

# Greenleaves

ISSUE #2 2024

Member Newsletter of **Bruce Grey Woodlands Association**

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**BGWA.CA**

Cover Photo by Neil Baldwin

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

**Contact:**

*Jim Coles*  
jcoles@gbtel.ca  
519-477-4539

### **Upcoming Board Meetings**

September 10th at SVCA

November 12th TBD

January 14th, 2025 TBD

Contact [secretary@bgwa.ca](mailto:secretary@bgwa.ca) for more information or questions

*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.

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# President's Message



*By Jim White*

I trust you have taken the opportunity to join one of the events we plan and prepare for our members. A series of new events are planned for the summer. Check the BGWA website for the June 15<sup>th</sup> walk led by Susan McGowan and Donna Lacey. After an oversubscribed chainsaw safety awareness course from last fall we have engaged Gerald Guenkel (RPF) to lead another Chainsaw Safety Awareness course and added an even more comprehensive Chainsaw Safety Certification course. The awareness course is a full day, the certification course is a full weekend with more hands on practice.

Our committees are busy. The Events Committee have a full slate of activities from an exposure to aquaculture, forest mensuration, tree ID and endangered species walks and talks. The Membership Committee have a series of public outreach targeting fall fairs. If you are willing to assist in manning ('personing') the booth, please contact Ron Stewart directly ( 519 386-2833). In addition, the Membership Committee are reaching out to potential new members to participate in Chainsaw Safety Awareness course via the targeted cooperation with selected chainsaw retail / repair businesses. As you read the periodic emails, FB posts and web postings as well as the issue of GreenLeaves you will experience the Communications Committee's actions.

In May, my wife and I made a two-week tour of Scotland starting at Ayr on the west coast and then working our way from Edinburgh counterclockwise along the coast including a day on the Orkney Islands and then south to Glasgow. I would like to share with you some of our observations and learnings about the forestry practices and silviculture we saw along our travel. One of my initial learnings is that Scotland was logged over the centuries to support an active maritime industry of fishing, trading and war ships. Sustainability was not in their vocabulary, so overharvesting and loss of forest cover was a common impact on the environment. In Ayr, on the west coast, we saw palm trees growing along the beach and a very Carolinian forest of rhododendrons, white oak, English oak, Red and English beech. Ayr in particular, and the UK in general, benefit from the Gulf Stream ocean current, resulting in a very temperate climate. When we were in the Orkney Islands we were at the same latitude as the Arctic Circle. Lush rolling hills divided by endless dry stacked stone fences were almost devoid of any tree cover.

*Continued on next page...*



As we moved to areas with slightly better soil we saw interspersed on the mountain side conifer plantings with pockets of hardwood planting as evidenced by the tree guards. Groups of 50 to 100 tree guards. Pines, Larch and Spruce appeared to dominate the plantations. I don't know what the hardwood species were in these pockets.

When we reached Glasgow we visited a botanical garden and arboretum. The Scots in the late 1700 and 1800s were on a mission of world exploration and gathering a very eclectic collection of trees and plants that would flourish in Scotland. Charles Darwin, who studied at the University of Edinburgh, was active in establishing these gardens and arboretum. I have inserted a few pictures of trees from the Glasgow Arboretum that I thought were interesting below.

I encourage you to come and learn and make new friends at one of our tours. Bring a friend and join us for some of the events we have planned.. Watch our [bgwa.ca](http://bgwa.ca) website and your email for more details. Please mark your calendars for September 14<sup>th</sup> for our annual BBQ. Details to follow.

I truly hope that you enjoy reading this edition of Greenleaves. Every aspect of this production hinges on the skills and capabilities of volunteers. The number of articles and photographs and variety of topics relies on our local members for contributions. Longer newsletters reflect more contributions received from you, our members. We had several new contributors join the "authors" list last year.

We hope you will find time to contribute this year to GreenLeaves. For our regular contributors - simply thank you for taking the time and energy to share your knowledge and perspectives with us. Please send your contributions to: [newsletter@bgwa.ca](mailto:newsletter@bgwa.ca).

I hope to see many of you out enjoying the learning experiences offered with our BGWA-sponsored events.

Warm regards

Jim









# Woodland Walkabout Recap - Hartley Farm

## Saturday May 18th







Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*)  
Photo by Anne North





Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)  
Photo by Anne North



# Handy Hand-Tools When in the Woodlot

*By BGWA Member Gerald Geunkel, RPF*

Many times, one sees the promotion of ‘the latest and the greatest’ for making working in the woodlot much easier; be it battery saws or the latest power wood splitter. Those are all good things.

