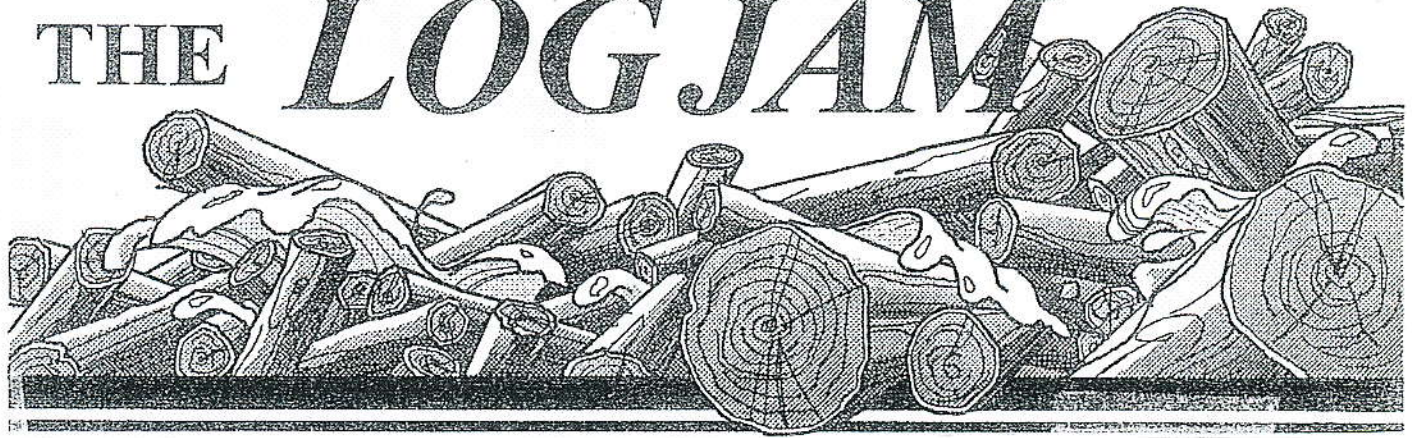


THE LOG JAM



Published by the Woodlot Association of Alberta (WAA)

March, 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR - Jurgen Moll

The wheel keeps turning, and as the saying goes "what goes around comes around" and this is what appears to have happened to our newsletter.

The first woodlot newsletter was started by Bruno Wiskel as the Log-Jam, this lasted some seven years. It then changed to a magazine format the last of which was the Farm and Forest which was a joint venture of the Wildrose Agricultural Producers and the Woodlot Association. This partnership dissolved several years ago, thereafter several issues were produced by only the woodlot.

As the magazine was a fairly costly production to produce that was more than our association could carry. Thus we must resort to the newsletter which is produced in-house largely by volunteers, it will not have either the glitter or color of the magazine, but we hope that it will keep the membership informed of what is taking place in the woodlot community. For not keeping our community informed our woodlot association could well fade and die.

Therefore welcome once again to the Log Jam may it keep you a member informed of happenings within our community.

To place an article in the newsletter or have any comments /advise e-mail them to me at: jurgen.moll@xplornet.com or phone me at 780-778-4272

Return To: WOODLOT ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA Box 84 Whitecourt, AB T7S-1N3	Send To:
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Spring Clean-up, Is Here

Jurgen moll

When we hear of spring clean-up we tend to think of yard and house cleaning which means lawn raking, window cleaning and so on. But for a woodlot owner it also means, checking over your woodlot in particular if you have not seen it since last fall.

What to do in a spring clean-up in your woodlot . You can start by walking all the roads/trails and remove any fallen trees and debris, check creek crossings in particular bridges for safety as the frost, ice or high water can easily move or damage them thus making them unsafe. Fall any danger trees that could fall on trails, fences, check roads /trails for erosion. Number or sign the roads/trails for easy access by other that you may employ in your woodlot.

