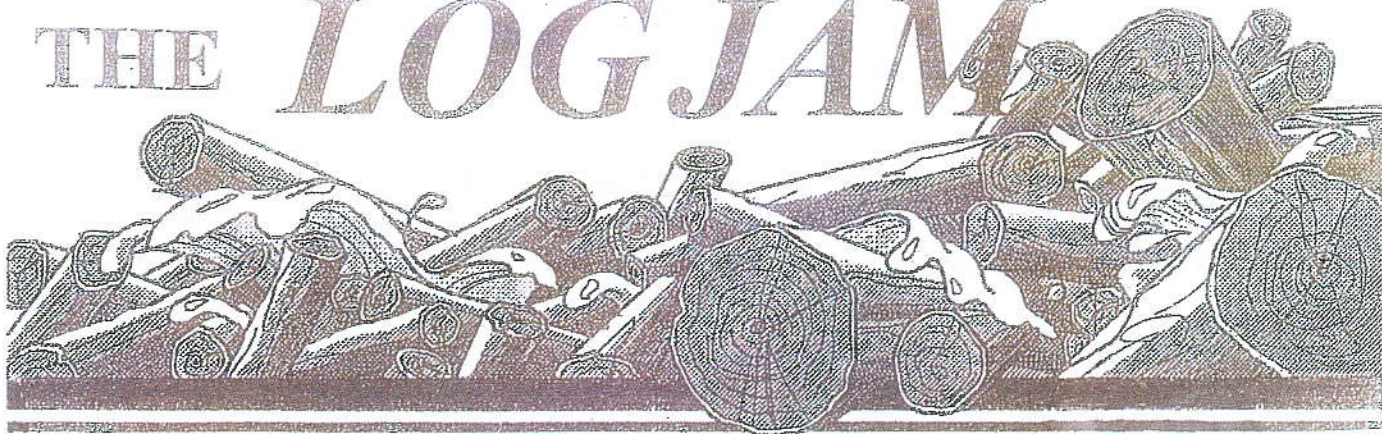


THE LOG JAM



Published by the Woodlot Association of Alberta (WAA)

December, 2013

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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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Up Coming Events

Board of Directors - Teleconference - **January 26 / 14**
March 30 / 14
April 27 / 14
All calls are at 7pm

WAA Booth at Farm and Ranch Trade Fair in Edmonton **On March 27-29/14**

Board of Directors **meeting** at Whitecourt **February 22 / 14**

Annual General **Meeting** to be held **October 18 & 19, 2014** in Whitecourt

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18th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2013 AGM was held on October 19 and 20 at the Forest Interpretive Centre in Whitecourt. About 20 members were in attendance. The Centre was well-suited and equipped to handle our meeting. It is conveniently located close to good motel accommodations and the restaurant at which the Saturday banquet was held.

We thank the Town of Whitecourt and Woodlands County for sponsoring the catered lunches. Thanks also to Timberland Supply Co. of Edmonton, who donated a curve shaft trimmer for a door prize. And many thanks to Jurgen Moll, who made the arrangements for the meeting. It was so well enjoyed that the attendees voted to hold next year's AGM in the same location (and perhaps Jurgen will do the arrangements again).

Pete Mills chaired the meeting, at the end announcing that, as his term has expired, he will not be seeking re-election to the Board because he and Sue plan to do some traveling. Board members will certainly miss his dedicated and diligent work toward the furtherance of WAA's goals. For his travels by vehicle, Pete was given a rare item – a Woodlot license plate from years past donated by Don Dumkee. We wish him happy travels and hope that his absence is only for a year.

Also having completed the second year of his term and not standing for re-election was Warren Stewart. We wish him well in his position as Councillor in the Town of Valleyview.

The Board of Directors elected for 2013/14 is:

Laval Bergeron - President
Bernice Cassady - Treasurer
Louise Horstman - Secretary
Jurgen Moll - newsletter editor
Pieter vander Schoot
Herb Cerezke
Larry Nofziger
Harry Krawchuk

This was the first year in which the WAA awarded lifetime memberships. Receiving this award in person were: Don Dumkee, George and Anne Litven, and Jurgen Moll. Also receiving the award but not present were Brent Simmonds and Kaj and Inger Pedersen .

One resolution was passed: to keep the name "Log Jam" for our newsletter unless changed by a motion of the Board. It was felt that we need to be consistent in our use of names so that we are recognizable to others.

Pete Mills reported on a meeting he and Jurgen had with ADM Bruce Mayer regarding WAA's resolution passed last year to pursue the possibility of woodlot leases on Crown land in the White Area. ESRD subsequently reviewed this idea and has sent a reply

asking for a detailed description of how such a tenure arrangement would work and how it would compare to arrangements in other jurisdictions.

