

# Greenleaves

*Newsletter of the Bruce Grey Woodlands Association*

**AUTUMN 2022**



[www.bgwa.ca](http://www.bgwa.ca)

## President's Message

Jim White



Dear BGWA members

I don't remember in recent autumns how vibrant the colours were and how Mother Nature kept them on the trees so long. Last year we were in the final year of Gypsy Moth defoliation so maybe that is why we enjoyed the colours longer. I have my honey harvest bottled and sold and the hives are treated for varroa mites and wrapped for the winter. Overall, a good season and the 'girls' kept teaching me about how picky they are in accepting new queens over the summer.

As an association we had a very busy fall. Almost half of our membership participated in one or more of our events. Some of you I saw at multiple activities which is great! We hope you are finding the events worthwhile and provide continuing education about woodlands. We also really appreciate and need you to respond with your perspectives when we conduct the Survey Monkey online.

October was full of learning experiences. Thanks to Jim Shier for inviting us to see and tour the pine plantation harvest at his property. Jim is an amazing host and we had opportunity to smell, see and hear the harvest as well brief commentary by the forester and logger. Read all about the event in this issue. Lots of pictures!

*(Continued on page 2)*

### INSIDE:

Opinion: Ontario Bill 23

Forest Pest Updates

Pine Plantation Harvest Report

Micro Forests

Crop Tree Pruning

Women Woodlot Owners

Member Reflections: Pineland


Prayerful Tree Art

Book Review

Woodland Word Scramble

---

We acknowledge the Territory of the Anishinabek Nation: The People of the Three Fires known as Ojibway, Odawa, and Pottawatomie Nations. We further give thanks to the Chippewas of Saugeen, and the Chippewas of Nawash, known collectively as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, as the traditional keepers of this land. We also acknowledge the Métis Nation of Ontario, whose history and people are well represented in what we now call Bruce and Grey Counties.



*Would you like to host a  
member tour of your  
woodland property?*

Contact Jim Coles:  
jcoles@gbwtel.ca  
519-934-0020

#### Upcoming Board Meetings:

Dec 13 2022

Jan 10 2023

7:00-8:30PM Members Welcome!

Contact secretary@bgwa.ca to confirm  
format (virtual/in-person/hybrid) and  
location or zoom link.

#### GREENLEAVES

is published by Bruce Grey Woodlands Association (BGWA) and distributed to members to provide information, guidance, instruction, ideas and opinions related to trees, woodland ecosystems, forest management, and recreation in forest settings in or relevant to Bruce and Grey counties.

Content of articles is the sole responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the views of BGWA. Images accompanying articles are provided by the author unless indicated otherwise.

BGWA's vision:

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

bgwa.ca info@bgwa.ca

Mailing address:

BGWA, Box 45, Neustadt, ON, N0G 2M0

(President's Report, from page 1)

Our team of professional foresters and technicians that generously give their time and share their expertise hosted a Tree inventory and Tree marking workshop at the Glen Allan Management Forest. Our 'teacher / leaders' had marked out areas for our outdoor classroom and introduced us to a variety of tools and techniques to identify and inventory trees and then the theory and some practice in selecting which trees could be candidates to remove to improve the forest stand. Based on the feedback that we received from participants after the workshop we have more ideas how to grow our understanding and provide some hands-on experience with the various tools. You won't be certified tree markers but you will have an idea what to look for when you are walking through your woodlot. I know from participating the experience helps me to know what to look for.

You may recall earlier this year we did a Survey Monkey regarding BGWA creating a tool lending library. The results have been analyzed. A small tool loaning library has generally limited utility since those of you who responded told us you buy what you need. We had an interesting comment from a survey participant about BGWA working with a power tool rental company. We spent some time investigating that possibility. A company was willing to consider providing BGWA members a discount with the caveat that BGWA was liable for payment of rentals. As a Board this was a risk we did not want to assume. With respect to specialized tools, for example, those used in tree inventory and tree marking, we will continue to investigate a tool lending library because these tools are relatively expensive and purpose driven, especially if you were hands-on renewing a MTIFP. Thanks to each of you that shared your feedback on the Survey, we need your input and ideas.

There is an excellent Wetlands webinar scheduled, read your BGWA emails for details. In the current environment preserving wetland ties-in very nicely with one of our objectives: Serve as a voice for the membership with respect to legislation, taxation, and regulations as they affect forest property and associated business interests. Specifically, the provincial government's Bill 23. You can read more about Bill 23's implications in this edition of Greenleaves and its importance to all property owners. I encourage you to act and let your MPP understand your concerns.

At the beginning of this year a couple of directors and I purposely reached out to Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and Owen Sound Field Naturalists (OSFN) to investigate how local organizations with aligned objectives might collaborate. Bill 23 is causing significant concern in our two counties given the importance of agriculture and rural land ownership. We were contacted by both organizations to raise our awareness and ask that our members are aware of the pending changes in our community.

(President's Report, from page 2)

We enjoyed a 'summer weather event' the last weekend in October for a well-attended BGWA BBQ. Thanks to Donna and team for making the necessary plans and ensuring we all had lots to eat at Sulphur Springs CA. After a few years of not being able to connect with friends it was terrific to see everyone catching-up with old friends and new members making new friends. Lots of smiles at the picnic tables trading stories....

Thanks to our members and directors that come through with contributions to make Greenleaves a worthwhile communication piece for our BGWA.

Lastly, if you think you would be interested in joining the BGWA board of directors for the next year please give me a call or email. Keep well, keep your family safe with the trio of virus circulating. Our health care workers and hospitals are on life support!!

*Jim*

## "The Last Word"

By Malcolm Silver, Newsletter Editor

Nearing 90, it's time to surrender responsibilities to a new editor. My advice is to do so lightly, but consistently. My apologies to authors who may have been offended by my efforts. It certainly has been a pleasure working with Neil in developing each issue, with *Greenleaves* serving an important role in BGWA's communications.

No matter whether a single specimen, in a plantation or forest, a tree well deserves Keats's comment that a thing of beauty is a joy forever.

Long may BGWA continue with demonstrations & advice on their best care.

And now, one of my favoured trees: Although not a native of Ontario, the *Metasequoia*, or dawn redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, a fast-growing deciduous tree, is one of my favorites, with one growing in my garden in Toronto. It is native to Hubei province, China. Although the shortest of the redwoods, it grows to at least 50 meters in height. Since its rediscovery in 1944, the dawn redwood has become a popular ornamental, with examples found in various parks in a variety of countries.



## "The Last Word"

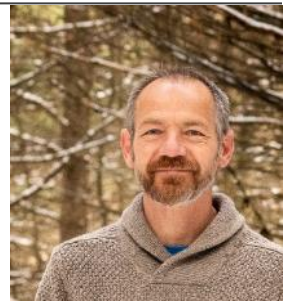
By Neil Baldwin, Newsletter Producer

After 8 years putting together your newsletter, we're going out with a bang and giving you a 16-pager – including images of beautiful tree art and way-cool logging machinery!

I am deeply grateful to members who have contributed content to *Greenleaves* over the years, in particular those have done so on a regular basis. And it is worth noting that many of those regulars are Directors, who are already volunteering their time and effort to BGWA in other ways. Thank you to all.

A big thank you is also due to Malcolm for his eagle eye looking over content before I place it into layout and double checking it again once the draft is done. He has been a wonderful (and patient!) partner in making the newsletter happen, and with high quality, which is no small accomplishment for a small association like ours. Along the way, I have learned from him, and hopefully finally clued in that Latin species names must be *italicized* ☺

As we hand things over, I encourage change and re-think. We've been doing this the same way all this time but communication needs and strategies have likely changed. So it's a good opportunity to evaluate what we seek to accomplish with a newsletter and whether this is still the best mode and frequency for local member communication. However things evolve, most important is that we need member participation and contribution to nourish and sustain it.





## OPINION: Ontario Housing Reality

By Douglas E Dingeldein, BGWA Member

Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 has the goal of addressing the Ontario housing crisis. The bill is primarily aimed at increasing the availability of housing units. However, as the analysis below shows, it is clear that while volume no doubt is important, addressing the price point of individual units may be even more important. Bill 23, as written, does not adequately address this affordability issue. Fortunately, there are successful solutions that have been implemented in many parts of the world as well as across Canada. Bill 23 should be withdrawn and an all-of-government effort should be directed at how adoption of such solutions at scale would limit the potentially damaging changes to existing planning and environmental legislation proposed in Bill 23.

The Ontario Government is gearing up to pass Bill 23, an omnibus bill that, if passed as proposed, will significantly alter established land use planning processes in the province. The government claims these changes are necessary to address the housing crisis in the province by facilitating the construction of 1.5 million new homes by 2031. The bill proposes major amendments to nine statutes: City of Toronto Act 2006, Municipal Act 2001, Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification Act 2012, New Home Construction Licensing Act 2017, Ontario Land Tribunal Act, Ontario Heritage Act, Development Charges Act, Planning Act, and Conservation Authorities Act.

The government is on a mission to fast track the amendments.

Sadly, these legislative initiatives will not likely address the central issue of the province's housing crisis – namely that of housing affordability. Disproportionately, these amendments will reward land speculators and developers currently sitting on undeveloped farmland protected by existing legislation.

Developers are not likely easily persuaded to build low-cost homes on prime subdivision land. It is hard to see, for example, how removing 7,400 acres of farmland spanning 10 municipalities, from the Green Belt, to permit the construction of 50,000 new homes in what likely will be more or less typical subdivisions, will address the gap between the likely prices

of these homes and affordability for the average Ontario household. Fifteen prominent developers are among the beneficial owners of these 7,400 acres.

Consider the housing reality for the average Ontario household.

