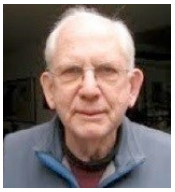
AUTUMN 2015

BGWA Member Newsletter

Introduction



Malcolm Silver, Newsletter Editor

Hi Folks,

Apologies for the late arrival of the Autumn issue, due to me being in New Zealand and Australia for 7 weeks visiting relatives; a diminishing number of medical school buddies - next year will mark the 60th anniversary of our graduation; to join a British Birding Group in touring SW Western Australia and to look at forests.

Neil Baldwin has provided a colorful frieze around the Lost Ladybug item. It reminds me of the forthcoming Season. Our compliments to all for it, and the coming New-Year.

NEWS*FLASHES*

Editor's Picks for Members' interest

117,000 trees to be planted along the Highway of Heroes

Between 2016 and 2021, 117,000 trees will be planted along the stretch of Highway 401 known as the Highway of Heroes to honor Canada's fallen — one for every fallen soldier since Confederation. The Highway of Heroes Tribute and Forests Ontario have launched a campaign. Its official launch took place with a tree planted at each end of the Highway: at CFB Trenton, where the highway begins, and outside the Coroner's Office at Keele Street in Toronto, where it ends. Full story:

http://www.kawarthanow.com/kawarthanowguide/2015/11/09/highway-of-heroes-tribute/#ixzz3rmBee018

Some surprising results found testing mosquito repellents

If you want to keep away blood-sucking insects, DEET products are your best bet according to a recent study. Researchers also discovered a certain perfume performed better at protecting against mosquitoes than some commercial insect repellents. Source: Science Daily Plants & Animal News 10 Nov 2015

New disease-carrying mosquito arrives in British Columbia

Scientists are studying an invasive, disease-carrying mosquito, *Aedes japonicus*, after finding it for the first time in Western Canada. The mosquitoes could pose a significant hazard to health if global warming favors the development of some of the viruses it can carry. Source: Science Daily Plants & Animals News 9 Nov, 2015

(more NEWS*FLASHES* on back page)

BGWA MEMBER NEWSLETTER

is published quarterly and distributed to current BGWA members. Submissions are always welcomed on any topic related to BGWA's vision:

Promoting healthy forests and ecosystems in Bruce and Grey Counties through education, recreation and sustainable management practices.

Information, opinions, and directions in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect BGWA policy.

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President's Message

Chris VanderHout

As I write, we are well into fall and questioning how long it will be until winter weather comes. Leaf litter covers the forest floors and everything seems to be preparing for the cold.

In my forest, tree marking for continued improvement is completed. I cut through dormant winter months when there is minimal impact on the surrounding environment. I always look forward to cold weekend mornings when I spend time in our forest cutting firewood and taking moments at rest to enjoy the silence around me. As many people say,"heating your home with firewood heats you up a few times over", between the cutting, stacking and then eventually the heat from burning the wood, I certainly know what they mean. Nonetheless, I enjoy the work and lack of heating bills as fruits of my labour.

I am happy to report that the association had a flurry of activity over past months.Since our last newsletter, we have held three successful events.

July 11-The Rural Rootz private nature reserve tour in Wiarton was well attended and the unique 100 acre property with a wide variety of woodlands, geology, and land management gave attendees an opportunity to experience and develop new ideas

Sept 12- The Annual BBQ with associated Mushroom Walk by Fungi Unveiled and Tree Identification guided walks. The weather was great and with a fantastic turn out, members got a chance to learn new things, socialize with other members and fill their bellies at the same time. A good time had by all!

Oct 24th- Cedar Management Workshop held at the Lindsay Tract. This interesting and informative event gave attendees the opportunity to visit an active cedar harvest and witness a mechanical harvester in action. Also visited was a nearby site that was harvested about a dozen years previously.

Directors met on Aug 13th at Sulphur Springs Conservation Area and Oct 8th at the GSCA office in Owen Sound. Also

During those meetings I note the following activity-

- From the result of the online vote for the name of the association, the directors decided to move forward with Bruce Grey Woodlot Association
- After viewing preliminary drafts for a logo for the new association we have given feedback to a graphic artist and await next drafts to pick one.
- Set in motion the replacement of original signage at the Heritage property outside Paisley where the BCWA planted 5,000 seedlings and a tree in memorial to Russ Horning
- Reviewed Association activities over the year and set-up a planning group to review and propose a strategy for next year.

