

WINTER 2016

BGWA Member Newsletter



Introduction

Malcolm Silver, Newsletter Editor

Hi Folks. For many of us this winter, so far, has been particularly mild, However, those living in snow belts in the lee of the Great Lakes have had a different experience and have been dealing with same old, same old conditions.

In this edition I've been gratified to receive items prepared by members, making life as an editor much easier; a hearty thank you to those contributors. Please, and if you wish, take up your pen or hammer out an e E-mail both to let us know if the Newsletter continues to satisfy or should be changed; and if the latter your contribution to assure it does. For those of you who have done this we appreciate your comments.

On that subject, the word Newsletter seems humdrum. Do you have another name for this quarterly that better suits our Association's new name and logo. If so, let's have it.

Malcolm



Grey-Bruce Woodlot Conference - Sat+Sun Apr 2+3

2016 Theme: Protecting Your Woodlot

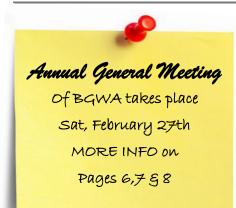
Saturday topics: Impacts of Climate Change on Your Woodlot; Wildlife Regulations, Property Trespass and Enforcement; Forest Health Update; Concerns When Using Circumference Limit Tree Marking; Tile Drainage Effects on Woodlots.

Sunday tour: Russ Horning woodlot

More details & registration: www.bgwa.ca or call 519-367-3040 x233

\$25 advance registration or \$35 at-the-door

includes hot lunch & dessert ©



NEW Password for web site Members' area

If you are a paid 2016
member you should have
received a new password.
If you did not, or have
lost it, contact:
bgwa@naturemail.ca

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.

bgwa-webadmin@naturemail.ca

Mailing address: c/o Carl Sadler, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, 237897 Inglis Falls Rd, RR4, Owen Sound, N4K 5N6

President's Message



Chris VanderHout

Happy New Year to the BGWA membership!

Winter is finally here and a great time to reflect and take solace in the warmth indoors (at least when we aren't enjoying the crisp walks, skiing or snowshoeing through the wonderful forests of Bruce and Grey Counties). I am well into my firewood cutting now and the improvement cutting that I have undertaken gives me satisfaction as I release crowded trees and remove weaker specimens. Trudging through the snow definitely takes the cardio workout up a notch! There are lots of signs of wild turkeys, deer, rabbits and the like. Even some skunks on the move which certainly has me wondering if much harsh winter will still be on the way.

By the time you will read this Wiarton Willie will have certainly given his forecast. It will be interesting to see what transpires with what I understand as El Nino playing a big part in a reasonably mild winter. (Not so bad after two back- to- back really cold winters)

There is quite a bit of activity right now with the board of directors as we prepare for our AGM. Recently you will have seen an Agenda go out to the members and I look forward to seeing as many members as possible attend. Your participation is important as we review the activities of last year and look forward to the coming one. With our first year as a new association behind us, I feel we can prepare to set new plans in motion to fulfill our objectives as laid out in our mission statement. Lots of great things on the horizon!

As well as the planning for the AGM a group of mostly BGWA members and directors have been preparing for the Annual Woodlot Conference in Elmwood. As always it has a great line-up of speakers on a diverse range of subjects. A must-attend for woodland lovers for sure! I look forward to attending and seeing people from our membership there.

Since our last newsletter the board of Directors met on Dec 10th at the Sulphur Springs Conservation Area office in Hanover.

- Discussion took place around planning for the AGM
- Decision to keep membership dues the same as last year (\$30)
- A new logo was brought forward and accepted. It will be unveiled at the AGM

The 2016 Planning committee brought forward proposed activities for this year. Chalked-out with great ideas, this document will be shared at the AGM, and then in subsequent newsletters.

