THE LOG JAM

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The Fairview PCBFA Demo - Day

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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President report

Laval Bergeron

Quote from the Nova Scotia Woodlot Association news letter..
« Unless we practice conservation, those who come after us will have to pay the price of misery, degradation, and failure for the progress and prosperity of our day » - Gifford Pinchot, first chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

25 years ago the Woodlot Association of Alberta was created. That in itself is reason for celebration and we will let you know the details in the months to come.

The Association became, because we experienced then, a huge hike in the price of timber (spruce) then, up to 135.00$ a tonne standing. Private forest was disappearing at an alarming rate. I became a member the day I heard about the association in the hope that we would find a way, a reason for keeping private land in forest other than « I love it », to find other ways to make some kind of living from it other than just selling trees.. There are ways, but from my experience they do not compete with the alternatives.

Right now, 25 yrs. later, from where I live and where I work at the farm, only 8 miles away, close to 600 acres is being clearcut because of reasons to keep the mill operating and a little price hike, .. will be turned to farmland and a big change in my environment, my way to work, etc. . .. ?

« When beetles attack, lodgepole pines send chemical SOS to relatives, says UofA study. Warning gives trees time to mount defence, helps explain why some are untouched » and that brings me back to my story.. I wonder what the message is when 6 feller bunchers show up on a quarter section. .... !

I realize that all the land I farm was cleared cut at one time and burned and but, now a days.. right now the world is criticizing Brazil for the way they are handling their forest (which by the way there is proof now that the BOREAL Forest is the « lungs » of the earth) and turning it to farmland and if you were to have the same critics for what is happening here, today.. ok, enough of my tragedy.

To speak about what WAA has been up to lately, we have held a Woodlot Tour and a Demo Day, 3 conference calls and some kilometres, You will find details further in the Logjam.

Colours are changing, will talk to you when "white" is upon us. Talk to you soon.

Up Coming Events

Board of Directors - Teleconference

September 30.2019
November 25, 2019
January 27, 2020

All calls at 7pm

Face to Face meeting October 25, 2019 @ Whitecourt

FOREST GRAZING AND SILVOPASTURE AGRFORESTRY SYSTEMS

Land owners in Alberta commonly pasture cattle and other livestock in areas partly or completely covered in trees, a practice often referred to as forest or woodland grazing. Under this system, forage availability is often highly variable depending upon the composition of the forest, age of stands, its density coverage, terrain and soil types. The canopy cover may strongly influence the productivity of forage, shrubs and other understory plants by reducing the light interception and affecting the moisture profile. This system of forest grazing does, however provide a number of benefits to the landowner by providing shelter from rain and winter winds, shade from summer heat, a habitat for enhanced biodiversity of arthropods, birds and other wildlife species, and also increased carbon storage in soils. Additionally, the treed cover helps to reduce moisture loss during periods of higher temperatures, thus minimizing the effects of drought. Maintenance of this system requires proper fencing and available water sources.

Natural stands of woodland pasture areas most commonly include aspen and poplar, white spruce and pines (lodgepole and jack). These species can provide an economic benefit to the landowner if utilized for various wood products such as firewood, pulp, lumber or Christmas trees. There can be negative risks of forest grazing, especially if the areas are allowed to be overgrazed. This can lead to depleted forage quality, tree damage from browse and soil and root compaction, and ultimately lead to a decline in tree health and reduced long term sustainability.

A more diversified and ecologically-based farming system, referred to as a silvopasture system combines three integrated components - trees, forage and livestock. This system spreads out the farming risks and is intended to provide multiple sources of income. In this system, management intentionally blends the three components so that their interactions ideally compliment each other and are planned and managed throughout the production cycle. The system is operated and evaluated as a single enterprise, rather than as separate parts. By complimenting each other under long term management, the system has the potential to yield higher net income or reduce economic risk, compared to either the livestock or trees alone. It is assumed in silvopasture systems that trees will be harvested and that there will be benefits from both tree production and animal production.

The concept of a silvopasture system has existed since the late 1970s and its adoption has not been widespread in the Prairie Provinces. Presently there is a need for more research to increase silvopasture knowledge, especially to justify the greater intensity of management required for long term value and sustainability. One challenge for adoption of the system and for its local adaptation requires professional input and guidance from both forestry and agricultural professionals to help integrate all components.

The productivity of silvopastural systems is influenced by the complex interactions among trees, forages and livestock, and can therefore be highly variable and not adaptable to all farming locations. The establishment of a silvopasture system requires a long-term commitment. To be successful, a silvopasture enterprise will require a high capital investment for tree and forage planting, for fencing and for the placement and maintenance of healthy water sources. The following provide more details concerning the three components.