(Continued on page 3)

(President's Report, from page 2)

- As part of spreading the word and encouraging sustainable forest management the Association set-up and manned a booth at Heritage Steam Show in Paisley, August 14 and at the Paisley Fair, September 13th.
- Attended the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Associations Forest Strategy meeting and subsequently assisted at the First annual Forest Fair in October
- Noted that the Forest Festival held each year in Allan Park was cancelled due to the Teacher's Work to Rule campaign. We look forward to assistimg again next year.

A reminder. Members are welcome to attend any Directors meeting. The next on Dec 10th is at the Sulphur Springs Conservation Area office in Hanover.

I am very happy with our Association's achievements this past year. As well I look forward to assisting in the future planning with results shared with the membership at the upcoming AGM in late winter.

Our organization is full of knowledgeable and motivated people who have an interest in making a difference in the world. I stand for this group and the possibilities that may come from it.

All the best,

Chris

Invasive Species Legislation Receives Royal Assent (Nov 3, 2015)

Government of Ontario News Release

Ontario is taking further action to protect communities from the significant social, economic and ecological impacts of invasive species by passing the Invasive Species Act. Today, the Act received Royal Assent, following its passage in the Legislature on October 21, 2015.

This legislation will support the prevention, early detection, rapid response and eradication of invasive species, such as giant hogweed and northern snakehead. It will also: 1) Give Ontario the tools to ban the possession and transportation of certain invasive species; 2) Allow for earlier intervention and rapid response to keep invasive species from spreading, for example by preventing the movement of contaminated firewood; 3) Help ensure compliance through modernized inspection and enforcement measures.

Ontario continues to work with key partners to educate the public and address the growing threat invasive species pose. The four part plan includes investing in people's talents and skills, making the largest investment in public infrastructure in Ontario's history, creating a dynamic, innovative environment where business thrives and building a secure savings plan.

Quick Facts

Globally, costs to the environment, agriculture and communities from invasive species are estimated to be $1.4 trillion — the equivalent of five per cent of the global economy and seven times the cost of natural disasters**.**

To report invasive species sightings, please call the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711, or email info@invadingspecies.com.

Download the free EDDMapS app to identify and report invasive species from your smartphone.

Additional Resources:

Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan

http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/ontario-invasive-species-strategic-plan-2012

Invading Species Awareness Program

http://www.invadingspecies.com/

Emerald Ash Borer

Ladybugs

By Malcolm Silver

Native ladybird beetles or ladybugs are treasured both for their appearance, usually benign behavior when handled and value as predators of aphids, scale insects mildew etc. At this time of the year, during warm sunny days, the insects take flight in search of shelter for the winter. Preferred sites include buildings where they have overwintered previously; it is thought that pheromones previously released at those sites attract them to return, often over long distances. They prefer the sunny sides of light-colored buildings where they crawl feverishly until they find cracks or small openings giving entry to cool, sheltered places where they hibernate. They may accidentally get inside homes. If you find them there either return them outside or ignore them; they cannot survive long inside warm houses because suitable food is not available but are adept at finding a cooler nook where they will hibernate.

Bruce Marllin

Asian ladybug. The insect's color varies from the red shown here to yellow

There are 450 species of ladybugs in the United States,. Of the 179 introduced species, many deliberately brought here to control aphids on farm crops, 27 species have settled permanently. At the same time, several native North American species have become markedly less common. Suddenly scarce, for instance, are the native two-spotted ladybug (*Adalia bipunctata*) and the nine-spotted ladybug (*Coccinella novemnotata*).

One introduced species, *Harmonia axyridis*, is native to eastern Asia. The multicolored Asian ladybug was introduced into the USA (1960s to 1990s), to control aphids and has since spread throughout that country and into Canada. Many now view them as pests, partly because of their tendency to overwinter indoors; the unpleasant odor and stain left by their body fluid when frightened or squashed; their tendency to bite humans and their ability to contaminate crops of tender fruits and grapes; for example, grape contamination alters the taste of wine. Richard Hall (Research Scientist, University of Georgia Odum School of Ecology) comments "What makes this insect a good biocontrol also makes it a good invader; it has many generations per year, compared to just one for native ladybugs. It tolerates a wide range of environmental conditions and it has a generalist diet -- it likes aphids, but will also eat other ladybugs. In other words, it eats its own competition."

