

Greenleaves

ISSUE #3, 2024

Member Newsletter of **Bruce Grey Woodlands Association**

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BGWA.CA

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

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

Upcoming Board Meetings

November 12 at 6 PM

January 14 @ 6 PM

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.

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President's Message

By Jim White

Dear BGWA members,

As I sit down to write the President's message the outdoor thermometer is sitting at 5C this am – must be the end of summer since one of the maples in our yard have turned golden-orange to signal the start of the coming season.

I hope you and your families had a great summer. We spent many sunny weeks camping on the shores of Lake Erin, Huron, Georgian Bay, Grundy and Mazinaw Bon Echo. Bikes, canoe and kayak all got exercised this summer.

We have had some excellent BGWA events this summer that a number of you participated in. Each a unique learning opportunity.

In May, David and Anne Hartley hosted a forest walk featuring both plantation and upland hardwood forest. The walk and interpretative discussion focused on four distinct woodlands and the outcomes after 40 years of management. The four woodlands: a clear cut in 1950's, a woodland pastured with cattle, woodland harvested regularly on a diameter basis, a woodland that was mature in 1980. Does one of these resonate with your property? Anne also led the group along trails identifying wildflowers and Hartley's extensive perennial gardens.

In June, Donna Lacey, Manager of Forestry and Lands at Saugeen Valley Conservation, and Susan McGowan, forest consultant, led an enjoyable and informative field trip through Kinghurst Managed Forest. This property is separate from Kinghurst Nature Reserve. We had a parking lot classroom event for tree ID followed by a walk about to see the forest and have a hands-on session for participants to learn how to use the tools in the forest mensuration kit. The mensuration kit includes tools to measure the diameter, basal area and height of trees. BGWA has a kit that members can loan just like our book library. From our walk, we have about 12 members that now know how to use and when to use each of the tools in the kit to evaluate their woodlot.

In July, Forester Gerald Guenkel led a full class for the one-day Chainsaw Safety Awareness Course at Formosa and SVCA forest. As a past graduate one of our members brought his son-in-law, a new member to listen and learn.

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Gerald provides in depth classroom learning in the morning and excellent hands-on session in the afternoon. If you have a chainsaw and haven't taken the course you should seriously consider enrolling in the next class. Safety knowledge in the forest is a must have. Contact Jim Coles to pre-register at jcoles@gbtel.ca soon!

Our Events committee is busy with the fall schedule.

Events for the fall are currently being firmed up so please watch your email for dates, times, locations.

Jim and partner out for a bike ride during beautiful fall weather.

Watch for a tour at Cedar Crest Trout Farm – Springhills Fish with explanation about trout and arctic char production and the emphasis on green sustainability in their production practices. We plan to have a geologist join us to lead us through aspects of the local geology in the area. Bring your refrigerated bag to take home some of Cedar Crest's produce from the Farm Store.

In recognition of the popular demand for the Chainsaw Safety course Gerald and BGWA will offer a new 2-day Safety Certification Course in November. The two- day course provides more in depth hands-on sessions.

The Membership committee will be inviting new members of BGWA to participate in the Chainsaw Safety Awareness course. New members will learn about BGWA and this special offer via the cooperation of chainsaw retail repair businesses.

By the time you read this issue of GreenLeaves the Summer BGWA BBQ and interpretive walk at Inglis Falls Arboretum led by Carl Sadler RPF (retired) on September 14th will be complete. Planning for fine weather.

Since director Kevin Predon has started working as the Dufferin County Forester we have new knowledge about older plantations in the neighbouring county so we are hoping to plan a tour. Drive a little, learn a lot!

Continued on next page...

Please watch for more details as the tour dates get closer!!

None of these events or programs occur without the generous support and expertise of our volunteer members and directors. A big shout out to our volunteers of heartfelt THANK YOU!

If you have a woodlot and would like to host a tour to learn more about the flora and fauna in your woodlot please contact me. President@BGWA.com

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 members for contributions. Longer newsletters reflect more contributions received from you, our members. We have several new contributors join the “authors” list this year. We hope you will find time to contribute this fall. 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.

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

Warm regards,

Jim

Kinghurst Managed Forest Tree ID and Tool Use

By Jim White, BGWA member, director, President

Sunny skies greeted our participating members for the June 15th Tree ID and How to use the tools in the forest inventory field kit to measure forest values. We met at SVCA Kinghurst Managed Forest near Dornoch. Our leaders were Donna Lacey, Manager of Forestry and Lands with Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and Susan McGowan, forest consultant.

Donna provided us with an overview of the history of the property which was rehabilitated farmland, comprised of conifer plantations and mixed hardwoods along with some remnants of farm orchards, non-native trees and shrubs around the building foundations.

Susan had prepared a key with a cascade of tree species identifiers (unique details to provide clues) to make tree ID simplified. Generally the cascade of identifiable characteristics followed: opposite or alternate arrangement of leaves, compound or simple leaves, leaf base, leaf teeth and veining, stalk attributes, glands on the stalk and overall shape of the leaf/needles. She had also prepared some clippings so the group could have hands on learning to practice and learn about the different species.

She also showed us an efficient way to handle plant samples to minimize the risk of introduction of pests and pathogens from one area to another. With an ever growing list of invasive species her bagging techniques looked after biosecurity issues.

Continued on next page...



BGWA members getting ready for the hike

Kinghurst Managed Forest Tree ID and Tool Use

cont'd from the previous page

Donna and Susan led us on a hike along forest trails stopping frequently to apply our new found knowledge on tree ID and how to use the various tools in the forest inventory field kit. Donna led participants to try calipers and diameter tape to measure the size of diameter of the tree. A clinometer was used to measure tree heights and a prism was used to measure basal area, or BA. Nothing like a demonstration. I need more practice to be able to use the prism.

Donna also shared with us a template, Stand Analysis for harvest or intermediate cutting. Leveraging our new knowledge of measuring trees we could quantify AGS and UGS, BA and calculate ideal BA. How is your knowledge of the acronyms? Join us at a future hike to learn more! If you are considering conducting some forest measurements or inventory on your property, the forest inventory field kit is available for use by our members. Contact Mike Fry (m.fry@greysauble.on.ca) if you are interested in accessing the equipment.



Donna and Susan, hike leader, explaining tree ID and tool use.

The BGWA Bursary – Year Two

By Larry Cluchey, BGWA member, director, Treasurer/Registrar

This is the second year the BGWA has offered a bursary to high school students. If you are not familiar or have forgotten the details here they are:

Each year the BGWA offers the 11 high schools in Grey and Bruce a bursary of \$100.00 to a student from each school advancing post secondary into Forestry, Forest Management or a related Natural Science stream. The bursary also includes an optional one year student membership with The BGWA. There is no academic requirements or financial need requirements for the student, just a commitment to follow through on the future studies. Each school determines who the recipient will be. Not all schools will award the bursary every year in so much that there may not be a student who is headed into Forestry, Forest Management or the related streams in a given year.

This year eight students have received the bursary. The recipients are:

Charley Firth - Bruce Peninsula District School - Lion's Head,

Patton Dobie - Georgian Bay Community School - Meaford,

Regan Boyce - Grey Highlands Secondary School - Flesherton,

Janah Strassen - John Diefenbaker Senior School - Hanover,

Emma Frook - Owen Sound District Secondary School - Owen Sound,

Alison Cullum - Walkerton District Community School - Walkerton,

Addison Newman - St. Mary's High School - Owen Sound,

Eden Babbitt - Sacred Heart High School - Walkerton

The BGWA can be duly proud to be supporting students from the Bruce/Grey area. Post secondary education costs increase every year and can result in significant debt for young students. Our contribution per student is small. A single text book can be well over two hundred dollars, but many small contributions from many contributors can add up.

If any of our members consider our efforts to be a worthwhile endeavor and wish to contribute financially to the bursary, donations could be made to the cause. Any monies raised in a given year would be earmarked for the bursary and go to topping up the \$100.00 per school already allotted from the association. Unfortunately, at this point the BGWA cannot offer any kind of tax credit but we are working on this to see if something with the school boards could be arranged in the future.

The bursary has its benefit for the BGWA too. It's an opportunity to give back to the community, our bursary is acknowledged at commencements and we are listed in the programs. The bursary is area wide and will reach not only many younger families but grandparents and relatives. Any of which may take the time to check us out, to discover the BGWA and what we have to offer.

A successful year two for the bursary. Looking forward to year three.

Is this the result of a BLEVE?

By Pamela and Howard Newman, BGWA members

A spring walkabout of our woodlands revealed a tamarack tree that had recently been demolished.

