

WWSC Spring/Summer 2022 Newsletter

With summer now well setting in, we hope you're enjoying the nice, warm weather, spending some time in the woods and beginning to carry out some woodlot related activities. It is certainly the time of year to observe the array of flora and fauna that has emerged.

Our AGM was held on May 14, so most of this newsletter will encompass a summary of that event. We'll also include the hiring of our new forester on the south shore, Dawson Lake, and outline the wood energy field tour that was held in Digby County with southwest MLAs on June 4, led by Harold Alexander of North Range Forest Products, Spec Resources and WWSC.

We encourage you to please keep reading to see what we've been up to.

WWSC AGM 2022



Interrupted Fern on flood plain

The WWSC Annual General Meeting held on May 14 at the Kingston District Firehall was an informative and successful event. There were 42 members in attendance. This year's AGM covered two fiscal years, 2020-21 and 2021-22, as we were not able or comfortable holding an AGM while Covid-19 safety restrictions were in effect.



Patricia presenting to members

The day started off with the business meeting which included the chair's report, treasurer's report and the staff activities report which each staff member presented on various aspects of our work over these two fiscal years. The summary of staff activities will be provided below. The business meeting ended off with recognition of the directors that were stepping down and the nomination of new directors.

Over the last two fiscal years, there were four directors whose terms were up and who did not re-offer. These included Jane Barker, Erika Rolston, Don Saulnier and Jim Crooker. Our Chair, Kevin Veinotte, expressed how deeply we appreciated all they have contributed to WWSC and sincerely thanked them for their dedication, passion, and input over the years. Jane and Don (and our treasurer, Arcade Comeau) have been part of the board since the working group was formed back in early 2015 when the business plan was developed, presented to DNRR, and the inception of WWSC in late 2016. We sincerely thank them for all their contributions and support they have provided to the WWSC since 2015.

The new directors that were nominated to the board include:

- Bryan Bent of Mount Hanley, Annapolis County who has a woodlot at Phinneys Cove. He replaced Jane Barker.
- Jean Marc Leblanc of Meteghan, Digby County, who has woodlots in both Digby and Yarmouth Counties and is representing Yarmouth County. He replaced Erika Rolston.
- Gary Melanson of Saulnierville Digby County, who has woodlots in Lower Concession. He replaced Don Saulnier.
- Glen Rosse of Dartmouth who has woodlots in both Annapolis and Kings County, and is another director representing Kings County. He replaced Jim Crooker.

Kevin Veinotte, Arcade Comeau and Britt Roscoe whose terms were up all reoffered. Kevin remains chair of the board, Arcade remains treasurer, Britt has taken Erika's role as secretary, and Reg Clem remains vice-chair. After a hearty lunch, we had three guest presenters for the afternoon portion. The first was Murray Crouse from the Lunenburg County Christmas Tree Producers Association who spoke about the opportunities in Christmas tree and brush production due to the increasing demand for these products. The second presenter was Andy Kekacs from the Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association who talked about the Family Forest Network and projects involved with applying Ecological Forestry on small private woodlots namely the Ecological Matrix part of the triad model recommended by Lahey. The final presenter was Robin Bremner-Popma from Avon Valley Floral who outlined new market opportunities for white and grey birch poles within their decorative floral industry. A summary of each of these presentations will also be outlined later in this newsletter.

The day ended with a door prize draw, with details provided later in this newsletter.

Staff Activities Presentation Summary

Patricia acknowledged and thanked our staff forester team: Dwight Ford, Andrew Oliver and Dawson Lake, including our part time consulting foresters Tom Macmillan, Sandy Hyde and Peter Francis for providing good quality service to our members and taking the time to understand member's needs. She also thanked our bookkeeper Lindy Melanson and Arcade Comeau who has worked with the Coop from the start, helping part time with administration, marketing, payments, budget tracking, relationships, etc. She extended thanks to contractors who we work with and who have supported the Coop from the beginning, especially North Range Forest Products (Harold Alexander and Brian Thomas) and Craig Marr in Digby County, and Eisonor's Forestry and Daniel Reeves from Lunenburg County. She sincerely thanked members for showing their continued support of the Coop and interest in woodlot management.

Patricia also provided an update on membership for both fiscal years, as outlined below.

Membership

At the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year, there were a total of 244 members representing just over 71,000 acres. Lunenburg and Digby counties had the highest number of members followed relatively closely by Annapolis County. The average woodlot size was 293 acres.