The assortment of ladybug species living in North America shifted dramatically in the last 20 years. A review of 36 studies on ladybeetles reported by Liz Osborne in Current Results found that prior to 1985, native species made up 95% of all ladybugs collected. Since then, only two-thirds of trapped ladybugs are indigenous species. An abrupt transformation of ladybug populations occurred in 1987, and has persisted. Most often local ladybugs are replaced by two of the exotic insects: seven-spotted lady (*Coccinella septempunctata*) and the multicolored Asian lady beetle. There is little overall pattern in the changes occurring to ladybug diversity that can be gleaned from the research. Density of ladybugs in some cases dropped when introduced species became established, but in other cases ladybug density actually increased. In some studies, species diversity increased, while in others, the number of species in an area decreased. Nevertheless, the density of native species has declined overall by 16%, but again results among studies vary. No general conclusions can be made on how introduced ladybugs have affected native ones. Despite the lack of general trends measured, scientists suspect that introduced ladybugs, particularly the two most prevalent species, have precipitated huge declines of North American ladybugs.

References:

R. J. Hall. Eating the competition speeds up invasions. Biology Letters, 2010; 7 (2): 307

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-13764170

canada-gardens.com/ (Click on ladybirds)

www.currentresults.com/Invasive-Species/Invasive-Land/ladybug-species-803241.php

See: **Lost Ladybug Project** on next page.

Lost Ladybug Project

Throughout North America ladybug species distribution is changing. Over the past 20 years several native ladybugs once very common have become extremely rare. During this same time ladybugs from other places have greatly increased both their numbers and range. Some ladybugs are simply found in new places. This is happening very quickly and scientists don't know how, why or what impact it will have on ladybug diversity or the role that ladybugs play in keeping plant-feeding insect populations low.

The Lost Ladybug Project is asking citizen scientists to help discover where all the ladybugs have gone so they can try to prevent more native species from becoming so rare. For example, to be able to help the nine-spotted ladybug and other ladybug species, scientists need detailed information on which species are still out there and how many individuals are around. Entomologists at Cornell University can identify the different species but there are too few of these scientists to sample in enough places to find the really rare ones. These entomologists need citizen scientists to be their legs, hands and eyes by finding and photographing local ladybugs.

How to join: Citizen scientists can get started right away. The first step is to find local ladybugs. The Lost Ladybug Project offers tips for both finding and photographing ladybugs on its Web site. After photographing the ladybugs, citizen scientists should upload those images using a digital form available on the Lost Ladybug Project site. Photographs may also be mailed to the project's organizers in Ithaca, N.Y. For more information, check out **www.lostladybug.org** or contact the project: ladybug@cornell.edu

Remembering Russ Horning

By Ron M. Stewart, BGWA V-P, and personal friend of Russ

Russ Horning died recently. His was the study that indicated the value of a well-tended woodlot to the landowner. (See Reference at end of this article.)

Russ Horning was first chair of the Bruce County Woodlot Association. I grew up in the suburbs of Arkwright west, the Horning's farm was on the east side. Jeff (his son) and I went to the one room school together but in 1969 we moved Port Elgin. I hadn't seen Russ or Jeff till 1998 when I met Russ at the Woodlot Conference. He knew me but it took me a while to remember him. His interest in the woodlot is what drew me to him and I learned from him the different programs available to help with tree planting , the CWFIP Kathy Dodge at the MNR ran out of the Owen Sound office. I also learned about MFTIP to lower taxes over the years; he told me about it when he sat on the board for Grey Sauble Con.

He did a lot of things, most to do with the outdoors .He loved to hunt and fish; every spring he went with friends up north and took the train into an area to fish and in the fall he would goose, moose, and deer hunt. In the spring we would turkey hunt and then plant trees but if he was successful at bagging a bird then I planted trees alone. One time he suggested I tape a single shotgun to the shovel because I always saw a bird when planting. That sounded like a good idea but the thought of blowing my foot off stopped that then and there. We always ordered trees together to save on administration fees. Jeff has been keeping up the tradition. Russ was a pretty good actor he did some plays at the Port Elgin United Church

He liked to talk about how it was possible, over the years to make your woodlot pay for itself by comparing cash crops to a sustainable harvest in trees. He also took the fact that enjoying the forest was something to do and that most times it didn't cost a thing but time.