Branches and splinters of wood were scattered in all directions up to fifty feet away from the trunk. Clearly the destruction had been caused by an explosion but there were no burn marks that would indicate that the tree had been hit by lightning.

However, we have been assured by a chemical engineer, outstanding in his field, that the cause must have been a lightning strike that instantly vapourised the moisture within the trunk and created sufficient pressure to blast the tree apart – a Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapour Explosion (BLEVE).



Tinker's Weed

By Susan McGowan, BGWA member, director

We have enjoyed a great autumn this year. I was walking along the rail trail near Holland Centre the other day, soaking in the sun and the reds and golds of the maples and ash. As my eyes scanned the edges of the trail, something yellow caught my eyes! I crawled up the slight embankment and saw an unusual herbaceous plant, growing on the mossy stoney ground.



As listed in [A Field Guide to Wildflowers](#) by Peterson and McKenny, 1968, I discovered that the plant is in the Honeysuckle family. Other common names are feverwort and wild coffee! There are at least two species of *Triosteum* in Ontario. The other is *Triosteum aurantiacum*, or orange fruited horse gentian. These are native plants and were used medicinally for a variety of ailments.

The key to correctly identifying the plants is in the latin. *Perfoliatum* is a description of the leaf form. Similar to bone set, or cup plant, the leaf surrounds the stem: perfoliate as pictured. *Aurantiacum* refers to the orange fruit. And these leaves are stalkless, not perfoliate also pictured here.

I wanted to make sure I had the correct identification, therefore, I contacted the plant specialist at Grey Sauble Conservation. The verdict was that I had found orange fruited horse gentian.

So, there you are. I've had fun researching this plant and I'll be on the lookout for the two species next year! I have two nutlets and I'll try to grow some new plants, although I don't think I'll try to make coffee. I'll stick to Kicking Horse, not Horse Gentian!



Butternut Assessment

East of Woodford, Municipality of Meaford

By Susan McGowan, BGWA member, director

At our 2023 AGM in February the guest speaker was Heather Zubrigg, Manager of Species Conservation and Administration at the Forest Gene Conservation Association, (FGCA). Heather manages all aspects of the FGCA Butternut Recovery Program and leads the team in developing initiatives that support trees in trouble. Butternut, (*Juglans cinerea*) is an endangered species due to the fungal disease butternut canker, (*Ophiognomonia clavigignenti-juglandacearum*)(N.B. Nair, Kostichka & J.E. Kuntze) Broders & Boland. The disease was first reported in Ontario in 1991. Butternut was included as endangered in the Endangered Species Act, (ESA) in 2008 and reconfirmed in 2017. A link to the status of butternut in Ontario and the ESA are located at the end of this article.

Hugh Evans, a long-time member of BGWA, and retired forestry professional, participates in the property stewardship program with the Bruce Trail Conservancy, Sydenham Section. In his frequent walks through the property east of Woodford, he noticed some butternut that seemed to be quite healthy. He contacted Heather, and she was interested in seeing the trees to determine if they would be healthy enough to be used in the butternut recovery program.

Madelaine Danby, a FGCA technician, met Hugh and Bob Knapp, Property Coordinator, to inspect the trees in September. If the trees meet the health criteria, (a minimum percentage of cankered wood and a relatively healthy crown), scions (twig clippings) will be collected from the trees by a local arborist, to be grafted to walnut stock. These new grafted trees will be planted in a seed orchard. The FGCA has 5 butternut orchards throughout Ontario.

It is exciting to think that these butternuts could benefit the future sustainability of healthy disease resistant butternut. Stay tuned to read the outcome of Madelaine's assessment of these trees.

Information on butternut and butternut canker

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/butternut-species-risk>

Endangered Species Act <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/07e06>



Madelaine Danby from the Forest Gene Conservation Association assessing butternut for health. September 2024.

Madelaine and Bob Knapp, Property Coordinator, Bruce Trail Conservancy, Sydenham Club. September 2024



Butternut crown, BTC property east of Woodford, Municipality of Meaford. September 2024

BGWA Members' BBQ

By Susan McGowan, BGWA member, director

On September 14th, 2024 the Bruce Grey Woodlands Association got together for our annual tour and BBQ. But first we were delighted to have Carl Sadler and Nancy Brown give us a tour around the Arboretum. We haven't been at the facility for a few years and it was a nice familiar low stress activity prior to our meal. No quiz was given before we ate.

