

Through The Knothole

a quarterly newsletter of the

HURONIA WOODLAND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Issue # 98

www.huron Woodwardowners.ca

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The Huronia Woodlot Owners' Association (HWOA) is a chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA). Please note that membership with the provincial OWA automatically enrolls you as a member of the local HWOA (just be sure to indicate "Huron" on your OWA membership form).

In this issue:

- 2023 White Pine Award- recap
- Call for Directors: Have You Got What It Takes?
- Red Oak Products

Save the Date:

HWOA AGM: Saturday Feb. 17, 2024 at Guthrie Arena (2nd Floor), Line 4 Oro-Medonte Township at Hwy 11 southbound; 1:00 start

OWA AGM: April 23 and 24, 2024



Recent Events:

HWOA White Pine Award of Merit for Outstanding Contribution to Forest Conservation:

This prestigious award has been presented since 1981 to woodlot owners/managers to recognise and celebrate their dedication to good forestry practices.

The 43rd event was held on **Saturday November 25, 2023** at the Elmvalle Legion (2nd Floor), 1 – 3 p.m.

The recipient of the 2023 White Pine Award is **SANDY AGNEW**.

Sandy has been with the HWOA for many years and hosted our recent Fall Field Day at his property in Oro-Medonte Township (see Knothole #97 for details and pics).



Well known to many environmental organizations in Simcoe County, Sandy is a tireless promoter of healthy forests and the protection of groundwater. He has authored many MFTIP plans and continues to keep his clients up to date with woodland management opportunities.



Cam Douglas (left) and **Doug Frost** (right) present and congratulate **SANDY AGNEW** as the recipient of the 2023 White Pine Award.



Cam Douglas (left) and **Chris Ellesmere** (centre) present speaker **David Hawke** with a much coveted jug of Chris's maple syrup.

The guest speaker for this event was to have been **John Williams**, talking about advice from the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association for the small-scale producer. However, illness thwarted John's attendance, so **David Hawke** stepped in as guest speaker with his presentation on the "History of the Copeland Forest". We hope to have John give his presentation at a future meeting.

THANK YOU



We wish to thank Vermeer Canada Inc. for supporting the Huronia Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association by supplying the refreshments that we enjoy at our meetings throughout the year.

Jack O'Hara Forestry Scholarship

The HWOA awards the Jack O'Hara Forestry Scholarship annually; this **\$1,000 scholarship** is awarded to a College or University student who has completed one year or two semesters in a Forestry Program or a program that impacts on Forestry.

Several applications have been received and are currently being perused by members of the Board. Be sure to attend the HWOA AGM on Saturday February 17 to learn who the **deserving recipient** will be!

Call for Directors:

As with any healthy organization, there is the annual call for 'new blood' to join the Board. The term is usually for three years, although some have been asked to repeat that term (sometimes several times running).

So what's involved with being a Director?

There is an almost monthly meeting, sometimes by Zoom, sometimes live, sometimes a hybrid. Meetings last about 1 to 1.5 hours. (A 2024 meeting schedule will be drafted when the new Board is elected at the AGM.)

Topics discussed often cover planning for the next event (e.g. White Pine Award; Fall Field Day, Forest Health Day; AGM; Forest Scholarship) with a consensus of 'who does what' to make each event happen. There is a report of communication flow with the OWA (a Director is in place to liaise with OWA.)

Other roles of a Director may include Treasurer, Secretary, meeting chair, newsletter editor, membership coordinator, Community Forest Project. Some of us are currently also on the OWA Conference planning committee.

Do you have what it takes to be a Director?

To be a Director you have to have:

- a paid up membership with OWA/HWOA;
- **an interest in promoting healthy woodlot management.**

To be a Director:

You DO NOT have to own a woodlot.

You DO NOT have to have decades of forestry experience.

You DO NOT have to be an 'old geezer'... younger folks with a keen interest in forestry and community are very welcome to come on the Board. Excellent learning experience!

How to become a Director:

Sometimes you may get a 'tap on the shoulder' from one of us; if so please seriously consider saying "yes".

However, as our local membership has grown substantially over the last few years, we (the current Directors) don't know all the new folks and may not have met you yet. If you would like to get involved, simply contact any of the Directors (see list on final page) and have a chat.

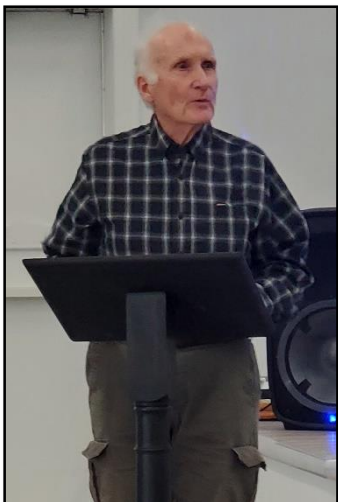
At the Annual General Meeting (Feb. 17 at Guthrie Arena) there will be a presentation of names known; there will also be a call to the floor for anyone to volunteer for a Director's position (which is great if you do, but a little head's up to us prior, if possible, would be appreciated... just sayin').

The Bottom Line:

Being a Director does take wee bit of a commitment, it is not onerous, and your participation will be truly appreciated!!!