At the end of the 2021-22 fiscal year, there were a total of 283 members representing over 78,000 acres. Lunenburg and Digby counties continue to have the highest number of members followed by Annapolis County. The average woodlot size was 278 acres.

The breakdown of number of members and associated areas by county for each fiscal year are outlined in the tables below.

March 31 2021				
County	# of members	Area (ac)	Area (ha)	% by total area
Annapolis	45	11,093	4,489	16%
Digby	70	14,221	5,755	20%
Kings	20	5,286	2,139	7%
Lunenburg	60	16,929	6,851	24%
Queens	22	9,669	3,913	14%
Yarmouth	18	11,315	4,579	16%
Shelburne	9	2,990	1,210	4%
Total	244	71,503	28,936	
Avg. lot size/member		293	119	

March 31, 2022				
County	# of members	Area (ac)	Area (ha)	% by total area
Annapolis	49	10,055	4,069	13%
Digby	81	15,805	6,396	20%
Kings	28	5,038	2,039	6%
Lunenburg	75	25,425	10,289	32%
Queens	23	5,505	2,228	7%
Yarmouth	16	13,114	5,307	17%
Shelburne	11	3,736	1,512	5%
Total	283	78,678	31,840	
Avg. lot size/member		278	113	

On average, about 40 – 50 new members join per year, which relates to 3 – 4 per month. As of mid-June 2022, total membership is sitting at 298 members representing approx. 80,000 acres.

Wood markets and wood sales

Dwight Ford presented on wood markets and wood sales over the two fiscal years, and wood chip heating and the work of the wood heat committee.

The prices for spruce and fir logs and studwood have risen significantly over the period between April 2020 to the end of our last fiscal year at the end of March 2022. Our 2020-21 fiscal year began with studwood prices around the low to mid \$50's/tonne which was the lowest point after the closure of Northern Pulp in late 2019. The prices for spruce studwood have increased to around \$73/tonne over the last two years. Spruce logs sold for \$63/tonne roadside price at Freeman's at the start of April 2020. A series of increases over the last two years have brought the price to \$80/tonne roadside. There was also a small increase in the prices for pine and hardwood logs during this time, approximately \$3 per tonne for white pine logs and around \$50 per thousand for the better grades of hardwood logs. Hemlock and firewood markets remained stable during the last two fiscal years with no significant changes during that time.

Lumber prices on the commodities market hit a low of \$260/thousand (USD) in March 2020 and then rose quickly to a record high of \$1645 in March 2021. Prices then dropped significantly and bottomed at \$474 in August 2021. Prices have since rebounded to around \$1000 as of May 9, 2022. Lumber prices will likely continue to be volatile for a while due to uncertain market conditions. Currently, in July 2022, the lumber prices have declined to around \$650/thousand.

WWSC wood sales in the 2020-21 fiscal year were just over 25,000 tonnes while the sales in the 2021-22 fiscal year were lower at just over 21,000 tonnes. The difference in harvest volume was caused by a few factors over the last two years. There were two large harvest jobs that were done by contractors who don't normally work for us in the 2020-21 fiscal year that gave a significant boost to our overall numbers for that year, one in Yarmouth County and one in Digby County. There was also a significant drop in the 2021-22 fiscal year in the amount of wood marketed by some of the smaller contractors and landowners that often market wood through us but who do not work directly for the Coop.



Harvesting operation, Lunenburg Co.

During the 2020-21 fiscal year, our largest buyer was Freeman Lumber at 64%, followed by Spec Resources at 10%, and J A Turner at 6%. The remaining 20% was sold to 10 other wood buyers.

During the 2021-22 fiscal year, Freeman's was still our largest buyer at 51%, followed by Spec Resources at 13%, and J A Turner at 10%. The remaining 26% was sold to 13 other buyers.

During the 2020-21 fiscal year, 76% of the wood sold came from Digby County, 13% from Yarmouth County, 6% from Queens County, and 5% from Lunenburg County.

During the 2021-22 fiscal year, 79% of the wood sold came from Digby County, 13% from Lunenburg County, 7% from Yarmouth County, and 1% from Kings County.

