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June, 2011



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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Pieter van der Schoot, Past President Breton (780) 696,2436 Here's what's been discussed at our May board meetings, one of which was a teleconference and one a meeting in Whitecourt.

Mountain Pine Beetle- This infestation has now reached the Slave Lake-Lac La Biche region. In our last issue of the newsletter we put out a call for those who want to purchase the hormone repellant "Verbenone". We didn't get much response and learned that some members are not aware of the problem yet. If you have special lodgepole, jackpine or Scots pine that you feel it worth saving, consider ordering some Verbenone through the WAA, as we can get a special rate.

For more information contact Peter Mills at 780-354-8226.

<u>Put this on your calendar -AGM</u> – Our AGM will be held the first weekend in November in either Hinton or Athabasca. Training sessions and speakers are being planned. More details to follow in the next newsletter.

<u>Postage</u> - We have signed a contract with Canada Post that will give us a cheaper postal rate for mailing out our newsletter. Hopefully the mail strike will be over soon.

<u>Change of address</u>- The joint WAA/RISA office is moving in July. Our phone number will be the same but the mailing address will be changed.

Presidents Message

Pete Mills

Hello everyone;

Welcome to another issue of your LOGJAM! Once again I think Jurgen and everyone have put together a very informative group of articles. Being that we are now through spring I imagine most of you are finding the opportunity to get out and do some of the woodlot activities that were put off in the cooler weather. I know with everything in my life I never seem to get ahead so I'm sure there are others out there with a list at least as long as mine.

One of the benefits of summer is the opportunity to conduct Woodlot tours and this summer is no exception. By the time you read this we will already have held one local afternoon tour at Jurgen Moll's place in Whitecourt. We have 2 more of these short tours planned as well as a larger 2 day affair planned for late August. You should have already received information on these in a letter earlier so please mark your calendar and bring out a friend. The afternoon tours are a great way to introduce a newbie to the values of a woodlot. Finally it may sound like a bit of old news but please don't forget that mountain pine beetle season is approaching in July so if everyone keeps their eyes open we should be able to save many of those beautiful specimen trees

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

Up Coming Events

Board of Directors teleconference July 17 /11 @ 1900 hrs.

Board of Directors meeting September 10/11 @ 1100 hrs. in Whitecourt

Annual General Meeting November 4 & 5 (Location to be confirmed in Sept. Logjam)

Tours

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

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

August 13/11 Peter Mill's Woodlot by Beaverlodge (723028 Rge Rd 92)

For information call Peter @ 780 354 8226

Bus Tour of Several Woodlots (2 days)

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

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

Bylaw Changes

To amend, rescind, or make additions to our Bylaws one must follow Section 9.0 of the Bylaws, that states:

9.0 Amendments to the Bylaws

- a) In the future the Bylaws can only be recinded, altered, or otherwise changed by a Special Resolution of the members at a General Meeting, or Special General Meeting of the members.
- b) Notice of any proposed changes to the Bylaws must be provided to all members at least (30) days prior to the date at which the Special Resolution will be presented at a General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the members.

Should you want to amend the Bylaws these rules must be followed, therefore to meet the 30 day rule, please prepare your amendment on the proper form and forward it to me that it can be attached to the September copy of the Log Jam news letter, thereby all members will receive it well within the time limit.

Should you require a copy of the Bylaws please contact Louise Horstman who can supply you with a copy:



"I love Spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden" - Ruth Stout -

Spring and Summer selections from the Woodlot Extension Library, Northern Forestry Centre, 5320 – 122 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 3S5.