So, many opportunities comingup for people to take part in BGWA activities between our AGM and the Elmwood Woodlot Conference. With the AGM coming, we have put out a call for directors. All current ones have accepted the invitation to stay-on, and with more input and diversifi-

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(President's Report, from page 2)

cation of personalities, we will be able to move forward into this year and remain as the vital organization that we have become. Fresh ideas and newly inspired people would be a real asset in making our organization more of a force in supporting the forest ecosystems that nurture us and other life forms that inhabit the planet. I extend an invitation to any member who wants to step forward and make a difference. Through collaboration and teamwork great things will happen.

Harvesting your woodlot: Vital rules to be followed

Lee Thurston · BGWA Board Member & Conservation Resource Technician with the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

Canada has about 210 million hectares of productive forested land, of which 23 million hectares (11%) is privately owned. This 11% produces approximately 19% of the national wood supply, (Rotherham, 2003).

Obviously from that private woodlots are extremely productive and contribute considerably to the economy. Private woodlot owners are blessed with a truly renewable and sustainable resource and at some point during ownership of your woodlot you are going to consider harvesting. The average woodlot owner only harvests once or twice during their tenure; however in a typical upland hardwood stand in Bruce and Grey counties, the time between harvests can be as little as 10 or 12 years depending on how its managed. As a private woodlot owner, when it comes to harvesting timber from your property, you have two options:

Harvest the woodlot yourself. This would involve purchasing some sort of equipment to pull the logs out of the bush. A used skidder or tractor with a skidding winch will cost from \$20,000 to \$50,000; a decent chainsaw will cost between \$600 and \$1,000 while fuel costs, equipment maintenance and repair will depend on what you purchased for skidding the logs but expect several hundred dollars per month or more. Also, you must also have the skill and time to fall and skid the trees.

Hire a logging contractor who already has the equipment, skill and manpower to complete the job in a relatively short period.

We have all heard stories of landowners being cheated of tens of thousands of dollars by unscrupulous loggers and left with a bush that will never see another harvest in their lifetime. While these stories may be true, those are the Bernie Madoffs of the logging world and for the most part while they may not be spending the rest of their life in jail, they have been driven out of business. That is not to say that you can just trust every single logger. There are still cowboys out there that somehow manage to convince woodlot owners to let them harvest their timber.

So, how do you protect yourself and your woodlot to the best of your ability? There are several rules you need to follow when selling your woodlot.

Rule 1. Never, ever, sell your woodlot to someone who knocks on your door asking if you want to sell some trees. You can listen to what they say and have a polite conversation with them but no matter how much money they offer, tell them you want to think about it before committing. If the idea intrigues you or you have been considering that it is time for a harvest, contact other logging contractors and get bids from as many as you can. This will allow you to determine what the fair market value is that you can expect.

Rule 2. Never, ever, sell your woodlot to someone who wants to cut to the diameter or circumference (two ways of saying the same thing). This is not good forestry and over the course of time will degrade your woodlot to the point of being almost worthless. Hire a professional forester to do a prescription and mark your woodlot. There are many private foresters who will do this for you and while it will cost a certain amount of money, it is money well spent. A woodlot managed under good forestry practices can be harvested at regular intervals. Cutting to the diameter only decreases the overall health and vigor of the woodlot and over time will severely degrade the quality of the timber. Come to the Woodlot Conference to learn out more about this issue.

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Rule 3. Ask for references from anyone who bids on your wood. Check-out the references and determine what the quality of their work is and how well the landowner felt he was treated. That is the only way you can determine who you want in your woodlot; it's not necessarily the highest bidder. If the logger won't give you a reference, then don't even entertain them.

Rule 4. Once you have decided on a contractor, draw up a contract that suits your needs. It can be as simple as you want but be sure you include things such as: dispute resolution; insurance coverage; repair to roads; method of payment and anything you feel is justified to put in. If it's not in the contract you will have no recourse. Under no circumstances should you be satisfied with a contract that they provide as it will without a doubt be written to protect them, not you.

Rule 5. Monitor the harvest. It doesn't have to be everyday but at least be there on day 1 and on the last day. If you find something that you are unhappy

about, let the logger know up-front immediately. Don't wait until the harvest is finished because by then it will be too late. Some people think that the County Bylaw and its enforcement officer are responsible for monitoring the harvest of their woodlot. While it is true that they will visit the site prior to logging starting, many times they won't get back until well after the harvest is over and by then the damage has been done.

