Greenleaves

Newsletter of the Bruce Grey Woodlands Association

SPRING 2018

www.bgwa.ca

President's Message

Chris VanderHout

Happy spring! What a great time of year and like everyone, I seem to have more on my list of ambitions then there is time in the day. It is a busy time especially if you are getting crops in, tree planting or simply taking care of outdoor work around the house.

When my wife and I bought our property near Ayton 16 years ago, we began our love affair with the land by being out in our forest and planting more trees. There are many that I admire and I wanted to add some to our landscape. Some planted were small, shagbark hickories. With them being a Carolinian species and we are north of its growing zone, we planted them in a sheltered area just to the south of a mature forest stand. As some of you will know, hickorys have a deep tap root, and the ones that I planted had only a few inches of stem. So we planted with care, put protection around the base, and then waited for them to get growing. Well, this didn't happen as quickly as I had hoped.

In several years the trees didn't appear to be growing much, and of the half a dozen put in, it didn't appear any would make it. Over the years it didn't seem to be an experiment that would work and I thought that none of the trees had made it so continued my attention to other trees and tasks; kind of a left for dead story.

(Continued on page 2)

UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

Jul 31 - Bus Trip: Somerville Tree Nursuries (see back page)
Sep 15 - Annual Members' BBQ @ Inglis Falls (date tentative)
TBA - 2nd Annual TREEvia at a local brewery

How about hosting a member tour of your wooodlands?!?

Contact Kevin Predon
519-270-0748

Next Board Meeting July 18: 7-9pm Grey Sauble Conservation Auth Members Welcome!

(President's Message, from page 1)

Then came a surprise last year. I noticed a unique leaf on a small 5' tall tree within the area where I had been planting. It was a healthy shagbark hickory! And this year I found another I am so delighted and surprised that they actually grew I thought I would share this success because it shows that you never really know what will work when it comes to planting trees and nature is persistent. Sometimes things just take longer than you expect and patience can be a virtue.

Shagbark Hickory budding

So now, over the years, I have created a small arboretum near our house. It includes sycamore, black locust, tulip trees and shagbark hickories to name a few. It is a treasure to have some of my favorite trees near our house and an enjoyable part of my spring to see how they have made it through the winter and do some pruning to encourage upward growth.

Given that I could probably talk about trees all day, I had better get onto Association matters. We held our recent board meeting on March 30th. Amongst regularly discussed items we focused on upcoming events and outreach activities.

There are quite a few items on that list and we hammered-out some details and timing for an upcoming bus trip (which we anticipate will become an annual event, with lots of learning opportunities), a woodlot tour, annual barbeque, Treevia night and another film showing. Ron Stewart continues outreach activities at the Durham and Paisley Fairs and Heritage Farm this coming fall. The board will determine if other fairs or events would allow us to share our insights on promoting healthy forests within Bruce and Grey counties. If you have any suggestions about an event that you think would be suitable, or are willing to stand-in for the association at an event, please reach out to us, we would love some membership input!

As we all know, healthy local forests are crucial for the services we take for granted. Clean air, water, food web infrastructure and wildlife habitat to name a few. Organizations like ours represent a voice for these forests and the importance of caring for them and keeping them vital. With a membership in the mid 100's, we have a good voice and more members means more support for each other and our forests. I look forward to our organization continuing to grow and flourish. Sharing the word and engaging in association events is a great way for us to remain strong and vibrant. See you at some of the upcoming events!

Wishing you all well,

Sincerely, Chris Vander Hout

GREENLEAVES

is the member newsletter of the Bruce Grey Woodlands Association, 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 advice or policy.

bgwa@naturemail.ca

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Editor's Comments

Malcolm Silver

Like all of us thinning down to expose ourselves to the sun's rays during summer this edition is thinner than usual. Nevertheless, it contains interesting news and items - read on. If its thin nature upset you there is an obvious solution: write for it yourself or help us find other local woodland owners/enthusiast who will.

Member Assistance Requested

Volunteer to staff the recurring BGWA booth at the Heritage Farm Show (Aug 17-18-19) and/or the Paisley Fair (Sep 9). Ron Stewart would like 4 people to help set-up (8 AM) and 2-3 to staff over the course of the day. Contact: rm.stewart@bmts.com or 519-832-5548

Suggest Ideas for events (fairs, shows, markets, etc.) around Grey & Bruce counties that BGWA should consider setting up a booth at, both for public information and potential member recruitment. We need you input!! Send suggestions to bgwa@naturemail.ca

Diversity in the Woodlot

By Kevin Predon

When it comes to your woodlands, diversity is a good thing, as it should be in most situations. In fact, for the purpose of this article, I tried to think of a scenario where diversity isn't considered to be positive, and I couldn't do it. Perhaps on your chainsaw's chain, you want all of the teeth and gaps to be nice and uniform, not all different shapes and sizes. It's weak example, but for now it will have to do.

