



Grey County WOODLOT

Association ...ON THE LEADING EDGE

A CHAPTER OF THE ONTARIO WOODLOT ASSOCIATION

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CHAIR'S CORNER

My report for this issue of the Newsletter is a version of the President's remarks made at the Annual General Meeting held February 27. I will use this space to update you on our programs for 2009, changes in our Newsletter, our developing relationship with the Ontario Woodlot Association and mention a few housekeeping items.

During the past year we have had a full compliment of 15 Board members – all of whom have been re-elected for 2010. During the year we held 6 meetings of the Board of Directors.

The best method to provide value to our members is through our programs, and communication by means of our Newsletter and Web site. The turnout for our programs last year was very encouraging, starting with the AGM on February 28 where our speaker, Wade Knight, Executive Director of the OWA, presented the benefits of membership.

Next was the Grey-Bruce Woodlot Conference and Tour, held at Elmwood on March 28 and 29. Members I spoke to there again found it to be an interesting and informative session. It was very

well attended. As in previous years we provided \$150 to help cover costs and participated on the organizing committee.

On May 23 we held a Tree Identification Workshop in the GSCA forest on Old Baldy in the Beaver Valley. We had promoted the event especially for new members because long time members had previously attended many such hikes. As it turned out, we had good representation from all, with 31 people participating. The property was purchased by the Conservation Authority in the early 1960's and the management plan is to leave the area in a natural state. Indeed it is a magnificent scene and is crossed by the Bruce Trail.

The outing on July 13 was a cut inspection, attended by 30 members, held on the property of Rod Griens south of Walters Falls. As everyone knows, all harvesting operations cause some damage and, of course, we all think any damage on our property is excessive. The key to minimal damage is the care and skill of the logger. The purpose of this event was to demonstrate what is considered acceptable damage during logging operations

and to provide pointers on how to avoid problems.

September 19 was our annual BBQ held at the Durham Conservation area which had been devastated by the tornado that struck the area on August 20. We had a record attendance with 58 member families out for what happened to be a glorious day in a very wet stretch. Carl Sadler led a tour to a portion of the Grey County Forest known as the Camp Oliver management area that had been harvested earlier in the year. After the meal, Jim Penner led a group to see the terrible damage from the tornado to the SVCA hardwood forest on the 8th concession of Glenelg.

The last outing for the year took place on October 16 which was a landowner tour on woodlots owned by members Lee Thurston and Doug Van Horne. Twenty eight members took part and many commented on the very beautiful property. Harvesting operations using small equipment were seen as well as newly planted plantations.

Our thanks go to Carl Sadler and the members of his Programs Committee for arranging a full schedule of first class events for the year. The program outline for 2010 has been circulated and the first event following the AGM is the Grey-Bruce Woodlot Conference scheduled for March 28 and 29 at Elmwood.

Our Newsletter has changed somewhat given that our members now receive 3 issues of the Ontario Woodlot Association S&W Report, which provides good general coverage of forestry issues. We are now concentrating on local events and items pertinent to woodlots in Grey County. Historically, the Newsletter has been our greatest expenditure and now that we have less revenue under the arrangement with OWA, we are producing a less expensive version and we are trying distribution by e-mail

The last edition was the first attempt to distribute to 150 members via the internet. Eventually, 67 members reported satisfactory receipt using this method and the rest were sent by direct mail.

A problem with e-mail distribution for many of us living in rural areas of Grey County is that we do not have access to reasonable high speed internet service. One of the complaints was that separate PDF files for each page made downloading a hassle. A better format is being investigated. Of course, for e-mail to work properly, it is necessary for members to advise OWA of e-mail address changes.

For 2010 we are planning 4 issues of the Newsletter for distribution as either e-mail or direct mail as requested by members. It will also continue to be posted on our web site. On behalf of members I express our thanks to

Malcolm Silver and his team on the Communications Committee for production of the Newsletter.

A major change for our organization in 2009 was the decision made at our AGM last February to become a chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association. Members were asked to vote in person or by proxy for or against the Board recommendation to join, with 85 in favour and 7 opposed. Overall membership participation was 71% and 65% voted in favour.