Pete Mills reported that the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners is still pursuing its Silvicultural Investment plan re federal taxes, so that woodlot owners can put woodlot harvest profits toward re-establishment of trees without being taxed on them. The CFWO is also working on a greenbelt proposal to increase the profile of woodlots in the urban landscape.

Pieter vander Schoot reported that the Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society (AWES) has recently hired a new part-time director and a new extension person. It remains dedicated to extension work and Toso Bozic (now with AWES as an ARD staff member) is working to promote use of woody biomass to municipalities and others.

Four guest speakers joined us. Business sessions and guest speaker sessions were interspersed, as in the previous year, providing a good balance of topics. University of Alberta biology professors Dr. Colleen Cassady St. Clair and Dr. James Cahill gave highly interesting talks on their research. Dr. St. Clair described her research into the factors influencing the landing of ducks on tailings ponds in the oilsands area and implications for methods of prevention. Dr. Cahill described his research on the impact of the mountain pine beetle in B.C. on the forest ecosystem. Seena Handel, RPF, gave a presentation on invasive weeds in Alberta and SRD Whitecourt Forestry staff member Mike Milner spoke on fire prevention in woodlots. Their presentations stimulated much discussion and their donation of their time and travel were greatly appreciated

Some of the lifetime members that were able to attend the AGM



George and Anne Litven , Donald Dinkee and Jurgen Moll

Lifetime Memberships

At the AGM five Lifetime Memberships were awarded to members that have been members for many years, these are:

Donald Dumkee who's woodlot was in the Alder Flats area, which has been sold several years ago, due to theft and vandalism as they did not live full-time on the woodlot. Over the years some logging sawing and sale of forest products plus some grazing were carried out on their woodlot. They now reside in Wetaskiwin.

George and Anne Litven who's woodlot is in the Abee area (near Newbrook) they harvest some firewood and graze part of it. They live in Edmonton but visit the woodlot often.

Jurgen Moll my woodlot is in the Whitecourt area and I live on it, and continue to work on it to improve it by removal of damaged trees while thinning to increase growth, plus selling some Christmas trees.

Kaj and Inga Pedersen Their woodlot was in the Fairview area, they have sold it due to medical reasons and now live in Leduc. They did some partial harvest of over mature spruce, planted 6000 pine and spruce, built a cabin and truly enjoyed the woodlot.

Breton Simmonds his woodlot is in the Hattonford area (near Niton Junction) He is letting the trees grow and mature, plus part of the land is grazed. He lives in Hinton.

All of these Lifetime Members strongly support the WAA's objectives to encourage private ownership of woodlots for the benefit of all Albertans.

Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything

Albert Einstein

President 's Report

Laval Bergeron

As some of you know already, the association has a new president.

Hello everyone. My name is Laval Bergeron. I have been living in St-Isidore for 60 years "most of my life". I farm 5000 acres in partnership with my brother and I look after 500 acres of woodlot and several wind breaks and whatnot.

I joined the WAA the first year it came to life. It was in the years when prices were very high and trees started disappearing very fast.

Being a member of WAA has allowed me to meet unbelievable people and made me aware that I'm not the only one having this bond with the forest.

I would like to thank Peter Mills, our outgoing president, for the great work he has done. I hope he comes back after a prolong holiday. Enjoy!

As new president, my first step now is to become familiar with the different projects WAA is involved with and the new ones to come. The board, which is a wonderful group of people, I'm sure will guide me through the task. (I sure count on them)... WAA is always opened to new ideas. It was born with the idea of protecting and improving our woodlots. So everyone is welcomed to bring inputs. Don't be shy.

Editorial

Jurgen

Our AGM which was held on October 19 and 20 in Whitecourt turned out well as those attending being pleased with it. We had some interesting speakers and topics, very good lunches and banquet. (see Louise's summery of it for details)

This year we lost Warren Stewart as a director due to other involments, we wish him the best and look forward to him finding time to serve again in the future. Also Pete Mills felt he could not devote the time to the duties of president due to some planned extensive travel, but he will continue to maintain the "web-site" as Past President. We wish him safe and enjoyable tours.

We did gain two new members on the board of directors, and want to welcome - Harry Krawchuk from Nampa and Laval Bergeron from St. Isidore, I'm sure that they will find it interesting and rewarding.

Laval also took on the duties of President, this is our first truly bilingual President. This could well be an advantage for the WAA in that he resides in Alberta's largest French Canadian region. Therefore he will be able to promote the personal and environmental benefits that a woodlot on their farm can give them, in both languages. All of the members on the board look forward to working with him and give him all the free advise he may want.