Edible flowers from garden to palate – Cathy Wilkinson Barash
Herbs: an illustrated encyclopedia – Kathi Keville
Wildlife in the garden – Gene Logsdon
Attracting backyard wildlife – Bill Merilees
Secrets of plant propagation: starting your own flowers, vegetables, fruits, berries, shrubs, trees, and houseplants – Lewis Hill
The complete book of plant propagation – G. Clarke and A. Toogood
Making money growing plants, trees & flowers – Francis X. Jozwik
Tree pruning: a worldwide photo guide – Alex L. Shigo
The pruning of trees, shrubs and conifers – George E. Brown
Weeds of Canada and the Northern United States – F. Royer and R.
Dickinson
Common-sense pest control: least toxic solutions for your home, garden,

Common-sense pest control: least toxic solutions for your home, garden, pets and community – W. Olkowski, S. Daar and H. Olkowski

For a more complete list of titles held by the library search the online catalogue at: www.nrcan.gc.ca/libraries under the Resources and Catalogue subheadings. From the "Choose a library to search" menu click on the Forestry and Edmonton subfolders. Direct inquires can be made to the library manager, Denise Leroy at 780-435-7324 (deleroy@nrcan.gc.ca).

Your local library can arrange for interlibrary loan delivery if you live out of town.

May 2011

Manage your trees for diversity

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



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

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

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

This is the time of year to perform strategic control on recently-attacked pine, to stop new beetles from attacking new trees in mid June:

- Trees that are heavily attacked will not survive and should be cut and debarked in order to control the infestation.
- Protect your understory when controlling infested pine trees. Your forest will renew faster with younger trees when compared to harvesting and planting.
- 3. Re-sequence your harvest plan. Consider harvesting older pines to vary the overall age class of your stand. Your harvest schedule should aim to renew the diversity of a stand where possible.
- 4. Consult your local SRD forest health officer to discuss management solutions (including appropriate pheromone use) for your particular situation. Local, up to date information will help you assess the threat and risk of infestation on your woodlot.

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

For more information visit mob.alberta.ca or contact Brett Spady at 780-644-5531.

Life is made up not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things, in which smiles and kindness, and small obligations given habitually, are what win and preserve the heart and secure comfort - Sir H. Davy -

Editorial

Jurgen

Now that the full bloom of summer is here, this is a great time for the woodlot owner in that it's pick'n time, for berries, mushrooms, and herbs. Every woodlot will have some native berries, but not all varieties, due to climate, forest cover, and soil type. But there are some berries that are almost universally found in Alberta's forest lands, such as, strawberries, raspberries and blueberries. Whereas the flowering bushes such as the saskatoon and cranberries do not do well in areas that have frequent late frosts.

As for those who are knowledgeable with respect to mushrooms, there a wide variety of editable mushrooms in almost every woodlot. These are very seasonable and climate sensitive therefore may not be available every year. If using any be sure that you know which ones are editable for the difference between an editable one and a poisonous one can be very slight.

For those of you that are gardeners this is the best of times, in that one can now start to use the green leafy vegetables such as spinach, lettuce green onions and shortly there will be the fresh peas, new potatoes (I best stop as I'm making myself hungry).

So enjoy your woodlot in collecting the fruit that is there free for the picking, and storing some for the long winter season, for they will be every bit as good then, as are now.

Animal Encounters

by Dana Tartal SRD

As more Albertans take to the wilderness as a recreation and communities expand into rural and wooded areas, the possibility of encounters a cougar, moose or bear continues to increase. Learning about methods of minimizing the risk from such encounters is the most important step in helping you and your family enjoy our landscape safely.

To report a public safety concern, promptly contact the closest Fish and Wildlife office near you by calling 310-0000 (toll-free) or phone the 24-hour Report a Poacher line at 1-800-642-3800. For additional information on bears, cougars or other wildlife, visit the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development website at www.srd.alberta.ca http://www.srd.alberta.ca http://www.srd.alberta.ca https://www.srd.alberta.ca https://www.srd.alberta.ca https://www.srd.alberta.ca www.srd.alberta.ca https://www.srd.alberta.ca www.srd.alberta.ca https://www.srd.alberta.ca https://www.srd.a

It would be wise for a person to carry four different items in a bush environment in case of encounters with cougars, bears or moose:

- bear spray, only for use if the animal is closing in on you. Aim for a bear's eyes. This
 may stop the attack and allow you to escape.
- an air horn to allow them to avoid you

a walking stick, for fighting

a cellphone to call for help if you are treed or otherwise trapped or if you are hurt

Get CougarSmart

Cougars are elusive masters of camouflage and typically avoid contact with people.