Spec Resources situated in Digby County is the primary buyer of low-grade wood from WWSC. They bought roughly 2800 tonnes of low-grade wood from us last year, about 400 tonnes more than the previous year. ACFOR Energy purchased approximately 240 cords of low-grade wood from WWSC during the last two fiscal years which was supplied from thinning operations conducted by North Range Forest Products, one of our primary contractors. The low-grade wood sold to ACFOR and a portion sold to Spec were used to fuel the two new wood heat conversion projects, a provincial initiative, at the College of Geographic Sciences (COGS) in Lawrencetown (supplied by Spec), and at the NSCC Lunenburg Campus together with the Bridgewater Courthouse (supplied by ACFOR).

The WWSC wood heat committee has been actively promoting the use of wood chips for heat, with both government reps and private businesses. Low-grade wood can often be as much as 30 to 50% of the volume removed from a commercial thinning. While there have been no announcements regarding new conversion projects yet, we are encouraged by the response from the MLA's that we have met with so far and are hopeful that there will be some movement on this soon.

Silviculture

Andrew Oliver provided a summary of WWSC silviculture activities for both fiscal years.

2020-21 Summary:

In the 2020-21 fiscal year, a total of 344.5 ha (851.4 ac) of silviculture was completed over 99 jobs, relating to \$195,300 of funding claimed. Of the total area claimed, softwood commercial thinning represented the largest area at 85.7 ha (211.6 ac). The treatment receiving the largest amount of funding was softwood pre-commercial thinning at \$62,739 (or 32% of total funding). Merchantable treatments (Cat 6 Commercial Thinning and Cat 7c Selection management) accounted for 60% of total treatments by area.

Information on silviculture treatments by area and funding amount in the 2020-21 fiscal year is displayed in the following table.

Silviculture Category	Area (ha)	Area (ac)	Amount \$
Swd Full Planting	0.29	0.7	\$174
Early Competition Control (weeding)	51.4	126.9	\$20,540
Hwd Pre-commercial thinning	7.3	18.0	\$5,563
Swd Pre-commercial thinning	80.0	197.6	\$62,739
Hwd Commercial thinning	17.8	43.9	\$10,160
Swd Commercial thinning	85.7	211.6	\$50,003
Hwd Selection management	42.3	104.6	\$18,024
Swd Selection management	59.9	148.1	\$28,097
Total area claimed	344.5	851.4	\$195,300

Approximately 67% of all silviculture completed (by area) occurred in Digby and Lunenburg in 2020-21. This is related to a number of factors, including larger membership representation and established working relationships between the WWSC and existing contractors in these counties. It was a positive development to see that some silviculture work was completed in each of the 7 counties in the WWSC's service area in 2020-21. Information on silviculture work completed by county in the 2020-21 fiscal year is displayed in the following table.

County	Area (ha)	Area (ac)	% of Total Area
Annapolis	12.5	30.9	4%
Digby	136.7	337.8	40%
Kings	0.3	0.7	0%
Lunenburg	94.7	234.0	27%
Queens	48.5	119.8	14%
Shelburne	7.2	17.7	2%
Yarmouth	44.7	110.4	13%
Overall total	344.5	851.4	100%

Silviculture funding was received through 2 sources in the 2020-21 fiscal year: the Association for Sustainable Forestry (ASF) and J.A Turner & Sons Ltd., through their Wood Acquisition Program (WAP). A summary of funding provided by source in the 2020-21 fiscal year is displayed in the following table.

Total by Funder	\$ Amount	% of \$ total
ASF	\$164,284	84.1%
J.A Turner & Sons	\$31,017	15.9%
Overall total	\$195,300	

2021-22 Summary:

During the 2021-22 fiscal year a total of 240.0 ha (593.0 ac) of silviculture was completed over 67 jobs, relating to \$139,930 of funding claimed. Of the total area claimed, softwood commercial thinning represented the largest area at 123.7 ha (305.6 ac). Softwood commercial thinning also received the largest funding allocation at \$72,217 (or 52% of total funding). Pre-commercial thinning treatments in terms of area completed and funding allocated was down significantly from previous fiscal years. This was related to a number of factors, including a lack of available contractors, small treatment areas, as well some changes to eligibility criteria that excluded

some lower density stands from receiving funding that were previously eligible. Merchantable treatments (Cat 6 Commercial Thinning and Cat 7c Selection management) accounted for 86% of total treatments by area.

Information on silviculture treatments by area and funding amount in the 2021-22 fiscal year is displayed in the following table.

