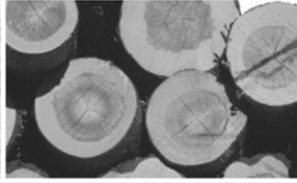




# THE WOODLAND ALMANAC



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Spring 2008

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Mark Clark's smile belies the fact that his Prince George woodlot has been devastated by the mountain pine beetle. "The pine beetle crushed our plans," he says.

## In it for the long haul

### Woodlot families discuss hopes for the future

by Deborah Greaves

"Originally, legacy was my top priority," said Prince George woodlot manager Mark Clark this past year. "That's changed now. The pine beetle crushed our plans. We had to harvest twenty five years' worth of timber at once, when normally we'd harvest gradually."

Clark, the president of the Prince George Woodlot Association, is one of many woodlot licensees and managers whose woodlot looks very different from the forested landscape he was first licensed to care for, harvest, and replant on behalf of his family and the people of BC. No one expected the unprecedented spread and devastation of the pine beetle.

It is overwhelming for woodlot licensees in the huge afflicted area, Clark said. