



WOODLOT

SUMMER
OWNER
2011

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

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Woodlot Owner of the Year: WESTERN REGION



PHOTO BY SIMON MUTABAZI

When Eldon White discovered that an area of undeveloped land he loved to explore as a child was available to purchase, he and his wife, Lucille, made a decision. They were determined to make sure the land stayed protected. They worked hard and purchased their woodlot in 1999. Since then, the Whites have attended to neglected stands and made the property a showcase for nearly every silviculture technique used in Nova Scotia. For their excellent, diverse management practices and their sheer ingenuity, Eldon and Lucille were chosen as the provincial and the western region winners of Nova Scotia's Woodlot Owner of the Year title.

Their 520 acre (210 hectare) property in Richfield, Digby County, showcases the planning, hard work and dedication the Whites have poured into their lot, despite some difficult challenges at times. Eldon uses a variety of treatments to suit every situation. The Whites are also champions of the Category 7 program. They've used their woodlot to show the benefits of merchantable thinning, hosting forestry consultants and interested woodlot owners at their property.

As owners and operators of Richfield Forestry since the 1980s, they show that an active forest is a healthy forest. Lucille remembers a season when they employed 12 planters to put over half a million trees on the property. The Whites also understand the value of other non-timber forest products. Their woodlots border both First and Second Briar Lakes, a recreation haven for children in the community. A healthy deer population and a well-maintained camp have made it a favourite hunting spot for three generations of Whites and their friends.

These committed woodlot owners pay close attention to detail. Many hand made signs guide visitors through the woodlot. These signs were graciously painted by a neighbour.

Though much of the original work on their woodlot was done by hand, the use of large-scale equipment today demonstrates the productivity and quality of work that is possible with skilled



PHOTO BY TRACY THOMPSON



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employees and well-maintained machines. Through the use of proper equipment, the Whites keep their roads, bridges, and riparian zones meticulously maintained to reduce damage.

Congratulations go out to Eldon and Lucille White for their commitment to the Richfield community and for their dedication to excellent woodlot management, even when challenges are mounted against them.

FIELD DAY: OCTOBER 1, 2011. RICHFIELD, DIGBY COUNTY.



PHOTO BY TRACY THOMPSON

Woodlot Owner of the Year: EASTERN REGION

There is a woodlot near Baddeck, Victoria County, which proves the existence of good quality hardwoods in Cape Breton - something that Peter and Candace Christiano say is often considered a myth. Their 30 hectare (75 acre) lot features glowing yellow birches, vigorous super maple regeneration, and the benefits that selection harvesting can bring. For these, and many other reasons, we present the Christianos as the Eastern Region winner of the Woodlot Owner of the Year Award.

Bordering on the Middle River Wilderness Area, the Christianos' have come to appreciate not only the science of silviculture, but also the art of the forest itself. Even a quick walk through the woods with Candace as she points out hidden patches of rare wildflowers, or with Peter as he guides you to hidden old-growth trees, will strengthen your love of nature.

Their advice for other woodlot owners is to "work with what you have, and don't be intimidated to start". When they bought their property in the mid-70s, there was much work to be done. Today, Peter and Candace are stewards for Category 7 Uneven-Aged Management and are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. One of their many memorable lines from the tour, regarding selection management for fast growth, was "a tree is like a sailboat, just as you open a sail to the wind, you need to open the tree to sunlight". The Christianos manage for quality, not quantity, and girdle undesirable trees instead of cutting to reduce damage to other trees and the understory.

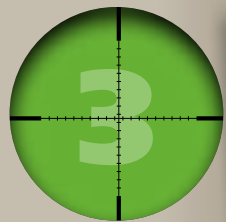
The family business, Finewood Flooring and Lumber Ltd., is another showcase for their ingenuity. Hardwood flooring from locally-sourced and imported lumber, biomass heating, wood pellets, and a high-energy torrefaction kiln demonstrate the range of products that can come from well-managed hardwood stands. They are proud that all manufacturing is done at their plant by 10 local employees and 2 family members.

Peter and Candace have demonstrated leadership in the local lumber industry. We commend them for their environmental stewardship, contribution to the community, and a successful 30 years in business!

FIELD DAY: SEPTEMBER 10, 2011. BADDECK, VICTORIA COUNTY.