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Retiring Directors:

Two long-standing Directors are stepping down this year. **Chis Ellesmere** and **Jim Marchand** have each given freely of their time, enthusiasm and knowledge for many years. Please join us at the HWOA AGM in February to personally acknowledge and thanks these gentlemen for their contributions!



(left) Jim Marchand speaking at White Pine Award ceremony.

(right) Chris Ellesmere at Fall Field Day (he who organizes the raffle table!)



OWA Annual General Meeting and Conference:

April 23 and 24, 2024. To be held at Horseshoe Valley Resort, Oro-Medonte Township.

You should have recently received via email from the Ontario Woodlot Association a notice and invitation to register for this Conference.

Early Bird (reduced cost) registration closes January 25th, so get on it and send in your registration.



The OWA and HWOA are co-hosting this annual event and the planning committee has already pulled together a great event. Day One will see a selection of tours (saw mills; Simcoe county museum; guided hike into Copeland Forest) and an excellent dinner evening. Day Two will provide several presentations (from Food Foraging in Your Woodlot to the role of Conservation Land Trusts) as well as a **Trade Show** to view and discuss forestry equipment, wild food foraging and safety equipment.

If you have a woodland related product and would like a display table in the trade show, please contact director **Craig Drury** as soon as possible (only a few booths remain open).

For other info contact **John Pineau** at OWA or local chair HWOA Director **Doug Frost**.

HWOA Planning committee includes **Doug Frost, Craig Drury, David Hawke** and **Curtis Gray** who are working closely with OWA staff John, Olyvia and Shanaid.

Memberships:

Please check that your OWA membership is current and paid up; there are reports that a few memberships have lapsed. Please ensure that you are in good standing and that you have indicated your preference to be listed with the **“Huronian Chapter”**. You can contact OWA or director **Jim Marchand** to clarify your status.

Hardwood Thinning Products: Now What?

By David Hawke david.hawke55@gmail.com

I have almost completed the 15-yr thinning of our red oak plantation. The trees were planted a bit too close together (five feet apart instead of eight), and so right from the start there was pretty intense competition for soil nutrients, moisture and sunlight.

Now there is a closed canopy at 30 feet of height, and several small diameter trees throughout. I am using a random removal pattern, in that the smallest go first, then the ones with low divisions and/or heavy low side branches (despite years of pruning).

I have been cutting them myself, with a chainsaw and an ATV, pulling them down and bucking them up. They don't 'fall down' as their crowns are interlocked... I have cut them free at the base and pull them down with the ATV and a rope. I can 'process' about three trees an hour.

There will be about 170 trees removed from the 1,050 we planted in 2009.

So here is my problem: what might I do with these harvested small diameter hardwoods?

The branches have been collected and piled, providing shelter for birds and small mammals. Several piles that I can reach with big tractor and chipper will be chipped next spring to return the biomass to the forest floor for rapid decomposition and release of nutrients.

Heavy branches (1" to 2" dia.) that are straight have been set aside for potential walking sticks. Anyone know of a club that wants to tidy up these sticks and sell them as a fundraiser? I'll provide them free if they can be utilized in a useful manner.

Garden stakes is the term I apply to the short poles (2" to 2 1/5" dia. x 4 or 5 feet long). Not a good long term post if buried, but could be used with chicken wire to contain pet rabbits or keep out groundhogs from the veggie patch. I might use some as a skid to place firewood on. Again, free if someone wanted an armload.



Pole wood are the 12' to 14' main stems that are 3" to 4" in diameter. Not sure what uses these could be put to: maybe pole gates? Teepees?

Firewood is the destination of the 3" to 6" dia. blocks. I calculate there is a couple bush cords in total. Currently stacked on-site, they will need to be gathered, split and piled next spring. Should be able to find a buyer after the sticks dry for a couple years. If sold, I should realize about \$0.25 an hour for my labour.

Do you have a question or quandary about an aspect of forest management on your place? Send an outline of your situation and I'll try to squeeze it into the next Knothole newsletter.

2023 DIRECTORS (in alphabetical order)

Chair: rotating among Directors

Bowden, David: david_bowden@hotmail.com

Crawford, John: (705-487-3373) line8jcrowford@hotmail.com

- Treasurer

Douglas, Cam: (705-487-7142) cameron.douglas100@gmail.com

- Board Secretary
- Jack O'Hara Forestry Scholarship
- White Pine Award

Drury, Craig: Craig.Drury@vermeercanada.com

- OWA AGM committee
- VERMEER support

Ellesmere, Chris: (705-726-8479) careholstien1945@gmail.com

- Fall Field Day raffle
- Jack O'Hara Forestry Scholarship

Frost, Doug: Website (705-487-5723) doug@forksinthetrail.com

- OWA Merger Advisory Committee;
- OWA Cooperatives Committee;
- Huronia Community Forest Co-Op;
- OWA AGM committee
- Website manager

Hawke, David: david.hawke55@gmail.com

- "Through the Knothole" editor;
- OWA AGM Committee

McFadden, Jack: (705-534-0138) jjmcfadden@sympatico.ca

- OWA Merger Advisory Committee;
- OWA Cooperatives Committee;
- Huronia Community Forest Co-Op

Marchand, Jim: (705-835-0094) jimmarchand5@gmail.com

- OWA Director,
- HWOA Chapter Rep.,
- Membership

Website: huroniawoodlandowners.ca