

THE MANITOBA WOODLOT

Issue Number 78

June/July 2009

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Issue Number 78

*The Manitoba Woodlot is
a bi-monthly publication
of the Woodlot
Association of Manitoba*



Grim news for woodlot owners

By Sheilla Jones

Grim news was the order of the day when provincial representatives of the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners met for the annual general meeting in March, and not much has changed since then.

"It's a perfect storm in Manitoba," said Bob Austman, who represents the Woodlot Association of Manitoba on the CFWO. "Unless you're selling firewood, you've got nowhere to sell right now."

There are signs that the housing market in the US is set to rebound in the next year or so; however, the Canadian forestry industry may not be able to rebound with it. There is real concern that many mill operations that have shut down may never reopen. Indeed, some mills in British Columbia are being dismantled, packed in containers and shipped to Europe and Russia.

"The US housing market is starting to recover," said Austman, "with about half a million houses needed to replace the ones lost to disasters and another half a million in pent-up demand for new houses. But when the economy finally breaks, we might not have the capacity anymore to meet that demand."

Still, it's not all doom and gloom. There are a few bright spots. Here's a quick review of the ups (▲) and downs (▼) of the woodlot business across Canada.

Manitoba

▲ So far, there is no sign of the dreaded ash bore. It appears to be confined to east of Lake Superior, but there is very real concern that it might show up west of Thunder Bay in infested firewood brought into the area by American campers.

▲ Firewood markets are staying strong, with firewood selling at

Continued on page 8

The Manitoba Woodlot is published six times annually as a service to the membership of The Woodlot Association of Manitoba (WAM).

WAM seeks to promote an understanding of sustainable woodlot management, increase income and employment potential for the woodlot sector, promote the use of woodlot products in the place of non-renewable and imported products, and develop human resources in woodlot management.

WAM represents the interests of our members within the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners (CFWO). The CFWO makes those interests known to forestry ministers at both levels of government.

WAM also has a representative to the Manitoba Model Forest, another organization that promotes sustainable management of Manitoba's wooded areas.

WAM is a non-profit organization led by a volunteer Board of Directors, which meets monthly. Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held each year before the end of March and is open to all members in good standing.

The WAM directors for 2009 are as follows:

- Len Riding, President, (204) 347-5082
- Mike James, Past President
- Allan Webb, Secretary-Treasurer, (204) 467-8648
- Bob Austman, Director
- Tom Dykstra, Director
- James Lockie, Director
- Jeff Lord, Director
- Daryl Neustater, Director
- Christine Webb, Director
- Ken Fosty, Technical Advisor, (204) 453-3182

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900 Corydon Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 0Y4
Tel: (204) 453-7102
FAX: (204) 477-5765

New editor for newsletter

By Allan Webb

The Directors of the Woodlot Association of Manitoba would like to thank Myrna McCoy for her 2½ years as Editor of *The Manitoba Woodlot*. Myrna has recently been diagnosed with a serious health problem and is unable to continue the excellent work she has done compiling and producing our newsletter.

During her tenure, Myrna made our mailing and distribution system more efficient while reporting on forestry events in Manitoba and finding interesting articles from other sources. Her competence, initiative and advice were a great help to our volunteer directors.

We wish Myrna a speedy recovery and hope that she will continue to come to our activities.

WAM welcomes as our new Editor, Sheilla Jones. Sheilla is a former newspaper editor, agricultural journalist, broadcaster and the author of two books. She is currently a freelance science writer and book reviewer with an interest in physics and the history of science.

You can find a complete biography at her website www.sheillajones.com. As before, you may reach the editor at wameditor@shaw.ca or by phone at (204) 788-0622.

Articles from members and tips about woodlot activities will be welcomed.



Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
Manitoba Agro Woodlot Program

Chris Reynolds in Gladstone (204) 841-3002
Ian Kirby in St. Pierre-Jolys (204) 712-5747
Shawn Dias in Somerset (204) 526-0836
Carol Graham in Souris (204) 741-0490

www.manitoba.ca/agriculture/woodlot



Certified chainsaw safety course offered

Interested in learning safe chainsaw use?