Rule 6. Regardless of how you decide to be paid by the logger, never let the wood leave your property until you have been paid in full. Once logs are gone you have no way of confirming how much wood was actually harvested and be compensated fairly.

Hopefully if you have followed these rules, the harvest of your woodlot will go smoothly and you will have nothing but compliments for the crew that did the job. There are lots of good ones out there; you just need to do your part to ensure that you get the best one for your woodlot.

Reference: Rotherham, Tony. Canada's privately owned forest lands: Their management and economic importance. The Forestry Chronicle, Vol. 79, No. 1, 2003.

News, Comment & New Science

Compiled by Malcolm Silver, Newsletter Editor

Exciting

British Columbia changed its building codes in 2009 to allow 5- and 6-storey wood buildings. One of the tallest in the world, a UBC students' residence will be 18 storeys or 53 m tall. On Jan. 1, 2015 Ontario building code revisions allowed wood-frame residential and office buildings up to 6 storeys, with stairwells of non-combustible materials and combustion-resistant roofs. March 20, 2015 saw the City of Hamilton's building division announce it had issued Ontario's first 6-storey, wood frame, building permit. On Feb 8th this year in *The Working Forest*, came announcement that such a building had been constructed in Hamilton; *Templar Flats* is a mixed-use structure.

Comment

Snow -- that icon of winter -- blankets the land with a beautiful silence. Love it or hate it, we all depend on snow. Our year-round water supply largely comes from snowmelt. But we're not the only ones who

need snow. Species from microscopic fungi to 800-pound-moose require it as much, if not more; they survive the winter by living in nature's igloo: snow. Also spring's profusion of flowers is fertilized by nutrients in snow. Winter is changing, becoming less like the cold seasons we may remember. The *new winter* has consequences far beyond December-to-March. It affects spring and summer, too. In celebration of snow and winter as we know it, and in a look at what winter may be like in the future, the US National Science Foundation has launched a new special report: Let It Snow! The Science of Winter (www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/snow/).

(David Port, Former GCWA Board Member, drew attention to the following article.)

Wrong type of trees in Europe increased global warming By Matt McGrath Environment correspondent . Source http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-35496350 This study was published in the journal *Science*.

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The assumption that planting new forests helps limit climate change has been challenged by a new study. Researchers found that in Europe, trees grown since 1750 have actually increased global warming. They believe that replacing broadleaved species with confers is a key reason for negative climate impact. Confers like pines and spruce are generally darker and absorb more heat than species such as oak and birch.

New Science: Heartening

Dutch Elm Disease (DED) A European research team studying the nutritional niche of one of the most aggressive forest pathogenic fungi, the agent responsible for DED, by comparing them with other species of endophytic fungi isolated from healthy trees has shown that some fungi inhabiting trees compete with pathogens for the same carbon sources inside the plant. Therefore, the action of these fungi in the habitat of the pathogen (in this case, the phloem and xylem of elms) would limit its growth and protect the trees from the disease.

Reference: Blumenstein, K; et al: Nutritional niche overlap potentiates the use of endophytes in biocontrol of a tree disease. *BioControl*, 2015; 60 (5): 655

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Biocontrol North American scientists are making determined efforts to contain EAB's destructive march through forests. Along with the release of non-stinging wasps that are the beetle's natural enemies researchers are testing a fungal pathogen that could be used as another biocontrol. Work is underway to determine how well the wasp species being released, survive the winter and whether any one is more effective than the others. US studies have shown T. planipennisi was established in three release sites in Michigan, and was the most abundant species of parasitoid wasps attacking EAB larvae a year after release. Beauveria bassiana, a fungus that is the active ingredient in a commercially available insecticide also helps to control EABs. Results show the fungus kills beetles and persists better on bark than on leaves; the fungus does not harm the wasps. The City of Montreal, with help from Natural Resources Canada, is introducing the fungus in some 210 traps set up across five of its boroughs. The beetle is lured into the trap, gets covered in fungus, and then spreads the fungus and the disease to its partner during mating.