Seeing that winter is here again with the first snow fall on Nov. 1, I hope you can find the season enjoyable in your woodlot as this is the quite time in the woods but a time when one can see the tracks made by those that make their home in it that we may not be aware of in the summer months.

We wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Fulling New Year.

A New Kid on the Big Defoliator Block?

Has anyone out there, besides me, noticed that there are a lot of largish, tan coloured moths this year? I'm willing to bet that this is something that has not gone unnoticed, particularly in northeast Alberta. Lately I can't even open the door to my house without a bunch of these moths flying in. One might be forgiven for assuming that these moths are adult forest tent caterpillars, they are similar in size and colour, but this is not the case. The moths we're seeing so much of this year are members of the genus *Enargia* – commonly known as aspen two-leaf tiers.



Why *Enargia* spp. numbers are so high this season is something I can't explain. According to the literature I have read, the caterpillars of this moth genus can cause severe localized defoliation, but are generally



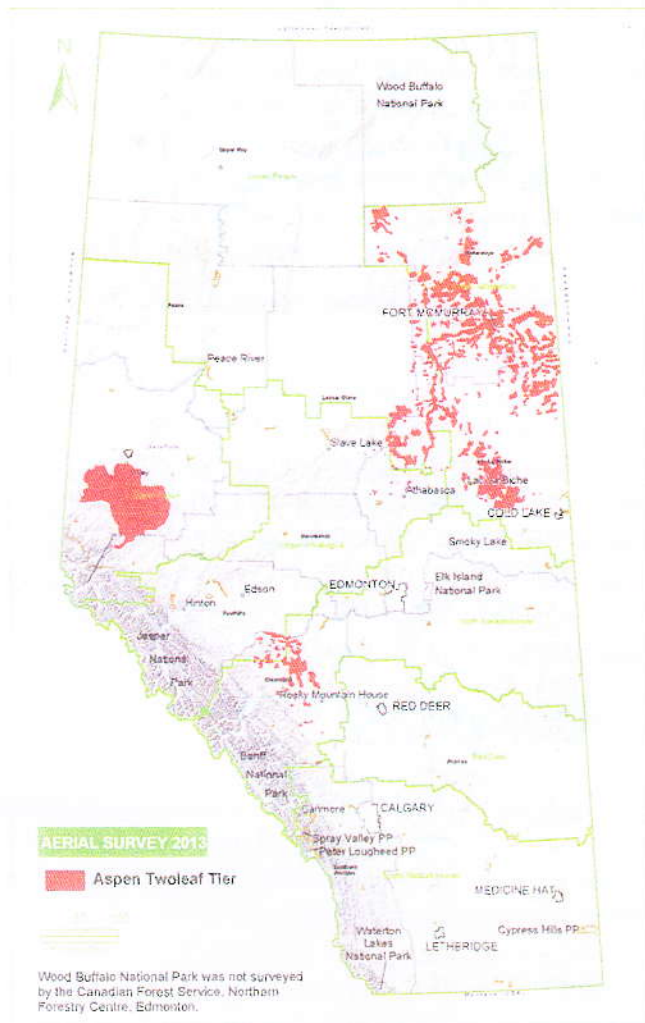
considered to be a minor pest in this regard. It appears these moths have decided to step out from behind the shadow of more well known deciduous defoliators (such as large aspen tortrix and forest tent caterpillar), and cause a noticeable, landscape level disturbance event. Our overview flights this spring delineated aspen defoliation over hundreds of thousands of hectares. In almost every case, ground truthing has indicated aspen two-leaf tier was the primary causative agent.

We did have some indication that aspen two-leaf tier populations were increasing dramatically in the northeast. These moths were a common by-catch in our Spruce Budworm pheromone traps. From 2004 to 2009 the percentage of traps with at least one aspen two-leaf tier moth recorded never reached 60%. Additionally, the maximum number of these moths found in one trap was over 100 only once. Starting in 2010, the percentage of traps with *Enargia* was over 60% and the number of moths counted per trap



was greater than previous year's counts. In 2010: at least one aspen two-leaf tier moth was found in over 95% of the traps; 20% of the traps had over 100 aspen two-leaf tier moths; and, the maximum counted in any one trap was 427. We do not know why this species is attracted to the budworm traps.

Clearly, indications were that there would be a significant increase in aspen two-leaf tier populations, however, I never would have imagined that they would cause as much defoliation as they appear to have caused this year. Do we have a new kid on the block of major defoliators? I don't know, but if the number of moths in my house is any indication, I expect we'll be seeing a lot of them again next year.



Aspen defoliation near Calling Lake.



Engargia and spruce budworm trap catch.