Consequently, cougars sightings and encounters are rare. Encounters between cougars and livestock, pets and people are more likely where human populations have increased in rural and wooded areas. However, a cougar will usually notice your presence and leave before you even realize it is there.

If you encounter a cougar:

Never approach cougars.

Always know where the cougar is and leave space for it to easily escape.

Immediately pick up your children and small pets.

Face the cougar, avoid eye contact and slowly back away; do not run or play dead.

Stay calm and talk to the cougar in a strong, firm voice.

Make yourself look bigger by holding your arms or an object above your head.

If a cougar is aggressive:

 Actions such as shouting, waving a stick, or throwing rocks may help deter an attack; appear as if you are the predator and not the prey.

• If a cougar attacks, fight back! People have survived attacks by using bare fists, sticks, fishing rods, rocks, or anything at hand.

Get BearSmart

 If a bear has spotted you it may stand on its hind legs and swing or elevate its head to pick up your smell. It is trying to identify you.

 If surprised it may suddenly wheel around or rise quickly with its ears back and hair erect. This bear has been frightened but is not necessarily aggressive.

Do not run form a bear. You cannot outrun it.

 In any encounter you should be talking calmly and backing away toward cover and giving the animal time and room to retreat on its own.

 Grizzles and black bears can climb trees so this manoeuvre may only have the advantage of causing a bear to feel less threatened.

Get MooseSmart

 Avoid confrontations with moose by giving them plenty of space. Cow moose can be especially dangerous as they will defend their calves.

 Never approach a moose. If you encounter a moose, walk away slowly and do not run.

 If your dog barks or gives chase, the moose may defend itself by kicking the dog or pursuing it—right back to you! Always keep your dog on a leash.

• If a moose charges, get behind something solid like a tree or vehicle and use it as a shield



Garlic Mustard threatens Forested Areas in Albert

With the proclamation of the new Alberta Weed Control Act in 2010, the world of gardening in Alberta has shifted and changed.

Many of the newly declared Prohibited Noxious weeds, which must be eradicated, are familiar to gardeners as attractive ornamentals. Unfortunately, any of those which are now included on the Prohibited Noxious list must be removed from your garden, and disposed of safely, to assure there is not a spread to any other locations. Vigilance in eliminating known invasives, and being on the lookout for newly declared invasives in natural areas, is key to keeping ahead of the potential damage such plants can cause.

To the surprise of weed management professionals, a plant that had just been declared Prohibited Noxious in the new Act, was found in two forested areas in Edmonton and the City of St. Albert. Included in the new Act as a precaution because it is known to be highly invasive in forested areas in Ontario and the Northeastern US, Garlic Mustard was not known to be present in Alberta prior to the discovery of the two plots in the spring of 2010.

Within a decade in Wisconsin, the forest floor in forest after forest has been taken over by Garlic Mustard, to the exclusion of all other forbs and some woody species. It can also out compete tree seedlings. The problem is that takeover by Garlic Mustard inevitably leads to a secondary invasion of forests by unwanted woody invasives like European Buckthorn, already known to exist in the Edmonton area. This latter invasion will be worse than the former.¹

Garlic Mustard is semi-evergreen to evergreen, and its rosettes, formed during the first year, will appear as a bright green carpet after the snow has gone in late winter. Old, dead plants can stand .5 to .75 metres tall and look very much like dead mustard plants, except they are found in the middle of a forest area.

A biennial herb used by some as a substitute for garlic, there are two tell-tale characteristics that identify the plant. A member of the Mustard family, garlic mustard has a cross shaped, four-petalled, white flower and when the leaves are crushed they smell like garlic. If those two things are present, you are dealing with Garlic Mustard.²

This plant can be controlled by pulling or by use of low impact herbicides, but the seed remains viable for 5 years, so there is a need for repeated pulls of plants throughout the growing season, and annual monitoring.

