



Through The Knothole

a quarterly newsletter of the

HURONIA WOODLAND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Issue # 96

www.huron Woodwardowners.ca

Summer 2023

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 check the box on your membership form for this Chapter).

What's Happening:

After six years as the producer of "Through The Knothole", HWOA Director **Jim Marchand** is stepping aside. Jim took on this task during the time of transition from HWOA being an independent organization to being a Chapter within the provincial OWA; he also navigated the new membership listings and mailouts.

Jim has arranged to 'pass the torch' to fellow Director **David Hawke** who has much experience in newsletter compilations. David is well known to many in the Simcoe County area through his speaking and writing, was the recipient of the HWOA's White Pine Award in 2022, and received the OWA's "Lorax Award" in 2023.



David Hawke (left) and Jim Marchand (right)

David may be contacted at: david.hawke55@gmail.com or by text at 705-737-6061.

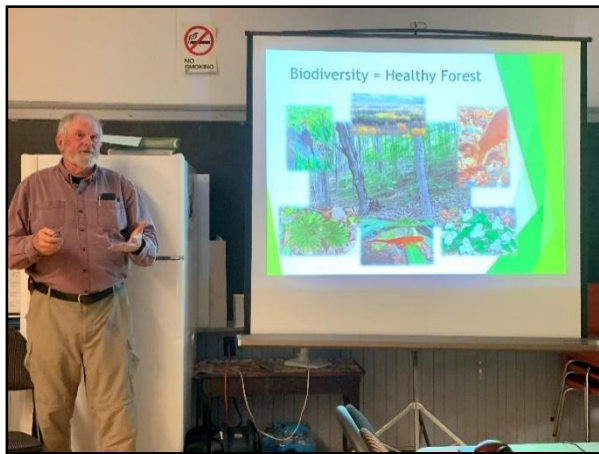
Recap: FOREST HEALTH MEETING hosted by HWOA

Theme:

What does a healthy, well managed forest look like?

Held at the Edgar Community Hall on June 6, 2023 – 7 to 9 pm

HWOA Director **Jack McFadden** chaired the meeting. The room was full, and three staff members from OWA attended.



1. Bio-diversity and why it's important: **David Hawke** gave examples of what poor biodiversity looks like in a forest and also examples of good biodiversity. The greater the mix (biodiversity) of plant and animal species, the healthier your forest will be.



2. County of Simcoe Perspective: **Brett Dixon** from Simcoe County Forests showed photos of what they consider to be examples of unhealthy woodlots and some photos of good healthy woodlots. Brett challenged participants with many quiz questions (and fun rewards).



3a. MFTIP planning and what tree markers consider when marking a managed forest with **Peter Devilliers** (photo to left) and **Earl Dertinger** (photo below).



3b. **Earl Dertinger** shared his extensive knowledge about managing a forest for healthy biodiversity with his trademark humour and insights.



A panel discussion featuring the presenters followed the refreshment break. John Pineau (second from right), Executive Director of the OWA was on the panel to respond to questions of the topic from the OWA perspective.

(l – r) Jack McFadden, Pete Devillers, David Hawke, Brett Dixon, John Pineau, Earl Dertinger

Upcoming Events:

International Plowing Match: Bowling Green, Dufferin County

September 19 thru 23, 2023

OWA will have an information booth in the Forestry Tent at the event, and are looking for volunteers to assist with booth set up, information sharing and booth teardown. Some of the HWOA directors have indicated they will be helping out but more help is always appreciated.

Please contact **Olyvia Foster** at OWA for more info on how to assist:

olyvia.foster@ontariowoodlot.com. Or let HWOA Director **Jack McFadden** know of your interest (and possibly arrange car-pooling).

HWOA Fall Field Day: Saturday September 30, 2023 (9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

This year's annual get-together will be hosted by **Sandy Agnew** and **Lynn Melnyk** at their property at 1305 Scarlett Line, Oro-Medonte Township.

Sandy is well known throughout the area for his MFTIP planning, his commitment to environmental concerns, and his political involvements. Lynn is very much involved with horticultural organizations both locally and provincially.

The agenda will include a casual meet-and-greet, (light refreshments will be provided by Vermeer Canada Inc./**Craig Drury**), a guided tour of two adjacent properties to view examples of an unmanaged reforestation site (owned by the Huronia Nature Conservancy) and then neighbour Ernie Roskosch who is a participant in the small-woodlot Huronia Community Forest Cooperative.

After lunch speakers will be Travis van Engelen, the Tree Plant Program Specialist from the Severn Sound Environmental Association, and Lyle Wood of the Huronia Nature Conservancy.

Bring a chair, a lunch, and be prepared to do a bit of walking to access these sites. Parking will be tight, so please car pool if possible. Event is held rain or shine.

For more info: Sandy Agnew 705-835-6824 or sagnew@ecomedic.ca

THANK YOU



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

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

This prestigious award has been presented since 1981 to members of the HWOA to recognise and celebrate their dedication to good forestry practices.

The event is usually held on a Saturday in November. As soon as an exact date and location are confirmed you will be notified.

Please send your nomination for the 2023 White Pine Award to Jim **Marchand**

OWA Annual General Meeting and Conference:

April 22 and 23, 2024. Held at Horseshoe Valley Resort, Oro-Medonte Township.

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 product tent to view and discuss forestry equipment, wild food foraging and safety equipment.

You will be receiving updates and registration information directly from OWA, so keep an eye on your email inbox!

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

Planning committee includes **Doug Frost, Craig Drury, David Hawke** and **Curtis Gray**.

IN OTHER NEWS:

Oak Wilt: Unfortunately, this fatal fungus has shown up in Simcoe County. Not widespread at the moment but the future looks bleak. Spread by beetles that are attracted to wounds in hardwoods, the fungus spores are carried tree to tree by the beetles. Once a tree is infected, the fungus then travels through the roots and soil to neighbouring oak trees.

While there does not appear to be way to stop this invasive fungus from hitting your favorite oak tree, you can slow down the spread by NOT pruning or thinning oak trees in the growing season (the sweet smelling sap attracts the beetles). Wait until frosty weather to do your hardwoods pruning or thinning.

Through the Knothole,

Our members would like to see stories about our members, their properties and projects. Please consider submitting an article or calling me for an interview of you and your property.

Send submissions to: david.hawke55@gmail.com

Submission deadlines for articles:

Winter issue: Jan 10

Spring issue: April 10

Summer issue: Aug. 10

Fall issue: Oct. 10

2023 DIRECTORS (in alphabetical order)

Chair: rotating among Directors

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OWA Director, HWOA Chapter Rep.