Tom Hutchison —Athabasca

Woodlots as an Investment

From an investment prospective, forestland has two components: the land, and the trees that have grown on it. There is no doubt, cutting down trees can affect the value of land and these two elements cannot be separated. Investing into forestry has some distinctive characteristics unlike investing into agriculture or another business. The most important is the time-horizon for investment. From the initial investment, forestry requires between 20 to 60 years to generate any net returns. During this time only a small fraction of the cost can be recovered. However, many landowners in Alberta have already grown trees with little or no input whatsoever.

A mature grown forest can provide many valuable products that can be harvested. These products include: sawlogs for dimension lumber, high-value timber products (furniture-quality wood and veneer logs), wood fuel, wood for energy generation, wood for pulp and paper production, landscaping chips, wood shavings for animal bedding material, Christmas trees and some specialty forest products (decorative ferns, mushrooms, herbs and medicinal products). Many farmers and ranchers look to woodlots as one way to diversify their farming operation. While those who live in urban centers see woodlots as an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and the forestland as an investment. However, most landowners in Alberta see their woodlot/forestland as nothing more than a timber source or a place for personal enjoyment and not as an investment. This trend is changing.

Many landowners are asking; "Can forestland be an investment?" *Mr. David Berman*, Editor of *Money Sense Magazine Investment* wrote:

"Now the benefits of timber investing are becoming apparent to regular folks, too. And for good reason, from 1960 to 2000 US timberland returned an amazing 13.3 % a year, easily outpacing the returns from the stock market, long-term corporate bonds, commercial real estate or international equities. In combination with those sizzling returns, timber also proved to be a relatively stable investment. It performed best when stocks and the overall economy was in distress. During the 16-year slump that plagued stock markets from 1966 to 1981, US stocks eked out an anemic 33% gain. Timber, meanwhile, marched ahead 288%."

In the past 50 years, there has been a steady increase for the demand of wood and its products all over the world. At the same time, there is a decrease in the amount of land available to grow trees. Many investors can see the opportunity of investing in forestland for tourism, recreation, hunting, and other environmental benefits such as carbon sequestration.

The difference between investing in agriculture land and already forested land is the landowner doesn't have any input costs, as the land is already forested. They can also manage how and when to sell their forest products. For example, when lumber prices are high, landowners can sell their logs for a premium but when prices are low, landowners can simply let trees grow and increase in value. Woodlot landowners also have an opportunity for wood value-adding and selling their lumber into the local farm community.

Like any investment timberland also carries risk. There are two types of risk associated with forest investment. The first one is, market fluctuation of wood and non products and the second one is, “physical” risk which includes things such as: fire, disease, insect infestation, and other natural disasters, as well as trading barriers and regulations.

If investing in forested land as a business interests you, here are some tips on how to learn more:

- **Read about the subject** - there are many places to find out more about woodlots and woodlot management such as; the internet, local libraries, and government agencies. A good resource to start with is the “Woodlot Management Guide for Prairie Provinces.” This guide can be obtained through the Woodlot Association of Alberta.
- **Enroll in woodlot workshops and seminars** – learn from the experiences of other woodlot operators, landowners and industry by attending workshop and seminars. This is the best way to learn hands-on techniques and gain knowledge from experienced woodlot operators or landowners
- **Contact forest/woodlot specialists** - the value of single trees can vary from a few to thousands of dollars depending on the species, size, condition, market demand and geographic area. This will also apply to your entire forest.
- **Contacts an accountant- currently many landowners in Alberta don’t** see trees in their woodlot as an asset. Currently there are no tax breaks for managing woodlots, but it is still worth talking to your accountant.

Woodlot Pest Management

Because woodlots require long-term management, it is important to understand that forests go through a cycle of change over time. Mammals, birds, insects, diseases, weather, and fire that weaken or kill individual trees are natural parts of forests that help with this change. A healthy forest is able to recover after a natural event like fire or insects, is able to support a variety of plants and animals and is resistant to extreme change like weather. However when there is a lack of balance and the overall health of the trees are threatened, this could be a sign of an unhealthy forest.



A major defoliator of poplars, large aspen tortrix larva (caterpillar) crawling on a leaf

Keeping the health and vigor of the woodlot is very important for land owners. Factors such as insects or disease that threaten the overall health of the trees and compete with us in the use of a forest are considered pests. Some pests cause only minor physical damage, while others limit growth or kill the trees. Careful planning by woodlot owners will reduce the risk of potential outbreaks. Early detection and control of serious problems will help reduce losses during pest outbreaks.

Cause of Damage

If a pest is suspected, it is important to identify probable causes. The *Alberta Forest Pest Damage Diagnostic System (FPDDS)* by *Sustainable Resource Development* may be able to help you identify common Alberta forest pests based on the damage you see. This system also allows you to search for more details of a known pest or tree. You can find out what pests could damage a given tree or what trees are vulnerable to a given pest.