Silviculture Category	Area (ha)	Area (ac)	Amount \$
Swd Full Planting	1.8	4.5	\$1,177
Early Competition Control (weeding)	1.3	3.3	\$528
Swd Pre-commercial thinning	31.5	77.7	\$24,445
Hwd Commercial thinning	4.7	11.7	\$2,797
Swd Commercial thinning	123.7	305.6	\$72,217
Hwd Selection management	13.7	33.9	\$8,083
Swd Selection management	63.3	156.4	\$30,683
Total area claimed	240.0	593.0	\$139,930

Approximately 80% of all silviculture completed (by area) occurred in Digby and Lunenburg counties in 2021-22. This is related to a number of factors previously mentioned for the previous fiscal year. Some silviculture work was completed in every county in the WWSC’s service area in 2021-22 except for Shelburne. An increase in silviculture activity in Annapolis County over the past 3 years was noted, with less than 1% (by area) completed in 2019-20, 4% in 2020-21 and 12% in 2021-22.

Information on silviculture work completed by county in the 2021-22 fiscal year is displayed in the following table.

County	Area (ha)	Area (ac)	% of Total Area
Annapolis	29.9	73.8	12%
Digby	135.9	335.7	57%
Kings	3.4	8.3	1%
Lunenburg	58.1	143.6	24%
Queens	1.5	3.7	1%
Shelburne	0.0	0.0	0%
Yarmouth	11.3	27.9	5%
Overall total	240.0	593.0	100%

Silviculture funding was again received through 2 sources in the 2021-22 fiscal year: the Association for Sustainable Forestry (ASF) and J.A Turner & Sons Ltd., through their Wood Acquisition Program (WAP). A summary of funding provided by source in the 2021-22 fiscal year is displayed in the following table.

Total by Funder	\$ Amount	% of \$ total
ASF	\$116,835	83.5%
J.A Turner & Sons	\$23,095	16.5%
Overall total	\$139,930	



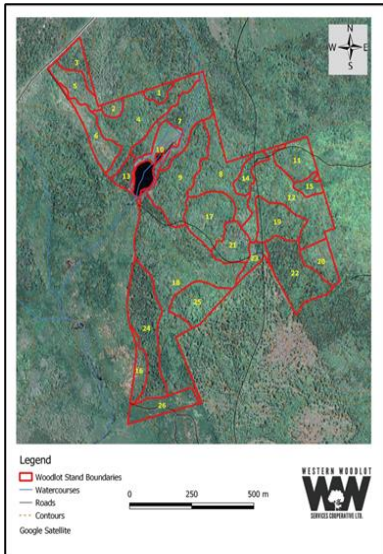
Pre-commercial thinning, Annapolis Co.

We truly appreciate the silvicultural assistance from our funding partners, allowing forest improvement work to be carried out on small woodlots throughout western Nova Scotia that leads to healthy, diverse, and productive forests for the benefit of present and future generations.

We encourage members to get in touch if you are interested in learning more about eligible treatments or if you may have some potential areas on your woodlot that you would like us to take a look at!

Forest stewardship considerations

Our new forester, Dawson Lake, presented on three forest stewardship considerations small private woodlot owners should think about, particularly new owners, as well as ongoing special projects and educational outreach initiatives the WWSC is involved with.



Woodlot Stand Map

The first stewardship consideration for small woodlot owners is to develop and define their forest management goals and objectives including how they'd like to benefit from owning the land. This is often the first step in woodland stewardship. The second consideration is to take the time to get to know and become more familiar with your woodland. A good understanding of what your forest is comprised of is the basis for your future management decisions. The last consideration is to utilize the vast range of resources available to private woodlot owners. These include such the Nova Scotia Woodlot Management Home Study Program, map viewing (provincial forest viewer on NSDNRR's website), data collection apps, attending various field days/workshops to better understand your woodland, and learning from others through networking, which will all help inform your management decisions. Additionally, reaching out to WWSC forest professionals for unbiased advice will allow you to realize your full range of options according to your objectives (what you want to achieve) and your forest inventory / composition (what there is to work with).

Special Projects

One of the special projects that WWSC is involved in is the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (DNRR) invasive plant species project. WWSC was asked to participate in the project back in 2020 by providing member woodlot locations where invasive plants are encroaching within forest sites. The project focuses on identifying the extent that invasive plant species are invading forest sites and quantifying the economic and ecological impacts of these invasive species in relation to forestry activities as well as forest succession. DNRR has established survey plots on some of our members properties where forestry practices have/are occurring to measure these effects.