Russ and his wife Ruth moved into Port Elgin and worked at the Douglas Point until he retired. At one time he also drove for a milk company, picking-up and delivery. Every morning he would go for a long walk down past my place to the lake and back. In

(Continued on page 7)

Your Traveling Editor

By Malcolm Silver

Last month I was in Australia, my former homeland. I visited the eastern seaboard and then the west seeing many types of eucalypt forests, the most common in that country. The term eucalypt encompasses some 800 species in three genera *Eucalyptus*, *Corymbia* and *Angophora*, with almost all species native to Australia. Eucalypts (or gum trees as Australians often call them) evolved from rainforest ancestors that adapted to an environment where drought, nutrient-poor soils and fire were increasingly common. The species have oil-rich foliage (in this I defy any expat from becoming nostalgic on crushing & sniffing leaves) that burns readily and they display a range of strategies to survive and recover from fire. Most are evergreen and many depend on birds to fertilize their flowers. In SW Western Australia, around Pemberton karri or jarrah trees in forests, took my breath away with their grandeur. This is the coldest and wettest part of that state with an average rainfall of 1200 mm/annum.

Karri

The karri (*E. diversicolor)* grows over 80 m. Usually it has a single, straight trunk with white to cream bark that turns brown as it matures and around the start of the austral winter is shed. Mature trees branch only from the top third of the trunk. The leaves are dark green on top and lighter underneath, and in the canopy appear bunched together like broccoli stalks. It has cream-colored flowers in spring and summer, if the trees may flower after fire so seeds can take advantage of nutrients released from burned forest litter They were flowering when I saw them and from above one heard a constant buzz, as of cicadas, but actually the zit-zit-zit call of myriads of purple crowned lorikeets (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*) using their brush tongues to harvest pollen and nectar. These birds were also found in Jarrah forests. Karri grows in poorish soil that although low in some minor nutrients it is deep and primarily created from shed bark that collects at the trunk base of mature trees to a depth of 6 m.

I got close to these trees in the Gloucester National Park and in particular with the Gloucester Tree. At 72 m and with a girth of 7.3 m, it's a fire-lookout. You can climb it on 153 spikes that spiral the tree to reach a steel and aluminum cabin and visitors' gallery for a spectacular view. Although the attached photograph shows me a short distance up the climb, like 80 % of visitors, I did not go to the top

Karri wood is a beautiful mahogany color, (lighter than jarrah) and is used extensively in the building industry, particularly in roofs due to the length and uninterrupted knot-free nature of the trunk. It has the reputation of being termite-prone, although not as susceptible as pine. It is also a great furniture wood. Karri honey is widely sought for its color and flavor.

Karri Forest. Woman in photo on left was 1.75 m tall. Your editor (right) beginning the climb on the Gloucester Tree. If not completing it.

Jarrah

Jarrahs (*E marginata*) reach 50 m with a long straight trunk up to 3 m in diameter. Its rough grayish brown fibrous bark is vertically grooved and sheds in long flat strips. Leaves are often curved and shiny dark green above and paler below. The species' scientific name marginata refers to a light-colored vein on the border around its leaves. The stalked flower buds appear in clusters and are white. They too bloom in spring and early summer and one could smell their magnificent scent. Jarrah trees are unusual in that they have a lignotuber, a large underground swelling that stores carbohydrates and allows young trees to regenerate after a fire. Because they are deep-rooted, as much as 40 m jarrahs are drought resistant and

(Continued on page 7)

(Travelling Editor, continued from page 6)

able to draw water from great depths during dry periods. This tree usually grows in gravely soil but occasionally is found in sand or loam. Karri & jarrah forests do not grow together.

Jarrah trees and their bark

Jarrah produces a dark, thick, tasty honey, but its wood is its main use. It is heavy, richly colored, beautifully grained and termite-resistant, making it valuable for cabinet making, flooring, paneling and outdoor furniture. When fresh, jarrah is quite workable but when seasoned it becomes so hard that conventional wood-working tools are near useless. It is very durable and water resistant, making it a choice structural material for bridges, wharves, railway sleepers, ship building, telegraph poles and hot tubs. Before modern asphalt the streets of Berlin and London were paved with blocks of jarrah. Nowadays jarrah is highly prized, and supports an industry that recycles it from demolished buildings.

Sadly the jarrahs are decreasing because the tree is defenseless against dieback caused by the oomycete *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Researchers are trying to make genetic transfers into the jarrah from the dieback resistant Marri gum.