Tree component: Natural or existing stands of softwoods (spruce and pine) or hardwoods such as aspen, poplar and birch may be utilized in a 30 year or more harvest rotation, with the intent they are planned to provide economic benefit of usable or salable wood products. In some areas, existing pastures, and especially marginally productive land may be planted with suitable tree species. Conifers tend to be more marketable than deciduous and also tend to be less browsed by livestock than are deciduous trees. Trees may be planted in single, double or multiple rows and the planted area should not be pastured with livestock until the trees are at least 2.5 to 3 m tall. This ensures minimal damage resulting from browse, rubbing, trampling of roots and soil compaction. Stands of trees may become too dense and require periodical thinning and pruning treatments. These treatments often help to increase the quality of the end wood product and help to maintain canopy shading of less than 50%. A canopy covering greater than 50% will shade out much of the understory plants, thus reducing productive forage grazing. Forage production is generally reduced when shade from trees exceeds about 35%. Tree growth rates can sometimes be higher when animals are introduced into a tree-only system, and the thinning and any fertilizer application treatments could also increase tree growth rates. Some additional benefits from the silvopasture system can be due to enhanced biodiversity and other ecological processes such as nutrient cycling, more controlled spring or storm water runoff, reduced soil erosion and less greenhouse gas production.

Forage component: Forage can consist of a variety of grasses, legumes and forbes planted as a forage mixture and may include both native and introduced warm and cool season species. The tree row spacing of planted trees can be designed to accommodate seeding and haying equipment so that forage could be mechanically harvested when not grazed or until trees are tall enough to avoid animal damages. The choice of forage species needs to be compatible with each site, be suitable for livestock grazing, be productive in partial shade, tolerate heavy grazing in some cases and be beneficial for wildlife. Seeded in forage mixtures will help to reduce native herbaceous vegetation as well as invasive weed species. A selection of legumes can help to improve nitrogen levels. Some warm-season grasses will produce poorly under shade, whereas cool-season grasses may tolerate up to 80% shade. Legume species tend to be variable in their tolerance to shade.

Livestock component: Livestock introduced into the silvopasture system most commonly include cattle or sheep, but could also include goats, horses and game

animals such as bison. The effects of livestock grazing on trees depends on grazing management as well as the appropriate manipulation of stocking density, rate of stocking and the scheduled periods when stocked. Timing and duration of the grazing period are important to preserve tree health and growth performance and are intensively managed with strict rotational grazing and maintenance schedules. Some grazing management could include intensive short-term grazing periods.

Some farmers and resource professionals see silvopasture as offering a structure to improve management of woodlands and other farmland that are currently poorly managed. Silvopasture may also offer a way for marginal land to generate annual revenue that causes less environmental damage than unmanaged woodland grazing. Some concerns indicated for the adoption of a silvopasture system may be reflected in land ownership, including land tenure issues and absentee landowners or non-residents who may not have the time or expertise to properly manage a silvopasture, or to do the long-term intense management that the system requires.

By way of summary, author Steve Gabriel offers several reasons why the practice of silvopasture will help save modern farming:

- The inclusion of silvopasture into the farm landscape can greatly enhance the structural diversity of vegetation, which in turn supports a greater diversity of wildlife.
- Silvopasture provides carbon benefits to establishing trees in pastures and is likely to have a negative effect on emissions, thus making it one of the top climate-saving forms of agriculture available.
- Within the context of a changing climate silvopasture offers one of the most compelling forms of regenerative agriculture, with proven benefits to land and people.
- Silvopasture is arguably one of the highest forms of ecosystem farming, taking into consideration animals, plants and soil.
- Consumers may link the ecosystem health of a silvopasture system ultimately with human health through such outcomes as "grass-fed", "silvopasture-raised" or "tree-friendly" labels, and as well may promote increased demand for locally-grown foods.

Prepared by H. Cerezke

Give the Gift that Lasts

(Reminder Christmas is not that far away)

This an opportunity for you to give a friend, neighbor, or relative, whom you think would like to develop a patch of brush that is on their land into a Woodlot. A one year membership to the Woodlot Association of Alberta, for a reduced rate of $20.00.

How can you do this, Clip out the gift certificate application *(below)* fill it out and mail it to Herb Cerezke, 5916 - 87 ave. Edmonton, AB. T6B - 0K9 along with your cheque of $20.00 *(make cheque out to the Woodlot Association of Alberta)*

We will then send your candidate a certificate that he/she is now a member of the WAA for one year. Gifted to them by your self , along with a copy of the Log Jam .

(Regular one year membership fees are $ 30.00)

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I _____ would like to buy a one year membership to the Woodlot Association of Alberta as a gift at the reduced rate of $20.00 for:

For: Mr. / Mrs._____ of

_____ Phone No. _____

Mailing Address : _____

_____

E -mail Address_____

Enclosed is a cheque for $20.00 made out to the WAA

Signature _____

Should we resurrect the American chestnut tree with genetic engineering?

The wild chestnuts around this leafy college town used to grow in such great numbers that locals collected the nuts by the bushel and shipped them off to New York City for a small fortune.

These days, though, it can be hard to find a single tree thanks to a devastating blight imported from Asia in the late 1800s.