WWSC also continues to work with the Mersey Tobetic Research Institute (MTRI) to refer WWSC members to them who are interested in knowing more about the biodiversity on their woodlots and what they can do by preparing biodiversity assessments for their woodlot. The assessments provide woodland owners with information on various biodiversity features that are identified and resources on sustaining and/or improving the forest biodiversity and associated features on their woodlands. Members can get these assessments done as an add-on to their forest management plans or as a separate document. Please let WWSC staff know if you are interested in getting involved with these projects.



Glossy Buckthorn, Queens Co.

Outreach

Outreach activities include workshops, field days, and maintaining a social media presence through platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. There were three workshop/field day events held during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 fiscal years: a Winter Tree ID Workshop for members and two forest professional field days for staff. The Winter Tree ID workshop was held at the Mickey Hill Provincial Park in Annapolis County in March 2021. Thirteen WWSC members attended the event which focused on identifying common tree species found in the Acadian Forest. Attendees learned key features to look for in the winter months such as twigs and buds, the soil and shade conditions that these species require to grow, and which species will grow in association with each other.



March 24 Field Day at member Rex Veinot's

In March 2022 staff attended a Forest Professionals Spring Field Tour at Maplewood Farms, owned and operated by WWSC members Rex and Bonnie Veinot. It was an informational maple syrup & woodlot tour organized by a joint committee between the Nova Scotia Forest Technicians Association and the Registered Professional Foresters Association of Nova Scotia. It was a great networking and continuing education opportunity for all forest professionals. Staff members also attended a Climate Change Adaptive Silviculture workshop hosted by Community Forests International and MTRI and held on member Jim Crooker's woodlot in Queens County. Discussions focused on tree species most susceptible to climate change, how successional development of forest stands may change over time and utilized newly developed management keys to determine appropriate silviculture prescriptions keeping climate change and carbon storage / sequestration in mind. It was a very informative day with lots of good discussions. We are hoping to hold more workshops and field tours for our members this year so keep an eye out for new events under the Events tab at www.westernwoodlotcoop.com!

WWSC's social media engagement on both platforms (Facebook and Instagram) has roughly remained the same. On our Facebook we have 287 followers and 44 posts. On our Instagram we have 211 followers and 32 posts. We are finding that we get more engagement through our original posts and plan to boost our engagement by creating original content every two to three weeks, sharing our content on both platforms and creating posts featuring our members and their woodlot management activities. If you haven't yet, please Like and Share the WWSC pages on Facebook and Instagram!

Summary of the 3 presentations at our AGM

Opportunities in Christmas tree and brush production

Murray Crouse, a WWSC member and member of the Lunenburg County Christmas Tree Producers Association (LCCTPA), gave a presentation on the status of Christmas tree production in Nova Scotia. The LCCTPA is the largest group in the province representing Christmas tree growers in Nova Scotia with their office located in New Germany, where WWSC shares office space with them. Murray expressed the outlook for Christmas trees is currently very good and expects it to remain this way for many years.

The largest market for Christmas trees from Nova Scotia is in the United States, but trees are shipped to many countries around the world. The Nova Scotia Christmas Tree Council is the governing body for Christmas tree producers in Nova Scotia and they collect a 1% levy on Christmas trees produced in the province. Much of this money goes toward research to help the industry produce better trees through genetic research and studying different methods of growing trees. They also deal with any issues related to the industry in Nova Scotia. There is a huge amount of information available through the Council to help new Christmas tree growers get started. Links to this information can be found on their website: <https://ctcns.com/>



Christmas tree lot, Lunenburg Co.

Historic production in Nova Scotia was typically around 1 million trees per year but recently the production has fallen to around 580,000 trees per year. Tree production in the US has also fallen over the last few years for a variety of reasons but the market demand remains strong. Most tree lots in the US sell out in early December and it is expected that there will continue to be a strong demand with limited supply over the foreseeable future. This should result in strong prices for many years and this is a good opportunity for anyone interested in growing Christmas trees to get started, providing another source of revenue from your woodlot.

