

Greenleaves

ISSUE #3, 2026

Member Newsletter of **Bruce Grey Woodlands Association**



President's Message



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An Important update on Spotted Lanternfly



Sawing Is Believing: A Rookie's Guide to
Milling Your Own Wood



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Event Recap: Cooper Property Tour



Bruce Grey
Woodlands
Association

Upcoming BGWA Events:

Planning the following events:

- **Oct 10** - Benallen Nature Preserve Hike
- **Oct 17** - Members' BBQ
- **Oct 24** - Chainsaw Safety Awareness Course
- **Oct 25 afternoon** - Chainsaw Maintenance and Sharpening Course
- **Nov 7-8** - Chainsaw Safety Certification course

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

Contact Lloyd Holbrook
holbrooklloyd8@gmail.com

Upcoming Board Meetings

November 3rd @ 1 PM -
Saugeen Valley Conservation

Members Welcome!

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

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,

Good morning!

I hope each of you has had a good summer, with lots of opportunities to enjoy the forests and outdoors.

We returned on the weekend from a two-week tour of the Lac St. Jean-Saguenay regions of Quebec. The area is approximately the same latitude as Moose Factory on James Bay in Ontario. It has been heavily glaciated over the millennia, resulting in 900-metre mountains, the 100-kilometre-long fjord ending at Saguenay, and then wide valleys in the Charlevoix region as you travel upstream along the St. Lawrence toward Quebec City.

If you haven't visited this part of Canada, you should consider the journey. The scenery is spectacular, and the region is home to some of the oldest history in Canada. I've added a few pictures of trees typical of the boreal forest. We also hiked around a *tourbière*. A *tourbière* is a peat bog that is typical of a black spruce forest habitat.

Yes, we saw Minke and Beluga whales feeding at the mouth of the fjord and the St. Lawrence River at Tadoussac. Sea kayaking on the fjord was very exciting and a wonderful way to experience the topography along the fjord.

My apiary had a spectacular season, with one hive producing more than 100 lbs. of honey. Big thanks to the neighbouring dairy farmer for his fields of alfalfa and clover, which supplemented my goldenrod and wildflowers.

The Events and Education Committee has been busy this summer, organizing two successful BGWA member property tours—one at Brian Rogers' property and the other at Allen Cooper's. We also floated the idea of an invasive species tour by canoe/kayak. We ran short on time due to plant growth and water levels, so we will reschedule this for July 2027.

Please mark your calendar for the following:

1. **Geology Hike with Beth Gilhespy** at Benallen on October 10th.
2. **BGWA Annual Members' BBQ** on October 17th at the Bruce County Kinloss Tract.
3. **Chainsaw Safety Awareness Course** on October 24th.
4. **Chainsaw Maintenance and Sharpening Course** on October 25th.
5. **Chainsaw Certification Course** on November 7th-8th.

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President's Message (cont'd)

If you have a family member, friend, neighbour, or you yourself might appreciate greater knowledge about the safe and efficient use of a chainsaw, please let them know about these courses. Our classes are beginning to gain pre-registrations.

From an association health perspective, the Chainsaw Safety Courses are proving to be a reliable source of education for both current BGWA members and new members. At our recent Board of Directors meeting, we discussed the possibility of expanding our user-pay services, such as the Chainsaw Safety Courses.

Do you have specialized knowledge that you would be willing to share with BGWA members? The possibilities are endless. A couple of examples might be foraging and preparing forest-based foods, or grafting theory and practical experience.

Please contact any member of the Board of Directors, or myself at president@bgwa.ca, if you have an interest in leading a session or have a topic you think would be of interest to our members.

As a volunteer-based organization, BGWA endeavors to stay tuned to the ideas and priorities of our membership. In August and September, we conducted a members' survey. If you didn't respond to our request for participation, please do so this week. Director Natalie Mechelko will be leading the analysis of the feedback. The stronger the response rate, the greater our confidence will be in the meaning of the results.

Over the years, the Board of Directors has received inquiries from members and non-members about BGWA's relationship with other forest-related organizations. The directors undertook an extensive evaluation of the offerings from the OWA. A summary of the process and the Board's vote is reported in this edition of *GreenLeaves*.

I hope I do not sound like a broken record when I once again ask for member contributions to *GreenLeaves*. We are always looking for articles, photographs, stories, games for children, and other content of interest. We would also love to hear about your property—what makes it special to you and your family, and what stewardship projects you are proud of.