"Every fall, I look for the burs," said Neil Patterson of the Tuscarora Nation, a Native American tribe that has lived in the region for centuries. His ancestors depended on the trees for food and medicine. But in 10 years of searching, he's never found the spiny pods that hold the chestnut's prized fruit.

Soon, scientists at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry here could change that. They say they've found a way to resurrect the chestnut by giving it a gene from wheat that shields it from the blight's poison. If the federal government gives its blessing, these genetically engineered trees could be ready to plant in a few short years.

It would mark the first use of the technology for ecological restoration, and probably not the last.

Once upon a time, American chestnuts (*Castanea dentata*) spread their leafy boughs from Maine to Mississippi, accounting for a quarter of the trees in some forests. More than 100 feet tall and 10 feet around, they earned the nickname "Redwood of the East."

Other trees have met similar fates. A beetle-borne fungus has claimed millions of North America's elms since its arrival in 1928. "Sudden oak death" disease began to kill trees on the West Coast in the 1990s, and the emerald ash borer began decimating its eponymous host throughout the east in the 2000s.

Losing a tree species rips a hole in an ecosystem. Researchers say the chestnut's disappearance changed fundamental forest processes, like the way nutrients cycle through the soil. Its absence made room for competitors like hemlock, and it deprived bears, rodents and birds of a staple food source. At least five species of insects went extinct.

It took 16 years for Powell and his colleague Charles Maynard to create a blight-tolerant tree using a gene found in wheat and many other plants. The gene causes the chestnut to produce oxalate oxidase, an enzyme that detoxifies the blight's acid.

A report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine flagged the social and philosophical issues at stake. Among them: Would genetically modified trees degrade the wildness of natural ecosystems, or would they bolster it by preserving species that we would otherwise drive to extinction? And who stands to benefit — or be harmed — by their release?

Powell's group is trying to get answers. His team has studied whether the pollen is safe for bees (it is) and whether the leaf litter harms native frogs (they seem to thrive on it).

In a few months, Powell and his team will seek government review of the GE chestnut so it can be planted in the wild.

Editors Note : *Genetic Engineering makes many of us wonder should this altered tree be turned loose in the environment, because once released it may be well beyond mans control. Therefore we must put hope and faith in the scientists that they use a great deal of caution and don't rush into a premature release.*
Now would it not be nice were they able to do some gene alteration to our lodgepole pine to defeat the fungus the pine beetle introduces into the pine tree. We may well look at gene alterations in a different light when it is to our benefit.

Ontario Investing Almost $5 Million in Mass Timber Innovation

Ontario's first cross laminated timber plant will create jobs and support the forestry sector

ST. THOMAS - The Ontario government is opening the forest industry to jobs and promoting the use of sustainable renewable resources by investing in the province's first cross laminated timber plant.

Today John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, announced an investment of almost $5 millio in Element5's new facility, which will create over 60 jobs in St. Thomas.

The $32 million manufacturing facility will help support the forestry sector's 150,000 direct and indirect jobs in Ontario. Element5's facility will be one of North America's first fully automated cross laminated timber plants. It will provide an environmentally friendly product that will be used to construct buildings and other infrastructure projects in Canada and the U.S.

"Our government is working hard to make Ontario open for business and open for jobs by creating an environment where job creators can grow, invest and thrive," said Minister Yakabuski. "Element5's new facility will showcase the kind of innovation we want to see more of in Ontario."

"We're grateful for the support of the Government of Ontario. This is a significant investment in the Ontario forestry industry, job creation, housing, innovation and technology, and the environment in the form of green building practices," said Frank Dottori, Industry Leadership at Element5. "Through their generous support, Ontario and specifically St. Thomas are well poised to become the centre of the mass timber industry in North America."

The government committed to increasing the use of timber in the home building industry through the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan and the Housing Supply Action Plan. This includes increasing the use of Ontario timbe in buildings, and for construction and renovation to reduce emissions and encouraging mass timber demonstration projects.

"I'm pleased to support Element5's work to create cost-effective and environmentally friendly building materials from sustainable renewable resources," says Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks an MPP for Elgin-Middlesex-London. "This investment will reduce carbon dioxide emissions and create jobs right here in Ontario and in St. Thomas, contributing to our goal of balancing a healthy environment and healthy economy."

"Mass timber construction will be an important innovation that can help bring housing to market faster, while sti meeting the high standards in the Ontario Building Code to protect public health and safety," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "This is all part of our plan to give the people of Ontario more housing and more choice."

The investment is being made through Ontario's Forestry Growth Fund, which provides funding for forestry sector projects that improve productivity and innovation, enhance competitiveness, support new market access, and strengthen supply chains and regional economies.

"Our government's open for business and open for jobs approach is restoring Ontario's competitiveness as a place for businesses to invest, innovate and create jobs," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "Element5's new facility will create opportunities for local families, new markets for the forestry sector and reinforce Ontario's reputation for manufacturing innovation. It's a project we are proud to support."