I’m going to highlight two handy hand-tools that are often overlooked when handling logs in the bush. Most are familiar with cant hooks, pee-vees, hatchets and wedges to assist in the movement of logs. I would like to highlight two additional tools; the pulp hook and the felling bar.

The forgotten **pulp hook** is my first tool for ‘working smarter, not harder’. Why use it?

- Instead of lifting short logs by compressing your hands on either side of the log, the pulp hook is put in one end and your hand is on the other end, making for a far easier lift
- Gives you a bit further extended reach rather than your fingers clutching the far end of a log
- To get logs out of the back of truck beds / trailers, you can hook the log in the bark and pull the log out with the convenient pulp hook handle
- You can toss short pieces easier, great when handling a lot of firewood
- Easier on the back and fingers when handling wood



Here’s a short two minute YouTube video on [Pulp Hook Use](#)





Using the  
Felling Bar  
cant hook



Using the  
Felling Bar as  
a lever

The second tool is the **felling bar**.

Do you need extra strength in making a sawn tree fall or better leverage when moving logs? Who doesn't! The felling bar is the answer. This handy hand-tool allows manipulation of logs by its ingenious design. What does it do?

- It replaces the use of a wedge to topple over trees after the back-cut is made. The 'tongue' at the end of the tool is just slightly thinner than the kerf of a chainsaw. You insert that piece into the backcut and lift the felling bar up. Because of the incredible leverage, surprisingly large trees can be toppled over.
- When you're trying to drop a tree hung up in a neighboring tree, use the cant hook accessory attached to the felling bar. The hook allows logs / hung up trees to be rolled to the ground.
- For other abilities, use the felling bar by inserting it into a log to turn the log. This requires you have the skill to perform a safe bore cut to prepare the slot for the felling bar.

Here's a short video on the [Use of Felling Bars](#).

Always an important question, cost: pulp hook - around \$60, felling bar - around \$100.

Hope this helps in encouraging that you have a great day every day in the woodlot!

Gerald Guenkel RPF

Certified Chainsaw Instructor

ElmStreetSolutions.com

Gerald@ElmStreetSolutions.com



Felling Bar in  
back-cut





Liverwort (*Hepatica*)  
Photo by Dave Harvey





Moth Cocoon  
Photo by Dave Harvey



# Seeing the Forest AND the Trees - Epilogue

*By BGWA Member Neil Baldwin*

The article in the previous *Greenleaves* on thinning my pine plantation generated a few conversations that might be of interest to those with similar forest situations.

A member emailed me asking how it is that seedlings can thread their way up through a substantial layer of harvesting slash. My response was that I wondered the same thing and frankly had no idea, just that I'm just trusting what I was told by an experienced Forester who has overseen many a harvest. Mind you, when I see dandelions emerging through 3 inches of crushed stone in the spot where I ran out of landscape fabric, it reminds me of the power of plants and I feel more confident the hardy seedlings will make their way through.

Another member came for a walk-through since he was contemplating thinning options for his pine plantation. We got into insightful conversation around the importance of context of the land to be thinned and being mindful of the objectives identified in your forest plan when making decisions.

For me, the Forest Products and Investment categories were lowest priority of the “Landowner Objectives” on my MFTIP while Recreation, Wildlife and Nature Appreciation were high. The thinning I had done in my white pine plantation represented about one-fifth of the property area. If you were to ask me, if the pine plantation represented the vast majority of my property area, would I have had a commercial row thinning done? The answer would be very likely no—not given my particular Landowner Objectives and that it is also my residential property.

Visually, it's going to take a few year for the 10 acres of thinned forest to recover from the harvest operation. Fortunately, I've got 40 other acres of varied forest compartments that my trails meander through. If that pine plantation was all I had to look at and walk through, then—just my personal preference—I would lean strongly toward some more gentle and finessed (though far more expensive) way of accomplishing the goal of reducing the number of trees for diversity, sustainability, and forest health.

While I didn't spell it out in the article, part of the point in sharing the less-than-flattering tale of my journey to thinning was to say it is money well spent to seek out advice from Forestry professionals, and particularly worthwhile to get more than one perspective. Don't think you can figure out a better way or do-it-yourself unless you genuinely know what you're doing.

I'm sure glad Dave Taylor pointed out the positive results of a thinning in my larch plantation during that initial walk-through I mentioned at the beginning of the article, and had I acted upon his recommendation to do similar with the pine I would today be looking out at a plantation well underway to becoming a diverse forest rather than the recent harvest scene I see.

That said, the “look” has already become a bit less severe since the pine boughs in the slash have turned from green to brown and blend in with the branches and left-behind trunk portions on the forest floor. What's more, once leaf-out arrived, I was surprised by how many sapling- and pole-size hardwoods already existed in there. And closer to the roadway I am inspired by seeing massive numbers of maple seedlings. Perhaps I'll report in for next year's Spring issue of *Greenleaves* and keep y'all in the loop of how the forest is recovering and developing.





Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)  
Photo by Don Powell



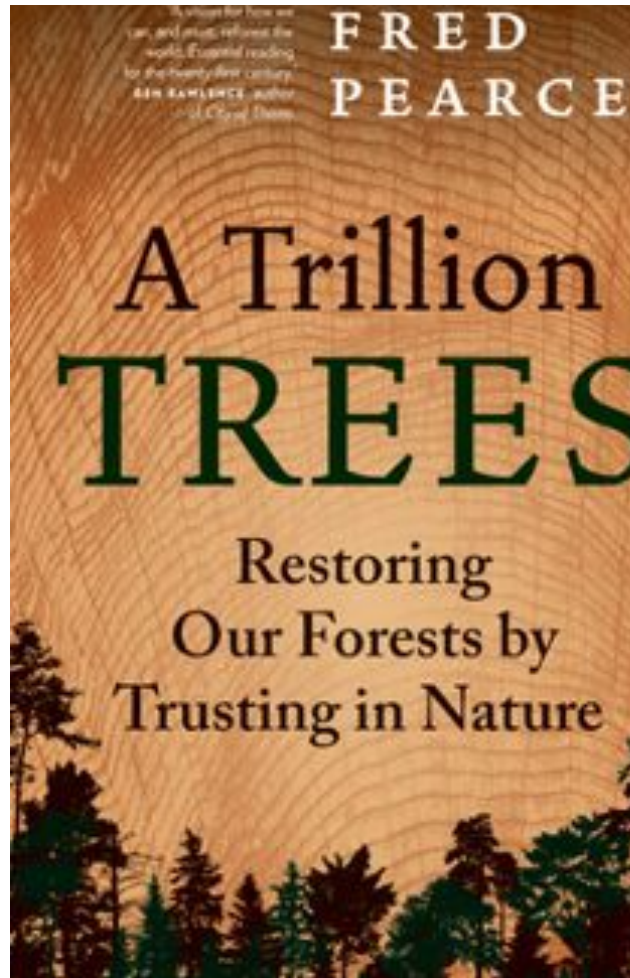


White Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)  
Photo by Patty & Paul Kruis



# Book Review: A Trillion Trees - Restoring our Forests by Trusting in Nature

*By BGWA Member Rob Shave*



This fascinating book both discourages, and encourages, the practice of tree planting. Starting with a highly readable Introduction, the author, Fred Pearce, inspires and invites us to explore the incredible world of forests. Pearce uses examples from past and present, and from around the globe, to show that nature is the best tree planter. In his view, our efforts to repair our climate and forests through mass tree plantings are at best inefficient and at worst destructive to local ecosystems. Instead, he argues, local inhabitants, using combined indigenous and modern knowledge, are best suited to manage sustainable forestry, reforestation, and aforestation by keeping the impacts of humanity at bay. The book is extremely well researched, has an extensive list of references, a detailed index, and a comprehensive reading list. Pearce does an excellent job of presenting his hands-off point of view to a varied audience, from casual reader to forest manager, through an informative and engaging writing style. Although it is difficult to argue with his research, the rapidly evolving impacts of climate change may require us to use, a site-by-site approach that is more intrusive than simply letting nature take care of itself.



Beginning with a detailed account of how trees, through transpiration, have made “a world fit for more trees,” Pearce goes on to explain that by drawing down carbon for millions of years, trees have created a global climate that benefits all oxygen-breathing life. From producing rainfall to manufacturing soil, the environmental conditions—specifically atmospheric temperature and moisture content—that gave birth to primates would not exist but for Earth’s global forests. Citing Simard and others, he sheds light on the incredible complexity of forests, their inherent interdependence with innumerable species, and the role that we, now, need to fill.