Conservation

With demands for lumber & affected by disease the South West native forest area is managed in a 10-year Forest Management Plan developed by the Conservation Commission of Western Australia. Approximately 1.4 million hectares are protected in national parks, reserves and other areas not available for harvest. This reserved area includes all old-growth forests

Timber harvesting occurs on a rotational basis in patches throughout the region. The different aged patches create a mosaic of forests at different stages of growth, providing a range of habitat. The total amount of timber removed from the State forest each year is less than the annual growth, making timber management in Western Australia a sustainable activity

Bibliography:

"Plants and Animals; Jarrah", http://www.calm.wa.gov.au/plants_animals/treejarrah.html, (11/2/00)

Phytophthora cinnamomi -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phytophthora cinnamomi

South West native forests for conservation and timber

www.fpc.wa.gov.au/content_migration/_.../swnf-2-timber-species.pd

Common Trees of the South-West Forests, Wheeler J. Department of Environment and Conservation Western Australia. Web site www.dec.wa.gov.au

(Remembering Russ Horning, continued from page 5)

fall, if he saw that my truck was gone, I'd get a call later to see if I'd gone hunting or if I'd seen any deer.

Russ was a friend and mentor. He taught me so much about how to keep a woodlot, as well as to make some money from it. He showed me about planting a diverse tree crop so the forest would attract wildlife and provide a home. I truly miss my friend for his teachings, stories and his help with tree planting. I hope I can keep-up his teachings and that I can spread the word about what a woodlot can be and should be worth; not just as a place to clear for monetary value, but the value of its life in cleaning the air and purifying the water and, for us, the bird the animals it contains. Thank God for people like Russell Horning. P.S. I think he would have loved to be part of the Bruce Grey Forest Festival, to see all the children learning about the forest and forest products. This is a little about a past chair and a very good friend who went too soon.

In remembrance of Russ 3 trees, native red maples, were planted at the United Church We also planted a 12' sugar maple at the Heritage Farm south of Paisley.

Reference: Online readers can access full study or summary:

https://woodlots.wordpress.com/members-area/documents/

Postal/print members see enclosed article (summary).

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The Back Page

Neil Baldwin, Chair Communications Sub-Committee

Living a mostly-sustainable, fully off-grid life as I do, you won't be surprised to learn that I've been getting interested in (brace yourself!) battery-operated chainsaws. Before you scoff too loudly I will admit it's not going to replace a gas power saw anytime soon but the current technology has come a long way. Brushless motors provide more torque, clever electronics monitor load conditions, and the single lithium-ion battery pack included with the GreenWorks saw I bought on sale at Canadian Tire held enough power to fell, limb and buck a medium size elm all on one charge! And all with no fumes to breathe, no polluting the forest air, and a saw that starts and stops instantly, every time. If you wanna up the "eco" ante further use the biodegradable chain oil. Go ahead, add it to your Christmas list ☺.

More Editor's Picks NEWS *FLASHES*

Export of wood pellets from US to EU more environmentally friendly than coal

Harvesting wood pellets in the US and exporting them to the EU was more environmentally friendly than burning coal in the EU to generate electricity. Source: Science Daily Earth & Climate News 20 Nov, 2015.

Bird decline shows that climate change is more than just hot air

Scientists have long known that birds are feeling the heat due to climate change. However, a new study of a dozen affected species in the Western Cape suggests their decline is more complex than previously thought – and in some cases more serious. Source: Science Daily Plant & Animal News 16 Nov 2015

Beavers take a chunk out of nitrogen in Northeast rivers

Beavers, once valued for their fur, may soon have more appreciation in the Northeastern United States. There they are helping prevent harmful levels of nitrogen from reaching the area's vulnerable estuaries. By creating ponds that slow down the movement of water, they aid in removing nitrogen from the water. Source: Science Daily Plant & Animal News 21 Oct 2015

Why do leaves turn red in the fall? The science is up for debate

The changing colour of leaves is an impressive annual spectacle, but it can make one wonder, why bother creating something so beautiful just before it withers away? Well that wonder exists in the scientific community as well, says one McMaster University professor, who said there are two prevailing theories, with no clear cut answer, on why leaves turn from green to red. Full story:

http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/news/why-do-leaves-turn-red-in-the-fall-the-science-is-up-for-debate-1.3288718

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