How forest bathing can make us feel better

The Japanese have known for years that spending mindful time in the woods is beneficial for body and soul. Now western doctors - and royals - agree

Every day, apart from when it's raining heavily, Dr Qing Li heads to a leafy park near the Nippon Medical School in Tokyo where he works. It's not just a pleasant place to eat his lunch; he believes the time spent under the trees' canopy is a critical factor ir the fight against diseases, of the mind and body.

Once a month Li spends three days in forests near Tokyo, using all five senses to connect with the environment and clear his mind. This practice of shinrin-yoku - literally, forest bath - has the power to counter illnesses including cancer, strokes, gastric ulcers, depression, anxiety an stress, he says. It boosts the immune system, lowers blood pressure and aids sleep. And soon i could be prescribed by British doctors.

Last week the Woodland Trust suggested forest bathing - which doesn't, despite its name, involve getting in water - should be among a range of non-medical therapies and activities recommended by GPs' surgeries to boost patients' boost wellbeing.

"Social prescribing", a growing movement in the NHS, can include volunteering, gardening, sports activities, cookery and befriending.

"Forest bathing is an opportunity for people to take time out, slow down and connect with nature. We think it could be part of the mix of activities for social prescription," Stuart Dainton of the Woodland Trust told the *Observer*. "Evidence about its benefits is building."

The Duchess of Cambridge is a fan, and the garden she co-designed at the Chelsea Flower Shov last month was inspired by shinrin-yoku. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is introducing a series of forest bathing events across the country this summer. Forestry England, which manages public woodland, has endorsed the practice as a way of regaining balance and escaping the pressures of everyday life.

Shinrin-yoku was developed in the 1980s in Japan. Although people had been taking walks in the country's forests for centuries, new studies showed that such activity could reduce blood pressure, lower cortisol levels and improve concentration and memory. A chemical released b trees and plants, called phytoncides, was found to boost the immune system. As more researc highlighted the benefits of shinrin-yoku, the Japanese government incorporated it into the country's health programme.

Li - now president of the Society for Forest Medicine in Japan, and the author of *Shinrin-Yoku The Art and Science of Forest Bathing* - is a world expert and has conducted numerous studies "It's a preventative medicine, not a treatment," he told the *Observer*. People spend their lives increasingly indoors, he said. About 80% of Japan's population lives in urban areas, and the average American now spends more than 90% of their time indoors. But we are designed to b connected to the natural world, to "listen to the wind and taste the air".

His book offers this advice for the practice of shinrin-yoku: "Make sure you have left your phone and camera behind. You are going to be walking aimlessly and slowly. You don't need any devices. Let your body be your guide. Listen to where it wants to take you. Follow your nose. And take your time. It doesn't matter if you don't get anywhere. You are not going anywhere. You are savouring the sounds, smells and sights of nature and letting the forest in."

Gary Evans, who set up the Forest Bathing Institute in the UK last year, said: "People initially think they've been doing this all their lives: going for a walk in the woods. But it might be a brisk walk, or you might be worrying about where the dog has got to.

"A better way to frame forest bathing is mindful time spent under the canopy of trees for healt and wellbeing purposes."

A typical session might last three hours, and begin with an explanation of the history and science of shinrin-yoku. "Then it's about sensory exercises," said Evans. "We try to hold people's attention in the present moment, to give their bodies and minds a chance to slow down. We move very slowly, touching the trees, looking at colours and patterns, and breathing deeply. We end up lying down under trees and looking up through the branches."

Shades of green and blue, the colours of the forest and the sky, were the most relaxing, he said Looking at nature's patterns helped to stop thoughts spinning in the head.

After a slow start, interest in forest bathing had taken off, Evans said. Officials from national and local government have made inquiries, and Evans addressed 40 doctors at Frimley Park hospital in Surrey last month on the benefits. GPs in the county have expressed interest in social prescribing of forest bathing. The Forest Bathing Institute is training people to become shinrin-yoku guides.

"The rocket ship has left the launch pad," Evans said. "There is a growing recognition by the medical profession of the value of forest bathing. But we're 40 years behind Japan. We need doctors and scientists here to start some studies on the physiological and psychological impact."

One UK study, carried out by King's College London and published in January 2018, found th exposure to trees, the sky and birdsong in cities improved mental wellbeing. The benefits we still evident several hours after the exposure.

"Even just 20 minutes can help, though 10 hours a month is even better," said Dainton. "If y live in a city, you may not be able to get to a forest easily, but taking off your shoes in the par and feeling the grass will help you de-stress."

A study of 585 Japanese people published last year said that city dwellers were "constantly exposed to stressors" and that "urban living is associated with increased risk of health problems", including anxiety, depression and psychosis.

It concluded: "The psychological benefits of walking through forests are very significant ... Urban planners should pay more attention to maintaining and increasing accessible greenery urban areas. The beneficial effects of nature suggest a simple, accessible and cost-effective method to improve the quality of life and health of urban residents."

How (and why) to stay optimistic when it feels like the environment is falling apart

Humans love optimism. It's a no-brainer – optimism makes us feel good and wanting more. This attraction has deep neurological roots that affect both our brain functions and how we process new information.