In terms of a forest, ecological diversity is the number of different species that make up a community. Diversity may refer to all of the organisms within a community, but typically it is used in reference to a particular type or group of organisms, such as the variety of plants, mammals, or birds.

However, simply expressing diversity as a species list is does not provide a good enough description of a community, because there is a variance in the relative abundance and importance of the different species. Think of two separate forests. They have both been inventoried, each has an equal sized list of 25 different plant species, but they will not be equal in their diversity characteristics. The first forest has only one main canopy tree species, with two others occasionally popping up. There is little understory, and most of the ground vegetation are different species of moss, with two of those species accounting for the majority of that biomass. Now in the second forest, there is an ample mixture of six different tree species spread throughout the main canopy, and there is a well-developed understory containing a dozen species of shrubs and herbaceous vegetation, which are evenly distributed. The second example forest has better characteristics of diversity because it contains a healthier distribution of species that are more widely ecologically significant throughout the canopy layers of the forest.

This is only scratching the surface of the topic, which is too complex to summarize in a 500-word article because ecological diversity is also important in terms of scale, which is something that small-woodlot owners may not always consider. The two previous sample forests were measuring diversity on a small and location specific scale, but it also needs to be evaluated at the larger landscape scale. A natural mono-culture forest may not be very diverse at the stand level, but when looking at the landscape as a whole, these types of forests can be important habitat for very specific niche wildlife species.

There is a very good article, from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resource about ten years ago, that documents the effects of partial harvesting on the understory vegetation of woodlands in southern Ontario [Forest Ecology and Management 255 (2008) 2204-2212]. That paper focuses on how harvesting in woodlots impacts plant species richness and diversity, and *spoiler alert*, reveals that even though intensive harvesting may encourage high levels of richness and diversity, it can negatively affect the quality of the remaining vegetation through the displacement of desired species by exotics. Maybe you should just go and read that article instead of this one, because this is the example of when diversity is bad that I was trying to think of at the beginning! Increased diversity in your woodlot is bad when the variety and abundance is coming from invasive species that are forcing out the native species.

Information for this article was extracted from Forest Ecology by J.P. Kimmins, 1987.

Public Enemies

By Malcolm Silver

WANTED DEAD, RATHER THAN ALIVE: WILD CHERVIL

Wild chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), native to Europe, is a biennial spread primarily through seed dispersal. It is most commonly found along roadsides and hedgerows at various locations in south and central Ontario.

This plant is from the carrot/parsley family and shares many of their qualities. It can grow to 30 -120 cm but on occasion has been found over 180 cm. Stems are hollow and each has a fringe of hair at its base. Leaves are alternate, fern-like and divided into many leaflets; they are nearly hairless if with some hair on the lower surface. The leaves get smaller the closer they are to stem tips. The flowers, produced in April to May, are atop the stem as small white umbels with 5 petals. The seeds approximately 6 mm long are initially green become a shiny dark brown when mature. Roots are thick, tuberous and can extend over 180 cm into the soil.

Human activity, wind, water, birds and other wildlife are all factors in its spread, which can occur rapidly and aggressively along ditches, road right-of-ways, fence lines, and pasturelands. It has the ability to outcompete native plants and can play host to a disease, which affects carrots, celery and parsnips.

Plants are extremely hard to control because of their large taproots. Physical control such as mowing before flowering can be used to exhaust the root system but the process needs repetition. Plants can also be dug-up. It is important to remove mature ones below the crown to prevent sprouting. Cut and bag any flowering plants for burning or deep burial. Tilling and reseeding the area with competitive native vegetation will help control wild chervil. NOTE PLANTS MAY CAUSE SKIN IRRITATION SO USE CAUTION AND WEAR GLOVES WHEN HANDLING.

Chemical control is often precluded due the wet habitat this pest prefers but if applicable herbicide effect is increased when combined with tilling the plot one week after application. A herbicide containing a 4% or higher concentration of glyphosate should be used; premixed solutions will be too weak to be effective. Glyphosate will kill grass and other vegetation so care should be taken if used around desired vegetation. The loss of surrounding plants also may allow germination of any chervil seeds in the soil. Imazapyr (marketed as Habitat® Arsenal®) can be applied to actively growing plants in the rosette to bud stage. Follow label directions for mixing the appropriate solution strength. A surfactant may be added to increase efficiency. NOTE: Lee Thurston (Grey County By-Law Officer) points out, with the ornamental pesticides ban, homeowners cannot buy these herbicides without a pesticide applicators license.