Also, you can look in the image gallery to compare pictures to your observed damage for a quick, visual identification.



Hypoxylon canker found on the stem of an aspen poplar

Photo by: Toso Bozic

Have the following information about your affected trees to help you narrow down the cause of damage:

1. tree type
2. approximate tree height for needle trees (conifers)
3. number of trees damaged (1 or many)
4. location of damage (roots; stem; branches; needles or leaves)
5. type of damage (signs and symptoms); look for:
 - a. unusual colour changes or wilting of needles or leaves in the summer
 - b. caterpillars, cocoons, eggs, webbing
 - c. chew marks or holes
 - d. mushrooms
 - e. anything that looks unusual, like sap dripping, bumps on the bark etc

Click here to go to the *Alberta Forest Pest Damage Diagnostic System*:

<http://www.srd.alberta.ca/LandsForests/ForestHealth/ForestPests/ForestPestDamageDiagnostics.aspx>

Next Step

Once the probable cause of the damage is identified, here are some important questions to consider before taking any action:

1. Is the suspected pest/s a major pest?
2. Can the pest spread to other areas?
3. What is the extent and severity of the damage?
4. How important is the type of tree affected?
5. What is the overall impact on the woodlot?
6. Can the pest be controlled in a safe effective and an economical manner?
7. Can the forest be changed over time to reduce the impact of the pest? (e.g. removing highly susceptible tree types)
8. What conditions of the woodlot could be making it unhealthy? (e.g. drought; over crowding)
9. Can the forest conditions be improved to increase the health? (e.g. fertilizing, thinning or irrigation)

Shelterbelt Research Study

The USA Dept. of Agriculture is doing research on Shelterbelts and Windbreaks on the American Great Plains, they are involving many Universities , States, Federal Government Reps. Counties and local Conservation groups. The USA colleagues would like Canadian participation in collecting information on the benefits that shelterbelts and Windbreaks give to crop production in the Canadian prairie and parkland region. " So".

1. Are you willing to participate and collect some data.
2. If not do you know landowners that has data on yield that has shelterbelts on their land that we can collect data from.
3. We will measure forest data information, this has to be a real field - not a small research plot.

Please let me know by December 20 if you have a field or know of one .

Toso Bozic
Woodlot/Agroforestry Specialist
Toll free: 1-866-882-7677 or
Office: (780) 415-2681
E-mail: toso.bozic@gov.ab.ca

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)

=====

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: Mr. / Mrs. _____ of

_____ Phone No. _____

Mailing Address : _____

E -mail Address _____

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

Signature _____

Global recognition for Canadian forest product research and innovation

MONTREAL, Sept. 23, 2013 /CNW/ - Innovation in Canada's forest products sector is receiving international acclaim today as a Montreal researcher is being presented a prestigious award at a gala event in Stockholm Sweden for his ground-breaking work.

Dr. Derek Gray is receiving the prestigious Marcus Wallenberg award, considered the "Nobel Prize" for forestry in recognition of his cutting-edge research on nanocrystalline cellulose (NCC) fibre during his career with McGill University and FPInnovations.

NCC is being hailed as a wonder material that could be used in everything from plastic car parts, to bone replacement and teeth repair, to additives for paint, pigments, inks and cosmetics based on its iridescent optical properties. The work by Professor Gray and his colleagues helped result in a pioneering NCC pilot project at the FPInnovations lab in Montreal and in the opening of a world first commercial plant, Celluforce, in Windsor Quebec in 2012.

"It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Dr. Gray. His innovative research efforts are a perfect example of how collaboration between research organisations can lead to spectacular results," says Pierre Lapointe, President and CEO of FPInnovations. "This research will lead towards further enhancing of the economic value of the forest resource by diversifying markets and contributing to the development of a new, sustainable bioeconomy".

Quote from David: "This kind of world-leading research and development will help us realize the ambitious goals of our Vision2020," says David Lindsay, the President and CEO of the Forest Products Association of Canada. (FPAC) "Transformation in the industry is now taking place thanks to a unique partnership between the forest industry, federal and provincial governments and researchers all trying to maximize the potential of Canada's most plentiful renewable resource, our trees.

"On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to extend my congratulations and thanks to Dr. Gray for his pioneering research and for furthering Canada's leadership in sustainable forest management practices," said the Honourable Joe Oliver, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources. "Thanks to the transformative work of Dr. Gray, as well as that of many Canadian researchers and developers, our country is increasingly being recognized for innovative forest products and technologies."