PHOTO BY SIMON MUTABAZI



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Woodlot Owner of the Year: CENTRAL REGION



PHOTO BY DON CAMERON

A visit to the 172 hectare (425 acre) woodlot owned by Steve Keddy and his family is more than just a chance to see a healthy forest. Time spent with them is a time of humour and storytelling. Steve considers his woodlot as an extension of his farm. He gives the same care and attention to detail to his trees as he does to his oxen and sheep. He has seen the effects of clearcutting on the neighbouring properties, particularly the increased susceptibility to wind damage at adjacent stands. This has only reinforced his commitment to selection management.

Serving his second year as director of Conform Ltd., Steve Keddy is an advocate of the benefits available to woodlot owners when they create partnerships with

forestry consultants. He talks of the wide range of equipment he has had access to, not to mention the expertise to guide his decisions, that have benefited his property for the long-term. Also, given the dramatically changing topography, he may not be able to work at all in portions of his woods if it wasn't for skilled contractors and specialized equipment.

The Keddys' commitment to non-timber forest values is evident. The family acknowledges how recreation has really brought friends and family together. The proximity of their woodlot cabin to the house, and the range of outdoor activities available, has truly deepened the family's appreciation for the property and the wildlife that surround them.

An active member in the community of Meadowvale, especially known for his role in the young fire brigade, Steve is proud to share his love of hard work with the next generation. He laughs at the idea of "sawdust in the porridge", explaining how the woodlot was so engrained in his life growing up. Steve has certainly succeeded in teaching stewardship values, as all six Keddy children are keen to take part in management responsibilities. For this commitment to the local community, preservation of wildlife habitat, all while remaining self-employed, the Keddy family demonstrates leadership to woodlot owners across the province.

FIELD DAY: SEPTEMBER 24, 2011, MEADOWVALE, COLCHESTER COUNTY.

Upcoming Events

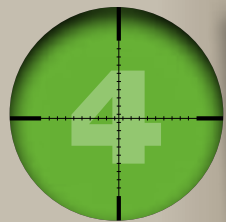
NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY PERMANENT EXHIBIT: NETUKULIMK

Netukulimk is a Mi'kmaq word for an individual experience that allows a person to create harmony between the natural world and the human world. It can also be thought of as a concept that relates to all cultures and generations, reminding us that all living things are connected.

The *Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History* chose the name 'Netukulimk' for its new forest exhibit to demonstrate that forests are home to an incredible network of plants and animals. They are part of the landscape – both physical and human – for past and future generations.

In the last year, a team of conservation, exhibition, and interpretation staff have worked to create this exhibit, which will be housed permanently in the Museum. It consists of six interactive stations that represent the sounds, images, and smells of a forest in Nova Scotia – and the essence of Netukulimk.

The *Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History* is located at 1747 Summer Street in Halifax. For more information on this and other exhibits, contact the Museum at **(902) 424-7353**.



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NATIONAL FOREST WEEK, SEPTEMBER 18 - 24, 2011

How to participate in *National Forest Week*

- Arrange a tree planting: www.treecanada.ca
- Take a walk in woods nearby and get to know your forest
- Care for a newly planted or neglected tree
- Learn about the native species of the Acadian forest
- Practice your “tree-via” with the *Nova Scotia Tree Identification Guide*: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot/
- Identify all the things at home, school, or work that are made of wood
- Learn about organizations that demonstrate sustainable forest management: www.pefccanada.org/certification.htm
- Tour a forest sector industry or processing site
- Visit a Woodlot Owner of the Year field day

Learn about the prevention of forest fires: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestprotection/wildfire/firecentre/prevention.asp
Contact the *Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources* for more information!

Past Events

Three events were held this spring to educate the next generation of woodlot owners and forest stewards.



PHOTO BY SIMON MUTABAZI

KIDS IN THE FOREST

The Beaver Bank locale for *Kids In The Forest* (KITF) in May attracted students from across Central Nova Scotia who were overjoyed at the chance to learn how to fish, shoot a crossbow, and use sirens on a fire truck. DNR staff shared stories of career options in natural resource management and encouraged the children to keep the Home Study program in mind should they ever have their own woodlots in the future. Even with the rainy May weather, the kids had a wonderful time and kept their spirits up.

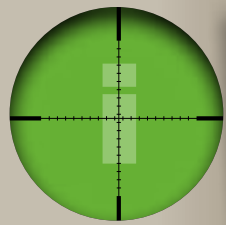
Over two days in June, KITF visited Mira River Provincial Park in Cape Breton. The event was a big success. Almost 20 different stations offered information about a variety of topics, including fire prevention, search and rescue, insects, military field ambulances, bike safety, and the water cycle. Over 1,000 children participated. They enjoyed the warm weather and were thrilled by a surprise visit by a DNR helicopter.