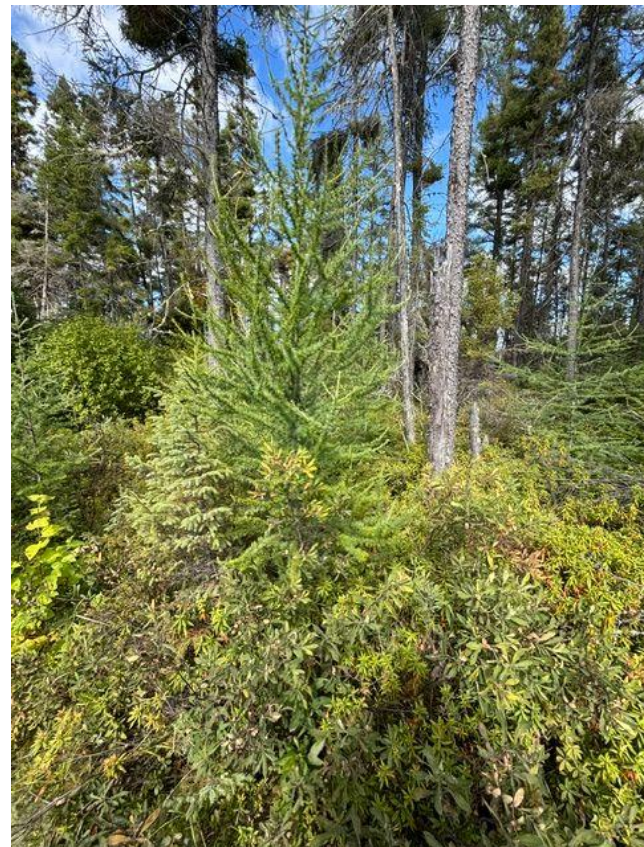
Please consider sharing your contributions with us at newsletter@bgwa.ca.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events, and especially at our BBQ, as we continue learning, exploring, and building friendships through the efforts of the BGWA Events and Education Committee—100% locally grown!

Enjoy the cooler temperatures and brilliant fall colours!

Best regards,

Jim White



A Bouquet Of ... Mushrooms?

By Marcia Ranger, BGWA member

While out on our hikes, it's the time of year to ... look down! Wow, poking out of the grass and fallen trees, jumping out, from everywhere, mushrooms of all colours and kinds!

I don't pretend to be a mushroom expert. I love to eat mushrooms but am not brave enough to pick and cook any. And I admit that when I see a mushroom, I take a picture and ask iNaturalist what it is.

These are a few photos from the Sauble Ski & Snowshoe Trails. I invite all of you to keep your eyes open for the mushrooms around us, and appreciate their beauty, while they are around.



A Bouquet Of ... Mushrooms? (cont'd)



Important update on Spotted Lanternfly

By Susan McGowan, BGWA member, BGWA Director

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

A serious threat to vineyards, orchards, and urban forests



On September 15, 2026, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed the first Canadian detection of spotted lanternfly (SLF) in Windsor, Ontario.

In the fall issue of 2022 of Greenleaves, we noted that the CFIA reported that SLF adults were found in Buffalo, New York, just 45 km away from the Canadian border.

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.

SLF 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, capture, kill, and save! Then please contact the CFIA.

We are including the SLF fact sheet from our Ontario Invasive Species Centre in Sault Ste Marie, <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-insects/spotted-lanternfly/>

Information in this update is taken from the CFIA 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>

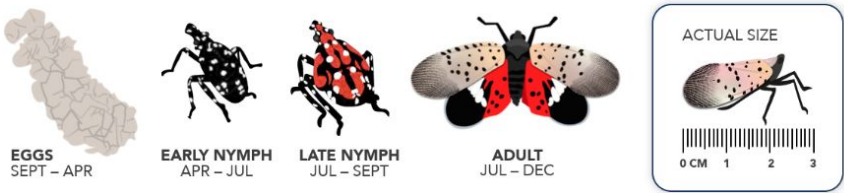
Bruce Grey Woodlands Association will post updates on our website as they become available.

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

A serious threat to vineyards, orchards, and urban forests



Spotted lanternfly (SLF; *Lycorma delicatula*) is an invasive pest from Asia that kills plants by sucking the sap from leaves and stems. SLF feed in swarms on more than 70 species of trees and plants, including cultivated grapes, fruit trees, black walnut, maples, and oaks. SLF is a threat to Canada's multi-billion dollar wine (viticulture) and fruit industries.



Eggs can be found on a variety of hard surfaces, including picnic tables and patio stones.



Sooty mould patch (dark colouring at the base of the tree).



SLF swarming on tree of heaven.

WHERE IS SLF?

SLF has not been detected in Canada. It was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014 and has since established and spread to neighbouring states. As of 2020, SLF has been intercepted as far north as New York State, bordering Ontario's Niagara region.