It is important to watch for chervil seeds amongst packets of wildflower seeds imported from Europe or Britain

If you find wild chervil or other invasive species in the wild, please contact the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711, or visit EDDMapS Ontario to report a sighting.

Sources

Wild Parsnip – Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program www.invadingspecies.com/wild-parsnip

Wild Chervil | Invasive Species Council of British Columbia |...

bcinvasives.ca/.../identify/invasive-plants/wild-chervil

Control Options for Wild Chervil - Washington

www.nwcb.wa.gov/images/weeds/Wild-Chervil-Control_Whatcom.pd

New Science

Compiled by Malcolm Silver, BGWA Newsletter Editor

Emerald Ash Borer and Climate change

More Canadian cities will experience damage from the emerald ash borer than previously thought. As a result of climate change and fewer days of extreme cold, the beetle may eat its way further north than originally estimated.

Ref <www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/05/180517113751.htm>

Stick Insects Survive Being Eaten by Birds

It's commonly assumed that when insects are eaten by birds, they and their unborn young have no chance of survival. However, researchers hypothesized that the eggs within insect bodies can pass through birds undigested. They tested this hypothesis with stick insects, known for their hard eggs, and found that some eggs are excreted unharmed and successfully hatch. Stick insects cannot travel very far by themselves, so being eaten by birds could even contribute to expanding their habitat.

Ref <www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/05/180528123957.htm>

Mother Knows Best—How Plants Help Offspring by Passing on Seasonal Clues

New research delved into the genetic memory systems through which plants pass seasonal information to their seeds, to give them the best chance of reproductive success. Plants integrate seasonal signals such as temperature and day length and use this information to optimize the timing for key lifecycle stages. These development transitions include flowering, seed dispersal and seed dormancy are timely tactics employed by mother plants to ensure seed germination happens in optimal conditions when seedling survival rate is high. Seasonal sensing requires the activity of two well characterized genes Flowering Locus C (FLC) and Flowering Locus (FT), the former is a temperature sensor that acts as a brake to flowering and the latter a day length sensor This new study identified the precise mechanism by which temperature information is passed from mother to seeds. The same genes which control the timing of flowering also control seed germination, but act in reverse or der. In this way, the mother plant exploits environmental temperature variation to create diversity in seed type and behavior; a kind of reproductive bet-hedging in which the plant uses temperature information to create a diverse and widely spread offspring.

Ref <www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/05/180531143039.htm>

Tick Bite Protection: New CDC Study Adds to the Promise of Permethrin-Treated Clothing

The case for permethrin-treated clothing to prevent tick bites keeps getting stronger. In new experiments, clothing treated with a synthetic form of an insecticidal compound derived from the chrysanthemum had strong toxic effects on three primary species of ticks known to spread disease-causing pathogens. Exposure to permethrin interfered with the ticks' ability to move properly, making them sluggish and likely interfering with their ability to bite.

Ref <www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/05/180524141720.htm

MAIL IN REGISTRATION FOR ROAD TRIP, JULY 31st

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

Tickets: ____ x $30 for BGWA members & their guests, if RECEIVED by July 16

____ x $40 for non-members, or for members after July 16

Enclose cheque to BRUCE GREY WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION and mail to:
BGWA, Box 45, Neustadt, ON, N0G 2M0

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Gord Edwards
Kevin Predon*
Ron Stewart

* lead hand

You don't have to be a Board member to get involved. Contact any member of a committee you might like to help with or learn about!

All Aboard!!
BGWA ROAD TRIP
Tuesday July 31st

Departs & Returns Sulphur Spring Conservation Area: Grey Rd 10 & 28, south of Hanover.

Comfortable, air-conditioned long-distance coach

ITINERARY (all times approx. except for bus departure 9AM sharp)

08:30 - Registration & Coffee
09:00 - Bus departs
10:30 - arrive Somerville Tree Nurseries (Everett): guided facility tour
12:30 - bag lunch time (bring your own lunch - soft drinks & water provided)
1:30 - depart Somerville
2:00 - arrive Luther Marsh Wildlife Area: presentation & tour various projects such as wetland restoration, grassland restoration and forest cover establishment
3:30 - depart Luther Marsh
(time permitting, drive-by and talk on Mount Forest Reservoir Dam modification/ wildlife habitat creation project)
5:00 - arrive Sulphur Spring Conservation Area

ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY

BGWA Members and their Guests $30 ($40 after July 16) Non-members $40

Pay and Register instantly online: bgwa.ca/roadtrip

To register by mail, complete form on reverse

****first-come, first-served - space is not held until we RECEIVE your payment ****