SCIENTIST FOR A DAY

The first of its kind in the province, this DNR-sponsored event was held in the beautiful Five Islands Provincial Park. Children from West Colchester Consolidated School and Parrsboro Regional Elementary explored the topics of wildlife, plants, wetlands, insects, the seashore, and “rocks, mud, and dinosaurs”. With all these opportunities to get muddy and play in the salt air of the Minas Basin, the ‘Scientists for a Day’ had a blast. Nova Scotia’s provincial parks offer a diversity of outdoor opportunities across the province and the Department of Natural Resources intends to expand future environmental education events like this. Stay tuned!



PHOTO BY SIMON MUTABAZI



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Courses/Education Opportunities

BOW 2011 – BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN

Fall Workshop: *September 9 - 11, 2011, Mount Traber Bible Camp & Retreat Centre, Cooks Brook, Halifax County, NS*

Winter Workshop: *February 17-19, 2012, Gaelic College of Celtic Arts and Crafts, St Ann's, Cape Breton County, NS*

BOW® provides a wonderful opportunity for women to experience fun and exciting outdoor adventures in a safe environment with knowledgeable instructors who are sensitive to the learning styles of women.

For more information, contact Pam Grace, BOW NS Coordinator, at (902) 424-5832 or bowns@gov.ns.ca. Also, please visit

www.gov.ns.ca/natr/outdoor for registration information on the 2011 Fall BOW workshop.

Publications

BIODIESEL REGULATIONS FOR THE FORESTRY INDUSTRY

Recent federal legislation sets a goal to make it mandatory for all fuel processed and sold in Canada to contain 2 per cent biodiesel, by December 2012. Using renewable fuels can lower our greenhouse gas emissions, make domestic production stronger, and reduce dependency on foreign oil. Though the deadline doesn't take effect until next year, Nova Scotia has a lot to gain by reaching these targets, as there is currently no biodiesel infrastructure in place. The Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada (FERIC) has released a special user guide for machines used in the forestry sector. The guide is useful to contractors, logging companies, and small woodlot owners alike. This easy-to-read booklet gives basic information about biodiesel, the new legislation, and how to use, buy, transport, and store biodiesel to meet the regulations.

This guide is available online at www.fptransport.org/biodiesel/Files/Biodiesel-Forestry.pdf or by mail by contacting the Stewardship and Public Outreach section of Nova Scotia's Department of Natural Resources.

MOTIVATIONAL FACTORS INFLUENCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AMONG SMALL WOODLOT OWNERS IN NOVA SCOTIA: A CASE STUDY

A new study by the *Department of Natural Resources Woodlot Education Coordinator*, Simon Mutabazi, is now being conducted as his Master's thesis in Adult Education with St. Francis Xavier University.

The accounts of woodlot owners in this study suggest that learning is a gradual process when it comes to ecological values and sustainable forest management practices. Best results are achieved by progressively combining more complex educational opportunities, both formal and non-formal, with peer-learning opportunities. This peer learning can include informal discussion between woodlot owners. These talks may occur through their participation in landowner organizations, at a local or regional level. Therefore, providing opportunities for woodland owners to demonstrate their experiences is a key element that can lead to using resources more sustainably.



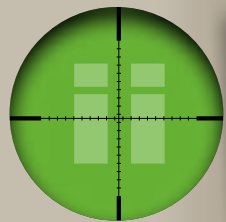
PHOTO BY SIMON MUTABAZI

FOREST ECOSYSTEM CLASSIFICATION FOR NOVA SCOTIA

In 2000, DNR began a long-term project to identify and describe stand-level forest ecosystems in the province, known as the Forest Ecosystem Classification (FEC) project. To date, over 1,500 FEC plots throughout Nova Scotia have been studied. At a stand level, classifying forest ecosystems based on vegetation, soil type, and site characteristics allows users to recognize similar ecosystems on the ground. It also allows users to develop a common understanding of these sites. Two of the three volumes were released earlier this year: Part I Vegetation Types and Part II Soil Types. For more information please contact the Ecosystem Management Group, Forestry Division, 902-893-5692.

PLAN SUPPORTS WOODLOT OWNERS, HEALTHY FORESTS

On May 10, 2011, the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources announced a \$5-million investment to help the province achieve its target of sustainable forest management over the next five years. The Minister of Natural Resources, Charlie Parker, announced that the funding was targeted to "stimulate woodlot owners' interest and participation in forestry".