FPAC is the voice of Canada's forest producers nationally and internationally in government, trade and environmental affairs. Canada's forest products industry is a \$57-billion dollar a year industry that represents 11% of Canada's manufacturing GDP. The industry is one of Canada's largest employers, operating in hundreds of Canadian communities and providing more than 230,000 direct jobs across the country.

Obituary

Fred Godberson 1934 - 2013

It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of Fred Godberson of Barrhead on Oct 27, 2013 in Edmonton. Left to mourn his loss is his loving wife, Janice of 50 years; daughter, Edee (Greg) Miazga of Edmonton; cherished grandchildren Kirsten, Stephen, Grace, & Mark; 2 brothers, Dr. Charles Godberson of Barrhead, Edward (Lorraine) Godberson of Boswell BC. He was predeceased by his son Graham(1988).

Fred enjoyed his membership in the Woodlot Association of Alberta. His private woodlot afforded him the pleasure of cutting his own trees, sawing them into lumber on his homebuilt portable bandsaw, and using the lumber to build a cabin, sleighs, a buggy, clocks,....Other projects Fred enjoyed included building an airplane (which he flew for 10 yrs), restoring a 1928 Model A Ford, and riding his mules.

Thank you to everyone who enriched Fred's life.

Anonymous Gift

The Board of Directors would like to thank the member who gave an anonymous gift to the Woodlot Association, of \$ 1,000.00 towards the production of the "Log Jam" newsletter.

Canada Thistle Stem Mining Weevils



Canada Thistle Stem Mining Weevils
Hadroplontus litura (formally
Ceutorhynchus litura), commonly
Canada thistle stem mining weevil.

The stem mining weevil was introduced from Europe to Canada in 1965 and to the USA in the early 1970's to feed on Canada thistle. The weevil restricts its feeding to this weed and a few close relatives. After wintering the weevils emerge in early spring as the first thistle rosettes

begin to appear. The adults are present for several weeks, mating and feeding on the foliage of the Canada thistle; unfortunately, adult feeding appears to have little adverse effect on weed vitality. Even at high densities, the adults are difficult to find in the field, as they fall off the host plant when disturbed and remain motionless on the ground where they are well camouflaged.

When ready to lay eggs, a female weevil chews a hole (1/10" in diameter) in a thistle leaf on a young rosette, generally in the main vein. She turns around and lays one to five egg clusters in the hole (approx. up to 120 eggs are laid). When the larvae hatch a week or so later, they tunnel through the leaf in the lower stem and roots collar; when several larvae are present, the main vein turns black from the tunnelling and, several days later the leaf dies.

In early summer, once fully fed, the larvae emerge from the thistle shoot through small exit holes that they chew near or just below ground level. They work their way into the soil, and enter the pupal stage in which they transform into adults. After two to three weeks, adults emerge from the soil in late June and July and feed on the thistle foliage until heavy frost occurs in fall. Upon release at new locations they spread slowly; in field studies in Canada, they spread on average 90 m in 6 years. Because of this localization the level of infestation at the sites of release increases over time.

Weevil feeding may allow a variety of other micro-organisms to enter the thistle stem, with adverse consequences for the thistle: field studies in Montana indicated that underground parts of stems are much more subject to winter kill if the aboveground stem is attacked by weevils during the growing season.

WCFA has been working with local producers on the release of these weevils for the last four years. Sites where weevils have been released have generally shown decreased stand vigor and patches thin out over time. In 2012, 50 dishes (each containing 105 weevils individuals) were brought up from Montana for producers in the West Central Region who were interested in the purchase and release them in thistle patches. Added to this was 58 dishes for a regional trial set up by the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta. These 58 dishes were released into controlled site from Lethbridge right up to the Peace Country. These sites will be monitored for the next several years to further establish whether the weevils are developing local populations or not.

Hadroplontus litura

DESCRIPTION: Weevil - 2 to 3 mm mottled-grey color with white cross marking on back



BACKGROUND LIFE CYCLE

Habitat	Adult Emergence	Egg Laying	Larva Development	F1	Adult Life Span	Over Winters
Dense stands 5 to 10 plants/m ² surrounded by bare soil	Coincides with rosette stage	May to June eggs laid in mid vein of leaf (generally in clusters of 2-5, up to 120 eggs are laid)	Eggs hatch between 5-9 days, they then mine down the stem to root collar	Late June to early July	10 months	Adult in leaf litter

ATTACK	COLLECTION		NOTES
Stage	Damage	Life Stage	Method
Larvae	Stem and root miner	Adults on warm sunny August days	Sweep aspirator
Adult	Minor rosette and leaf damage		Adults can withstand some spring net, flooding

For more information contact:
 Stewardship Alliance for Conservation Agriculture
 1-780-727-4447
conservationag@westcentralforage.com
 P.O. Box 360
 Evansburg, AB
 TOE 0T0

Global forest cover on a steady downward trend

Decline expected to continue for centuries, based on increased demand for agricultural land

By Summit Voice

FRISCO — Population growth and increased demand for agricultural land means forest will continue to shrink globally during the next couple of centuries before stabilizing at a lower level.