Family Forest Network and applying Ecological Forestry on small private woodlots

Andy Kekacs, executive director of the Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association, spoke about the Family Forest Network (FFN) and applying the Ecological Matrix on small private woodlots. The purpose of FFN is to help Nova Scotia's private woodland owners in transitioning to ecological forestry, namely the matrix or multi-value, ecologically based sustainable forest management practices part of the triad model, as recommended by Dr. William Lahey in the 2018 Independent Review of Forest Practices in Nova Scotia. These management practices are based around Nova Scotia's newly released Silvicultural Guide for the Ecological Matrix (SGEM) which favors silviculture treatments that place ecosystem health and diversity first above all else, knowing multi-forest values will be maintained and enhanced. The SGEM is an expanded and improved version of the province's Forest Management Guides, which was in response to the recommendations made by Dr. Lahey in his 2018 review.

The FFN is in a 5-year contract with the Forest Innovation Transition Trust (FITT) with over \$9.8 million to fund various projects and research relating to implementing ecological forestry on private lands. The FFN is directed by a steering committee comprising of 11 private land based groups across the province, in addition to Community Forests International, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, and the NS Working Woodlands Trust. They are currently working out the details to implement a large-scale pilot project through various case studies / trials to test a variety of ecologically sensitive forest treatments with guidance provided by the SGEM on various forest conditions on small private woodlots across the province. The ultimate goal of these ecological based treatments is to improve ecosystem health and diversity while speeding up natural succession and establishment of long lived shade tolerant species which will in turn increase a variety of forest values and benefits overtime. The case studies will track associated costs in carrying out such work, short and long term benefits, where the treatments outlined in the SGEM should be expanded or adapted to accommodate small private woodlots, and what changes and/or additions should be made to current silviculture programs to be more in line with the SGEM to help offset the costs of implementing these treatments.

Andy also talked about the challenges that arise when making the transition from 'traditional / status quo' management to ecological based, multi-value forest management on private woodlots. One of the biggest challenges they face is encouraging and making it attractive to contractors to pursue the ecological based treatments. Silviculture and harvest contractors who are involved with the trials will be paid an hourly rate to reduce the financial risk to implement them. Monitoring and various evaluations on the treatment outcomes to quantify the benefits will be performed by foresters, ecologists, and biologists.

WWSC, as part of the FFN steering committee, will be looking for members, forest professionals and contractors who want to get involved in these trials / case studies.

To learn more about the Family Forest Network, contact Andy Kekacs at andy.nswooa@gmail.com and/or visit their website at: nswoods.ca. Once you're on the website go to the Family Forest Network tab.

New market opportunities for white and grey birch poles

Robin Bremner-Popma from Avon Valley Floral took the time out of her busy schedule to present on 'New Market Opportunities for White and Grey Birch Poles' which provided an excellent opportunity for WWSC members to learn about an emerging market opportunity that has the potential to add value to various forest management activities.

Avon Valley Floral is in Falmouth, Hants County, and is a year-round greenhouse operation that supplies flowers, planters, vegetable transplants, Christmas planters, wreaths and decorative products to Atlantic Canada and beyond. Since 2020, they've seen a large increase in their overall market opportunity and to meet this are looking to increase the supply of local inputs for their products. One of the primary products for which there has been a significant demand in the past few years is for small diameter white (and grey) birch poles, which are used in Christmas planters and other decorative products which are sold during the holiday season at garden centres and big box stores.

In her presentation, Robin listed the specifications of the birch poles Avon Valley Floral is looking to source. The poles must be cut to a length of 10 feet 6 inches and have no more than 3 inches of sweep over 4 feet of length. Diameter ranges from a minimum of 1.5 inches to a maximum butt of 2.25 inches. Branches must be pruned

flush with the stem. Color is also important, with white/light smooth bark and very little moss or roughness preferred. Both white and grey birch are acceptable species.



Birch poles: From pruned pole to finished product!

The price paid for the poles is \$1.90/per pole, delivered to Avon Valley Floral in Falmouth. At the present time, Avon Valley has racks set up at their facility where various suppliers can deliver their harvested poles into a designated rack, and payment is determined based on the number of poles delivered. Some suppliers may also deliver full racks of poles, which can hold 150 to 200 poles per rack, directly to the facility. In these cases, a tractor with lifting straps is used to load racks onto a trailer and then the racks full of logs would be transported to the facility.