Our relationship with OWA so far has been as expected. On the positive side OWA administers the collection of dues and maintains the register and mailing list, and distributes the S&W Report. We also have the benefit of a stronger lobbying voice. A downside is that we have less revenue under the new arrangement - \$15 per member vs \$25 previously. However, we can still provide good service at lower cost.

The OWA holds three Board meetings per year and as a chapter we have representation on the provincial Board. Jim McLachlan who was President at the time of joining took part in the first Board meeting by telephone. I represented the Association at the other two, one in person and one by telephone.

At the time of joining OWA, the GCWA had 150 members. During 2009 we gained 10, some of whom were OWA members but not GCWA members, for a total of 160. We currently have 144 members because 16 did not renew their membership for 2010. We will follow up with those previous members by a telephone call.

Now, a few housekeeping matters. In previous years we issued a certificate to new GCWA members and attempted to provide annual stickers for renewals. Unfortunately, the provision of stickers has been somewhat erratic in spite of efforts to do better. The Board has now decided to change the system by issuing an annual certificate rather than renewal stickers.

Earlier I mentioned I would comment on concerns by the Board. The threat to our forests from new insects, such as the Emerald Ash Borer, and diseases, such as Beech Bark Disease, is a worry to all of us. Unfortunately, a major vector for distribution is the movement of infected firewood. We have talked about the need to inform the general population of the hazards, but clearly, the funding required for any kind of a communication campaign is way beyond our means. The only practical way we believe, is for us to remind our members of the risk and ask them to communicate the message to friends and neighbours.

Of some concern is the decline in our membership. In 2006, we gained 38 members following a mail campaign in West Grey, giving us our highest membership ever to 176. That declined to 170 by 2008 and, as I mentioned previously, to 144 currently. Our mail campaign to taxpayers in the Blue Mountains in 2008 resulted in only a few new members. This is a topic for further discussion by the Board

The Goal for our association as set out in the Constitution is "To encourage the improvement and sustainable management of forests in Grey County". The emphasis in our programs, rightly so, has been on existing woodlots. As I drive throughout the County I see many areas of abandoned fields that could be put to better use by planting trees. There are now good tree planting programs available to help people to plan and finance new stands. Perhaps our members could help by talking to neighbours who are planting trees and inviting them to join the GCWA and take advantage of the information we can provide.

I extend my thanks to the Board members for their work and support during the year and our members for their continuing membership and participation in events. I also want to recognize the strong support our organization receives from professionals, who are also members of our Board, from the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources. We are fortunate and grateful to have their active participation.

Addendum: At the AGM

A motion to accept the modified GCWA Constitution, revised because of GCWA joining the OWA as a chapter, was passed. Copies will be forwarded to members.

The treasurer's financial statement indicated a 2009 balance of \$1794.81 with members' equity standing at \$12,841.93.

There was a lively Member's Forum in which topics related to increasing membership, a need for Forest Certification, indicating that a woodlot uses sustainable management practices; a forthcoming visit to the Guelph Arboretum planned for June 4th 2010 and a request that members submit articles or questions about their forest to the Communications Committee for consideration/answer were raised. The Board will be considering these items at future meetings.

The list of nominees to the Board for 2010 was accepted.

Carbon and Oxygen in Tree Rings Can Reveal Past Climate Information

Scientists have long looked at the width of tree rings to estimate temperature levels of past years. Larger rings indicate more tree growth in a season, which translates into warmer summer temperatures. But the analysis of carbon and oxygen isotopes in tree rings can also provide accurate data on past climate events, say researchers working in northern Canada. In a paper published in the most recent issue of the journal of Arctic, Antarctic and Alpine Research, Trevor Porter, a PhD student in Geography and Environmental Science at Carleton University, and three other authors compared temperature data collected in Inuvik, Northwest Territories since 1957 with their own analysis of isotopes found in white spruce trees in the Mackenzie Delta region of the NT. They found a strong correlation between the two data sets and temperatures.