If you find any thing that looks like garlic mustard, report it immediately to your local weed management authorities.

¹Garlic Mustard Damage to Forest Floor www.in-sitevideo.com/wff/garlicmustard.html

²AIPC Fact Sheet - Garlic Mustard http://www.invasiveplants.ab.ca/Downloads/FS-GarlicMustard.pdf

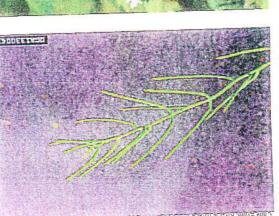
Garlic Mustard Alliaria petiolata











Category:

Prohibited Noxious

Information: Grows in moist, woody areas.

Life Cycle: Herbaceous biennial, Rosette in the first years growth, flowers in the second.

Root: White, slender taproot.

Leaves: Rosette leaves are heart shaped and dark. Mature leaves are spade shaped with a arranged on the stem and have a garlic odor jagged, toothed edge. Leaves are alternately when crushed.

Stems: Plant can grow from 1-1.5m tall.

Mower: Small white flowers, 4 petals.

Seed/Fruits: 150-850 seeds per plant, pods.

. Toxicity: May be allelopathic towards other plants.

. Control: Hand pick before seed set, make sure to get the entire root.

Spruce Budworm Survey Results

ntil Mountain Pine Beetle came to the fore, Spruce Budworm (SBW) was considered the most destructive conifer insect pest in Alberta. For many years SBW caterpillars have been feeding voraciously on the needles of trees over much of the north eastern part of the province. White spruce is the preferred host tree species for SBW in northern Alberta. Trees of this species, in some areas, have been severely affected by many years of severe defoliation. The cumulative effects of this feeding have negatively impacted many spruce stands. Repeated SBW caused defoliation has resulted in: visible decline; branch and top die-back; and, in some areas, mortality in the mature spruce stands. Over an even greater extent, understory spruce and fir have been devastated.

Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) conducts surveys to monitor SBW populations and population trends. Going into the 2010 season, survey information was indicating that severe defoliation could be expected over much of SRD's Waterways and Lac La Biche area (particularly in Waterways). By June, this was confirmed with on the ground observations. Many white spruce had huge amounts of silk webbing in their canopies, and defoliation evident over 100% of their live crowns. Understory trees were almost completely defoliated. As well, black spruce (not a preferred host tree species) were being attacked - all o the preceding are indicators of severely high SBW populations. Overview flight surveys (conducted in July) showed that the severity and extent of SBW caused defoliation had increased dramatically from the previous year's observations. In August, pheromone monitoring trap counts also indicated that SBW populations were very high. Some traps contained greater than 6000 moths (which is three times our threshold value for indicating a high risk of outbreak populations occurring). All of these survey results, coupled with evident damage to spruce forests over a wide area, compelled SRD Forest Health Staff to consider a spray control program. Toward this end, a business case was proposed in order to secure funding for such a

program. Input for this case was gathered from industrial and government stakeholders. In December, the SBW epidemic in the NE was declared a "Provincial Emergency" and funding for a spray program was approved.

Although previous survey results pointed toward continued epidemic population levels a more accurate prediction of SBW populations, to be expected in 2011, was needed. Predictive surveys (typically egg mass or second larval (L2) surveys) not only would help to confirm the need for a spray program, but also would help to identify priority areas to treat. Some egg mass surveys had been conducted in November using samples from 11 sites in the Waterways Area. The results of these, rather surprisingly, showed that low SBW populations could be expected in 2011. In January, it was decided there was a need to conduct a more extensive L2 survey these are a more reliable predictive survey than are egg mass surveys. Branch samples were collected from 78 sites scattered over a very large portion of the Waterways and Lac La Biche Area. These were then sent to a laboratory in Ontario to be processed. An average number of L2s/10m² of foliage was generated to predict SBW population levels for 2011 at each site. Of the 78 sites, 84% predicted that populations would be moderate to low in 2011. In fact 49 sites (63%) had results indicating low-moderate to low populations.