WAM is planning to offer a one-day chainsaw safety and maintenance course for late October 2009 in the Gimli area. Participants will learn how to sharpen and maintain their saws, as well as how to safely fell, limb and buck trees.

The course will be taught by an Ontario Forestry Safe Workplace Association certified instructor and will include hands-on practice for the participants. The course manual and lunch will be provided at the woodlot. Cost \$50 per person. Minimum 4 students required, maximum 8.

If you are interested, contact Allan Webb at 467-8648 or ajwebb@mts.net for information.

Member news

Members of the Woodlot Association of Manitoba will miss the cheerful enthusiasm of long-time member Ruby Roe. Ruby didn't own a woodlot or work in the woodlot business, but she had a great passion for nature that she was only too happy to share.

She was a driving force in initiating REACT, an environmental organization founded in Stonewall in 1991. The organization took on a range of projects, from recycling to preserving a patch of tallgrass prairie in the Town of Stonewall. She was honoured by the Town in 2008 when that patch was officially named the Ruby Roe Tallgrass Prairie.

Ruby died in Stonewall on June 21, 2009, at the age of 82.

BY THE NUMBERS: Chainsaw injuries

- **110**, the number of stitches required for the average chainsaw injury
- **80**, the percentage of chainsaw injuries affecting hands and legs
- **20**, the percentage of chainsaw injuries caused by kickback
- **68 mph (109 kph)**, the speed that a saw chain can move
- **600**, the number of teeth passing a given point per second when the chain is running at full speed
- **900 degrees F (480 degrees C)**, the temperature of a hot chainsaw muffler

Source: US Consumer Products Safety Division



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Woodlot Management Field Day

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10:00 am to 2:30 pm



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Registration: \$10.00/person

Lunch & Refreshments Included

Please Pre-Register By Calling:

**Manitoba Forestry Association
Woodlot Program**

453-3182

mfainc@mts.net



Woodlot Management

"Fall Field Day"

Friday, September 18, 2009

*****Agenda*****

9:30 – 10:00 am	Registration – View Display and Equipment, Hand-out Information
-----------------	---

10:00 – 10:10 am	Opening Comments with Ken Fosty, MFA-Woodlot Program and Dan Mosquin (landowner)
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- Welcome and outline of day's activities

10:15 am – 12:00 pm Outdoor Presentations:

10:15 – 11:00 am • Fire Proofing Around Your Yardsite

- Stan Kaczanowski

11:00 – 11:45 am • Best Management Practices for your Woodlot

- Bob Austman

11:45 am – 12:30 pm	Lunch
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12:30 – 2:30 pm Outdoor Activities:

- Woodlot walk n'talk with Ken Fosty, MFA Woodlot Technician
- Low-Impact ATV Logging
- Wood-Mizer Sawmilling Demonstration

2:30 pm	Depart
---------	--------

Presented by:

Manitoba Forestry Association – Woodlot Program

Manitoba Model Forest

Wood-Mizer Canada**Manitoba Conservation – Forestry Branch**

Sustainable Development Innovations Fund

Woodlot Association of Manitoba



Verticillium a potent maple killer

By Brad Gurr

Few tree diseases rival verticillium for sheer tragic loss. Unfortunately it often appears first thing in spring and the initial indication of its presence is a dead or dying tree.

This disease affects a number of tree species but is very commonly the demise of maples. When it comes to maples this disease isn't picky; it can wipe out a prize cut-leaf weeping Japanese maple or a weedy box elder without warning, some linden, buckeye, and Russian olive can also fall prey to this potentially fatal disease.

Verticillium dahliae (verticillium) is a soil born fungus that invades the tree's vascular system. Injured roots leak carbohydrates and proteins that verticillium uses to get established. The disease enters the tree's vascular system from the roots and moves upward in the xylem as spores.

Toxins are produced by the spores and the tree's response to the fungus results in wilting symptoms.

Very often a tree will be infected with this disease and recover, losing only a branch or two. However, later on, when put under stress, the tree may be overwhelmed and fail completely.

The disease persists in the soil for up to ten years as highly stable fungal structures. Once an area is known to have verticillium it is recommended to plant resistant replacement plants. Generally, bur oak, apple, birch and walnut trees and most conifers are resistant to this disease.