References: Louela A et al. Characterization of Beauveria bassiana (Ascomycota: Hypocreales) isolates associated with Agrilus planipennis (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) populations in Michigan. *Biological Control*, 2010; 54 (2): 135

Louela A et al Assessing deposition and persistence of Beauveria bassiana GHA (Ascomycota: Hypocreales) applied for control of the emerald ash borer, Agrilus planipennis (Coleoptera: Buprestidae), in a commercial tree nursery. *Biological Control*, 2010; 54 (1): 61

Bats and white nose syndrome White-nose syndrome arrived in Canada five years ago The causative fungus attacks bats when they're hibernating, penetrating their skin, causing dehydration and burning off the fat reserves they rely on to survive the winter. It has decimated populations of little brown bats, northern myotis and tri-colored bats. Biologists say there's new hope for struggling bat populations in Canada following laboratory and field trials. Researchers at Georgia State University started using the bacteria Rhodococcus rhodochrousin in laboratories to inhibit fungal growth in 2012. Last winter U.S. Forest Service biologists conducted field work in caves in Kentucky and Missouri. They found 150 bats survived. "It looks like bats were able to survive with the help of the bacterium so it's promising," says Karen Vanderwolf, a bat conservation specialist with the Canadian Wildlife Federation in New Brunswick but the research is still preliminary.

Source Elizabeth McMillan, <u>CBC News</u> Updated: May 26, 2015 9:28 AM AT

Clean Diesel fuel Researchers from KU Leuven and Utrecht University have discovered a new approach to the production of fuels. Their new method can be used to produce much cleaner diesel. It can quickly be scaled up for industrial use; in 5 to 10 years, we may see the first cars driven by this new clean diesel. Reference:Jecevic, G et al. Nanoscale intimacy in bifunctional catalysts for selective conversion of hydrocarbons. *Nature*, 2015; 528 (7581): 245

Worrying

Potential threat to our salamanders. *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal) is an emerging fungal pathogen that caused recent salamander die-offs in Europe. Laboratory experiments show that it can kill some North American species as well, North America is a global hotspot for salamander biodiversity, accounting for about 50% of species worldwide. In the conti-

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nent's forests, the biomass of salamanders can exceed the biomass of all other vertebrate species, and salamanders are key players in a variety of ecosystems. Bsal was likely introduced to Europe from Asia through the commercial amphibian trade.. The authors proposed plan includes strategies to prevent or reduce the risk of Bsal entry into the United States, Canada, and Mexico and propose concrete steps to be taken immediately.

Reference: Gray MJ et al. **Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans: The North American Response and a Call for Action.** *PLOS Pathogens*, 2015; 10.1371

Wild Bee Die-off The first national study to map U.S. wild bees suggests they're disappearing in many of that country's most important farmlands. The research team, estimates that wild bee abundance between 2008 and 2013 declined in 23% of the contiguous U.S. The study also shows that 39% of US croplands that depend on pollinators--from apple orchards to pumpkin patches--face a threatening mismatch between rising demand for pollination and a falling supply of wild bees.

Pesticides, climate change, and diseases threaten wild bees--but the new study also shows that their decline may be caused by the conversion of bee habitat into cropland. In eleven key states where the new study shows bees in decline, the amount of land tilled to grow corn spiked by two hundred percent in five years--replacing grasslands and pastures that once supported bee populations. "These results reinforce recent evidence that increased demand for corn in biofuel production has intensified threats to natural habitats in corn-growing regions.

Over the last decade, honeybee keepers have lost many colonies and have struggled to keep up with rising demand for commercial pollination services, pushing up costs for farmers. When sufficient habitat exists, wild bees are already contributing the majority of pollination for some crops. Even around managed pollinators, wild bees complement pollination in ways that can *increase crop yields,* says Neal Williams, a co-author on the study from the University of California, Davis. Most people can think of one or two types of bee, but there are 4,000 species in the U.S. alone, says Taylor Ricketts, Gund Professor in UVM's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. Wild bees are a precious natural resource we should celebrate and protect. If managed with care, they can help us continue to produce billions of dollars in agricultural income and a wonderful diversity of nutritious food.