The average house cost in Ontario in 2022 is \$836,300<sup>1</sup>. For a person wishing to buy a house at this average, the minimum down payment would be calculated as follows: 5% on the first \$500,000 and 10% on the remainder<sup>2</sup>, or  $\$25,000 + \$33,630 = \$58,620$ . If the buyer selected this option, this would leave a \$777,670 loan to finance. Assuming the buyer would qualify for a mortgage of this size and was able to obtain one at 5% for five years amortized over 25 years and payable in 12 monthly payments, the monthly payment would be \$4,523<sup>3</sup>, or \$54,276 a year.

To ensure financial viability, many responsible lenders set a target of 32%<sup>4</sup> of pretax annual household income to handle housing costs.

This \$54,276 annual mortgage cost would therefore represent 32% of this household's pretax income. Scaled up to 100%, this household's income would need to be \$54,276 divided by 0.32 or \$169,613 a year.

What then would have to happen to the average cost of a house in Ontario in 2022 for it to be affordable to a family with the province's average pretax annual household income of \$97,856<sup>5</sup>?

Applying the 32% housing cost target against this average annual household income indicates that it would be able to afford a mortgage payment of \$31,314 a year or \$2,610 per month. A monthly payment of this size would support a mortgage of \$449,000<sup>6</sup> under the same terms as above, which with a requirement to put 5% down would produce a maximum house price for this household of \$475,000.

It is absolutely clear that buying an average house in Ontario in 2022 by a household with an average income is impossible. The gap between what is on the market as an average and what is affordable for the average household is \$361,300.

The Ontario Government is pushing through a number of measures it says will address the housing crisis in the province. It is not clear how these measures will address this affordability gap. For the most part developers will not likely or willingly want to stray too

(Continued on page 5)

(Ontario Housing Reality, from page 4)

far from building houses that cluster around the average in price. It is not likely the land they have been banking for years and are now eager to exploit will be allocated to lower-cost housing.

Tinkering with development charges, removing so-called planning and environmental barriers, building on valuable farm land and speeding up approval processes will not close the affordability gap. In fact, there is serious risk that these measures will bring new costs to tax payers, municipalities, insurance companies, the province and the federal government as a result of hasty, injudicious development decisions that sweep aside decades of evidence, science, experience, planning and other protections.

So, what might be a better way to address the province's housing crisis? Countries all around the world and indeed in all parts of Canada are facing the same challenge as Ontario to provide decent, appropriate housing at affordable prices to their citizens. Even a cursory scan of the subject in Google reveals hundreds of successful projects that do just that.

In Canada, Canada Mortgage & Housing Corp, as long ago as 2001, conducted a study<sup>7</sup> on how affordable housing was being provided back then without access to ongoing government subsidies. CMHC identified innovative ways viable developments were put together that met the needs of moderate and low-income households. The study selected 15 successful projects that characterized eight development models. The selected projects contained 647 housing units with a mixture of low, low and moderate, and moderate income affordability. Housing arrangements included non-profit rental, life leases, various forms of ownership, various types of co-ops, and co-housing.

CMHC found that these 15 projects achieved affordability through such measures as: land acquisition at below market prices; land donations; leased land owned by a municipality; deferred payments for land; increased site density; charitable organization tax status; private donations; financing at low interest rates; provincial rent supplements; and partnerships

CMHC noted that these 15 affordable projects "owe their existence to creative thinking, co-operation, generosity and dedication." Rather than distort long tested planning and environmental protections that as-

surely will bring downstream woes, why not encourage an environment that builds on CHMC's findings. A viable path is at hand without bending established planning and environmental legislation out of shape. These projects and many more like them were brought to fruition by faith groups, activist groups, ethnic associations, co-ops, and similar community-based organizations. What CMHC found, however, was that to succeed, such projects needed relevant policies and the co-operation and support from both the communities and all levels of government. Facilitating community engagement like this at scale can achieve the government's housing objectives for lower taxpayer and environmental cost without risking the negative impacts that undoubtedly will come from implementing Bill 23. Withdraw the bill and provide the leadership to really address the affordability crisis in housing instead of turning to the all too familiar sprawl, farmland destruction and unaffordable subdivision development preferred by oligarch builders.

#### References

- 1 – <https://wowa.ca/reports/canada-housing-market>
- 2 – <https://www.canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/services/mortgages/down-payment.html>
- 3 – <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/consumers/home-buying/calculators/mortgage-calculator>
- 4 – [https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/consumers/home-buying/buying-guides/home-buying/check-if-you-are-financially-ready-to-own-a-home#:~:text=It%20is%20recommended%20that%20your,debt%20service%20\(GDS\)%20ratio.](https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/consumers/home-buying/buying-guides/home-buying/check-if-you-are-financially-ready-to-own-a-home#:~:text=It%20is%20recommended%20that%20your,debt%20service%20(GDS)%20ratio.)
- 5 – <https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmip-pimh/en/TableMapChart/TableMatchingCriteria?GeographyType=Province&GeographyId=35&CategoryLevel1=Population,%20Households%20and%20Housing%20Stock&CategoryLevel2=Household%20Income&ColumnField=HouseholdIncomeRange&RowField=MetropolitanMajorArea&SearchTags%5B0%5D.Key=Households&SearchTags%5B0%5D.Value=Number&SearchTags%5B1%5D.Key=Statistics&SearchTags%5B1%5D.Value=AverageAndMedian>
- 6 – <https://itools-ioutils.fcac-acfc.gc.ca/MC-CH/MCCalc-CHCalc-eng.aspx>
- 7 – <https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.615784/publication.html>

