



# Grey County WOODLOT

## Association ...ON THE LEADING EDGE

A CHAPTER OF THE ONTARIO WOODLOT ASSOCIATION

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### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

On June 18 our Programs Committee held a very informative and well attended workshop on tree marking in a mature hardwood stand at the Grey Sauble Conservation headquarters. This was a hands-on exercise and following a briefing on what to look for and use of a prism, we worked in teams to mark trees for removal. After marking, each plot was visited by the whole group to evaluate the results and discuss the reasoning for the selections. Everyone considered it one of our best workshops and we thank Carl Sadler for leading it.

Our next event is the annual BBQ, to be held at our place on September 17. Minerva and I welcome all members to attend. Please note that this date is a change from the original one scheduled. We will start with a brief tour at 10:00 am. Directions will be circulated shortly.

Please mark your calendar for our Technical Seminar for October 15. Guest speakers will present a prescription for Ash management, an update on the ash borer situation for Grey County, a history of good forestry and circumference cutting practices and a review of insect problems in 2011.

Our Association has again contributed \$500 to help sponsor the Bruce Grey Forest Festival which will be held October 18, 20 and 21 at the Allan Park Conservation area. The Festival is a

practical learning experience for 900 grade 7 students and provides 32 activity stations to demonstrate a wide range of forestry-related aspects. The event last year was a huge success as reported by student surveys and our members who served as volunteers.

The organizers are now seeking volunteers for the 2011 Festival. Members who would like to help should contact Karen Mortimer, Coordinator, Bruce Grey Festival, P.O. Box 961, STN MAIN, Owen Sound, ON, N4K 6H6, e-mail [coordinator@forestfestival.ca](mailto:coordinator@forestfestival.ca), phone 519 367-3040 ext. 244.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, to this point, has contracted administration of the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Plan to the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) and the Ontario Forestry Association. The original contract expired almost two years ago and has since been extended for one year periods, the current agreement due to expire at the end of December. As we approach the end of the third quarter there is still no response from MNR as to whether there will be an ongoing role for OWA. The revenue from MNR has formed a very significant portion of the OWA annual earnings, and staffing level, for the organization.

Due to the uncertainty of the situation, OWA formed a Business Development Committee (BDC) to explore alterna-





## Tree Marking

Paul Cook, in the President's Corner, gave a brief summary of the Tree Marking workshop. The paragraph below enlarges on some of the significant points related to tree marking. The writeup and pictures by Maicolm Silver.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> I drove to Owen Sound and attended a practical teaching session about tree marking. When properly applied this ensures that a woodlot is managed at a sustainable level while maintaining values that contribute to long-term forest health; it achieves multiple benefits within the woodlot. Tree marking selects some trees for harvesting, while leaving others to grow for future harvests and to provide wildlife habitat. The session was held at the Inglis Falls forest which is on conservation land so it had not been cut for years. Twenty two attended and we had 3 forestry experts (Jesse Heinrich, Carl Sadler and Lee Thurston as teachers – Carl, recovering from a cold, had a hoarse voice so left much of the talking to the others). In making decision about trees to remove we were shown major defects that would cause a tree to degenerate rapidly (mainly due to disease); moderate ones that cause slower degeneration (some diseases but also included leaning trees etc) and minor defects that would not likely cause degeneration. An objective was to remove trees that wouldn't be standing at the next cut after 10 years and get benefit from them before they fell down. Provisos were that cavity trees, which provide nesting or den sites, and mast trees (e.g. beech; cherry; basswood; hickory; butternut or walnut), that provide food for wildlife should remain, providing they fulfilled certain criteria. We were shown how to use a X2 metric wedge prism to measure basal area. You count the number of trees in a plot as seen through the prism and multiply that number by two to get the basal area for that specific point in the forest. Normally, trees 10 cm and larger are counted. Basal area refers to the area, in square meters, of the cross-section of a tree measured at breast height above the ground. So, if you counted 15 tree in a plot basal area would be 30 m<sup>2</sup>/ha. For management purposes retaining an average basal area of 20 m<sup>2</sup>/ha, representative of all size classes 10 cm and up is recommended. Finally we were divided into small groups, given a plot and told to mark trees we'd remove being prepared to answer why when a teacher came to your group. It was a very useful exercise.

### Reference

[www.lrconline.com/Extension\\_Notes\\_English/pdf/tree\\_marking.pdf](http://www.lrconline.com/Extension_Notes_English/pdf/tree_marking.pdf)

Members are reminded that further sessions on woodlot management will be held later in the year.



## Forthcoming Events

### September

17<sup>th</sup> - 10th annual BBQ and Tour at the property of Paul Cook (Note date change)  
Location and details have been forwarded.  
Pre-registration is required. Contact Carl Sadler by Sept 14<sup>th</sup> 519 376-30760)  
or e-mail [c.sadler@greysauble.on.ca](mailto:c.sadler@greysauble.on.ca)  
\$5/person on \$10/family.

### October

15<sup>th</sup> - Fall technical Seminar.  
Presentations by guest speakers will include a prescription for Ash management; an update on the ash borer situation in Grey County; a history of good forestry and circumference cutting practices and a review of insect problems in 2011  
Location and details will be forwarded.

18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> - Bruce Gray Forest Festival for high school students at the Allan Park Conservation area.  
Organizers are now seeking volunteers for this Festival. Members who would like to help should contact Karen Mortimer, Coordinator, Bruce Grey Festival, P.O. e-mail [coordinator@forestfestival.ca](mailto:coordinator@forestfestival.ca), phone 519 367-3040 ext. 244.