From the website : "The Inglis Falls Arboretum is 8.25 hectares. The original property was purchased by the North Grey Region Conservation Authority in 1961 to protect the valley. The original concept was to plant only the indigenous species that were growing in Grey-Bruce at the time of European settlement. However, exotic plants were finally included because it was thought that they would add interest to the general public. This original section, which came to be known as the Trees of the World, was begun in 1964 under the direction of Alex Haavaniit, a local landscape gardener and nurseryman. A new Conservation Authority Administration Centre was built on the site in 1977.

In 2000, an additional 21.5 acres was acquired by the Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation. The Inglis Falls Arboretum Alliance (IFAA) was formed to bring together a group of enthusiastic volunteers to oversee the development of this new section of the Arboretum. A design plan was prepared by a landscape architecture firm in 2001 and included a nursery area for propagation."

As we made our way through the specimens, we had many discussions. One was the problem of Norway maple. It is not a native tree and is planted as an ornamental everywhere! The problem is that they invade our wild spaces, crowding out our native plants and trees. As a result, a decision was made to remove the old Norways. Several young oak have been donated as a replacement and are beginning to thrive. Other native trees can be planted in the opened areas.

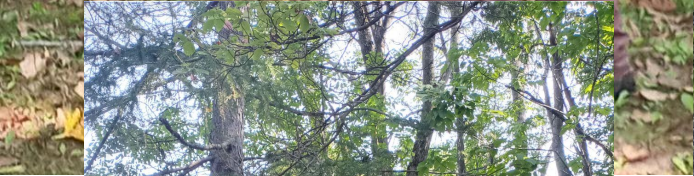
Some highlights were that the pawpaw tree is bearing fruit, which are larger than a plum and smaller than a mango. The pawpaw is a native Carolinian species. The redbud is always a treat to see. It is also a Carolinian species and is growing well in Owen Sound. It has a brilliant red flower in spring. There were several maple species: tartarian, sycamore, sugar, and silver to compare. Some of the rarer trees we saw were Osage orange, Kentucky coffee tree, Ohio buckeye and American chestnut!

The weather was absolutely balmy and after our walk we enjoyed burgers and sausages, salads and treats, cooked by Jim Penner and Loyd Holbrook. Thanks to the volunteers.

Information on the Grey Sauble Arboretum can be found at the following web sites.

<https://www.greysauble.on.ca/arboretum-alliance/#>

https://www.greysauble.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/ARB_TREE_SPECIES_NUMBERS_1.3.pdf



Word Search

As a fun activity in this edition of the newsletter, we have a forest-related word search for you. On the next page is the word search itself, while below are the words to find.

GOOD LUCK!

Words to find

PRISM	CLINOMETER	GLOVES	SPLITTER	COMPASS
CALIPERS	FELLER	CHAINS	CANTHOOK	WINCH
LOG RULE	CHAINSAW	AXE	BRUSH AXE	CHIPPER
SKIDDER	HELMET	MARKING TAPE	POLESAW	MULCHER
PRUNER	SAFETY GEAR	PEAVEY	GPS	COMPUTER
CORE SAMPLER	SHOVEL			

BONUS Words

NUT	OAK	MAPLE	YEW
FIR	PINE	PEAR	

M	S	K	A	O	Q	H	R	A	E	P
B	A	G	L	O	V	E	S	D	L	O
R	F	R	D	P	S	L	E	M	U	L
E	E	E	K	R	R	M	P	A	R	E
P	T	N	P	I	E	E	S	P	G	S
P	Y	U	I	S	N	T	A	L	O	A
I	G	R	N	M	G	G	N	E	L	W
H	E	P	E	W	L	N	T	X	R	A
C	A	L	I	P	E	R	S	A	S	V
A	R	C	O	M	P	A	S	S	P	R
N	E	X	A	H	S	U	R	B	E	E
T	F	C	H	A	I	N	S	A	W	T
H	S	C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	E
O	K	T	O	F	H	C	N	I	W	M
O	I	R	E	T	T	I	L	P	S	O
K	D	X	A	L	E	V	O	H	S	N
I	D	M	U	L	C	H	E	R	U	I
P	E	A	V	E	Y	E	W	T	C	L
H	R	I	F	R	S	N	I	A	H	C
C	O	R	E	S	A	M	P	L	E	R

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