SIGNS OF SLF:

- Muddy grey egg masses on hard surfaces
- Accumulation of a sweet, sticky substance called "honeydew" and sooty mould on and at the base of trees
- Swarming of nymphs and adults on host trees, which include tree of heaven, grapevines, fruit trees, black walnut, maples, oaks, and more

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Report sightings!
- Avoid planting tree of heaven, SLF's preferred host; if you see tree of heaven, inspect it for SLF
- SLF can move to new locations on items such as vehicles, plants and nursery stock, stone and building materials, and shipping containers. Check hard surfaces for egg masses frequently, **especially when leaving or transporting materials from areas of known SLF detections or quarantine zones**

Report sightings to eddmappings.org, www.invasivespeciescentre.ca, or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at www.inspection.gc.ca/pests.

Sawing Is Believing: A Rookie's Guide To Milling Your Own Wood

By John Plested, BGWA member

THE BACK STORY

My wife and I joined the Beaver Valley Ski Club in 2013 and that winter we began searching for property to purchase in Grey Highlands. We fell in love with a hybrid timber frame dwelling that came with twenty-two acres of mixed hardwood and softwood forest. We had not been looking for extended acreage, but it was a nice bonus. We took possession in the fall of 2014 and instantly appreciated the privacy and quiet of the surrounding land. In August of that year, I took a one-week beginner timber framing course in Perth at Gibson Timber Frames. It was taught by Jason Gibson and over the course of the week we cut and raised a 16' by 20' frame built with 8" white pine timbers based on the square rule timber framing convention. The experience was both educational and inspirational and it made me want to do more. Our property didn't contain any white pine, but it had a decent amount of mature white cedar and Eastern Hemlock that could serve as raw material for timbers.

THE RESEARCH

I made the decision to start researching the purchase of a portable sawmill which could be used to mill timbers, framing lumber, and live edge boards. I investigated several companies including Wood-Mizer, and Norwood, but ultimately settled on a company called Woodland Mills. The company was founded in 2009 by two childhood friends – Josh Malcolm and Neil Bramley – both mechanical engineers. Their flagship product was a portable sawmill – the HM126 – and over the past 15 years they have rapidly expanded both the business and the product offerings. They now sell woodchippers, stump grinders, log splitters, forestry trailers, log arches, winches, and much more. I visited their location in Port Perry and was impressed with both the quality of the equipment and the knowledge of the people.

THE BUY

In the spring of 2019, I ordered the HM130 model of their sawmill and a 16' trailer which would make it portable and allow it to cut up to a 16' timber. It could handle a log up to 30" in diameter, had a 14HP Kohler gasoline engine, and I added a couple of options – electric start, and a log loading ramp. The mill arrived about a week later in several large crates and after a few days of assembly I had an operational sawmill. It was very manual (and mostly still is) – you loaded logs by winching them up the loading ramp – you turned them using a cant hook and lots of muscle – you manually clamped them in place – raised or lowered the sawmill head with a manual crank and pushed the blade through the log.

EARLY DAYS

There was certainly an initial steep learning curve to understand proper blade tracking and tensioning. I had to learn the many tricks and techniques of efficiently milling logs but there are many sources of information online to help with this. My first test log was an old, dead white ash that had fallen and it was just the beginning of a long, very enjoyable milling experience. I made some mistakes early on (and still do) and I continue to learn new things constantly.

Early in the process I milled a beautiful Black Cherry log with lots of character into 2" live edge slabs. I made several tables and counter tops using these slabs and they look better and better with each passing year. When Covid hit and the price and availability of lumber went crazy, I needed to build an extensive dog enclosure for our Covid puppy, and I milled all the cedar lumber I needed.

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Sawmill Rookie (cont'd)

I've cut many timbers for timber frame structures and have used the mill to assist in cutting tenons on these timbers. The mill has certainly paid for itself many times over at this point.

MOVING FORWARD

Over the years, I've upgraded the mill setup somewhat. In 2020, I bought a Kubota L3901 tractor with forks (I'm fortunate to have an incredibly supportive wife), making it much easier to load logs and unload milled beams. I added a toe board to raise the narrow end of a log and better centre the pith while milling, along with a toolbox, upgraded log supports, and additional clamps. Woodland Mills has also introduced options that reduce manual effort, all of which can be retrofitted to older mills. If you desire, you can now purchase a mill with features that seriously reduce the manual effort. I plan to make further upgrades and hope to build an enclosure to better protect the mill from the elements.

HOW THE MILL FITS MY WORK

Portability was an important consideration when I bought the mill, although in practice it usually stays in one place. I have relocated it a few times, however, and the trailer made those moves straightforward.