Just since 1990, about 170 million acres of forest have been lost, mainly in developing countries, according to a new study led by researchers with the University of Guelph (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/>).



A wheat field in Upper Austria ripens under a summer sun

The study is based on an analysis of global forest trends, used to develop a mathematical model showing future land use changes. The most likely model shows forests will decline from covering 30 per cent of Earth's land surface today to 22 per cent within the next two centuries.

The model discusses different scenarios, such as global forest growth reversing deforestation, or reforestation cut short by renewed losses.

Forest cover has held steady and even grown slightly in industrialized nations. In developing countries, forests are declining as populations grow and farming claims more land.

"This model is helpful in that we can look back at where we've come from, but its real usefulness is in predicting where we're most likely heading," said Madhur Anand, University Research Chair in Sustainability Science. "With growing international trade in forest products playing a role, it is more informative to look globally at forest cover than it is to do a nation-by-nation analysis."

As a basis for the modeling, the scientists used the world food equation, which relates agricultural land area to population, per capita consumption and farm yield. The model quantifies how much farming improvements, such as increased yield, reduce the amount of land needed to feed a growing population.

But if world population reaches 10 billion (based on mathematical trends), human uses will take up about two-thirds of the world's land area. With 15 per cent of Earth's land mass already classified as arid, only 22 per cent would be left for forest and wild pasture conservation.

"We tried to keep this model simple so there aren't too many unknown parameters. We realize that no one can determine the future, and there could be drastic changes in agricultural yield, food technologies or diet which could impact on our findings, but we attempted to explore those kinds of changes in our scenarios," said Anand.

"Based on this model, we are most likely going to see forest cover decline around the world. Countries need to realize that this is a global issue, and if forests are to be preserved, and even grow, co-operation through intergovernmental organizations will have to continue to happen. Industrial countries could, for example, disseminate technologies to developing countries, reducing the amount of land needed for agriculture. Otherwise, we will see forests get smaller and smaller."

Warning issued after wolf pack encounter near Merritt

A forestry worker's encounter with a wolf pack near Merritt has prompted a safety alert from the B.C. Forest Safety Council.

The encounter took place two weeks ago on Lower Michael Road.

A worker had just started what's known as a road traverse when at least five wolves approached her to within three metres. She was about 100 metres from her vehicle.



stock photo

Tanya Lawes, of Lawes Forest Management said their employee managed to make it back to her truck uninjured and called for help. However, the dog that tried to protect her from the wolves was severely wounded.

"Once (she) got to the truck and got the other dog in there, she called to heel her (second) dog and it came, but it was pretty injured and once she got to Merritt, they had to put it down," Lawes said.

Human encounters with wolves are extremely rare, she said.

"It's not normal to come across wolves or to have them act like that, that's for sure," she said. "It's more likely — if you're going to have an animal encounter — that it's a moose . . . or we've had a cougar and bears, but not wolves before."

The bulletin advises that people who encounters wolves should raise their arms to make themselves appear larger, back away slowly and not turn their back on the wolves, make loud noises and use bear mace if the animals get close enough.

PRT Tree Nursery's - 25th Anniversary

Pacific Regeneration Technologies (PRT) has been located in Beaverlodge for the past 25 years.

They have over 380,000 sq. ft. of greenhouses and grow some 11,000,000 tree seedlings every year at the Beaverlodge nursery. In 12 locations in Canada and one in Oregon they have grown over 3 billion seedlings.

PRT is North American's largest producer of container grown seedlings in styroblock containers, which increase performance and survival rates in the field plus making the trees easier to plant.

They grow tree seedlings for reforestation, mine reclamation, and recovery of oil and gas well-sites. The species of trees grown are lodgepole pine, white and black spruce and some poplar.

They employ up to 60 people for part of the summer months at the Beaverlodge nursery.

Think Like a Wolf Seminar

This course will provide education to participants for managing wolves in order to avoid livestock predation. Learn strategies and the significance of respect for the wolf in relation to successful harvesting. This a two day workshop discussing topics such as wolf politics, wolf biology, habits of consistent wolf trappers, equipment (traps, snares, baits and lures), salient features and choosing capture sites, strategies and sets, humane trapping and avoiding accidental catches.