Isotope analysis is a good way to measure past climate change. It is not a new way to measure past air temperatures. However, the method has not been widely used because lab. costs have been prohibitive, especially when compared with the examination of tree ring width. Now, however, the cost of equipment has dropped substantially making it more affordable for researchers to use this method.

A number of factors influence ring size, including the age of the tree and its location within the forest. Older trees tend to have smaller rings than younger ones and trees within the same area might not all receive the same amount of light, nutrients or water.

Isotope signals, on the other hand, are often very similar between trees. This means researchers can gather accurate data from three or four trees instead of the 20 they might need for tree ring width analysis.

Porter is hoping his work will lay the foundation for a model that can be used to investigate the long-term climate history of the Mackenzie Delta region. Although the temperature record for Inuvik only dates back to 1957, the dead and live tree ring record stretches to nearly 1000 years before present. The tree ring record goes back almost a thousand years in this area, but it's never been used for a temperature reconstruction.

Abstracted from ScienceDaily (Dec. 4, 2009)

Beekeeping for Woodlot Owners

Klaas Vandebelt

It was less than two years ago that I began to look into beekeeping as a hobby. Therefore, when asked to write an article for this issue, I felt ill prepared. However, I realized that it wasn't for my experience that Malcolm Silver approached me; but rather my enthusiasm for the activity that got his attention. For that reason, bear with me.

I got my first 4 hives in June 2008; prior to that I had not given any consideration to beekeeping. What got me started was a neighbour who wanted to buy firewood from me. To entice me to sell, he brought along a jar of his own honey. It worked; he got the wood he wanted and that's also when he got me hooked on beekeeping – and perhaps, it was the great taste of honey from the Beaver Valley that clinched it. What's more, it was the start of a great friendship that has proven of mutual benefit to both of us.

After I got my first bees, I was looking for a mentor, until another beekeeper suggested that I find some books on beekeeping at the local library. A particular one that was recommended and which I found very helpful, was *Beekeeping for Dummies* by Howland Blackiston.

Even though we had plenty of space to have bees I wondered whether we had the right natural setting for them to collect sufficient honey to make it worthwhile. Our property consists of overgrown pasture, wetlands, and mature hardwood forest. I soon learned that it was well suited for keeping bees, borne out by the fact that we enjoyed this last season a better than expected harvest. However, not everything has gone smoothly. Early in the spring of 2009, my first complete season, I had to destroy one of my 4 hives due to American foul brood disease; I found that a very difficult thing to do.

I learned about the natural phenomena of bees swarming and how to prepare for it. I often wondered, if and when that should happen, would I be able to handle it. Well, it did happen last July. My first response was to call for help from my friend, who had gotten me started the year before. I couldn't locate him; therefore, I was on my own. It was an experience I wouldn't have missed for anything. I felt like a doctor who delivered his/her first baby. This particular colony turned out to be the most productive one of the bunch.

Just as in any other profession I learned that in the beekeeping business there are 2 distinct categories of beekeepers. One is the professional with hundreds of hives spread over various bee yards. As in any other business, their bottom line is to make it commercially viable. I have experienced it myself before I retired from my sandblasting business. It can at times be a rat race. At such a time, it is

not easy to see it as a time to smell the roses. In that regard, I understand that in the last decade the commercial bee keeper has experienced some difficult years for various reasons; including, pests and diseases, some unusual winter die-offs and government regulations that may seem at times restrictive, etc. While the commercial beekeeper may initially have more experience and perhaps superior equipment to work with the amateur, on the other hand, in the face of the aforementioned struggles, does not have the pressure of losing his total livelihood. Often he or she has time to spare or quite willing spends every spare moment with the bees because of the pure enjoyment of learning something new about them and how beneficial they are to our environment. As woodlot owners we have a very unique opportunity of incorporating one of nature's most effective means of aiding the establishment of healthy forests, while at the same time being able to anticipate the sweet taste of a rich honey harvest in the Fall. The friend, who directed me to the library for information, was one who took great delight in doing innovative things pertaining to beekeeping. He used every available opportunity to read about bees, even during his lunch hours. As for myself, I have often been overwhelmed by the wonder of the organized social structure in the individual beehive/colony. To each his or her own, but as for me, there is no doubt what I am seeing and learning about is a marvel of intelligent design. I believe both Bruce and Grey counties are ideally suited for beekeeping because compared to South Western Ontario we have only a fraction of the pesticides used in farming operations to contend with.