The typical symptoms mimic other vascular fungal diseases like Dutch elm disease: flagging and wilting of leaves and branch die-back. In fact, the field

diagnosis for verticillium is to cut a branch and look for staining in the sap wood just under the bark.

Positive identification in the field should be followed up with a confirmation by a laboratory. In the lab they will put chips of the diseased sample on a petri dish and grow the spores to confirm the presence of the disease.

In elm trees, the field sampling can sometimes result in confusion, but verticillium generally isn't fatal in American elms. Dutch elm disease, however, is fatal 99% of the time in non-resistant elms.

I have sampled the same elms several years in a row, with the lab results coming back positive for verticillium consistently. Some of these trees are still standing. In contrast to elms, in maples the first sign of verticillium is often slow stunted leafing out in the spring. When this overall infection is present the tree will most likely fail within weeks and simply dry up and die.


There is a strong correlation with root disturbance and the onset of verticillium infection. It is not recommended to dig tunnel or cut roots near maple trees. Incidence of this disease is low in natural stands.

Once a tree has verticillium it is impossible to eliminate it from the tree or soil. Fungicides are ineffective in treating this disease. Maintaining the vigour of the plant is the best plan of action. Fertilizing with a low-nitrogen, high-potassium fertilizer with added beneficial bacteria and root stimulants is of benefit.

Generally this should be done as a soil drench and not as a deep-root injection. Root injection may result in additional root injury and should be avoided on trees susceptible to verticillium. Trees under moisture stress are more susceptible to verticillium.

Wood chips from these trees should be composted and allowed to heat up before using them in landscapes. If you think your tree may have a problem contact your certified arborist.

Brad Gurr is an I.S.A. Certified Arborist and Plant Health Care Specialist dedicated to the care and preservation of trees. For more information, please feel free to contact Brad on-line at gurrb@yahoo.com.

	<p>Manitoba Forestry Association WOODLOT PROGRAM www.mbforestryassoc.ca</p>	
<p>For your own personalized FREE Woodlot Management Plan, please call:</p>		
<p>Ken Fosty Extension Officer (204) 453-3182 kfosty@mts.net 900 Corydon Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3M 0Y4</p>	<p>Garry Kennedy Extension Officer (204) 734-3417 ext. 252 gdkennedy@svc.mb.ca Box 370, 120-6th Ave. North Swan River, MB, R0L 1Z0</p>	



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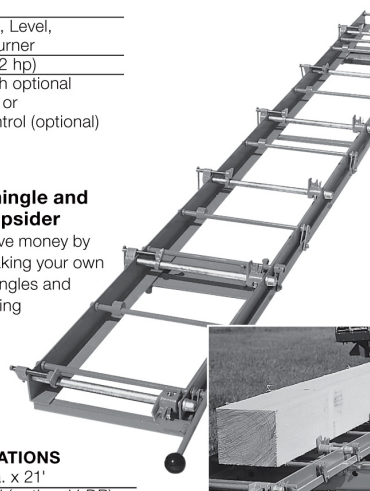
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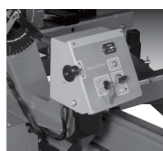


LT28

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PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS

Log Capacity*	32" dia. x 21'
Log Handling	Manual (optional LDP)
Feed System	Manual Crank (optional Power Feed)
Operator Location	Walk



Optional Power Feed

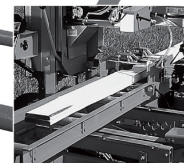
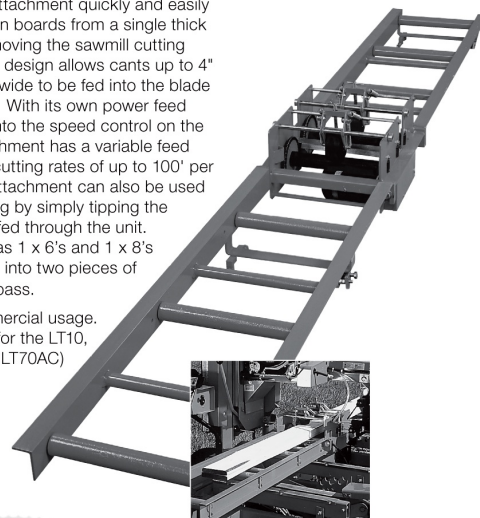
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(Not for commercial usage. Not available for the LT10, LT15, LT28 or LT70AC)



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NEW



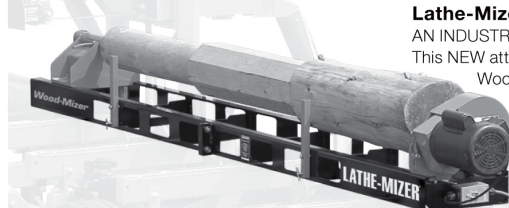
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MWL08

Canada's woodlot owners facing tough times

Continued from page 1

about \$350 per cord.

▼ Both Tembec and Louisiana Pacific are shut down for the summer, so there is no place to sell wood. Except in Duck Mountain, logging has come to a standstill. Saw and pulp mills aren't expecting to start buying again until fall freeze-up.

British Columbia

▼ Although low-cost mills were running three shifts in the spring, most high-cost producers had shut down.

▼ Pine beetles are still a serious problem.

▼ A massive amount of low-quality, pine beetle-damaged wood has hit the market, but there are hopes that biomass markets will develop to make use of it.

Alberta

▼ Pine beetles remain a real problem, although the media and industry are saying little about it and leaving the public with the impression that the problem is under better control than it actually is.

▼ A stumpage fee of 53-cents per cord for pine beetle-damaged wood means companies are getting it "practically for free", and private woodlot owners simply can't compete. And there's a lot of damaged wood to get rid of.

▼ Forest companies have scaled back considerably, with only one OSB mill left operating.

▼ The provincial government has cut funding to WLO Alberta and the woodlot extension program.

Ontario

▲ The firewood market remains strong, with wood selling at about \$390 per cord.

▲ There are currently 17 chapters in the Ontario woodlot association, and membership has increased by 20 percent.

▼ Because of the suppressed market, many loggers who were locked into multi-year contracts with private landowners are simply refusing to honour the deals, saying the landowners can "take us to court".

▼ The emerald ash bore is spreading significantly.

▼ The plan to plant 50 million trees by 2020 on deforested private land is running into problems

with delivery, too much focus on administration and too little attention to the ground work.

Quebec

▲ The provincial government is working on a Sustainable Forest Management strategy, and civil servants have been instructed to include woodlot owners through the entire process.

▼ With nearly half the market evaporating in the last year, the forestry industry is getting help from the provincial government. Unfortunately, the same incentives and breaks that are helping the industry are hurting woodlot owners by making private wood less attractive.

New Brunswick

▲ The province's woodlot owners appear to be in a good position to take advantage of the market when the economy turns around.

▲ The province is working with a Dutch company on a 50/50 venture to set up a pellet plant using a new process (biomass roasting) that improves pellet energy content. If the plant goes ahead, it would benefit from a strong market for pellets in Central and Eastern Canada.

▼ The market opportunities for woodlot owners are about the worst they've been in 35 years, there is no market for low quality wood, and pulp and paper is a dead industry in the province.

▼ The provincial silviculture program has been cut in half and the requirements for landowners have become more stringent.

▼ The NB woodlot association is in financial trouble. Its funding is directly related to wood sales, and low sales mean low income.

Nova Scotia

▼ The AbitibiBowater Mersey plant shut down for six weeks again in June, the third shutdown of operations so far this year.

▼ Landowners are wondering why the province is spending money on certification of wood that can't be sold instead of on silviculture.

▼ Energy wood projects are having trouble securing a wood supply because woodlot owners and contractors can't make enough money to bother with a harvest.

— with notes from Bob Austman

Woodlot Management Forest Health Tour



Participants will go by bus to Grand Marais/Belair area to visit sites where the Manitoba Forestry Branch is conducting research and sanitation harvests to control dwarf mistletoe, fungal and insect-borne pest problems.

Join Lyn Dunford of Manitoba Conservation and Ken Fosty of the Manitoba Forestry Association to learn about insect and disease problems affecting Manitoba trees including aspen, spruce, birch and elm and how to manage them.

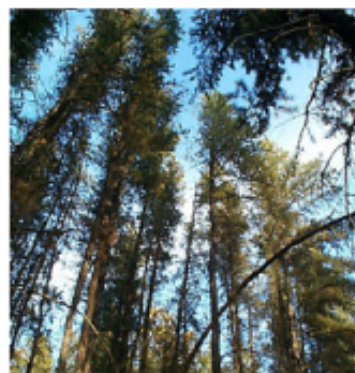
For information contact Allan Webb, Woodlot Association of Manitoba,
467-8648

Picnic lunch included - Boreal Forest Education site, Grand Beach area.

Saturday, September 12, 2009

8:45 – 5:00

Fee: \$25 per person / \$40 per couple



Continuing Education Registration – Fall 2009

Course : **Woodlot Management Forest Health Tour F09/03**

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—Access to the Woodlot Library, which is stocked full of woodlot-related information.

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—Free Ads in our WAM member classified section in *The Manitoba Woodlot*.

—If you operate a commercial woodlot or agrowoodlot, the WAM membership fee is a tax deductible business expense. WAM provides a receipt and member card for membership payment by request only.

Membership in WAM is open to individuals and businesses. Dues are \$30.00. Those interested in membership can telephone (204) 453-7102.



Peace County woodlot owners

Courtesy of Keiran Brett, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

More than 80 owners of forested land in Peace Country, Alberta have joined forces in a group effort to develop the social, environmental and economic value of their trees.

"Typically," said woodlot and agro/forestry specialist Doug Macaulay, who works with the Woodlot Extension Program, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, "we have worked with individual landowners to plan for the future of their woodlots. In many cases, however, the individual landowner doesn't have enough acres to fully address the opportunities that are out there."

In 2008, Macaulay and Juri Agapow, Extension Specialist with FP Innovations in Peace River, launched a two-year pilot project to assess how owners of contiguous forest land could explore opportunities together.

Called the Weberville Community Forest Project, the project covers nearly 45,000 acres of land owned by 80 different owners. It's the first such effort in Western Canada, and could ultimately serve as a model for sustainable private forest management in Alberta and nationally.

The first order of business was to understand the interests and values of the families themselves. This was achieved through group sessions and one-on-one meetings.

"We found four common interests among the landowners," says Agapow. "First, they shared an interest in harvesting the resource over time. Second, they were interested in planting more trees. Third, the wildlife features of the area were important to them. Finally, they were open to potential recreational opportunities, such as creating a trail through the property to the Peace River."

While the landowners were in broad agreement, important questions remained. What kinds of trees are on the land, and how much of each type? What is the long-term potential for harvesting, replanting, recreation, and carbon credits? To answer these questions, Macaulay and Agapow prepared an inventory in 2008 to determine soil types, timber types, eco-sites, and the nature of forest stands for each of the landowners.

embrace community plan

In a series of individual meetings with the landowners, Macaulay and Agapow presented the inventory findings. To Agapow, these meetings were a turning point for the Weberville Community Forest Project.

“Each landowner now has detailed information about what’s on their land and what its value is,” he says. “This knowledge is the basis for making decisions as individual landowners and potentially, as a community.”

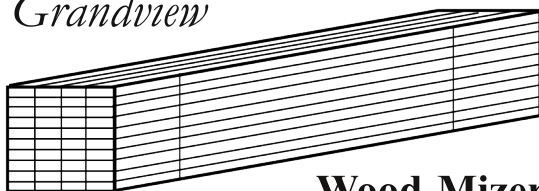
The second phase of the project started this spring and will run for about a year. With continued guidance from Macaulay and Agapow, and the development of a more detailed forest inventory, the landowners will be in a better position to decide the future of their forest resource.

By the first quarter of 2010 the project will be captured in a report that will be widely available and perhaps widely imitated. If that happens, no one will be happier than Doug Macaulay and Juri Agapow.

“Traditionally in this part of the world, we have often thought of trees as obstacles that get in the way of agriculture,” says Macaulay. “Part of our job has been to sell the economic value of trees – for lumber, fuel sources, recreation, and carbon credits – as well as their social and environmental value. With Weberville, thanks to terrific support from the landowners, we’ve made a great start on a more sustainable approach.”

In addition to Macaulay, Agapow and the landowners, the project involves the Boreal Forest Research Centre and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, with funding provided by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

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