Based on the results of the L2 and egg mass surveys a decision was made not to go ahead with a large-scale spray program. A more limited program is still being considered, for some reclamation areas close to Fort McMurray and around the Hanging-stone recreation area. It appears that for the first time in many years, there will be less SBW cased defoliation in 2011. Hopefully, the predictions are correct and Spruce Stands throughout the Waterways and Lac La Biche area will get a chance to recover.

Tom Hutchison —Athabasca

Europe Doubles use of North American Pellets

Hakan Ekstrom | Wood Resources International

Mar. 10, 2011, Seattle, WA – Over the past two years, North America has become a major supplier of wood pellets to Europe. In 2010, an estimated 1.6 million tons of pellets were shipped from Canada and the United States to the Netherlands, the UK, and Belgium, according to the North American Wood Fiber Review. This is a doubling in volume compared to 2008.

The European Union has stated that by 2020, at least 20% of total energy consumption should be supplied by renewable energy resources. In an effort to reach this target, many countries have increased their consumption of woody biomass in the form of both wood chips and pellets over the past few years. In 2010, just over 11 million tons of wood pellets were consumed, which was about seven% higher than in 2009.

Demand for wood pellets in some European countries, including Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Denmark, and the UK, has outpaced domestic production over the past few years. This has resulted not only in increased imports from neighbouring countries, but also from North America. Over the past ten years, Canada has been the major overseas supplier of pellets to Europe, reaching about one million tons in shipments in 2010, according to the North American Wood Fiber Review. The United States did not start exporting pellets until 2008, when 85,000 tons were shipped to the Netherlands. Exports have since taken off, reaching almost 600,000 tons in 2010. In fact, the total shipments from Canada and the United States have almost doubled in just two years.

The majority of North American pellets were shipped to the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Belgium, with occasional shipments to Sweden and Denmark. In 2010, almost 50% of the Atlantic trade was destined for the Netherlands; another one-third landed in ports in the UK.

Higher demand for oil by Asia and Latin America and the uncertain situation in the oil-producing counties in the Middle East and northern Africa has boosted oil prices about 28% in the past three months. Higher oil prices will benefit wood pellet exporters in North America, and shipments to Europe are expected to increase during 2011.

You Ask Us:

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

Alberta Agroforestry and Woodlot Survey

We need your help

By Toso Bozic

The Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society (AWES) is a registered not-for-profit society whose mission is to help private landowners interested in agroforestry or woodlots. By encouraging landowners to manage their forests sustainably, AWES addresses the issue of the loss of these valuable agricultural areas. Our hope is to help to reach agricultural sustainability by helping landowners recognize that trees are a valuable asset to their farming businesses.

Society members are united in their belief that sustainably managing these treed areas that occupy more than 1.5 million hectares of privately owned agricultural land will yield important social, economic and environmental benefits. These benefits include enhanced wildlife habitat, soil conservation, long-term preservation of water quantity and quality, increased recreational opportunities, and the development of a wide range of forest products and services based on sustainable forest management.

AWES has developed a survey for Albertans who own land so that we can better understand state of privately owned forest. We are also looking for input of what services we can provide that would help landowners with sustainable forest management. All the feedback received will be used to develop future programs and the improve service of AWES.

The overall objectives are to determine the information needs of landowners in order to better target and plan extension efforts in the future which match their needs and achieve their goals.

AWES objectives for the survey are:

- To better understand landowners values in regards to woodlots and agroforestry.
- To find out about current practices in regards to woodlots and agroforestry.
- To discover landowners present and future land use objectives.
- To find out landowners current understanding of production, revenue, expenses and investment options for woodlots.
- To ask how the we could support them in the management of their woodlots.
- To determine and compare learning needs/styles/expectations of the landowners.
- To better understand what services landowners already use and work for them.