## Scots Pine Update

By Susan McGowan, BGWA Director

In our last BGWA newsletter, I reported on the effect of brown spot needle blight on our Scots pine trees which, in Bruce and Grey counties, have exhibited symptoms for several years. Damage includes early needle drop, leaving trees very thin after several years of infection. This damage has been recorded and mapped by the provincial forest health monitoring unit of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in 2018, and 2019 and the 2022 map is included here. The area of mapped damage has declined this year to 1,796 ha.



Map of brown spot needle blight in 2018, created by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. 1,760 ha of damage mapped.



Map of brown spot needle blight in 2019, created by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. 6,132 ha of damage mapped.



Map of brown spot needle blight in 2022, created by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. 1,796 ha of damage mapped.

Information is available from the Brown Spot Needle Blight Fact Sheet, from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, at the following website:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/brown-spot-needle-blight>

Yearly reports on Forest Health in Ontario can be viewed and downloaded from:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/forest-health-conditions>

Information on the management of Scots pine is available from the Ontario Invasive Plant Council:

[https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ScotsPine\\_BMP.pdf](https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ScotsPine_BMP.pdf)

*Extra Extra! The annual Forest Health Review was held virtually on October 26, 2022; co sponsored by Forests Ontario, Natural Resources Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Recordings of the state of Ontario forest health will be available for viewing and we will keep you posted on the update.*

## Spotted Lanternfly Update

By Susan McGowan, BGWA Director

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) reports that in late September spotted lanternfly adults (*Lycorma delicatula*) were found in a residential area in Buffalo, New York, just 45 km away from the Canadian border. This report was published on the CTV news website at <https://www.ctvnews.ca/climate-and-environment/spot-a-spotted-lanternfly-photograph-then-kill-it-canadian-food-inspection-agency-says-1.6118518>

(Continued on page 7)



(Spotted Lanternfly from page 6)

Spotted lanternfly (SLF) is native to China and was first detected in Pennsylvania in September 2014. The young feed on a wide range of fruit, ornamental and woody trees, while adults prefer to feed and lay eggs on tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), which grows in abundance in southern Ontario.

It can be distinguished from all other native and naturalized insects (such as planthoppers, moths) in Canada by its unique colouration. If you believe you have

found suspect specimens, please contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

You can access a fact sheet from our Ontario Invasive Species Centre in Sault Ste Marie, <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/>

Information in this update is taken from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency fact sheet at the following website. Please visit this site for accurate facts on invasive insect and plant species.

<https://inspection.canada.ca/plant-health/invasive-species/insects/spotted-lanternfly/spotted-lanternfly/eng/1433365581428/1433365581959>

## Crop Tree Pruning in the PFFTTT

By Kevin Predon, BGWA Director

There are plenty of forested areas that I spend a lot of time in throughout Bruce and Grey Counties, however there is one woodlot where I probably spend the most time – but it receives the least of my attention. That of course would be the Pierce Family Forest (also known as the PFFttttt!) where I currently live on my in-law's farm in the northeast corner of Grey Highlands.

This is the place where I usually go to walk my dogs (and the cat, if she's lucky), and where I try to turn off my brain and not think about anything. However, it is really hard to turn off the forestry part of my brain. Therefore, when I'm out there walking, I can't help but look at all of the work that needs to be done, and it adds up very quickly. In fact, one of those tasks is the very daunting invasive buckthorn, removal of which was supposed to be the subject of this article – but that will have to wait until the winter/spring issues (Oooh, maybe it will be a two-parter), because "stuff" happened, and I have yet to get around to Operation Buckthorn Annihilation.

In order to start picking away at the workload, one thing I started doing was carrying a pruning saw with me on my dog walks, and I would try to prune at least 15 – 20 trees along the way. Of course, I started with the literal "low hanging" fruit – there are plenty of hardwood trees growing adjacent to the fields and trails that have branches in the way. But then I also started making my way through the conifer plantations, and I really did make a noticeable difference by the end of the winter.

According to the Forest Management Guide to Silviculture in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence and Boreal Forests of Ontario, "Pruning is the removal of lower branches from standing live trees by natural or artificial means. It is generally done when the desired end product is high value knot-free logs (e.g. veneer logs) or to reduce the relative humidity within a stand and so reduce the incidence of disease (e.g. white pine blister rust). Pruning can also be done to improve aesthetics and interior access to a stand. Pruning is not a common practice on crown lands in Ontario". (I threw that in there just to make sure that you're able to learn something from this article).