The signs are easy to see. Describing Brazil’s, and the world’s, largest soybean production and its impact on the adjacent unmanaged rainforest, Pearce writes “deforestation along this boundary was destroying the forest’s resilience—and in the process undermining the synergy between forests and climate.” Add global warming to that and we get savannization, a process where increased temperature and reduced rainfall converts forests to savannah. In Canada and many other nations, the same combination of reduced rainfall and increased temperatures has led to unprecedented wildfires. Although a natural part of forest ecology, wildfires have increased in the last few decades, not only due to climate change, but due to our modern forest management methods and increased recreational access. Pearce traces the historical precursors to these and other forest threats in North America and around the globe. It is no surprise that the primary driver of deforestation has been economic profit.

Pearce describes a solution that he believes is the only viable one, what he calls rewilding. “Governments have made big promises to plant a trillion trees. But would nature thank us? Or should we step aside and allow nature ... to decide where [and what] and when to reseed the world’s forests?” Comparing and contrasting successes and failures of human replanting vs rewilding, Pearce makes a compelling argument that the best thing we can do to restore and repair our climate is to relinquish centralized corporate control of forests, unproductive farms, and conservation lands and keep them free of human interference, thereby setting the stage for natural reforestation. Using the phrase Forest Commons, Pearce concludes that “Foresters and environmentalists often forget that their beloved forests are inhabited—usually by people who know the forests much better than outsiders ... the world is learning that forest commoners, and the trees they tend, provide the route—and the roots—to the great restoration.” In summary, it is small-scale wholistic management, not large-scale profit management, that is at the heart of our future world of forests.





Wild Leek (*Allium tricoccum*)  
Photo by Donald Cole





Blood Root (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)  
Photo by Donald Cole



# Meet the New Board Members

## Ben Sharpe

Ben's upbringing was on a 320 acre farm (83 cleared) in New Brunswick where forestry was an integral part of starting the agricultural cycle each year. The pulp harvest paid for the fertilizer, and so on... Our farm house only had wood heat for many years and no powered splitter. This is where I learned to appreciate the woodlot and enjoy nature.

As I developed my career I remained in the resource sector, with many years in pulp and paper mills learning the value of the renewable resource. Living our middle years in southern Ontario we always found ourselves vacating in Allegheny State Park, NY, a 65,000 acre park.

When it came to a place to move to, when children left the nest it was obvious we were forest people and Grey Bruce reminded us so much of the NB rolling forest and agri. mix. Looking forward to giving back and reaching out to fellow county woodlot owners to expand their appreciation of their wood lot.





# Meet the New Board Members

## Mike McMorris

I grew up on a farm just south of Elora. At the University of Guelph, I received a BSc in Animal Science and an MSc in Animal Breeding and Genetics. I have worked with several organizations, all related to agriculture. Living in several locations in Wellington County, I made great use of their Green Legacy program and planted hundreds of trees. My wife Bev and I moved to Grey county in 2021 and own 100 acres that is a mix of wetland, hardwood forest, pine plantation and some workable acreage. Our youngest and his family live three kilometers north, both working full time, with two young boys and a herd of purebred Angus... I get lots of farming in my spare time. Our other two children live in Uxbridge and Pleasant Point, Nova Scotia. We are blessed with four grandchildren.

I really enjoy owning woodlands for many reasons. Called “forest bathing” in Japan, there really is nothing like a walk in the woods to settle your soul. Watching the changes over seasons and years is amazing and humbling. For all we know about the world, there is so much more we don’t. As we begin to manage the forested part of our property, it is interesting to see the landscape change with different species being involved. I hope that our woodlands can become even more of a classroom for me







Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)  
Photo by John G. Lamberts





Yellow Morel (*Morchella esculenta*)  
Photo by John G. Lamberts





Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*)  
Photo by John G. Lamberts



## Bruce Grey Woodlands Membership Benefits:

*Through membership you will support our vision and objectives, have the opportunity to participate in events, gain access to local woodlot management resources and network with some of the leading experts in the area.*

- The Bruce Grey Woodlands Association (BGWA) is a collective force helping to demonstrate the value of privately owned woodlands in the community as a whole. Healthy forests provide clean air, water and offer a myriad of other benefits that support our ability to live on the planet.
- We present an opportunity for property owners to network with other like minded individuals and managers along with local resource management professionals to stay up to date on the latest information regarding threats and challenges to a forested ecosystem.
- We believe in the social contract: if we all do our best to look after our own properties, the collective becomes a healthier and nicer place to live.
- We serve as a voice for the membership with respect to legislation, taxation and regulations as they affect forest property and associated business interests.
- We welcome property owners moving to or purchasing land in Grey/Bruce and offer educational and networking opportunities, promoting best management practices for woodlands, enabling owners to realize their goals in owning a rural property.
- We help to educate by dispelling rumors, myths and misinformation about forest management and proper management practices.

