



## Fall/Winter 2022 Newsletter



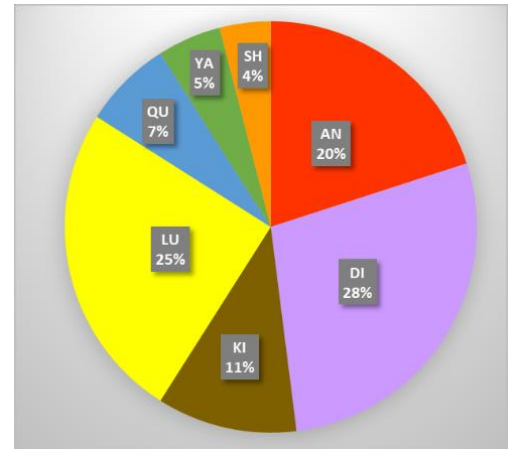
With winter officially here, we hope you have all your winter preparations complete, are ready for the holidays, and enjoyed the beautiful, warm fall weather that is now behind us. We also hope you have some woodlot projects and/or activities planned that you are considering undertaking over the winter. Or perhaps you find winter is the best time to develop a game plan of certain activities to tackle once spring arrives.

Summer and fall have been very busy for our staff at the WWSC. We encourage you to keep reading for an update on membership, harvesting, wood sales, our outreach activities, and an overall snapshot of what we have been up to.

### Membership Update

Since our last newsletter on July 6, we've had an additional 25 members join WWSC. This brings the total, as of December 2, 2022, to 325 members and represents a total area of almost 85,000 acres (34,000 hectares) within the western region. The following table provide a breakdown of number and percentages of members per county and associated area. The figure outlines percent by total area by county.

County	# of members	Area (ac)	Area (ha)	% by total area	% by membership
Annapolis	64	12,620	5,107	15%	19.7%
Digby	90	16,808	6,802	20%	27.7%
Kings	37	6,641	2,688	8%	11.4%
Lunenburg	81	25,642	10,377	30%	24.9%
Queens	23	5,765	2,333	7%	7.1%
Yarmouth	17	13,203	5,343	16%	5.2%
Shelburne	13	4,159	1,683	5%	4.0%
Total	325	84,839	34,333		
Avg. lot size/member		261	106		



Digby and Lunenburg Counties continue to have the highest percentage of members and area of all the seven western counties within our service area. Woodlot size per member tends to vary quite a bit from 15 acres to over 1000 acres. The average woodlot size per member is 261 acres (106 hectares).

**Welcome to all our new members, we look forward to working with you!**

## Harvesting



*Selection management harvest on a woodlot in Digby Co.*

Between April 1<sup>st</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, the total wood volume sold through the Co-op was **21,775 tonnes**. WWSC wood sales have improved this year as compared to last year with the total tonnage so far exceeding the total for the previous fiscal year (15 000 tonnes sold in the same period in 2021-22). Our fiscal year ends at the end of March, so we are on track to have wood sales volumes well above last year by year end. Most of the harvesting activity continues to be in Digby County at about 74% of our total wood sales, with Lunenburg at around 11%. There were two harvests in Shelburne County this year which brought it to about 9% of the total. Most of the remaining 6% came from Queens County. A few of our smaller producers have been more active this year and the harvesting activity in Queens County and Shelburne County have also helped boost the overall numbers.

Our largest buyer continues to be Freeman Lumber at 69%, followed by J A Turner at 12%, and Spec Resources at 10%. The remaining 9% was sold to eight other wood buyers.

The following table outlines the mills and businesses we sold to during our current fiscal year from April 1<sup>st</sup> until early December, and the total tonnage and percentage breakdown of products sold to each.

Mill	Total Tonnes	% of Total
Freeman Lumber	14915	68.5%
J A Turner	2657	12.2%
Spec Resources	2111	9.7%
H G Levy's	787	3.6%
Firewood	750	3.4%
North Range Forest Products	217	1.0%
Maibec	175	0.8%
ACFOR	83	0.4%
AFT Sawmill	80	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21775</b>	

## Silviculture

For the period April 1 to December 2, 2022, WWSC has assisted woodlot owners in completing a total of **191.0 hectares (471.9 acres)** of various silviculture activities. This relates to a total of **\$102,946.50** of funding claimed from 2 sources: the Association for Sustainable Forestry and J.A Turner and Sons Ltd. 71% of silviculture treatments were funded through the ASF and 29% through J.A Turner and Sons Ltd. Wood Acquisition Program (WAP).

The following table outlines silviculture completed by category:

Silviculture Category	Area (ha)	Area (ac)	\$ Amount	Counties
Commercial thinning SW	94.1	232.5	\$54,524.20	Di, Lu, Ya
Selection management SW	55.1	136.1	\$20,369.70	Lu, Di, An, Qu
Pre-commercial thinning SW NAT	14.2	35.0	\$12,328.00	Di, Lu, Ya
Commercial thinning HW	11.9	29.3	\$6,997.40	Di
Pre-commercial thinning SW PLT	7.7	18.9	\$5,234.00	An
Selection management HW	5.1	12.6	\$1,686.70	Lu
Full Plant SW	2.4	6.0	\$1,566.50	An
Early Competition Control (Man. weeding)	0.6	1.5	\$240.00	Lu
<b>Total area claimed</b>	<b>191.0</b>	<b>471.9</b>	<b>\$102,946.50</b>	

As of December 2nd, 2022, 57 silviculture jobs have been completed in 5 different counties within the WWSC service area. Of the total area completed, 60% occurred in Digby County, with softwood commercial thinning being the most common treatment category. This was followed by Lunenburg County at 29%, which included mostly selection management and commercial thinning treatments. Annapolis County represented about 6% of area claimed, followed by Queens (3%) and Yarmouth (2%). No silviculture treatments were claimed in Kings or Shelburne County as of December 2<sup>nd</sup> of the current fiscal year.

The following table outlines silviculture completed by county:

Total Silviculture by County	Area (ha)	Area (ac)	% of total
Digby	114.3	282.3	59.8%
Lunenburg	55.2	136.3	28.9%
Annapolis	10.7	26.4	5.6%
Queens	6.5	16.1	3.4%
Yarmouth	4.4	10.8	2.3%
Kings	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Shelburne	0.0	0.0	0.0%
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>191.0</b>	<b>471.9</b>	

As always, please get in touch with us if you have any silviculture related questions or if you may have some areas that may benefit from some silviculture work. We are always looking for opportunities to identify suitable forest improvement work that will enhance the long-term health, diversity, and value of your woodlot!

For a full description of the various silviculture treatments that are eligible for funding and associated criteria, please visit the Association for Sustainable Forestry's website at: <https://www.asforestry.com/silviculture/>

For further explanations of harvesting and silviculture terminology, please check out the following section of the WWSC website: <https://www.westernwoodlotcoop.com/harvesting-silviculture>



*Completed PCT (pre-commercial thinning) on a member's woodlot in Annapolis Co.*

## Market Update



*Harvested wood products on a member's woodlot in Lunenburg County*

The prices for spruce and fir logs and studwood have been stable over the last 6 months, with the roadside prices at Freeman's remaining at \$73 per tonne for spruce studwood and \$80 per tonne for spruce logs as of early December. Prices for pine and hardwood logs have remained unchanged over the last 6 months but the price for firewood has increased by about \$10 to \$15 per cord for roadside, long length firewood mainly due to increased fuel costs. Delivery costs have also increased, so expect to pay more for your firewood this year. We were able to sell some hemlock logs for a few months but the current market for hemlock is very limited and is likely to remain so for a while. Demand for low-grade wood continues to be low, with Spec Resources being our primary buyer. Since the initial 6 wood chip heating projects in provincial buildings were announced in 2019 there have been no further announcements on any new projects within provincial buildings in Nova Scotia. For facilities where it is a suitable alternative, wood chip heating makes use of a readily available resource that is a by-product of forest improvement activities. We are hopeful there will be some new projects announced soon which will help provide markets for low-grade wood produced from our member's woodlots.