This brings me to the legal aspects of beekeeping in Ontario; basically, anyone keeping bees with a minimum distance of 30 meters (100') from the nearest property lines and who has registered with the Provincial Apiarist is permitted to do so. As far as other legal requirements, if you have access to the internet then you have all the necessary information available to you at the sites indicated below.

Ontario Beekeepers Association: www.ontariobee.com

Provincial Apiarist:
www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/info_registration.htm

Ontario Bees Act:
www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90b06_e.htm

At the Elmwood Conference on March 20 we will have the opportunity to learn more about beekeeping from a local beekeeper who will be one of the speakers. If, per chance, I have touched your sweet tooth I look forward to seeing you there.

Invasive Species

Dr. Pedro Antunes has been appointed research chair of invasive species biology at Algoma University. The chair is jointly funded by the Ontario government and Algoma University. Ontario has provided \$800,000 to fund the Invasive Species Research Chair for five years and has committed \$1.5 million to creating an Invasive Species Centre in Sault Ste. Marie. Dr. Antunes will develop an international network of researchers through the university's Invasive Species Research Institute and will conduct invasive species research on critical priorities in Ontario. He will also work closely with the Invasive Species Centre in addressing the threat of forest invasive species and invasive plants.

When specific forest health problems arise, such as an insect outbreak, a formal planning process is followed as outlined in the Forest Management Planning Manual. A planning committee is formed with Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) district, specialist and regional staff, representatives from the forest industry, Canadian Forest Service (CFS), the Ministry of the Environment and local citizens committees. The committee examines management options to address the problem. These can include letting the event run its course, undertaking control programs, and carrying out salvage, accelerated or redirected harvest. The committee makes recommendations to the MNR Regional Director, and the resulting program is implemented by either by MNR or the forest industry, or both. Funding for forest pest management programs can be provided by the Forestry Futures Trust.

Research and development in forest health in Ontario is conducted by several agencies. Staff at the MNR's Ontario Forest Research Institute focus mainly on forest pathology. The CFS conducts research in all aspects of forest health, including entomology, pathology, forest decline, climate change, forest health monitoring methodologies, impacts on forest health, development of pest control methods and products, ecosystem impacts of pest management activities, biological control, pheromones, exotic organisms, and more. MNR provides leadership in research and development by either conducting the work in-house or cooperating in partnership with others such as the CFS, universities, and private companies. One such partnership conducting research and development in forest health is Spray Efficiency Research Group (SERG), whose members include representatives from most other Canadian provinces, CFS and the U.S. Forest Service.

Specialists from MNR, CFS, university partners and private companies provide expert advice, educate, and share technology and information on forest health. Fact sheets, forest health alerts, advice on common pest problems and forest health reports are available on the Ontario's Forests

website and at district offices. Workshops, public meetings, media releases, and mail outs are also used to provide rapid and timely information on specific issues, such as insect outbreaks or droughts.

A partnership among MNR, Science North in Sudbury and the CFS delivers an education and awareness program to provide the public with information and advice during the ongoing forest tent caterpillar outbreak. Information is available from fact sheets, on a dedicated website, via e-mail questions or by calling a toll-free number.

Ontario, as well as the rest of Canada and the United States, is under increasing threat from exotic organisms that affect forest health and our ability to trade with other nations. The lead agency for addressing exotic organisms is the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). MNR works with the CFIA, CFS, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the forest industry and other parties to prevent exotic organisms from becoming established, and to control or eradicate those exotic species that do get established.

Source: Government of Ontario News Flash, Feb 1, 2010.