Instructor: Gordy Klassen

Date: March 1 & 2, 2013

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Place: Blue Ridge Community Hall

Cost: \$40.00 (includes lunch and course materials)

Registration Deadline is February 21, 2014.

There will be a maximum of 20 participants for this workshop so register early.

To register or for more information please call:

Telephone: 780-584-3866

Toll Free: 1-866-584-3866

You may also respond via email to:

**Dawn Fortin, Manager, Agriculture Services
dawn.fortin@woodlands.ab.ca**

My Woodlot

B&B Woodlot

Kaj and Inger Pedersen

B & B Woodlot was purchased in 1981. Some people say we purchased the land for our dogs, the namesake of "B&B" (Barbie and Benny, two German Shorthaired Pointers) Woodlot, however, the truth is, we had always been enamoured with wildlife and its



surrounding habitat. In addition, I had always wanted to be a forester. At that time, in Denmark, there were not any jobs to be had in that field, and so, I took my apprenticeship as a mechanic.

After 20 plus years of being in Canada, we were fortunate to come across this stunning quarter section in the Peace Country (twelve minutes east of Fairview) that had originally belonged to Parker's Estate. Mr. Parker was the first school teacher when a small village, Bluesky, was located at the Little Burnt River (Bluesky was later relocated three miles west of this site). Apparently, the path that runs through the land was part of the original Dunvegan Trail. Imagine the horses and carriages riding through! The land had been vacant years when we came across it and it was love at first sight.

The main trail blossomed into many other trails (approximately 5 km of trails!) that we created to enable us to cross country ski, walk or quad through the beautiful, mature spruce and aspen. In summer, we planted a garden near the existing dugout. It was clear that with the time we were spending at the land, we would need a cabin so in 1984 a 20' x 40' cabin was erected.



After much consideration, in 1989, we decided to harvest some of the white spruce. Some of these trees were 150+ years old and ready for harvesting. This was a selective harvesting, whereby the loggers came in and chose the trees that my wife, Inger-Lise, had marked. About 1/3 of the white spruce were logged. We could have harvested more but we wished to sustain the beautiful forest and we accomplished this with the selective harvesting. A tree house was even built with boards obtained from the harvest.

Our involvement with the Woodlot Association began in 1993. It was wonderful getting new ideas and information from the Woodlot Association. They had advertized in their newsletter that they were looking for woodlots to tour. We offered our land for the tours and with the assistance of government grants and private companies, members of the Woodlot Association of Alberta were able to tour our land (and other people's woodlots) to learn and share information. One year, the daughter of the original owner, Ollie Longley, nee Parker (who was even born on the land!) came for one of these tours with her daughter and grandchild.

In 2009, we were contacted by a gas and oil company to see if they could put a pipeline (gas) on the south side of our land. 15m x 805 m of land was affected. The gas and oil company did a really good job of cleaning the area up. Now when we drive by the area, it is not uncommon to see deer and moose nibbling away at the seeded alfalfa.

In 2010, through the Woodlot Association of Alberta, we were able to procure 3000 spruce and 3000 pine which were randomly planted throughout the land. Unfortunately, it was a very dry year and there was some loss of trees as a result. But, wow! Not only did we receive these trees at no cost, but somebody came in and planted them too! Big thanks to the Woodlot Association of Alberta!!!!

Due to medical issues, we have moved to Leduc. We miss our land very much, and were only visiting a couple of times a year. Some of our best memories are skiing, quadding and walking all over this piece of heaven. We have had so many friends visit, sitting around a campfire while someone brought out a guitar and sang. We fondly remember our two dogs unsuccessfully chasing squirrels and at day's end having to lift those tired dogs up into the truck. We overnighted a number of times out there, reveling in the quietness of the experience. We fed the birds and occasionally had chickadees land on us while doing so. We are fortunate that someone else has purchased our property, and shares our love with nature. The new owners are now making their own memories.

The LAMPLIGHTERS ODE

*I am a seeker for the cure
Not for those who
Got, suffered and died.*

*But those yet to come
Who will get, suffer and die.*

*So my prayer is,
That our lamps help light the
Pathway to the cure.*

Jurgen

When my wife had cancer we partook part a in the RELAY for LIFE which is a fundraiser for the fight against cancer. As part of the program those taking part in it, walk around on a track throughout the night, at dark they set out lamps round the inside of the track, that are bought for a loved one who lost the battle with cancer. I had two sisters for which we bought lamps as did many others these lamps have names on for whom it was in memory. When you find your lamp one lights the candle in it. It is really remarkable to see 100's of lamps lining the track, this an emotional time.

As I walked and viewed the scene these thoughts came to mind as to why we where doing this. *If you would like to know more on this contact Relay for Life as they hold these events throughout the Province, it is well worth attending.*