Lumber prices on the commodities market were around \$650/thousand board foot US in July but have been on a steady decline since then and have been hovering around \$400/thousand board feet in early December. These prices could go lower as the housing market slows and interest rates rise resulting in lower demand for lumber. While there are other factors involved in determining the prices for logs, the lower lumber prices are likely to put downward pressure on log and studwood prices. Some of the mills outside our service area have recently lowered their prices approximately \$8 per tonne for spruce and fir studwood.

## Family Forest Network Ecological Forestry Trials

As mentioned in our last newsletter, WWSC is one of the 11 private land-based groups in the province on the Family Forest Network (FFN) steering committee. This is the first time in Nova Scotia's history that all the small private land based groups in the province have come together to work collaboratively on a large scale, province wide pilot project. This project's focus is to determine how to properly implement ecological forestry on small private woodlots, namely the silvicultural matrix or multi-value, ecologically based forest management practices.



*WWSC staff forester Dawson Lake and FFN staff discuss an ecological forestry trial on a member's woodlot in Lunenburg Co.*

This 5-year project, funded by the Forest Innovation Transition Trust (FITT), through the FFN partners will conduct a series of trials or case studies to test a variety of ecologically sensitive harvest methods on various forest conditions using and building on the province's newly released Silviculture Guide to the Ecological Matrix (SGEM). The overall goal is to improve ecosystem health, diversity and resiliency 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. To do this, the FFN will be funding the various silvicultural trials, eliminating any of the associated risks for the landowner and particularly for the contractor completing the work.

Another part of the project is to carry out cost / benefit analyses of the various ecologically based practices implemented which will help inform what changes and/or additions should be made to current silviculture programs to be more in line with ecologically based forestry practices.

WWSC staff have begun to identify sites for the case studies. We are mainly looking for sites that would greatly benefit from a silvicultural intervention but are currently infeasible to carry out for various reasons, such as, areas that present some form of risk to contractors, or that may not meet the current criteria for available silviculture funding, or that have been severely degraded from past activities. Some specific examples include stands that would benefit from a thinning but contain many undesirable/unmerchantable species, or a stand that should be pre-commercially thinned but won't meet the current height standards for funding, or perhaps even unsuccessful plantations. Staff have begun to reach out to members to discuss the project, what is entailed, identify potential sites, and do the necessary assessments and we'll continue to reach out to locate sites for these trials. We encourage you to talk to one of us if you think that you may have a site that could be suitable for these trials and would benefit and are interested in being involved in this project.



*WWSC staff attend CFI Carbon Inventory Training on Nov. 4th*

Staff have participated in several FFN training days/field days. A forest carbon inventory training day for the Western region, led by Community Forests International (CFI) in conjunction with FFN was held on a member's woodlot where one of our first trials will be completed. CFI presented their methods for inventorying a forest stand for its carbon storage potential. These assessments are used to then quantify the above-ground and below-ground carbon. Going forward, these carbon assessments along with the biodiversity assessments completed by the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute will be an important part of the upcoming trials. Both assessments will be used to monitor the site's ecosystem health, diversity, and climate change resilience over time.

WWSC has also held multiple field tours in conjunction with the FFN at one of our members woodlots in Lunenburg County where we recently completed a series of very site-specific silvicultural, ecologically based treatments. These treatments were not part of the formal trials but serve as a great example of ecological forestry to showcase what the trials may look like to organizations involved with the FFN. Most recently we met with a group of Earthkeepers from the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, where we discussed the Two-eyed seeing initiative, combining traditional knowledge with western science to obtain the multi-value goals of ecological forestry outlined in the FFN's objectives.

## **Outreach and Events**

The WWSC continues to grow our social media following by creating posts about staff activities, relevant information, and upcoming events. If you have any pictures of your management activities as woodland stewards that you would like to share with WWSC members please send them to [dawson@westernwoodlotcoop.com](mailto:dawson@westernwoodlotcoop.com), and if you haven't yet, please go like and share our social media pages on Facebook and Instagram!