For this reason, optimism is powerful. Optimistic individuals or groups frequently perform better in sports, are better negotiators in business, and recover faster from illness. Feeling optimistic may well be a self-fulfilling prophecy.

But for scientists trying to communicate dark and difficult messages about conservation, extinction risks or climate change, pessimism can also be a useful tool (and a logical outcome). Shock headlines grab attention – and may more accurately reflect reality. But too much leads to fatigue and disengagement.

Published today in BioScience, our research outlines steps to usefully combine optimism with pessimism when talking about environmental conservation. We took a deep dive into the literature from psychology, business, politics and communications disciplines, to understand how positive and negative thinking influence human performance.

To make your environmental message stick, first you need to know who your target audience is. What are their daily fears and future worries? Do they care about nature for nature's sake, or only when it impacts themselves? How do they perceive scientists? Knowing their fundamental values helps tailor your message.

Let's say we want to restore an endangered forest, whose existence has been largely forgotten. The benefits of restoring a forgotten habitat are many: the mental health benefits of walking among wise, old trees, the busy routine of forest creatures that churn the soil, increasing forest productivity and cleaning the rivers that flow beyond, and the abundant fruit that falls from the canopy. Not to mention the beauty and wonder of nature, which inspires and enlightens.

Clearly, the benefits of conserving the forest can be framed in many ways for many audiences, whether their primary concerns are environmental, social, economic or personal. Knowing the values and fears of your target audience helps identify what information will resonate.

Shock grabs attention, so clearly explaining a dire environmental issue is a good strategy for generating initial awareness. An impeding or recent loss (for example, the River Franklin in Tasmania, or fish within the Murray Darling Basin) has a greater attention-grabbing property than positive news, particularly when framed to address the audience's key concerns. This is where pessimism is necessary – and in fact may simply be realism.

In our endangered forest, the valuable wood has been logged to near extinction. Without the tree's shade the soil has turned toxic and hard under the baking sun, rendering the land unsafe for human use. The inaccessibility of the last remnant patches means few people can experience their wonders and they will soon be lost from common memory.

This is where the first step, understanding your audiences' values, helps. For keen hikers the accessibility of forests may be most important. For those focused on the cost of living, you might highlight that without the forest filtering and cleaning drinking water they will need to pay for water treatment plants.

If the trees become extinct so will a sustainable logging industry, which reduces employment. (It also speaks to intergenerational equity, where earlier generations benefited at the expense of later generations.)

While negative news grabs attention, in the absence of hope it can quickly lead to despair and disengagement. By introducing optimism in the face of environmental crises, people can remain both aware and hopeful for a positive outcome.

Indeed, expectation of a positive outcome is a key motivator for people to commit to a cause. But where can optimism be found when all is seemingly lost?

Optimism can be built on back of environmental success stories. In our example, the endangered trees produce more seeds than needed to replace old trees. Using these seeds, a local community has reforested toxic land where an old forest once stood, producing early signs of a healthy restored ecosystem. Such a success story provides optimism for other communities to envisage success in their own backyard.

Neither hope nor fear alone will change people's behaviour. To allow change, people must believe their actions can make a difference. Therefore, our next step is to infuse optimism with efficacy, by offering the audience a pathway to engage with the issue.

The initial success of the restored forest breathed optimism into other revival efforts. But without public pressure, local governments can see investment in restoration as unnecessary (especially when the town's water treatment facilities need updating anyway).

However when councils are convinced and communities engaged we can sow the seeds of recovery and create the community stewardship needed for long-term care.

Our final step is to build a sense of community. Believing in the collective ability of a unified group gives us motivation and commitment. Belonging to a group can empower the individual, helping them confront an issue they would not tackle alone.

Encouraging the target audience to form community groups can see a trickle of public pressure increase to a flood. Local administrators may overlook the demands of one or two forest-loving individuals, but it's hard to ignore a group of voters seeking action.

The power of positive thinking has long been recognised. But environmental optimism is no panacea. It needs to be balanced with the reality of environmental pessimism. Both have their motivating virtues and finding a balance between them attracts attention and inspires action over the long-term.

Our forest example was derived from our experience with restoring Australia's lost oyster reefs. South Australia's 20 hectare oyster reef restoration was enabled by the local enthusiasm of a rural community, which was empowered by the expertise of an NGO and solution-seekers within several government departments; all underpinned by the credibility of university research.

Editorial

Jurgen

The news reports that one hears to day about the Amazon with some 70,000 + fires which are largely started by lodgers and farmers clearing land largely in Brazil but also in other countries that contain part of the largest rain forest in the world. The sad part of these reports are that the current governments are encouraging this destruction of the forest.

Is this a concern to us here in Alberta some 10,000 miles from them, not really in the short term, but in the long term it does in that the world will experience a shortage of wood not that far into the foreseeable future. It is not only the burning of the rain forest, for our "Boreal Forests" are being put under more stress from climate change. The Mountain Pine Beetle that has destroyed some 3 - trillion cubic meters of pine in B.C. alone, which has caused the closure of a large number of mills. Plus more and larger forest fires not only here at home but in Russia and other European countries.