- To find out barriers and obstacles for management of their woodlots.
- To promote and increase awareness overall value of woodlots in Alberta.

Definition of woodlots for survey purposes: Woodlots are tracts of privately own land of any size and shape that contain areas of trees either naturally occurring or planted.

Woodlots include: natural forest, plantations, shelterbelts and windbreaks, and bush land.

Woodlot does NOT include: non-treed wetlands, sloughs with willows, shrubland, non-treed pasture land, Christmas tree farms, orchards, or nurseries; or land that is moved.

The survey applies to any landowners that have woodlots regardless of the size of woodlots or shelterbelts

This survey applies to ONLY Alberta privately owned land NOT to any Crown Land or land outside of Alberta.

It will take about 10 minutes to complete the survey. We truly appreciate your time and your interest in helping us understand the state of woodlots and agroforestry in Alberta.

Survey can be filled on-line OR if you are interested we can mail you a survey. Please contact us either by e-mail or phone (if you have any questions or would like us to mail survey to you.

All responses are confidential and the results of this survey will included in a final report that will be available on our web site.

Please visit our web site to complete survey www.awes-ab.ca

Reminder

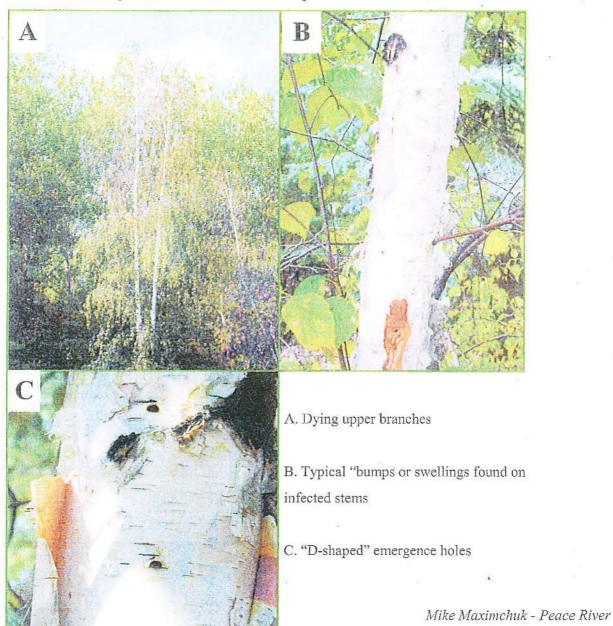
Just a reminder that the *fire season* last to October 30, therefore continue to use caution when in your woodlot either working or recreating; by:

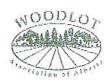
*Carrying some fire fighting tools ie, axe, shovel, water bag, etc. * Keep the exhaust clean on quad or other motorized equipment. * Check the spark arrester on power-saw. * Don't smoke, or sit down when having a smoke, make sure the butt is out cold. * Carry a cell phone to ask for help if you have a fire, * Get a fire permit for any burning. * good Luck

The Bronze Birch Borer

ver the course of the spring and summer, we often get phone calls from the local public to look at their dying birch trees. More often than not, the agent causing the damage is the bronze birch borer (Agrilus anxius). The first sign one typically sees is the reduced crown and leaf size and dying upper branches (A). Upon closer inspection, one will find the "bumps" on the infested stems (B) or looking closely, one might find the "D-shaped" emergence holes from a previous generation (C).

The bronze birch borer is a common insect in Alberta and it is often associated with shelterbelts or single trees in urban landscapes. The insect may take one or two years to complete its lifecycle and the adult has a metallic, olive green color. Light infestations are often found and they typically kill the upper branches in their host tree but in some years, the infestations become quite severe and sometimes the entire tree is killed.





Wembership & Materials Form



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Mail or fax this forn	n to the Woodlot Association	n of Alberta Office	e. Make	cheques o	avable to:

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