Journal Reference: Koh I, et al: Modeling the Status, Trends, and Impacts of Wild Bee Abundance in the United States. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, December 2015.

Quirky

Why Spiderman can't exist: Geckos are 'size limit' for sticking to walls Latest research reveals why geckos are the largest animals able to scale smooth vertical walls -- even larger climbers would require unmanageably large sticky footpads. Scientists estimate that a human would need adhesive pads covering 40 percent of their body surface in order to walk up a wall like Spiderman, and believe their insights have implications for the feasibility of large-scale, gecko-like adhesives.

Journal Reference:Labonte, D et al. Extreme positive allometry of animal adhesive pads and the size limits of adhesion-based climbing. *PNAS*, January 2016 10.1101

The Bruce Grey Woodlot Association will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Williamsford Community Centre on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, from 9:30AM to 12:45 PM.

The AGM Agenda was sent (by email unless member registered as postal mail only) to all members on January 27th. If you have not received, or misplaced, the Agenda contact Craig Todd 519-371-8465.

Preceding the Business Meeting, guest speaker Stephen Hogbin will give a presentation on *The Extraordinary Tree Project* and highlight some of the 48 nominations from places and spaces all over Grey & Bruce.

Registration is not required, but appreciated to help us plan space and refreshments. Register online (www.bgwa.ca) or by phone (519-371-8465) prior to Feb 24 and be entered into a draw for a copy of the newly-published book *Mushrooms of Ontario and Eastern Canada*.

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DRAFT Minutes from 2015 AGM

First order of business at 2016 AGM is to approve, or amend as required, minutes from the previous AGM. These DRAFT minutes are provided for members' convenience to review in advance.

BRUCE GREY WOODLOT ASSOCIATION
Minutes of AGM
Saturday, March 7th, 2015
Chesley, Klages Mill

10:00 pm - Welcome by Ron Stewart, Chairperson

Attendees: Board nominees and approximately 30-40 members

- 1. Treasurer's Report: Larry Cluchey (distributed at meeting)
 MOTION to accept the Treasurers report as presented: by
 Malcolm Silver, seconded by Doug Hamm, all in favour, carried.
- 2. Name Suggestions received by members
- Queens Bush Woodlot Association
- Grey County Woodlot Association
- Trees are us

Action: Suggestion- contest to be conducted online.

Action: New board of directors will determine a deadline.

3. Review of Memebership fees:

MOTION to keep the previous GCWA fee of \$30.00, Student rates and family as per our constitution: by Chris Vander Hout, seconded by Doug Hamm – all in favour, carried.

4. Review of constitution:

MOTION to accept constitution as provisional: by Malcolm Silver, seconded by George Genyk— all in favour, carried.

MOTION: to allow online voting: by Roger Short, seconded by Hunter Dixon- all in favour, carried

MOTION: to allow constitution to be tweaked: by Malcolm Silver, seconded by Alison Stewart- all in favour, carried

Action: Constitution to be presented on our website and accepted via online acceptance vote by May 7,2015

Action: Change constitution to allow online voting

- 5. Member Inputs:
- a. Former GCWA President Paul Cook suggested
- 7 or 9 directors as a limit
- Timing of events for the year could be laid out at beginning of the year
- Draft budget could be created for following year at the end of the year
- AGM best scheduled by the end of February
- Continue active recruitment for new members
- Newsletter could go out 4 times a year
- Focus on good circulation of information

b. Malcolm Silver suggested that Woodlot Association minutes be archived to preserve our history

Potential action on this TBD by Board

- c. Suggestion made to e-mail newsletter vs mail out and only mail to members without internet access
- d. Sue Short suggested looking for media exposure for our events
- 6. Board of Directors 11 Board of members presented: Ron Stewart, Lee Thurston, Chris Vander Hout, Harvey Weppler, Donna Lacey, Neil Baldwin, Malcolm Silver, Jim Cullen, Larry Cluchey, Cam Bennett and Doug Hamm

MOTION to remove Doug Hamm from the list of Nominees: by Alison Stewart, seconded by Cam Bennett— all in favour, carried.