I'm a forester, not an arborist, and even though I have learned about how trees grow, develop, and function, I haven't received any formal training in tree maintenance (except for Dr. H's 4th year Urban Forestry elective that I took up at Lakehead) but I did purchase Edward Gilman's *An Illustrated Guide to Pruning* (Third Edition), which is a wonderful resource. With this book I have learned about the importance of timing – I prefer to prune during the trees dormant period, however there are some circumstances where pruning throughout the year may be necessary, the different types of cuts, and what bad things can happen to a tree when it has been pruned improperly.

I'm definitely not an expert when it comes to tree care and maintenance – but armed with a decent pruning saw (I upgraded this year), a little bit more knowledge than I had before, and a slightly OCD desire for forest improvement, I'm spending my next 75 (or so) dog-walks fixing up the PFFtttt!

## Pine Plantation Harvest Tour

By Jim White, BGWA Director + Jim Shier, BGWA Member

In late October, on a sunny day, we toured a pine plantation harvest just north of Hanover. BGWA member, Jim Shier had invited members to see the operation. We were provided an opportunity to talk with the property owner, the forester, Jessie from Lands and Forests Inc., and the equipment operator, Tyler, from the logging company Tr-Bridges.

The 27 acres of white pine, planted in the early 1970's, had been thinned twice before. This was the third thinning. The pines had a diameter of about 12-14 inches at the stump. The air was heavy with the smell of white pine from their crushed needles underfoot. The tree stumps presented healthy and consistent quarter inch annual growth rings. The perimeter of the plantation showed early signs of hardwood saplings beginning to move in.

Tyler, the feller operator inside the Ponsse logging machine (www.ponsse.com) could reach two rows over from the row of trees he was harvesting. He had amazing dexterity with the hydraulic arm and cutter head. Using controls with two joysticks, he was able to select a tree, fell it, limb the branches, select the length of log from the tree and with onboard computer analytics could optimally calculate yield either for dimensional lumber, posts or chips down to a 5-inch diameter treetop. The feller operator also stacked the logs as he cut



them to be picked-up by a forwarder at a later time. The Ponsse machine left a fairly neat, crushed row of limbs and tops as it moved through the cut area. Based on a video clip the process of felling and stacking logs took 30 seconds for a tree to be harvested.

The science behind the feller operator and Ponsse machine was high tech. The sensors on the cutter head could calculate the cordage or dimensional lumber from each log. By the time the feller and forwarder had traversed the plantation several times the limbs and tops would be broken enough for rapid decay to the forest floor and with enough scarification of the needles covering the forest floor to produce a reasonable seed bed for invading hardwoods.

After the tour of the plantation, we walked trails in the bush to see a mature hardwood stand of maples, ash, beech and hickory on a high ridge.



Thanks to Jim Shier for hosting our group of 11 members for a great opportunity to learn and enjoy a sunny day in the forest.

Our events committee does a super job of identifying and conducting both virtual and face to face tours in our two counties. If you haven't joined us for an event, what are you waiting for?

**More event photos on following two pages.**











## The Prayerful Tree Art of Krista McMillan

By Gary Kenny, BGWA Director

"Look up, waaaaay up."

Many of you reading this are old enough to remember CBC TV's weekday morning children's program, *The Friendly Giant*. The show always opened with the giant's (children's entertainer Bob Homme's) soft-spoken invitation to follow him into an imaginary world of music and storytelling.

As youth we eagerly lost ourselves in "Friendly's" 15 minutes of medieval castle magic. But when the castle's big wooden doors closed behind us, and the cow jumped over the moon for the last time, we were somehow different. We felt a greater lightness of being.

We woodlands enthusiasts are witness to something similar. We are part of a growing trend, a movement even, that's elevating trees and forests beyond their traditional utilitarian worth, even beyond the sum of their ecological values, to another, less tangible plane of gratitude and reverence.

Within the arts community especially, the spiritual attributes of trees and forests are finding new expression in the words of poets and storytellers, the hands of sculptors, the brushstrokes of painters and the music of musicians.

One such artist is Niagara-area painter, Krista McMillan. Just as many of us were drawn by the soft alluring summons of a gentle TV giant, so too does McMillan's "tree art," as she calls it, beckon us enticingly to look up, waaaaay up, into another kind of woodland world.

Some of her trees are even painted from the perspective of the artist standing beneath the tree and looking up, contemplatively, into its lofty limbs and outstretched branches. As viewers we are humbled and moved by the tree's regal reach upward. Our imaginations are fired by structure, light, shadows, texture, colour - and sky's-the-limit possibility.

The self-described "tree obsessed" McMillan says her passion for trees emerged when she was very young, and she has an early childhood memory of a weeping willow in her back yard. "It was my get away, my secret hiding place. When I was tucked into the limbs of that tree I felt safe and connected."