Birch Catkins

This is a good time of year to see the catkins of several members of the birch family, including the paper birch; the yellow birch with its metallic-looking silvery-gold bark; and the silver birch, a European white birch that peels less than the paper birch and, with its weeping form, is often planted as an ornamental tree.

The name given flowers of the birch, catkin is from the Dutch word, *katteken*, meaning kitten. The French, too, noted the resemblance of the female, or fruit-forming, flower, and male, or pollen catkin, to the tail of a kitten, calling it *chaton*. Each of these trees will show slim and rigid male catkins, usually extending in twos or threes from the end of a twig. Before the leaves emerge, the catkins will double in length, dangle and show tiny, yellow flowers whose pollen will be carried by the wind to the female catkin. The latter are short, stubby tassels composed of stacked, tiny, winged envelopes (samaras) enclosing the seed.. Look beneath a tree, and you may see the tiny, half-centimetre-long samaras on the snow waiting for the wind to disperse them. In fact, this is the only time of year to easily see birch fruit. Once the snow thaws, each seed stands a chance to germinate should it end up in disturbed soil

Abstracted from an article by BRONWYN CHESTER, Montréal Gazette, January 17, 2010

BEECH BARK DISEASE, ANOTHER REASON NOT TO MOVE FIREWOOD WITHIN THE PROVINCE

Beech bark disease results when bark, attacked and altered by the beech scale, *Cryptococcus fagisuga* is invaded and killed by fungi,.

C. fagisuga is a soft-bodied scale insect. At maturity, it is yellow, elliptical, and 0.5 to 1.0 mm long. It has reddish-brown eyes, a 2-mm stylet, rudimentary antennae and legs, and numerous minute glands that secrete a white "woollike" wax. There are no male scales; reproduction is parthenogenetic. Beginning in midsummer, the insects deposit pale yellow eggs on the bark in strings of four to eight, attached end to end. They usually hatch in late summer and continue hatching until early winter. The wingless larvae (also called crawlers or nymphs) emerge from the eggs with well developed legs and antennae. Some larvae remain under the females, which die after eggs are deposited. Some migrate to cracks and other protected areas; others are washed down or fall to the ground where most of them die; and still others are carried, usually by wind, to other beech trees. If a suitable location is found, the insect forces its stylet into the bark and begins to feed. It then transforms into a second-stage nymph, without legs and covered with woollike wax. The insect overwinters in this stage and, in the spring, molts to become an adult female. The white wax secreted by the beech scale is the first sign of the disease. Isolated dots of white "wool" appear on a tree bole on roughened areas of bark, beneath mosses and lichens, and below large branches. Eventually, the entire bole of the tree may be covered by the waxy secretion as the insect population increases. Great numbers of scales feeding on the liquids of bark cells likely weaken a tree but serious damage results only after the subsequent invasion by *Nectria* fungus, presumably through injuries made by scale feeding activity.

One, *N. coccinea* var. *faginata*, is considered a weak parasite; the second, *N. galligena*, is a common pathogen inciting perennial cankers of many hardwood species. Both organisms produce several types of spores. One is produced in fruiting bodies called perithecia, which occur in bright red clusters on the bark. Production of these spores constitutes the sexual stage of the fungus. The perithecia mature in the fall. Spores are forced out when peri-

thechia are sufficiently moistened. Perithecia on dead bark continue to produce viable spores the next year. Other spores are formed by an asexual or vegetative process. Frequently, small white cushions of them burst through the bark before perithecia appear and are produced in a dry head, well suited for dissemination by wind. The asexual spores can be found from mid-summer until fall, and can easily be mistaken for small isolated colonies of the scale insect.

On some trees, a red-brown exudate called a slime flux or "tarry spot" oozes from dead spots. They are often the first symptom of nectria infection, and frequently perithecia of *Nectria* later appear around them. The dead areas may extend into the sapwood. Bark infected by *Nectria* becomes inhospitable for the beech scale. If the outer bark is cut away, a distinct orange color may be seen where *Nectria* is actively invading the bark. The fungi may infect large areas on some trees, completely girdling them; then the perithecia often can redden large areas of bark. On dying trees, leaves that emerge in the spring do not mature, giving the crowns a thin, open appearance. Later, the leaves turn yellow and usually remain on the tree during the summer. Frequently the fungus infects only narrow strips on the bole, and the subsequent symptoms differ from those of trees that have been girdled. Callus tissue forms around these strips, and the bark becomes roughened. Small nectria cankers may be walled off from the sapwood by callus tissue.