The BGWA provides opportunities to learn from the experiences of others, to find reputable contractors/partners, to stay current with modern and up-to-date policies and practices, to learn about non-timber forest products and alternative management practices.

We act as an educational resource to help guide woodlot owners through effective management practices, helping to potentially increase returns on investments through improved yields, higher quality timber and value added wood products. Well managed forest are an economic asset.

Woodland owners are a key element in prioritizing sound management of a decreasing resource while supporting a balance between agriculture, development and forested lands through effective and informed management.

We socialize, share knowledge and network with other people who are engaged in making their community a better place through healthy woodlands.

Membership offers exclusive members only website, library, quarterly newsletter, events and guided tours by experts in numerous fields with a wide range of subject matter.

We offer a quarterly BGWA members' newsletter with informative articles by members and local forestry experts, upcoming events/speakers and highlights of past events.



## Education & Recreation



## Forest Management



## Healthy Ecosystems



## JOINING US IS EASY!

*BGWA is made up of local woodland owners and enthusiasts with a vision to promote healthy forests & ecosystems. We believe in doing this through education, recreation and sustainable forestry management practices.*

**Yearly membership \$30/year or pre-pay for up to 3 years for uninterrupted membership at a fixed price\***

**Youth membership (under 25) \$15/year**

Join instantly online at [www.bgwa.ca](http://www.bgwa.ca) or mail-in form below with a cheque.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Communication:

- Communication from the BGWA is principally by email. You will receive:
- Greenleaves - A quarterly newsletter
  - Advance notice of BGWA events
  - Periodic local events and woodland news

*The BGWA does not share your email address or our membership list.*

\*Life Membership option available \$750

## Connect with us online!

**Learn more about BGWA + get links to immediately useful woodland resources**

### For everyone:

- Local woodlands-related news
- Resource links: woodlot reference, local groups, tree/forest health & more
- Listings for local woodlot tours, workshops and learning events
- Past years newsletters

### Members' Pages:

- Sign-up for events/workshops/tours
- Event photo gallery
- BGWA documents
- Slides & handouts from presentations
- Current year newsletters
- Notice board/Trade/Buy/Sell
- Ask-a-Forestry-Professional feature

## Bursary Opportunities

The BGWA is pleased to offer a bursary to a graduating student in each of the high schools throughout Bruce and Grey communities. The annual bursary recognizes students advancing in post secondary studies in Forestry, Forest Management or related Biological Science Studies. Interested students can contact their Guidance Department.

## Contact Us:

**For general inquiries, comments or suggestions**  
[communications@bgwa.ca](mailto:communications@bgwa.ca)



**Bruce Grey Woodlands Association**

**Bruce Grey Woodlands Association**  
Box 45, Neustadt, ON N0G 2M0  
[www.bgwa.ca](http://www.bgwa.ca)



# BGWA Leadership & Support

## Board - Executive

### *President / Chair*

Jim White  
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### *Vice-President*

Kevin Predon  
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(519) 270-2322

### *Secretary*

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(519) 376-3076 x 280

### *Treasurer / Registrar*

Larry Cluchey  
treasurer@bgwa.ca  
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Ron Stewart  
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(519) 386-2833

## Adjuncts to Board

### **Web Site**

Mike Fry  
info@bgwa.ca

### **Newsletter**

Kevin Predon  
newsletter@bgwa.ca

### **Loaning Library**

Donna Lacey  
library@bgwa.ca

## Board Committees

### **Communications**

Becky Bouwmeester  
Mike Fry  
Susan McGowan  
Kevin Predon (Chair)  
Ben Sharpe

### **Events & Education**

Jim Coles (Co-Chair)  
David Hartley  
Lloyd Holbrook  
(Co-Chair)  
Donna Lacey  
Mike McMorris  
Susan McGowan  
Jim Penner  
Ron Stewart