McMillan has always sought out places with trees to find solace. "Just being in the presence of trees makes me feel calm and connected to the earth," she says. "I never seem to tire of their endless flowing shapes, textures and dancing shadows."

A "prayer for the Earth." That's how McMillan describes her paintings. "Some people pray with words, I pray with paint. When I am in front of my easel I am in a state of deep gratitude for all of the beauty that the natural world shows me and all of the glorious energy that I absorb on my hikes through the woods."

The awe and wonder McMillan feels in the presence of trees is not exclusive to artists like her, she says. Connecting with nature "is the simplest thing in the world." It only requires a person's mindful presence.

"Open your eyes to the sparkle of sunlight on the water, listen to the rustle of wind in the trees and the birds chirping, smell the fresh air or the soft scent of wildflowers on the breeze and for a moment forget all your worries and just be what you are - 'a part of nature'," she adds.

(Continued on page 12)

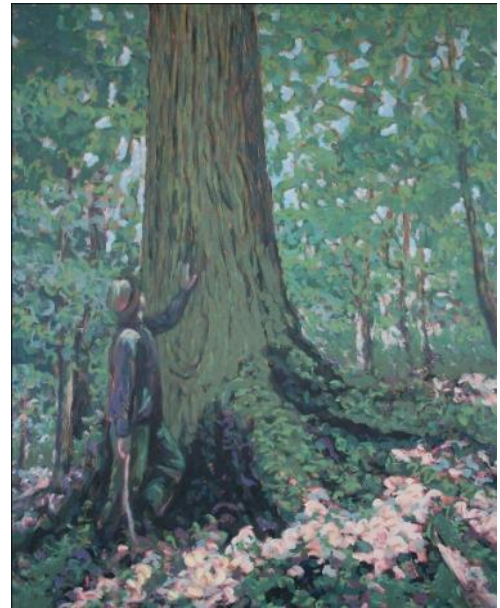


*(Prayerful Tree Art, from page 11)*

When we connect to nature and feel joyful and hopeful about our lives, McMillan continues, “we spread that energy by making kinder choices for ourselves and for the environment.”

McMillan hopes her art “will awaken others to the beauty that is all around us and see how connected we are to the earth, to nature and to each other.” Hopefully as we recognize and appreciate the beauty and value of our natural world, she adds, “we’ll be inspired to protect it.”

A collection of McMillan’s work can be viewed on her website: [www.kristamcmillan.com](http://www.kristamcmillan.com). Gallery wrapped prints and originals are available for purchase.





## Micro Forests

By Susan McGowan, BGWA Director

In the news this summer I heard a report about the planting of a micro forest in Waterloo Ontario. I have also run into some of our members who have also heard about this planting/afforestation plan. I wanted to learn more and share it with you.

This project was launched by Sustainable Waterloo Region. Their mission is to lead the transformation to sustainable systems of energy, mobility and construction to help build a cleaner, more diverse economy, and a more just and equitable community. They have established two sites in Waterloo in 2021, both at public schools.

The concept loosely follows the Miyawaki method, named after the Blue Planet Award-winning Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki. Miyawaki has planted over 40 million trees in 15 countries around the world.

As we have discussed in our plantation management workshop, in Ontario we generally plant trees on a 8x8 foot grid. The Miyawaki plan is to plant many native trees and shrubs on a small area of land. We all know about the benefits of planting trees, such as carbon absorption and storage, wildlife habitat, and the social benefits of green spaces.

The first step in establishing a micro forest is to decide on a barren site that is at least as large as a tennis court. Then determine what native tree and shrub species grow in the area and can be purchased or transplanted. Using native species to the location is a very important concept. Then prepare the soil with nutrients and if possible create a low slope to assist with drainage. Plant 3 to 5 young trees per square meter. Then straw is applied to create wood humidity and water retention. Maintenance of weed control is required for the first three years until the trees grow above the competition. There will be some mortality of species.

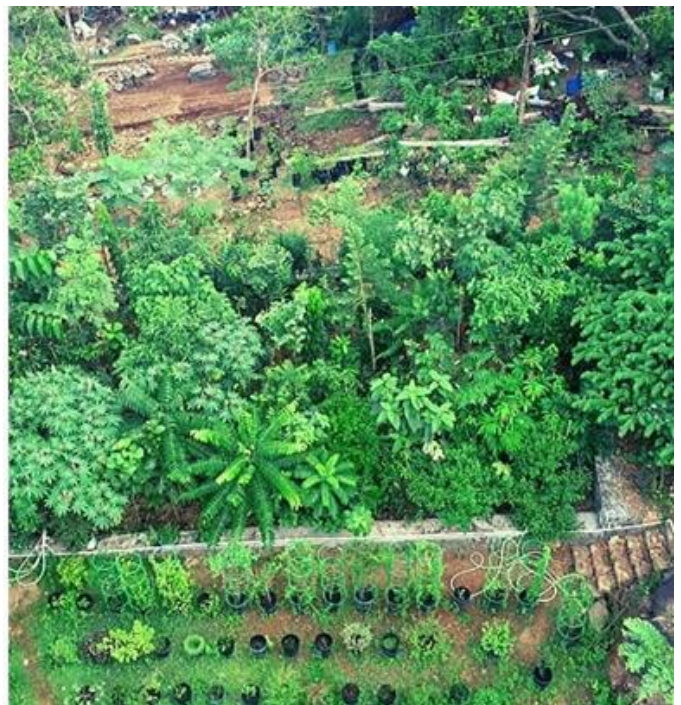
This is a fascinating topic and you can find out more details by visiting:

<https://www.sustainablewaterlooregion.ca/microforest/education/>



A Miyawaki forest's progression from initial planting (above) to 15-months of growth in Kerala, India (below). Photograph: The Better India

<https://boversudduth.com/articles/micro-forests-macro-changes-toward-reducing-climate-change>



## Pineland Notes

By Dirk Emde, BGWA Member

I understand how much member participation is required in our organization, but I wonder if the people running it realize how hard it is for most people to write a coherent and interesting story. Especially about themselves. Most people's lives are uneventful, not providing much writing worthy material.

I will try to provide something, but am not a writer so bear with me.

Having worked for a large corporation for many years in a large city I yearned for the country life. After finding a medium sized, empty property in Bentinck Township my wife and I decided to buy it, throwing caution to the wind. This was quite a decision as we also had thoughts of maybe retiring on an island in BC. Seeing the price for fuel there now, I'm glad we stayed here.

This was 1991 and for several years we only visited on weekends. Slowly doing more and more work such as cutting trails for walking and cross-country skiing, we became used to having a second property to go to. Before deciding to build a house Mike Harris came along and changed some things. Bentinck was amalgamated with two other townships creating West Grey. This, of course, had to have a new town hall, adding to the tax load. Then he created MPAC, causing another tax burden by basing taxes on real estate value, instead of services provided. That still rankles.

Moving on to 1999, we built a house and moved in. Taxes were \$1200, not bad but then MPAC found us and sent a crew out with tape measures to tax every square inch of the deck and shed. Taxes shot up to \$2800, making me question the viability of living here.

Luckily the Ontario Forest Assoc. lobbied successfully for counting woodlots as tree farms and I happily joined the MFTIP program that most if not all of you are familiar with. The finance minister makes us jump through expensive hoops every few years to stay in, but it helps.

So, to say a few words about the woodlot instead of tax complaints, we have white pine planted, mostly. There is a stream with two ponds and a Ducks Un-

limited Canada contract helping with nuisance beaver control, duck boxes and advice.

Part of the woodlot has been logged once, not bringing in much cash but airing out the stand. In some areas undergrowth is starting to show but disappointingly so. Our place also includes a treed swamp with mature trees that are in a battle with winds. Due to lots of water they grow fast, but as soon as they get to certain height winds get at them and knock them down. Critters that make use of fallen trees in their root systems are happy, but I'd rather see tall trees.

We are maintaining trails and duck boxes, not easy with soft ice in our warm winters, but we try. Nothing nicer than those ducklings dropping out of their boxes and scurrying to their mothers. Mergansers, Buffelheads, Mallards, Wood ducks and others. And of course, the ubiquitous Geese. Then during winter seeing a screech owl peeking out of a duck box is a joy. Amazing sight when you see one drop out in the evening, tiny body with 24 inch wings.

So, overall we are happy with our purchase way back in '91 but as we get older it is becoming more and more of a chore, but that's life. Would be nice if governments would get out of the way, but that's life too. Death and taxes, right?

I should also mention the associations we are aligned with, they are a great source of help and knowledge.

After a recent visit to the Fisher's sugar lot, I plan to try my hand at tapping our (alas very few) sugar maples next spring. Wish us luck.

We called our corner of paradise Pineland, hence the title.

If you read this far, thanks, Dirk Emde

"How happy I am to be able to walk among the shrubs, the trees, the woods, the grass and the rocks! For the woods, the trees and the rocks give man the resonance he needs."

**Beethoven**



## Calling all Woodlot Women

By Christine Robinson Jones, BGWA Member

Just over 30 years ago I found myself on my own with a toddler and a house on a 25-acre woodlot. I had a coping saw, a screwdriver and a Swiss Army knife. The heaviest machinery I'd ever used was an electric pencil sharpener. It was an intimidating and steep learning curve.

Woodlot management is typically a male pursuit and I've been the grateful recipient of advice from my male friends and neighbours, but I'm interested in talking to women who have managed, or who have been principally responsible for managing their woodlots. What were some of your chief challenges, how did you address them, what resources were helpful, what advice would you pass on to other women?

If you can reach out to me at via email by January 1, 2023, I'd like to chat with you by phone, email or video to answer a few survey questions. The plan is to publish the results in a later issue of Greenleaves.