Other insects and wood-rooting fungi quickly invade the wood beneath bark killed by beech bark disease. Many trees that are partially girdled remain alive for years in a weakened state. Many are broken by the wind - a condition termed "beech snap".

The disease in forest stands cannot be controlled at a reasonable cost, and a program of timely salvage cuttings is the only way presently known to reduce disease losses. Vigorous trees free of the disease are often found in heavily affected areas. Recent trials suggest some may be resistant to the scale. This offers hope that methods can be developed to increase the levels of resistance in affected forests. **It is important not to move beech logs from infested to uninfested stands between midsummer and late fall.**

Richard Wilson, MNR's Forest Pathologist has provided the following update: This year MNR will be

updating its 2004 Beech Bark Disease map as to where the insect scale and disease fronts are located. MNR's Forest Health and Silviculture Section has also funded John McLaughlin at the Ontario Forest Research Institute (OFRI), who will be conducting several Beech Bark Disease research projects.

Excellent illustrations of the appearance of the scale insect, its effects and stages of the infection with the fungus can be found at:

http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/Bulletin/PDF/E274_6.pdf and www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/beechnbark/fidl-beechnb.htm

Abstracted from Houston DR & O'Brien JT, Forest insects and diseases. Leaflet 75 US Department of Agriculture Forest Services 1998.

GCWA COMING EVENTS

(Please mark in your calendar)

March 27th 0900-1530 Grey Bruce Woodlot Conference, Elmwood Community Centre

March 28th 1300-1600 Woodlot visit associated with Conference

April 13th *The Endangered Butternut Tree* - see page 8

June 4th Visit to Guelph Arboretum
Attendees would meet at the Arboretum at 1000 and choose between one of two pre-lunch tours (flowers or woodlot) lead by a docent. After lunch (must bring your own food with GCWA providing a beverage) a naturalist would provide a talk. Cost of attendance \$10/head.

September 18th GCWA Annual BBQ and Tour

October 16th Fall Seminar on Emerald Ash borer

Details of these activities will be forwarded to members.

You and the GCWA Newsletter

The Newsletter is for you, so your comments/contributions are welcome. The publications committee would be pleased to consider submissions from any member that dealt with woodlots or woodlot-related experiences/topics. Because we hope to gradually change the dates of issue to February; May; August and November each year deadlines for submissions would be January, 15th; April 15th; July 15th; and October 15th. Please forward material (including photographs transmitted in jpeg format) to Malcolm Silver at md.silver@utoronto.ca

ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY

The Tree: A Natural History of What Trees Are, How They Live and Why They Matter

This book, reviewed here by Board member Bob De Jong, will be added to the GCWA Library.

For anyone interested in trees this book is simply entrancing. The author travels around the world and brings to life facts and stories about the trees around us: how they grow old; how they eat and reproduce; how they talk to one another (and they do), and why they came to exist in the first place. He divides his book into four sections – What Is a Tree ?; All The Trees in the World; The Life of Trees and Trees and Us. The first section of 86 pages deals with questions such as what a tree actually is, some practical problems of species classification, how trees became and what wood is. The second section of 160 pages contains six chapters dealing with all the major species around the globe. Many will find the third section particularly interesting with chapters such as – How Trees Live; Which Trees Live Where and Why and The Social Life of Trees. The book also has an excellent bibliography and glossary. There are two aspects of this book that make it a "standout". The first is that it isn't written solely from the viewpoint of a scientist, or only from the perspective of an environmentalist. It is an engaging mixture of history, science, philosophy and environmentalism. The second is that the author has an easy and almost lyrical writing style.