### **Membership**

Larry Cluchey  
Lloyd Holbrook  
Ron Stewart (chair)  
Jim White



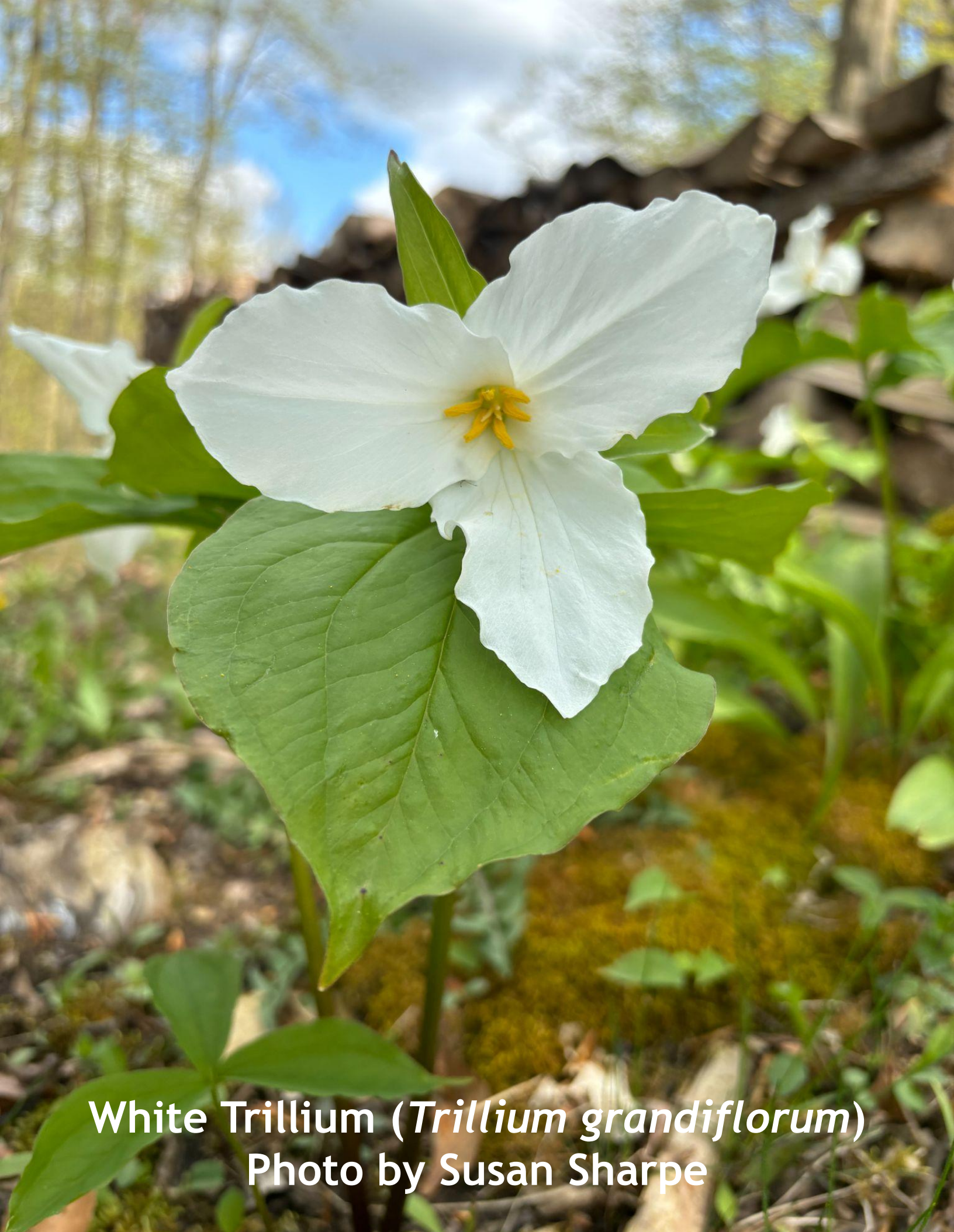
Bruce Grey  
Woodlands  
Association



Red Trillium (*Trillium erectum*)  
Photo by Susan Sharpe







**White Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)**  
**Photo by Susan Sharpe**





**Butternut (*Juglans cinera*)**  
**Photo by John G. Lamberts**