of trees one mobile phone at a time.

Leafsnap debuted in May, covering all the trees in New York's Central park and Washington's Rock Creek Park. It has been downloaded more than 150,000 times in the first month, and its creators expect it to continue to grow as it expands to Android phones.

By this summer, it will include all the trees of the Northeast U.S. and eventually will cover all the trees of North America.

To identify a tree, it works best if users place a leaf on a white background to photograph. Engineers used facial recognition technology to devise an algorithm that could identify a leaf by its shape and features. The image is uploaded to a server, and within seconds it returns a ranking of the most likely tree species a user has found, along with other characteristics to help confirm the tree's identity.

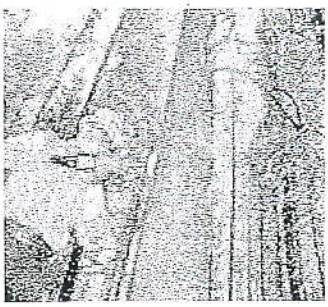
The iPad version also includes a feature called "nearby species" to show all the trees that have been labelled by others near a user's location.

visit web site to download apps

http:// itunes.apple.com/ca/app/leafsnap/id430649829?mt=8

July 2011

Winter mortality survey results



Recently, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development staff and forestry industry partners concluded the spring population forecast survey for mountain pine beetle. Survey results indicate how well beetle populations survived the winter. The survey also gives an indication of how beetle populations will grow following the beetle flight in July and August.

Surveying began on May 2, 2011 and concluded on June 14, 2011. Samples were collected at 249 sites from 1,624 trees across the province. The spring survey results are used to set priorities for the 2011/2012 beetle program.

This year's results indicate a generally static to increasing population, except in southern Alberta and the eastern fringe of the infestation around Slave Lake. In these two areas, beetle populations continue to decline, although remaining beetles still pose a risk of spread in the future.

As the winter of 2010 was relatively mild, compared with the winter of 2009, overall beetle survival was higher this spring. To combat these higher survival rates, continued aggressive Level 1 control action in targeted areas will be required, to reduce the impact of mountain pine beetle this year.

The population forecast survey does not account for any long-range dispersal of beetles, in large numbers, from British Columbia, federal mountain parks or heavily-infested areas of Alberta.

Population trend forecasts indicate the following expectations:

Southern Alberta (Canmore, Crowsnest Pass)
This year, a low number of beetles successfully survived the 2010 winter season. This result is indicative of a decline in the local population. However, there is still a high risk of in-flights from British Columbia for the next few years.

In 2010, local beetle populations plummeted, thanks to aggressive control efforts and the winter of 2009. Most remaining beetle populations further declined during the 2010 winter. However, due to the continued high risk of in-flights from BC for the next few years, this area will remain a high priority for any possible beetle control during the 2011 winter season.

Central Alberta (Hinton, Whitecourt, Slave Lake)
Overall, there was moderate beetle success throughout most of central Alberta, indicating a static population – apart from the eastern fringe of the infestation around Slave Lake, where populations continue to decline. As in previous years, survey results show high variability in success with great diversity. There were several pockets of high beetle success, and many pockets of low beetle success. Last year, beetles had low rates of success surviving

in central Alberta, with a few moderate local spots in the region north of Edson.

There is a moderate risk of beetles flying in from British Columbia or from infestations in the Grande Prairie area this summer. Central Alberta will remain a high priority for control for the 2011 winter season, because of the large volume of pine and the potential for the infestation to spread.

Northwestern Alberta (Grande Prairie, Peace River, High Level)
Overall, there was a high rate of beetle success across northwestern Alberta – indicative of an increasing population. Half of the sites show high and extremely high beetle success, with most other sites exhibiting moderate success. Beetles at their most northern locations in the province show moderate success.

In the Peace region last year, most sites had high and extreme beetle success with several sites having moderate or low success. Considering these results, mature pine trees are at a high risk of attack from locally-reproducing populations when beetles fly this summer. However, the scattered and patchy distribution of pine trees poses a less significant risk of spread, relative to the more highly-connected pine in other infested areas of the province, such as south of Grande Prairie.

Last year, most sites in the Grande Prairie region had low beetle success, with some local pockets of moderate, high and extremely high success. Because of the concentrated distribution of pine south of Grande Prairie, there is a high risk of local production and spread. Portions of this area will remain a high priority for control during the 2011 winter season.

There is still a high probability of an in-flight of beetles into the northwestern part of the province from adjacent infestations in British Columbia.

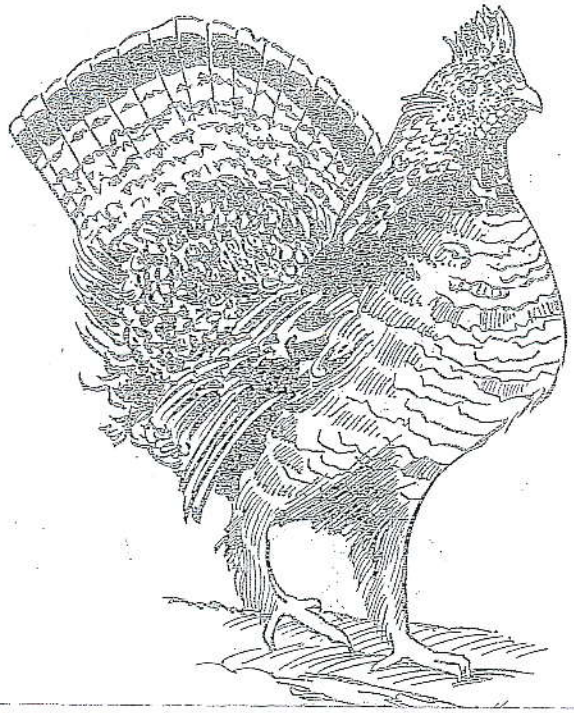
Up Coming Events

Board of Directors - Teleconference - **October 9 @ 7 pm**

Annual General Meeting - **November 4 & 5 -** *In Hinton*

General rule of thumb the following ages are used as a guideline when to harvest.

Species	Mature	Over Mature
Spruces	110 years	150 Years
Pines	90 "	130 "
True Firs	80 "	100 "
Poplars	70 "	90 "
Birch	60 "	80 "
Tamarack	100 "	120 "



RUFFED GROUSE

The native ruffed grouse has a broad range in Alberta. It may be found in wooded areas in southwestern, central and northern Alberta. It is the large, chicken-like bird with the red-brown or gray-brown color tones of the bushy woodlands. The female is occasionally mistaken for a hen pheasant. The tail is fan shaped with a broad black band near the tip. In the spring and early summer the male bird can be heard drumming on a log or mound. The nest is a mere shallow excavation made in the ground usually near the foot of a tree, and lined with dried leaves.

The diet is varied but consists mainly of seeds, fruits and buds. Large numbers of insects and much green vegetation are consumed in the spring and summer. In late fall grain and weed seeds are important food items. The winter food in the farming areas is primarily weed seeds, grain and poplar and willow buds. In wilderness areas, seeds, poplar and willow buds, and spruce and pine needles make up the bulk of the winter diet. Bits of green clover and grass are consumed in winter when available. Ant eggs are a favorite food for the young chicks as well as grasshoppers, flies and mosquitoes.

Ruffed grouse populations vary considerably and large fluctuations occur. At one period the birds may be very scarce and a few years later their favored habitat is densely populated. The meat is white and delicately flavoured.