The logistics of how a working relationship could be set up between WWSC and its membership and Avon Valley Floral is still in the early days but one possible scenario would be that WWSC is set up as a vendor and payments for delivered products would be made directly to the WWSC by Avon Valley. Payment would then be made to WWSC members who provided the poles, based on the amount of product they contributed. This would streamline the process, as Avon Valley is dealing with one vendor (WWSC) and WWSC can distribute funds back to the individual members. In a few possible delivery scenarios, poles could be delivered directly on site in Falmouth by individuals during a designated delivery day or a yard could be set up by the WWSC to stockpile an aggregate of members poles and transportation could be coordinated on a scheduled date each month.

This emerging market may present a good opportunity for landowners who have pure or mixed stands of small diameter birch on their woodlots and are looking to generate some economic value from a product that typically has limited commercial usage in traditional forestry markets. Harvesting of birch poles may also be incorporated into forest management activities such as pre-commercial thinning, manual weeding, and crop-tree release, creating the possibility of an additional economic benefit for landowners pursuing silvicultural improvement work on their properties. Firewood production and property maintenance are other activities where it may be possible to add value by incorporating harvesting of birch poles as an additional management objective.

Please check out the following link to view Robin’s presentation, which includes some great pictures relating to the information described above:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFATCaGaYg/omgLwDgZVyjYWsu6ZW27mw/view?utm_content=DAFATCaGaYg&utm_campaign=share_your_design&utm_medium=link&utm_source=shareyourdesignpanel

To learn more about this opportunity, please contact Robin Bremner-Popma at: rbremner@avonvalleyfloral.ca

AGM Main Door Prize Draw

Member Don Munro from Viewmount, Kings County, as shown in this picture, was the winner of the main door prize, which was a Bacho pruning blade placed on a red maple pole. Don was delighted with this very useful prize and put it to work right away on his woodlot pruning some sugar maple trees. His wife, Sheila, provided this great picture of Don!



New staff forester, Dawson Lake



Dawson started as a staff forester with the cooperative in early April 2022. He is based out of WWSC’s New Germany office where he will be primarily serving our members in the South Shore region. In 2019 he graduated from the Maritime College of Forest Technology as a forest technologist and has recently graduated from the University of New Brunswick with a B.Sc. in Forestry. Before starting with us this spring, he has also worked in various roles during his summer terms and has gained valuable working experience in the forestry sector. Previously he has worked in vegetation management, harvesting and road operations supervision and planning in Nova Scotia, and wildfire suppression and forest pest management in New Brunswick.

Dawson is originally from the Hantsport area and currently resides in Bridgewater. He enjoys fishing, hunting, and spending time on his family’s small woodlot where he is working on wildlife habitat and forest restoration projects.

We are happy to welcome Dawson as the newest member of our team! Please find his contact information listed below.

Dawson in a red pine plantation on a member’s woodlot in Lunenburg Co.

dawson@westernwoodlotcoop.com

Phone: 902-790-9694

Wood energy field tour, June 4

The WWSC, Spec Resources Inc., and North Range Forest Products co-hosted a wood energy field tour led by Harold Alexander on June 4 to showcase to various MLAs and other government officials the extent of local expertise, capabilities, and financing options available for the expansion of commercial sized wood heating projects in Western NS, both for government buildings and the private sector. The aim was to highlight the significant environmental and economic advantages of using sustainably sourced wood fuel to displace imported fossil fuels, and the dire need for more low-grade wood markets to supplement forest improvement work on member's woodlots.



Discussing processes of forest management with MLAs & government officials

The tour included a visit to a private woodlot in Digby County that has been continuously managed responsibly for over 40 years where low-grade wood is harvested in conjunction with other forest products during thinning operations. This was followed by a visit to Spec Resources wood yard and facilities in Concession where receiving, chipping, storage and transportation of low-grade wood from member's woodlots in Digby County is hauled and then processed into chips and delivered to University Ste. Anne in Church Point and the newly built wood chip boiler facility at COGS in Lawrencetown. The boiler site at University Ste. Anne was visited during the tour and there was discussion about the chip boiler system.



Discussing low grade wood pile

We received many good comments from government officials in attendance since they could see for themselves what is involved in such systems, the benefits, and where the wood comes from. We hope this will entice movement on more wood heat conversion projects of public buildings like hospitals and schools in the very near future.

Closing remarks

We hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter, as there were many things to report on. We hope you have a good summer and spend time in your woodlot.

If you have questions or are interested in undertaking activity in your woodlot, feel free to reach out at any time.

Take care and until next time,

WWSC Staff



Starflower