For in every disaster for some, there is an opportunity for others and the Woodlot Association is on the threshold of opportunity in that this is the time for private land owners of forestland to be encouraging to retain their forests. In that with a world shortage of wood supply the price will per-cubic meter is expected to increase, therefore it will be a real economic benefit to own some private forest.

Now the question is how can an organization that has no real income and everything that we do today is by voluntary members. This works reasonably well but the shortfall is that we do not have the funding to employ foresters or technician that can visit land owners who have forestland to explain the benefits to retaining their forest and give them advise on managing it.

What is needed to promote the establishment of more privately owned forestland is: a.The Provincial Government to promote the concept of the Private Woodlots to make up the shortage of timber that we could also experience due to fires and insect out breaks. b. Funding to carry out a program to encourage land owners to convert marginal farmland to forestland, and retain existing forest, under the auspices of the AFPA and distributed by FRIAA. c. Some Federal Government funding to cover the high costs of establishing a new forest.

Classified ads

These ads are FREE to all members, for the - sale of any item - wanting to buy an item or service - offer a service - or - pets/livestock - etc. Maximum of 30 words, no pictures Send ad to the editor

WOODLOT MANAGEMENT GUIDE FOR ALBERTA

Members of the Woodlot Association of Alberta who are familiar with the publication, **Woodlot Management Guide for the Prairie Provinces,** may be interested in a revised version adapted for Alberta conditions. This revised publication, **Woodlot Management Guide for Alberta**, was updated and published in 2015, and prepared for Alberta Agriculture and Forestry with funding provided through Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

This revised guide is a lengthy 233-page document with Table of Contents set out in four sections: Section 1: An Introduction to Forest Resources; Section 2: Forest Management in the Woodlot, and Section 3: Non-timber Resources in the Woodlot. A fourth Section provides a useful Glossary of Terms. This revised guide includes contributions representing expertise and knowledge from many individuals and organizations, and has been updated to reflect current practices with an Alberta focus.

As stated in the Acknowledgements section, the guide is not meant to be read from cover to cover, but is a tool to provide landowners with information about how to manage their woodlot. Each topic concludes with a list of selected references, internet sites and/or contact information for additional resources for users who wish to explore a topic in greater detail. This revised version of woodlot management guide is available for anyone to use with proper acknowledgement but only from the following web site:

https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/apa15536/$file/woodlot-book%20rd.pdf?OpenElement

The Woodlot Associations Demo - Day & Tour

WAA Field Day with PCBFA

The individually wraped ready to plant spruce trees on the table were an instant draw for the children looking around with their parents. Our president Laval and I had a WAA table set up at the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association annual field day on Aug. 1 at the experiment station near the Fairview airport. The parents had come to see some hundreds of test plots of various forage and crop varieties and combinations of the same. We hoped to garner some exposure and awareness for the WAA with a display and spruce trees to hand out.

The WAA display board which took up most of our table, explained and illustrated our core values and purpose along with available handouts. This audience was probably concerned more with aspen encroachment in their pastures and hayfields than woodlot management, but on the other hand is aware of the value of shelterbelts and riparian area management. The taxation issue is not big in this case as they are taxed as farmland anyway. In the end we handed out close to 200 spruce trees compliments of Woodmere Nursery in Fairview; many we individually wraped (for the children) but also gave some bundles of 15 as they come from the nursery. Some local WAA members who came by to help us had just this spring expanded their shelterbelts.

Before I knew what we had for a display board I was thinking of some slogans that might catch an eye. For what it's worth here are a couple I came up with: 'You have a place - plant a tree - or 15 - or 15,000 (like I did!)'. (Supply your own number), Or 'Looking for a long lasting friendship - befriend a tree!'.

There may be organizations in your area that you are involved in which one can partner with to get our name and aims in view of the public. When I inquired about the possibility of having our display, I found that we may have been invited even without my request. We saw this as an opportunity for our area and will continue to find ways to get the word out.

For the WAA, Elton Kauffman

Managed Woodlot Tour

On July 27 we held the tour of a managed woodlot in Whitecourt, it was advertised in the June Log Jam and a reminder was sent to to all members that have an e-mail address. Yet we had very poor attendance of only two members came to the tour, the tour went well and I was glad that they came, after the tour we had coffee and a good visit, and I hope that they picked up ideas for their own management of their own woodlot.

I have been thinking what has happened over the past 25 years that we have been an organization, when we held tours then some 25 people would attend now only two? Is it demographics that this generation does not see the value in forests as my generation did? Or is it the price per meter of timber, which has stayed about the same for the past years, yet in the retail stores the cost is ever upward, 25 years ago B.C. was paying $90.00 per meter, now we get $30.00 for confer, but for deciduous the price is from $1.25 to $3.00 per meter. Not much of an incentive is it ?