An other thing to do is update your woodlot map, to show changes that have taken place in the past season, for example, areas logged, thinned, trees planted, and points of interest such as nesting sites, dens, berry patches, and new trails. These should be recorded as one can easily forget where they are and hard to locate again, in particular for others who are not as familiar with the woodlot as you are.

One point that is of paramount importance is that April 1st is the start of the FOREST FIRE SEASON. For the woodlot owner a forest fire is the most devastating thing that can happen to your woodlot, years of work can be lost in mere hours. Therefore when doing your spring clean-up inspection keep fire prevention in mind. Making note of fire hazards such as power lines with hazard trees near them, access by the public on quads, railways, etc. Don't forget to check any sites where winter burning took place for any ground fires because a ground fire can stay hidden till dry hot weather brings it to the surface, then you will have a real problem. Also mark on your map all water sources for fire pumps or water bags and the access to them. Have some extra maps on hand of your woodlot to hand out to fire crews should a fire occur on or near it. It may even be advisable to have a talk with your local Forest Ranger, about your woodlot and any concerns you may have.

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Lisa Ladd, Director
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Peter Mills, Director
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Highlights from the 2009 AGM:

The 14th annual general meeting of the WAA was held at the United Church Hall in Morinville on Saturday, November 21 from 10 am – 4 pm with lunch catered by the church men's group. Approximately 50 people attended.

Reports: The Year in Review

WAA

President Jamie Giberson reviewed the 2008/09 WAA year, illustrating his points with photos of wildlife from his woodlot or environs. The year started off well, with a fall and winter issue of our magazine published in-house and plans for a total of 6 issues to be produced during the year. A video was also begun and producing a book about Alberta woodlots was considered. However, the economic downturn resulted in the cancellation of the expected grant from ASRD that would have supported these projects. Other grants were applied for but without success.

A good "winter retreat" for Board members and invited government guests to get acquainted was held at Dennis Quintilio's in April. In the afternoon everyone helped to clear out the downed trees at the nearby George Pegg Gardens.

In May, our CEO Dan MacPherson left the Resource Industry Suppliers

Association (RISA), which was in charge of our administration. RISA itself was without a CEO for much of the year. As a result, we were not able to fulfill the work plan approved at our previous year's AGM. Kim Gullion and Darrell Latimer at the RISA office kept the WAA office going.

In June we commenced working on a seedling distribution program thanks to Millar Western Forest Products Ltd. and the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (see below)

CFWO

Peter Mills, our representative on the CFWO (Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners) reported on his meeting in Ottawa (along with other CFWO members) with the Senate Standing Committee on Forestry to discuss opportunities associated with carbon offsets and bioenergy. The CFWO also presented a Silviculture Savings and Investment Plan to the Minister of Finance. This plan would allow a woodlot owners to put 20% of the revenue from their woodlot into a tax-free personal account for future silviculture activities.

Peter is also working with the Forest Carbon Standards Committee to work out definitions and quantification methods for carbon creditation.

Woodlot Extension Program

Toso Bozic reported on some of the extension activities which he and Doug Macaulay undertook during the year. These included: promoting bioenergy from wood; extension services to individual woodlot owners; working with counties on fire management planning; agroforestry demonstration sites; assisting the Beaver Hill Initiative (a landscape level project involving Lamont, Beaver, Strathcona and Leduc counties); and a carbon offset market development project.

Toso noted that a growing number of counties are concerned about fire hazard and WAA members could promote forest management planning for the counties in which they reside.

Weberville Community Forest

Juri Agapow gave a presentation on the Weberville Community Forest, a landscape-level pilot project in its second year. It has created a template which other communities can use to achieve similar goals. Juri gave a CD of this template to us.

Seedling Distribution Program

Conor O'Donnell from Millar Western Forest Products Ltd. and Lorne Carson from Carson Forestry Services Ltd. gave us their view of our 2009 seedling program. Overall, the program employed 102 people and resulted in 770,000 seedlings (220,000 spruce and 550,000 pine) being planted by professional

planters employed by Folklore Contracting Ltd. on private woodlots (see article in this issue).