Over the past few months, we were able to hold two workshops for members, a harvest activity field tour in August and a Christmas wreath making workshop in November.



*August 13<sup>th</sup> harvest activity tour, Maplewood, Lunenburg Co.*

The harvest activity field tour took place on August 13th at Rex & Bonnie Veinot's Maplewood Maple Syrup and Christmas Tree Farm in Maplewood, Lunenburg County. Attendees visited a partial harvest in progress and met with the contractor Back County Farm & Forestry (BCFF), WWSC staff and Freeman Lumber representatives. This event was well attended. We split into two groups to tour the harvest area and talk about some of the past forest management activities, the current treatment, and how it relates to the landowner's goals and objectives. Jeremy Simpson from BCFF also showed off his Ponsse Fox harvester that was used for this partial harvest. It was a very informative day, and we received many favorable comments from attendees.



*Wreath making workshop, Lake Paul, Kings Co.*

A Christmas wreath making workshop was held on November 26<sup>th</sup> at the Lake Paul Community Hall in Kings County. This event was led by WWSC forest technician Bronson Joudrey. Participants learned about the current market for Christmas greenery and went through the entire process of making a festive wreath. We first collected fir brush at a member's woodlot nearby, then returned to the hall where we made some beautiful wreaths while we drank warm drinks! We hope to make this an annual event for members to socialize and take home a festive decoration for the holidays. Bronson also led another wreath making workshop for students at the Lawrencetown Education Centre on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Brush used in the workshop was first collected on a nearby member's woodlot in West Inglisville, Annapolis Co. and attendees made their own wreaths to take home for the holidays!

We also plan to hold a half-day Winter Woodlot Walk on a member's woodlot in Kings County in the New Year! This event will be held on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 1 to 4 PM (Rain date being January 15<sup>th</sup>). This event will focus on tree selection and factors to consider when implementing forest improvement activities on your woodland. We will also touch on winter tree identification and species suitability depending on various site and soil conditions.

Registration for this event is a "first come first served" basis and space is limited. If you wish to attend this workshop, please email [andrew@westernwoodlotcoop.com](mailto:andrew@westernwoodlotcoop.com) to confirm your space. There is no cost to attend. As the date approaches, we will send registrants the location information for the field day.

**Registration will be open until 6 pm on Thursday, January 12, 2023!**

## New faces at the WWSC

### Bronson Joudrey – Forest Technologist / Fish and Wildlife Technician



*Bronson instructing a wreath workshop on Nov. 26th*

Bronson joined the Western Woodlot Services Coop in September 2022 after spending 12 years working with Parks Canada at Kejimikujik National Park as a backcountry maintenance worker. He graduated from the Maritime College of Forest Technology in 2011 with an advanced diploma in forest technology and fish and wildlife technology.

Bronson has been a great asset to the WWSC since he has joined us this fall and has been staying busy completing field inventories and assessments, writing management plans, meeting with landowners to walk their woodlands and discuss their objectives and leading two successful wreath making workshops.

When Bronson isn't working for the WWSC he and his wife, Jillian, and daughter Brooklyn run a small mixed farm in Morristown, Kings County. They produce vegetables, strawberries, eggs, pork, Christmas trees, and wreaths which they sell at their roadside stand. Bronson is passionate about rural economic development and is excited to bring his entrepreneurial ideas to the WWSC and its members.

Please welcome Bronson as part of the team here at the WWSC!

## Closing remarks & Seasons Greetings



On behalf of WWSC Staff and Directors, we would like to thank all of our members for their support in 2022. We hope you have a chance to spend some time with family and friends over the holidays, and also find some time to take a walk in the woods and reflect on the year that has passed and the new one that is coming.

As always, we are here to serve our members so please get in touch with any forest management related inquiries that you may have.

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season, and we will see you in the New Year!

-WWSC Staff