Paying Tribute to the Canadian Forestry Corps

On November 11th, Canadians will pay tribute to the men and women who have served our country during times of conflict and honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice – in order for all of us to enjoy the freedoms we have today.

What many people may not be aware of is the story of the Canadian Forestry Corps, which made a significant contribution to Allied efforts during the First and Second World Wars – but one which is often overlooked.

The Forestry Corps was created during the First World War when it was discovered that huge quantities of wood were needed on the Western Front. The forest products industry was a dominating economic force in Canada's early history and the British Government quickly discovered there was nobody more experienced or qualified to harvest timber than Canadians. In 1916, British Colonial Secretary, Andrew Bonar Law, made a request of the Governor General of Canada to deploy Canadian lumbermen to aid in the cutting and processing of timber. Later that year, the Canadian Forestry Corps was created.

At the time, Canada shipped processed timber across the Atlantic to Britain. However, due to the high risk of travelling overseas from German U-boats, it was deemed safer to bring the manpower to work in the forests of Britain and continental Europe.

Approximately 24,000 men served as part of the Forestry Corps in various parts of Europe, producing lumber forbarracks, trenches, bridges and railway beds - to build crates for food and ammunition - and sadly, to construct coffins.

By the end of the war, the Corps had produced approximately 85,000 tonnes of round timber, 260 million board feet of lumber, and over 200,000 tons of fuel and slabs.

Besides producing lumber, the Corps was also trained as infantry and occasionally served on the front lines to assist in the quick construction of rail and road systems in the wake of attacking troops. On one occasion, when a request was made for 500 men to join infantry duty, records show that almost 1300 volunteered. By the time the offensive had been halted, a large number of Corps members had served in some capacity on the front lines.

When the Corps was disbanded in 1920 at the end of the war, it is estimated they were responsible for 70% of all lumber that had been used by Allied forces.

In 1940, the Canadian Forestry Corps was re-established in response to the start of WWII to play the same role. Once again, thousands of volunteers came forward, many of them veterans of the First World War. Thirty companies were drawn from all regions of Canada, including Quebec. Altogether about 7,000 men were deployed to Scotland.

As we mark Remembrance Day, let's pause and honour the many contributions and the ultimate sacrifice made by so many – and have touched the lives of all Canadians, regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, or social class.

The Canadian Forestry Corps was made up of men who went from the back bushes of rural Canada to the front lines of war – and to all of them and their families and loved ones, we owe a debt of gratitude.

"Do not let your children grow up with the idea which seems so prevalent among far to many people who work for wages - that they will do as little labor as possible and require the highest price; but teach them that the only honest way is to give a fair equivalent in labor for the money they receive. Also strive to enkindle within them, while they are very young, a love for everything that is useful and good.."

The Old Farmer

My Woodlot

Byron and Heather Grundberg

Our woodlot differs from those of many members of the Woodlot Association of Alberta, in that we deliberately set out to purchase property for the sole purpose of creating a sustainable woodlot. That notion came about from two principal experiences. 1) We had recently sold some farmland to a family member and were feeling dispossessed of any real chunk of rural Alberta. 2) Through Byron's woodlot extension work, we had heard plenty of stories from other folks who had acquired land relatively cheaply just because it was covered in bush. So, we thought why not? and we proceeded to try and acquire forested land.

Acquisition of land that is our current woodlot started in 1995 and continued until 2002. Our search criteria were relatively simple. We wanted to purchase land that: 1) was inexpensive; 2) had productive soils (not too much wetland); and 3) had significant amounts of standing timber. We wanted timber stands that had merchantable volume or would have merchantable volume in a reasonable time frame. But we knew that standing timber was not a liquid investment, so we avoided older age classes that would require immediate harvest or risk significant deterioration in the short-term.

In the end, we acquired eight separate parcels of land (approximately 470 ha). In our experience, significant amounts of coniferous timber and inexpensive land proved mutually exclusive, so the land purchased mostly had deciduous timber stands (with smaller amounts of farmland or wetland). Land locations vary from the M.D. of Bonnyville in the east to M.D. of McKenzie in the north. The closest parcel is 260 km from where we live; the furthest parcel is nearly 700 km from our residence in St. Albert. These distances are a disadvantage for several practical reasons, but we've come to understand that there are advantages as well. For one thing, it has allowed us to acquire more age-classes of timber stands than would have been the case if we had insisted on a more contiguous land holding. Secondly, it provides us a significant level of risk management - our timber resource is far less likely to be destroyed by a single fire or pest infestation.

Our first management plan was completed in 1995. It was completed according to terms and conditions for longer-term woodlot management outlined by Alberta Pacific Forest Industries (AlPac) and it only covered our original parcels of land near La Corey. As we acquired more land, we kept written notes of our natural resources and our objectives for them. But we didn't formally amend our original management plan to incorporate them.