Hope to hear from you ladies!

Christine Robinson Jones

[walkingfern2011@gmail.com](mailto:walkingfern2011@gmail.com)

## Woodland Word Scramble

### THE CLUES:

1. a survey of forestland to locate timber and estimate its quantity by species, products, size, quality, or other characteristics.
2. a square plot measures 209 feet by 209 feet; a circular area has a radius of 117.75 feet.
3. The cross-sectional area (in square feet) of a tree trunk at breast height (4.5 feet above the ground).
4. (a) Sensitivity to or appreciation of the forest's beauty through recognition of its unique and varied components. (b) Beauty through an orderly appearance.
5. The main trunk of a tree.
6. Process that removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere — trees, grasses, and other plants uptake carbon dioxide during photosynthesis and store it in biomass.

### THE (SCRAMBLED) ANSWERS:

*isurec*  
*care*  
*slab eara*  
*scitetaes*  
*lobe*  
*baconr aeeinoqrssttu*



© Krista McMillan [kristamcmillan.com](http://kristamcmillan.com)

**Board - Executive****President/Chair**

Jim White  
president@bgwa.ca  
519-477-4539

**Vice-President**

Alison Stewart  
president@bgwa.ca  
604-809-5283

**Secretary**

Kevin Predon  
secretary@bgwa.ca  
519-270-0748

**Treasurer/Registrar**

Larry Cluchey  
treasurer@bgwa.ca  
519-799-5304

**Board - Directors**

Jim Coles

jcoles@gbtel.ca  
519-934-0020

Mike Fry

m.fry@greysauble.on.ca  
519-376-3076 x280

Gary Kenny

rivercroft16@hotmail.ca  
519-799-5804

Donna Lacey

d.lacey@svca.on.ca  
519-367-3040 x231

Valentine Makhoulleen

val@freija.ca  
519-270-2150

Susan McGowan

susan.mcgowan@outlook.com  
519-794-0812

Melena McGregor

melena.mcgregor@yahoo.ca  
519-270-0133

Scott McGregor

scottmc83@gmail.com  
519-379-3559

Art Shannon

art@arbornorth.com  
705-677-6383

Ron Stewart

rm.stewart@bmts.com  
519-386-2833

**Adjuncts to Board\*****Web Site**

Mike Fry  
Kevin Predon  
info@bgwa.ca

**Newsletter**

Neil Baldwin (layout/design)  
Malcolm Silver (editing)  
newsletter@bgwa.ca

**Loaning Library**

Donna Lacey  
library@bgwa.ca

\*not director/voting positions

**Board Committees****Communications**

Mike Fry  
Gary Kenny  
Valentine Makhoulleen  
Melena McGregor  
Kevin Predon  
Alison Stewart  
Jim White\*\*

**Events & Education**

Jim Coles\*\*  
Mike Fry  
Donna Lacey  
Susan McGowan  
Scott McGregor  
Ron Stewart

**Membership**

Larry Cluchey  
Art Shannon  
Alison Stewart\*\*  
Ron Stewart  
Chris VanderHout

\*\*committee chair

## BOOK REVIEW

### Tree Thieves: Crime and Survival in North America's Woods

By Hugh Evans, BGWA Member

Here is a book for a rain day that will keep you thinking about your woodlot. The book is called "Tree Thieves: Crime and Survival in North America's Woods" .. The author, Lyndsie Bourgon, lives in British Columbia but most of the story takes place in the Redwood, Sequoia semperviens forests of coastal northern California. After considerable widespread harvesting of the redwood forest there were several areas set aside for preservation by both the state and national governments. However this had a negative impact on the local economies and a class of intergenerational logging folk suffered. They failed to adapt and took to hijacking trees and parts thereof in the protected areas.

The Redwood, tree is unique in that it produces burls with a wood grain that is highly valued. The burls occur on the stem but also at, just above, or beneath ground level. The unique pattern of the grain in the burl is sought by wood craftsmen and numerous burl shops are located in the area of her story. Shop own-

ers were in the habit of turning a blind eye as to where the burl wood came from and of course some of it came from the out-of work loggers.

When I saw the book I just had to read it. Although it is not about forests in eastern North America - there is mention of tree theft of black walnut, Christmas trees and firewood - but the narrative itself is well worth the read. The book is chuck full of nuggets of information. It is well researched with a long list of references.

She takes the history of the forest back to 13th century England when there was a 'Charter of the Forest', a so-called companion to the famed Magna Carta; then on to the conservation movement and the result, the creation of the Redwood Forests. There are passages from British Columbia and the Peruvian Amazon rain forest.

I enjoyed the forestry parts of the book especially since I just come back from my first visit to the west coast, but the socio-economic impact of a lost woods industry is spot-on. She carries this message from northern California to the Peruvian Amazon region, where day-labourers who are hired to fell trees have no idea of the damage being caused to the planet by the destruction of the rain forest.