MOTION to accept the 10 remaining people on the list: by Alison Stewart, seconded by Jack Mali– all in favour, carried.

- 7. Neil Baldwin reported on BGWA website:
- Committing to effective communication
- Notices being made
- Member postings are accepted

Malcolm Silver congratulated Neil and suggested the removal of old content

- 8. Anne Lennox Announced
- Upcoming Woodlot Conference date
- Upcoming Tree planting workshop
- Emerald Ash borer seminar
- 9. Ron Stewart requested suggestions for workshops
- None given
- 10. Presentation on Edible Forest Gardens Given by Ben Ceasar of Fiddlehead Nursery
- 11. Meeting concluded

Other Information:

Envirothon - in the past the BCWA has supported the Grey Bruce Regional Envirothon which this year will be held April 22 location TBA. Those interested can contact Craig Todd.

Roots of Bruce/ Grown in Grey: these events have been supported by members in the past – this year Roots is April 9/10 in Walkerton and Grown is April 14/15 in Chatsworth – those who may be interested please contact Ron.

These are DRAFT minutes from the 2015 AGM, provided for members' convenience to review in advance. Any suggested amendments should be brought forward at the 2016 AGM prior to the motion to accept the 2015 minutes.

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BGWA LEADERSHII

Board - Executive

President/Chair

Chris Vander Hout chris@evolvebuilders.ca

Vice-President

Ron Stewart

rm.stewart@bmts.com

Treasurer/Registrar

Larry Cluchey Icluchey@wightman.ca

Secretary

Craig Todd

craig.todd@ontario.ca

Board - Directors

Neil Baldwin

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Cam Bennett

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Jim Cullen

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Donna Lacey

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Malcolm Silver

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Lee Thurston

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Harvey Weppler

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Board—Resource Contacts

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Kevin Predon

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Carl Sadler

Grey Sauble Conservation c.sadler@greysauble.on.ca

Craig Todd Ontario MNRF

craig.todd@ontario.ca

Sub-Committees

Communications

Neil Baldwin (Web Site)

Anne Lennox

Carl Sadler

Malcolm Silver (Newsletter)

Membership

Larry Cluchey

Donna Lacey

Ron Stewart

Program & Events

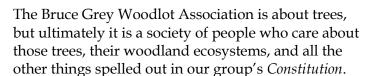
Cam Bennett

Carl Sadler

Ron Stewart

We are an Association of PEOPLE

Neil Baldwin, Chair Communications Sub-Committee



What I have been attempting to do over this past first full year of BGWA's life is work on improving the quality, the frequency and the effectiveness of communication between the association and its members.

Over the coming year, in addition to continuing to grow the communication from association *to* members, I am hoping we can also begin to better help facilitate connection between members.

Newly launched, in the Members-Only section of our web site www.bgwa.ca is a Member Directory to help you locate other members based on nearby location and/or shared interests.

This is an *opt-in* listing of members so you must fillout the online form to appear in the directory. I have added my listing, and many other Board members have done likewise. I encourage you to list information about your woodlands and interests in this password-protected area accessible only to other BGWA members.

Get Involved!

Directors of the Association will be elected at our Annual General Meeting, Saturday, February 27, in Williamsford. The BGWA Board thanks all Directors returning for another term and also seeks new and additional Directors.

Any member in good standing may be a Director, whether you are a property owner or not, whether you are relatively new to woodlands & forest management or have years of experience, all you need to contribute is your interest, ideas and enthusiasm!

To nominate another member, or offer up yourself, contact BGWA President Chris Vander Hout by email (see box above) or phone 519-665-7414.

Members' Show+Share at AGM

New this year, the Annual General Meeting will feature a members Show-and-Share! We are interested to have members bring in products they themselves have made from wood—it can be actual items, hard copy photos, or digital photos which will be projected onto the screen in a rotating slide show. Inspire other members' creativity with your ideas, experience, and expertise! *Please note this is a display, not a sales event.*