Presentations

- In appreciation for his work on the seedling program, Conor O'Donnell of Millar Western Forest Products was presented with a painting by Alberta artist Paul Braid. The inscription will read "To Millar Western Forest Products with appreciation from the Woodlot Association of Alberta" and it will hang in Millar Western's Whitecourt office.
- Toso Bozic was presented with a carving by Pieter Van der Schoot in appreciation for his extension work.
- The WAA presented Pieter van der Schoot with a gift certificate in recognition of his volunteer work in extension services and also in repayment for plaques which he has made for WAA presentations.

2009/10 Business Plan and Budget

Items not accomplished in the past year were brought forward into our current work plan. These include:

- Woodlot Stewardship Program
- Woodlot demonstration tours. Whether to have several small tours vs one big tour was discussed; also the possibility of partnering with other tours (PFRA, WEP, farm tours).

- Participate with WEP in extension activities
- Ensure continuation of the newsletter and communicating with members
- Update website
- Distribute annual video of woodlot events

As a grant from SRD is not considered likely in 2010, the revised 08/09 budget will be used for the coming year.

Resolutions

Three resolutions were put forward and approved:

Resolution 09-01

Whereas

the Woodlot Association of Alberta (WAA) was involved in the creation of the Woodlot Extension Program (WEP) and has supported this program through administrative services, participation in WEP Executive, financial support and by acting as the legal entity for WEP; and

Whereas

Acting as a legal entity for a third party is becoming increasingly cumbersome for both WAA and WEP; and

Whereas

WEP is striving to increase its own accountability by establishing itself as a legal entity through registration as a not-for-profit society; and

Whereas

The Woodlot Association of Alberta is being asked to become a charter member of the new society,

tentatively called Woodlot Extension Society,

Be It Resolved that the WAA Board consider supporting the establishment of the Woodlot Extension Society by:

- a) Signing the bylaws of the Woodlot Extension Society that will accompany the application to Corporate Registry for registration under the Societies Act; and
- b) Approving full membership in the new Society as soon as it becomes registered.

Resolution 09-02

Be It Resolved that the WAA Board give consideration to creating a new lifetime membership category

Resolution 09-03

Be It Resolved that the WAA Board give consideration to allowing the Editorial Committee to continue publishing the WAA Newsletter including financial means to contract assistance if necessary.

Election of Board of Directors

One new member, Lisa Ladd, was elected to the Board. Returning Board members are: Pieter van de Schoot, Bryan Anderson, Dennis Quintilio, Louise Horstman, Pete Mills, Wilhelm Vohs and Warren Stewart.

Louise Horstman

Summary of 2009 Seedling Distribution Program

Louise Horstman

Last year's seedling distribution program came about as a result of co-operation among Millar Western Forest Products Ltd, the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA), two provincial government departments and the WAA.

FRIAA, a not-for-profit industry organization, runs a number of different programs, including the Forestry Worker Employment Program, which is funded by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and Alberta Employment and Immigration. This program was the source of funding for our seedling program.

As many WAA members are aware, we have long hoped to be able to supply our members with seedlings and a means of planting them. Informal discussions were held with Millar Western when the company recognized that thousands of seedlings it had ordered were not going to be planted. It was decided to survey our members to see whether there was enough demand to justify Millar Western's applying to FRIAA for funding to have the seedlings planted by professional tree planters on private land. When our survey results demonstrated that there was considerable demand, Millar Western proceeded with its application and the arrangements for distribution and planting.

The firm of Carson Forestry Services Inc. was hired to supervise the tree planting. They in turn engaged Folklore Contracting Ltd. to supply the professional planters. In all, the program employed 102 people: 72 planters and 16 others directly associated with planting and the remaining 14 involved in project supervision, site preparation and record keeping.