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Of the \$5-million investment, \$1 million will provide training and outreach for woodlot owners, \$2.2 million will enhance the Private Land Silviculture program to provide professional and technical services to small, private woodlot owners, and \$1.8 million will go toward tree harvest tracking, monitoring, and compliance.



PHOTO BY DNR

The Woodbridge report recommends the province take measures to help ease the forest industry's transition toward Nova Scotia's clearcutting reduction target. The report also makes it clear that small, private woodlot owners play a key role in supplying wood fibre for

the forest industry. There are 31,000 private woodlot owners in Nova Scotia, but the amount of timber they have supplied to industry since 1997 has declined significantly. The timber in small, private woodlots makes up two-thirds of the province's wood supply.

The report by *Woodbridge Associates* is available on the Natural Resources website at www.gov.ns.ca/natr.

WOODLOT OWNER DISCUSSION ON CBC'S *MARITIME NOON*

Did you miss the May 26th episode of *Maritime Noon* with Norma Lee MacLeod on CBC Radio? Featuring Andrew Fedora, the Executive Director of the Federation of Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners, Natural Resources Minister Charlie Parker, and calls from across the province, this episode of *Maritime Noon* examines how clearcutting reductions will influence woodlot management. To hear the episode online, please visit www.cbc.ca/maritimenoon/2011/05/26/internet-access-carpport-names-woodlots-mvis/. The woodlot portion of the show begins at the 12:57 mark.

Advertisements

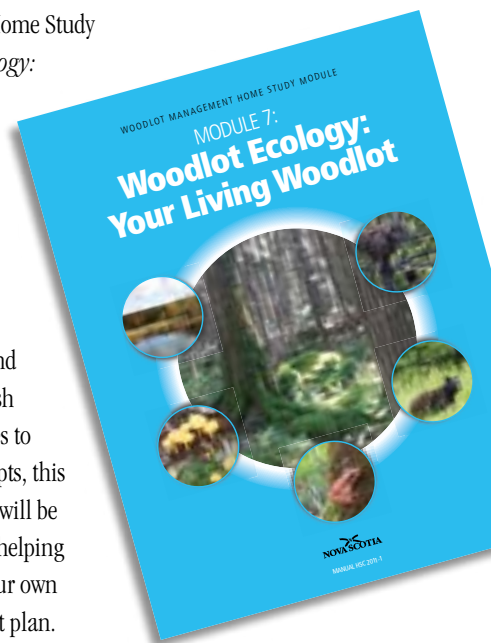
WOODLOT MANAGEMENT HOME STUDY SERIES

This free program consists of 15 easy-to-understand modules on topics relating to woodland stewardship. By following the principles and ideas in this series, land owners can turn their woodlot goals into reality.

REVISED WOODLOT ECOLOGY MODULE

The updated version of Home Study Module 7 "*Woodlot Ecology: Your Living Woodlot*"

is now available. Topics include life cycles, forest ecosystems, tree and plant reproduction and establishment, soil structure, water and wetlands, stewardship, and sustainability. With a fresh layout and lots of pictures to help explain these concepts, this free home study module will be an excellent addition in helping you develop or review your own sustainable management plan.



More information can be found at www.gov.ns.ca/natr/education/woodlot

NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS DIRECTORY

New edition coming in 2012!

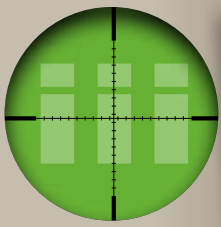
We are currently seeking submissions for businesses and organizations to be featured in the upcoming second edition of *From Our Atlantic Woods*. Don't miss this opportunity for free advertising! For your copy of the 2009-2010 NTFPs directory, or to order several for distribution at your place of business, please contact Simon Mutabazi

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Stewardship and Outreach Section

Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 698, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2T9

Phone: (902)-424-5444 or
Toll Free: 1-866-226-7577 Fax: 902-424-7735
E-mail: woodlot@gov.ns.ca
Web: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot/



WOODLOT OWNER

Woodlot Owner of the Year Award 2012 Nomination Form

(Please note: Deadline for nominations is April 15, 2012)

WOODLOT OWNER INFORMATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Woodlot Location(s): _____

Woodlot Size: _____

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Why is this owner a good candidate for the Woodlot Owner of the Year Award?

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO:

Stewardship & Outreach Section, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 698, Halifax, NS B3J 2T9, Phone: 902-424-5444

Toll-Free: 1-866-226-7577

Fax: 902-424-7735

E-mail: woodlot@gov.ns.ca

Web: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot