

# THE MANITOBA WOODLOT

Issue Number 79

August/September 2009

## 2009 Fall Field Days

Fall is coming soon, and that means it's time for WAM's fall field days. Sign up now so you don't miss out.

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Forest Health  
Tour, p. 9
- September 18,  
Woodlot Field  
Day in  
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Biomass  
Workshop in  
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Woodlot Field  
Day in  
Grandview, p. 7



Issue Number 79

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



*Pete de Graaf climbs through the vigorous weed growth that threatens to overtake his poplar plantation near Lockport. It's been too wet this summer to get his small tractor and cultivator into the 100-acre woodlot.*

## It's a jungle in there!

By Sheilla Jones

This has been a trying summer for 69 year-old Pete de Graaf... and his four year-old poplar and willow plantation.

The 70-thousand trees on de Graaf's 100-acre plantation near Lockport between the Red River and the Floodway need careful tending to keep the vigorous weed competition at bay, and that means a lot of hours on the tractor.

"There's a lot of cultivating on a little tractor," said de Graaf, "pulling a

*Continued on page 5*

*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.

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:

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# In search of a logging truck

By Sheilla Jones

I went in search of logging trucks on the TransCanada Highway at the end of July. Okay, that wasn't the actual objective of the trip, but since I was going to be heading east along the north shore of Lake Superior, it seemed like a good opportunity for an unscientific and superficial measure of the state of the forestry industry along the route.

I wasn't expecting to see a lot of activity, what with closure of the Kenora pulp and paper plant and other plants and mills shut down for maintenance or lack of business (or lock-outs), so I wasn't really expecting much activity until closer to Dryden. But there was not a logging truck to be seen. Not inside Dryden and not outside the town.

I passed lots and lots of trucks on the stretch of highway east of there, but they were tractor-trailers, likely headed for Winnipeg with goods from down east. In some places not far off the highway, I could see muddy, chewed up ground of recent logging activity. But still no logging trucks.

About forty kilometres out of Thunder Bay, it was starting to get dark and as I was thinking about finding a motel room for the night, and there—lo, and behold—was a logging truck waiting to run onto the highway. The truck was carrying cut-to-length logs, likely birch or large poplars, loaded width-wise across the flatbed and covered with a tarp. It was most likely heading to the pulp mill in Thunder Bay. But I had yet to see any of the classic pole trailers

*Continued on page 10*



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## Notes from the woodlot

### Descent of the grosbeaks

By Lloyd Church

This year, the 2,500 White Spruce trees in my woodlot in Anola produced a bumper crop of seed cones. Every tree produced thousands of cones.

However, on 16 July 2009 at about 9:00 am, several hundred Pine Grosbeaks arrived and by 5:00 pm that same day, the birds had stripped 100 percent of the spruce cones. This was surprising as the cones did not appear mature. It was difficult for me to find seeds in the cones.

The next day, on 17 July, not one Pine Grosbeak could be seen in the woodlot.

I don't ever recall seeing any Pine Grosbeaks in the woodlot during July and August in previous years. I can only guess that the cold spring stopped the birds migrating north.

Was this a good or bad event? I don't know. But I certainly would have lost a lot of tops and branches in a wind storm had the birds not come along!

### Chainsaw course set for Gimli

WAM is offering a certified chainsaw safety course in mid-October in the Gimli area. The course will be taught by an instructor certified by the Ontario Forestry Safety Workplace Association.

The hands-on practice will allow participants to upgrade their skills or learn basic skills such as how to sharpen and maintain their saws, as well as how to safely fell, limb and buck trees.

The course manual and lunch will be provided at the woodlot site. The fee is \$50 per person.

There is still room, so if you are interested, contact Allan Webb at 467-8684 or [ajwebb@mts.net](mailto:ajwebb@mts.net).



#### Rangers in training

*Ken Fosty, extension officer with the Manitoba Forestry Association woodlot program, shows a group of Junior Rangers how to safely operate a chainsaw during this summer's program at Black Lake. About 30 high school students spent three weeks learning skills that give them insight into careers in natural resources. The Junior Ranger program has been running since 2003.*

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Operator Location	Walk, Ride (with optional Operator Seat) or Command Control (optional)

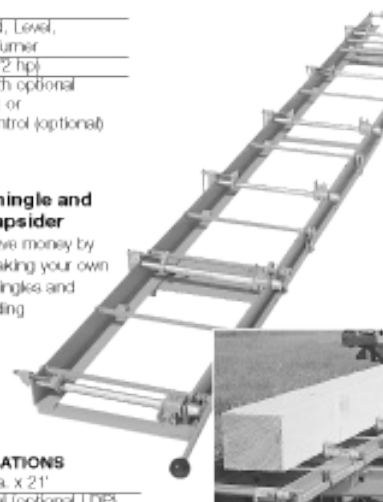
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The SLR cuts weather board or lapsiding by pivoting beams or cants in the frame before each cut.



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Feed System	Manual Crank (optional Power Feed)
Operator Location	Walk



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



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# Plantation perils

Continued from page 1

cultivator that's six feet wide. With the trees planted in a 2.5-metre grid, I go a couple of days on the tractor up and down, and then a couple of days cross-ways."

He uses a small cultivator with rigid shoes so that he can carefully control the depth of cultivation to avoid damaging the tree roots.

"You can only cultivate about one inch deep, not two inches. It's very tricky, and the cultivator has to be set so that it just skims the ground."

The unrelenting rain and saturated Red River gumbo is taking its toll on the trees as they prematurely yellow and start dropping leaves in early August. And it has also made it difficult for de Graaf to subdue the crop of weeds, although he's tried mowing where possible.

De Graaf jokes that the only time he's not working is when he's asleep.

"It uses up all my time. When it's not raining, I'm sitting on the tractor."

The recently-retired engineer from the National Research Council hadn't planned on devoting all his free time to tending a tree plantation. In 2005, de Graaf and his wife Irene heard a representative of the Natural Resources Canada Forest 2020 program on the radio, and he was looking for people to provide land for experimental tree plantations. They signed up.

"Prior to the spring of '05", I didn't know anything about all this," said de Graaf, slogging through the muddy tangle of weeds between rows of hybrid poplars. "It's been a rapid education in agro-forestry."

The NRC Forest 2020 program was initiated by the federal government in 2003, in part to help Canada meet its commitments in the Kyoto Protocol. The \$20-

million plan was to set up a network of fast-growing plantation demonstration sites in Canada to see if such plantations could help offset greenhouse gas emissions and to see if rapid two- or three-year harvest cycles would be economically viable for private landowners.

On de Graaf's plantation, NRC covered all the costs of planting the trees, as well as replanting one section in 2006 that had to be ripped out and redone. The program ended in 2006, and the plantation became de Graaf's responsibility.

Now, de Graaf is trying to figure out how to turn his acres of poplars and willows into a cash crop. He sees little likelihood of making much money off the spindly poplars, unless he can sell the woodchips for firewood.

De Graaf's experiment with his willows is showing more promise. Two years ago, the willows were coppiced (cut off close to the ground) to harvest the whips. Not all the plants survived.

"Last year, we ripped out half the willows. The other half are doing well now, but for a while we thought we'd have to pull them out, too."

He hopes to harvest this year's crop of 8-foot willow whips, but the sodden land is a big problem.

"One idea is to harvest in November after a hard frost when it hasn't snowed yet. And maybe it's better to harvest in the winter when you just have stems and less moisture."

De Graaf said there has been some experimentation with cutting and baling willow whips on site, loading the bales onto a truck and shipping them to a chipping site. He thinks that's a good idea, but right now, he's still not sure of a market or whether there's any money to be made from such a venture.

That's pretty close to the government's analysis for the Forest 2020 program. The final report on the program notes that most of the afforestation programs required government-funded incentives to get them going, and that once it ended, the plantation land was often returned to its previous use. The report also noted that the lack of developed markets for plantation products and the uncertainty about the financial benefits of carbon sequestration meant there just wasn't enough money in the plantations to make them profitable.

Still, de Graaf has no plans at the moment for returning his plantation to its previous use, when he rented it out for growing canola.

As he surveys his weedy woodlot, de Graaf sighs. "If there was a herbicide you could spray on trees when they're small, this job would be a snap."



*Pete de Graaf has had a busy summer contending with weeds in his young poplar plantation.*

# September

# Woodlot Fall



**Date:** Friday  
September 18, 2009  
10:00 am - 2:30 pm

## *Beausejour 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)  
• 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
- 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

**Location:** Dan Mosquin's Woodlot  
North of Beausejour  
2 miles west of PTH 12  
on 84N  
(39141 Rd 84N)

**Registration: \$10.00 per person**

Lunch and Refreshments Included  
Please pre-register by calling:  
Manitoba Forestry Association - Woodlot Program  
**453-3182**  
**mfainc@mts.net**



**WOODLOT PROGRAM**  
Manitoba Forestry Association  
6 The Manitoba Woodlot

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Manitoba Forestry Association - Woodlot Program  
Manitoba Model Forest  
Wood-Mizer Canada  
Manitoba Conservation – Forestry Branch  
Sustainable Development Innovations Fund  
Woodlot Association of Manitoba

# Field Days

October

**Date:** Saturday  
October 17, 2009  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm



## Grandview Agenda

- 9:30 – 10:00 am      Registration – View display and equipment, hand-out information
- 10:00 – 10:15 am      Opening Comments with Bruce Stratuliak – Manager, Intermountain Conservation District and Ernie Gurica, (landowner)
- Welcome and outline of day's activities
- 10:15 – 11:45 am      Outdoor walk'n'talk with Ken Fosty, Woodlot Technician, Manitoba Forestry Association
- Woodlot management
  - Seedlings available for landowners
  - Recreation opportunities
  - Non-timber forest products
  - Tree planting
  - Wildlife enhancement
  - Harvesting, firewood, pulpwood, sawlogs
- 11:45 am – 12:30 pm      Lunch
- 12:30 – 1:30 pm      Outdoor Wood-Mizer Sawmilling Demonstration
- Discussion
- 1:30 pm      Depart

**Location:** Ernie Gurica's Woodlot  
Grandview, SE 21-26-24 W  
North on PR 366 to Rd 138 W  
Turn West  
Go 3 miles to Rd 153 N

**Registration: Free**

Lunch and Refreshments Included  
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**742-3764**  
[imcd@mts.net](mailto:imcd@mts.net)



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# Manitoba Biomass Workshop

This workshop will provide information to Manitoba industry stakeholders on forest-origin and mill-residue biomass topics.

**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2009

**Time:** 9am – 3pm

**Location:** Pineland Forest Nursery, Hadashville, MB

**Cost:** \$20 includes lunch and refreshments

Topics include:

- FPInnovations-Feric Forest Feedstocks Program
- biomass supply, harvest and transportation costing
- Manitoba Hydro's bioenergy optimization program
- Tour of Pineland Nursery willow plantation and biomass boiler project

Please register by contacting FPInnovations-Feric in Winnipeg at (204) 942-2011

*This event is sponsored by the FPInnovations Extension Program with support from Western Economic Diversification Canada and the Province of Manitoba*

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## In search of a logging truck

*Continued from page 2*

with bunks loaded with 30-foot logs.

By the time I hit Sault Ste. Marie the next evening, I had pretty much given up the search. If I could not spot a single logging truck on the highway from Thunder Bay to the Soo in the middle of summer, well, that in itself seemed to be a telling commentary on the state of the forestry industry.

A week or so later, I was barreling up the Illinois interstate highway I-94 heading into the south side of Chicago along with what seemed like a million other vehicles. Suddenly, a truck and trailer swooped up beside me from an on-ramp. I only had time to register that it was carrying a long load of gnarly-barked hardwoods of some kind before the truck disappeared from view in the heavy traffic. That was the logging truck I'd been looking for!

By the time I got back to Winnipeg in early August, I'd driven nearly 5,000 kilometres around the Great Lakes, through the vineyards of southern Ontario and the corn fields of the mid-western states. Throughout the entire trip, I'd seen exactly two logging trucks, one of which was, of all places, on a super-highway heading into downtown Chicago.

What does that say about the state of the forestry industry in Canada?

### *BY THE NUMBERS: Illinois woodlots*

Only about 12 percent of Illinois is forested, mainly hardwoods—oak, hickory, elm, ash, cottonwood, maple and beech—and more than 80 percent of that is owned by private individuals.

- **170,000**, the number of private forest landowners in Illinois
- **21 acres**, the average size of a woodlot (or privately-owned parcel of forest)
- **100**, the number of sawmills
- **90 percent**, the number of landowners who sell their timber on their own
- **9 million**, the dollar value of annual retail Christmas tree sales

*Source: Illinois Forestry*



## *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**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

—Opportunities to Participate in Field Days/Demonstrations, Conferences and Meetings about topics related to woodlot management.

—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.



# Planting in the fall

By Brad Gurr

Fall is, unfortunately, the forgotten season for planting. Spring, the traditional time to plant, is the busiest, most crowded time to visit your local nursery. But many trees can be planted in the fall and the prices at the nursery can be very reasonable.

I received a call the other day from a valued client who was thinking of replacement plantings for a few trees taken down over the last few years. A quick consultation over the phone started the process to selecting the right trees.

We were able to get together at a nursery and chose two trees that suited both the site and his vision of the landscape. We were also able to avoid trees that would cause problems in the planting locations further down the road.

When looking for the right tree it is important to consider the growing conditions at the site. Three major considerations are shade tolerance, drainage and soil conditions. There are many trees that do well in partially shady locations, few that do well in deep shade and many that require full sun to grow and thrive.

Growth habits of the tree are very important when considering the final location. A tree that grows into a large shade tree should not be planted too close to buildings.

Trees that produce flowers are great to use as a focal point in the garden during their flowering season. Be sure that the fruit they produce doesn't become a nuisance by dropping onto your patio or deck. Fighting with wasps and flies or constantly washing your fruit stained deck is not a lot of fun.

Some flowering trees produce no fruit and still provide you with great colourful flower displays. There are trees that retain their fruit and provide wildlife with a valuable food source through the winter. Watching winter birds gather fruit and seeds can break up a grey winter day.

Once you have your choices (more are better), go to the nursery and carefully examine their stock.

All trees are not created equal, or at least they don't end up growing that way. What I am referring to are the various issues that may be present in the nursery that will cause problems later.

Trees that have groups of roots spiraling around the

*Continued next page*

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base of the tree should be avoided; pot bound trees will fail in future years. While you are looking at the roots, look at the base of the main stem. Does it have scars or damage from old injuries? This could cause rot at the base of the tree resulting in failure.

Following up the trunk, look for branches that are co-dominant or have included bark. If you want a tree that has a strong single leader, avoid ones that have large branches separating low down on the main stem.

Take a close look at the amount of growth present this year and in past years. You can do this by looking at the length of this year's growth back to previous years' bud scars on the branches. Trees that seem to be growing less each year should be avoided.

Generally younger smaller trees will establish quicker and last longer in the landscape than a larger mature tree.

Once you have found a tree that best suits all your needs and have checked it for faults, it is time to negotiate the price and planting details with the nursery.

*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](mailto:gurrb@yahoo.com).*



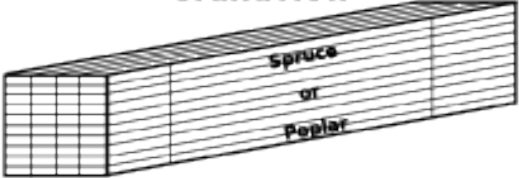
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*Thank you for becoming involved  
and supporting  
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**Mail to:**

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### SERVICES

**Manitoba hardwoods.** Elm, ash, maple custom cutting with Wood-Mizer mill. Bob Gass, McCreary, (204) 835-2631.

**Saw blade repair/sharpening.** We roll, tension, straighten and balance saw blades (instead of hammering). All types of saw blades and tools sharpened. Weld all types of carbide tip saws (Slasher and Feller Buncher teeth). 592 Talbot Ave., Winnipeg. Contact Norm at Dr. Saw (204) 667-6373 or see [www.drsaw.ca](http://www.drsaw.ca).

### EQUIPMENT WANTED

**Sawmill equipment and saw blades** any size, shape and condition. If you want to sell/buy logs, lumber and sawmill equipment, we can provide you with contacts. 592 Talbot Ave., Winnipeg.

Contact Norm at Dr. Saw (204) 667-6373 or see [www.drsaw.ca](http://www.drsaw.ca).

### LUMBER FOR SALE

**Hardwood lumber:** oak, ash and basswood. Air dried. Various sizes and prices. Contact Roger in Roseile at (204) 828-3386.

### SAWLOGS WANTED

Interested in purchasing any type of saw log you have available. Contact Roger in Roseile at (204) 828-3386.

### COTTAGE FOR RENT

**Cottage for rent at Victoria Beach.** Lake-front. July, August, September. Located in non-vehicle restricted area. \$400.00 per week. Call (204) 756-2406 for more details.



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Free classified ads are one of the benefits of membership in the Woodlot Association of Manitoba.  
To place a free ad, call the Editor at (204) 788-0622 or email the Editor at [wameditor@shaw.ca](mailto:wameditor@shaw.ca).

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