The 12 teams of 6 Folklore workers planted a total of 770,000 seedlings: 550,000 lodgepole pine and 220,000 white spruce. Fifty-four landowners received seedlings, with the number of trees planted per landowner varying widely. As the planting did not get underway until the end of June, a relatively high stocking rate was used to compensate for expected mortality. The large plantings of spring pine were the first to be planted for this reason.

The geographical distribution of the planting ranged from Sundre to Beaverlodge, with most in the central part of the province. Both underplanting into forest areas and planting into open fields, pastures, and areas that had been previously logged was done.

Landowners were visited and given advice by the field consultant prior to arrival of the planting team. Those who chose to do site preparation such as cultivating or spraying were reimbursed for costs if they chose to submit invoices; however, a number of landowners who had paid for site

preparation chose not to request this reimbursement.

Following the planting, the WAA sent each recipient a letter confirming the number of seedlings planted on their land and a detailed map of their location. Landowners are free to use the trees as they wish. They have been asked to survey the seedlings this spring and report on their condition to the WAA. An evaluation form will be sent out.

The field supervisor reported that the planters enjoyed working on the various farms and woodlots and meeting the landowners.

Special thanks to Conor O'Donnell, Paul Godin and Rob Stauffer of Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.

Upcoming Events:

Board of Directors' teleconference scheduled for 2010 (as determined at 2009 AGM)
2nd Sundays of the month at 7 pm:
April 11 July 11
May 9 Aug. 8
June 13 Sept. 12

The president and Toso will visit Peace River woodlots the week of March 28.

Board meeting April, 10 at the RISA office Edm.

Bio-energy conference at Grande Prairie, May, 11&12

The Presidents Message

Pieter van der Schoot

Dear members

Some of you were just about ready to cancel your membership. It has been a long drought as far as the newsletter goes. Thanks to Jurgen Moll who has been both President and editor of the newsletter in the past, to volunteer to edit and produce a scaled down version of the newsletter.

Belt tightening has been a must for all our affiliated associations. Last year (2009) thanks to Millar Western and FRIAA we were able to offer a free tree planting program in spite of a short time line. Those members that signed up saw 770,000 pine and spruce planted on their land.

This year (2010) we will continue with the program, whereby members will have to pay twenty five cents per tree up to a total of 440,000 pine and spruce. These trees are grown from seed donated by the Alberta government (SRD) and are being grown by Coast to Coast Regenerations Technology on speculation that the program will take place.

We plan to organize a two - three day field " bus" tour to the Peace River . Program details to follow early this summer

Also we are working on upgrading our website and to hold a more comprehensive AGM.

The 2010 Seedling Distribution Program

The WAA is again hoping to provide our members with conifer seedlings and workers to plant them this summer. Unlike last year's program, which provided both free seedlings and free planting, this year the planting is free but the cost of the seedlings is \$0.25 each. Also there is no provision this year for reimbursement of site preparation costs.

Also different this year, the WAA applied directly to FRIAA (Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta), rather than through Millar Western, for the seedling program funding. The application was made in December following a survey of our members as to number of seedlings desired at \$0.25. In January, FRIAA proceeded to order 440,000 seedlings for us which are now being grown at the Smoky Lake Nursery. They will be ready for planting in July. Whether the program proceeds depends upon FRIAA's receipt of a government grant, which will not be announced until the end of April.

A list of woodlot owners who would like this service and are willing to pay the \$0.25 per seedling has been compiled, and a waiting list is in the process of being compiled. If you wish to be added to the waiting list, contact me, Louise Horstman, at 780-939-5858 or pecaninc@interbaun.com. A letter will be sent in April to everyone on the list with details about the method of payment for the seedlings and other arrangements.

If the demand exceeds the number of seedlings that have been ordered for us, WAA members will still be able to access an additional 70,000 seedlings (planting not provided) should they so desire, through the Association.

Whether or not the government grant – and hence this year's seedling program - goes through, we are grateful to FRIAA and the various Nurseries for the work they have already done on behalf of the 2010 seedling program.

Louise Horstman