The extended bed has also proved worthwhile. Although many of the logs I mill are about eight feet long, I process longer logs often enough to appreciate the added capacity.

As a woodworker and DIY builder, I value the flexibility the mill provides:

- I can cut lumber to the exact dimensions a project requires.
- I can choose the tree species best suited to the work.
- I can mill both standard lengths and longer logs when needed.

Looking back, buying this mill was one of the better decisions I have made. It is both highly practical and one of my favourite tools, and I expect to use it for many years to come. If you are considering joining the sawmill cult, I encourage you to jump in.

GETTING STARTED

There are sawmills available for most budgets. A mentor can help shorten the learning curve, but you do not have to figure everything out alone. A vibrant online community of amateur sawyers is eager to share advice, troubleshoot problems, and help newcomers build confidence.

Seek guidance from an experienced sawyer when possible.

Use online communities to learn techniques and solve problems.

Start with manageable projects and expect to learn through experience.

Turning a tree into usable lumber is one of the most satisfying activities I know. In an increasingly complex world, the process offers something refreshingly tangible: the chance to transform a natural resource with your own hands and create material for projects that can last for years.

What is BGWA's Relationship with the OWA?

By Jim White, BGWA member, BGWA President

Over the past several years, the Board of Directors has been asked by both BGWA and non-BGWA members whether BGWA should return to being a chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA).

Background

As background to the history of the BGWA, Bruce County and Grey County were originally separate organizations. The Grey County Woodlot Association (GCWA) joined OWA as a chapter and shortly thereafter withdrew from membership of OWA. The Bruce County Woodlot Association (BCWA) chose to amalgamate with the GCWA soon after the GCWA left the OWA. The BGWA has operated as an independent association since 2015.

Review of the OWA Relationship

With the assistance of several BGWA directors, a series of questions and requests for information — including annual reports, financial analyses, and membership activities — was developed. The volunteer BGWA directors then requested this information from the OWA to evaluate the potential advantages and disadvantages of becoming an OWA chapter.

Following a detailed review of the membership activities conducted by OWA chapters, the financial position of the OWA, and auditor reports relating to OWA member activities, the BGWA Board of Directors determined that, in the best interests of our membership, BGWA is best positioned to deliver on its Vision and Statement of Objectives as an independent organization.

A motion was tabled, seconded, and put to a vote. The motion confirmed that BGWA will continue to operate as an independent organization focused on the needs of our members in Bruce and Grey Counties.

Working with Other Organizations

Where issues arise that are broader in scope, BGWA is able and willing to collaborate with organizations and individuals that we consider relevant and capable within the forest and ecology communities.

Looking Ahead

As a result of our internal review, we have had open and constructive discussions about our current capabilities and considerations for the future direction of the organization.

The health and strength of BGWA rests firmly on the engagement of our members and their willingness and capacity to volunteer. Their continued participation is essential to maintaining a strong and effective organization serving the needs of our membership and the communities of Bruce and Grey Counties.

Event Recap: Cooper Property Tour

By Lloyd Holbrook, BGWA member, BGWA Director

It was a beautiful morning for a walk on the well-groomed trails on Allen Cooper's property. Sunny, warm and no bugs. There were six people if the property owner was included.

This property has been in the Cooper family for many years, and they have been hand planting trees throughout the property. Originally much of it was farmed but is very wet, heavy clay and stony. So maybe 75 years ago some areas were commercially planted to White pine, spruce and large area of tamarack. All these plantation areas have done reasonably well (and are mostly free of buckthorn) and the tamarack is very straight and tall and harvestable size. Nothing has been harvested yet. Also, much of the land has regenerated naturally (from farmland) to mainly ash and elm. Several varieties of buckthorn are growing well here now. Old fence rows have solid buckthorn over 10 feet high. All the ash and elm areas are dying, and the buckthorn is spreading there rapidly and, in some places, aggressively taking over.

In the plantation areas and in some original maple etc. forest, the competition is too much in healthy forest and there is little or no buckthorn there. They have hand planted and protect many little trees throughout the property, oak, cedar, pine, walnut etc. which is good and trees planted 50 years ago are good, but it will take too long and area is too big to hand replant all the dying ash and elm areas. The owner has wondered about selling the tamarack logs and using funds to eradicate buckthorn from some areas and replant. The market for tamarack was not known and is likely quite variable.

On the positive outlook, there are some very nice spruce, tamarack, pine, cedar, oak, and walnut trees large enough now to have seed and help regeneration. There are some apple trees well-spaced for our walk that provided some good snacks.

There were a few larger ash and elm still healthy, but the effect of these diseases on some properties is very devastating and causes even more trouble if invasive species are present.

The walk was very interesting and educational.



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