On the back cover are excerpts from several reviews that appeared following the U.K. edition. An appropriate one is this – "Magnificent, a minor classic....even the most knowledgeable connoisseur of nature will feel themselves in the hands of a witty and erudite guide...probably the best general purpose book on the subject published in the last decade."

The Tree: A Natural History of What Trees Are, How They Live and Why They Matter, by Colin Tudge

New York: Crown Publishers, 2006. 459 pages including 41 original drawings. (Originally published in the U.K. in 2005 by Allen Lane (Penguin imprint) under the title *The Secret Life of Trees: How they Live and Why They Matter.*)

For those who may wish to have their own copy they are available at www.abebooks.com at a reasonable price.

Battling Forest Pests

Ontario is home to more than 30,000 species of plants and animals, of which more than 180 are at risk. Through Ontario's Species at Risk Stewardship Fund landowners with forests and woodlots are in a unique position to protect threatened and endangered wildlife species and can get support for their actions as individuals or preferably in partnership with a local conservation organization or stewardship council. Projects that might be carried out include, for example, building nesting structures, protecting sensitive plants to encourage natural regeneration and installing proper water crossings etc. The Ministry of Natural Resources receives applications of new projects each fall with funding for successful ones announced the following spring. Consult the Species at Risk Stewardship Fund Guidelines for eligibility criteria with application forms and guidelines available at: www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk or by calling 705-755-1208.

Possible Destroyer of Kudzu

We read in the last issue of the S&W Report from OWA that a weevil may help deal with the noxious weed garlic mustard. Now, a US [Agricultural Research Service](#) plant pathologist C. Douglas Boyette and colleagues are testing a naturally occurring fungus, *Myrothecium verrucaria* that infects kudzu with lightening speed. Disease symptoms—wilted leaves and necrotic stem lesions—appeared on plants within 24 hours of infection; by 14 days, all but the plants' roots were diseased. How *Myrothecium* breaches the defenses of seemingly indestructible kudzu is still being investigated. One telltale clue, though, may be its use of cell wall-degrading enzymes. With some residual toxic effects to deal with a herbicide is in the works.

More details are available in *Agricultural Research Magazine #57 July 2009*.

Butternut: A disappearing tree

Recently placed on the endangered species list Butternut trees are in great danger of becoming extinct. Unlike most other endangered species the butternut is not suffering due to a loss of habitat or human interference, but because of a deadly fungal disease called Butternut Canker. Although genetic immunity

or resistance to the disease has never been proven, a small number of trees have been found in the province that have not been infected with the disease or have the disease but are vigorously surviving despite it. These disease resistant trees will be the key to the future of the Butternut. The Grey County Forest Stewardship Network, Bruce Resource Stewardship Network, MNR and the Forest Gene Conservation Association are working together to locate and evaluate the Butternut trees of Bruce and Grey counties. Our goal is to identify some trees in Grey and Bruce Counties that are either disease free or have the disease but are vigorously surviving anyways. Eventually we would like to collect seed from these trees to propagate seedlings that have the best chance of survival. If you think you have Butternut trees in your woodlot in Grey County please contact Grey County Stewardship Coordinator Jason Ritchie at 519-371-8468 or jason.ritchie@ontario.ca. If your woodlot is in Bruce County, contact Bruce County Stewardship Coordinator Craig Todd at 519-371-8465 or craig.todd@ontario.ca. If you'd like to learn more about the Butternut tree, the Butternut Canker and how you can help please consider attending our Butternut workshop on April 13th 2010 (see below) or visit <http://www.fgca.net>.

2010 Grey-Bruce Woodlot Conference Elmwood Community Centre

Saturday, March 27th

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25 pre-register / \$30 at the door

- Registration and Display Viewing 9 – 9:30
 - Conference 9:30-3:30
 - Forest Pest Update
 - Invasive Forest Plants
 - Beekeeping and Woodlots
 - Lowland Woodlot Management
 - Effects of deer on your Woodlot
 - Intolerant Species Management

Sunday, 28th

1pm - 4pm

Field trip - pre-registration necessary