Our second management plan evolved out of Byron's participation (as a representative of WAA) in a technical working group of CSA. The technical committee's work eventually led to a new certification standard, CSA Z804 "SFM Standards for Woodlots and Other Small Areas". It was time for an updated management plan anyway, so in 2006, we completed one that was intended to meet the new standard. The 2006 plan: 1) incorporated all the parcels of land; and 2) referenced other guidelines such as WAA's 2002 Code of Practice and relevant portions of the Alberta Operated Ground Rules that apply to public land in Alberta.

Our third management plan was completed in 2018. It was time for a new plan anyway but the formal recognition of woodlot management plans under the Municipal Government Act (announced in the Logjam in March 2018) was just the kick in the pants we needed to get this

done. Coincidentally, one of our parcels in the M.D. of McKenzie had just been re-assessed. The new tax bill would have been eight times higher than what we had been paying to date. On receipt of a managed woodlot plan, The M.D. promptly lowered our tax bill to slightly less than we were paying before. Thanks to the WAA for its perseverance on the property tax issue and to Dennis Quintilio, Gordon Kerr, and Jurgen Moll for their work in reviewing our plan and registering it with the various municipalities.

Although level of detail has varied, all our management plans shared the same principal objectives: 1) positive cash flow from periodic sale of timber; 2) reforestation of harvested areas; and 3) maintenance of water and soil resources, wildlife habitat and wildlife diversity.

Of course, any management plan has little value unless it is followed.

Our first harvest activity occurred in 1996 (see photo 1). This was followed by harvest events in 2006 and 2014. To date, we've sold over 17,000 tonnes of timber - all of it to AlPac. Worth noting is that in addition to the "going rate" we received for timber sold, we also received a premium of $3 per tonne from AlPac for participating in the woodlot management program that they launched in 1995. The revenue received from this premium actually exceeded our purchase price for the two parcels of land involved in this contract. We currently have a purchase agreement with Mercer Peace River (Peace River Pulp) for a harvest event that will occur this year or next (see photo 2).

All areas harvested have been regenerated to standards that meet or exceed those that would apply on crown land in Alberta. Photo 3 shows a 22-year old stand of aspen and poplar that regenerated from our first harvest event. Imagine the change that our daughter Taylor has seen to this stand. It is almost as old as she is. The primary means of reforestation has been natural root suckering, but we've also planted trees to increase species diversity (see photo 4). Other management activities have included: periodic inspections of health and condition of timber stands; post-harvest debris disposal (pile burning); regeneration surveys; weed control and so on. It's not that we spend a lot of time in our woodlot, but we definitely have invested some money, as well as, sweat equity.

Because of distance, we don't spend much of our recreation time on our woodlots. But when we do visit them, we appreciate the wildlife and wild fauna that abounds. We regularly see grouse, deer and moose (In 1999, Byron had a very close encounter with a cow moose and her new calf). We've also seen bear, sandhill cranes, red tail hawks, countless wildflowers and berries - the list goes on (photo 5). We don't hunt but we know that other people hunt on our land and we generally take a permissive attitude to that.

In 2002, we participated in the Forest 2020 Program. This afforestation program was funded by Natural Resources Canada. In our area the field work was supervised and completed by Daishowa-Marubeni Inc. (DMI). We appreciate the investment and effort from these two agencies and have a very healthy plantation to show for it (photo 6). Worth noting, however, is that the revenue that was supposed to arise from sale of carbon offsets from our 8-hectare plantation has not replaced the rental income we received when that land was farmed. Don't take that statement wrong. We do appreciate the grant program that lead to this plantation. But don't ever let the government imply that landowners who participate in this kind of

programs are getting something for nothing. We do have maintenance costs and we do have opportunity costs.

Anyone who owns land in rural Alberta knows that its only a matter of time before you receive a call from the "land man". They may be looking for an easement for a utility line or an agreement for a seismic line or a well site. They are usually in a hurry to boot. That said, our experience is that when they know that they are dealing with an educated landowner, they will slow down and deal with you reasonably. The conversation is made easier when you can show them a management plan that indicates your long-term commitment to sustainable management. Over the years, we've had all those kinds of land use on our woodlot. It's not that we would go looking for this kind of land use but the outcomes aren't as bad as they could be and the revenue received does help with cash flow. The forest land removed for the CNRL well site on one parcel of land is offset by the afforestation project on another. Seismic lines that remain visible for years afterwards generally reforest when forest stands on either side of them are harvested. At least ours have.

So far, our investment in woodlots seems to be succeeding. Revenue from timber sales and land rental less operating costs (property tax, material and supplies, etc.) have provided a modest return on investment and that's before the appreciation in land value is taken into account. We have seen a lot of permanent land clearing adjacent to or near the land we own but our woodlots are still forested and still exhibit the biodiversity that goes with that. The 25-year old experiment continues.

Our next cutblock scheduled for harvest 2019 or 2020, (photo 2017)

Photo's of - Byron and Heather Grundberg's - Woodlot

Our first clearcut, cutblock — Spring 1997

Our first cutblock now 20 years old (July 2017) - 11meters deciduous stand, 1/3 of the way to the next rotation. *Snow damage mostly along old extraction road.*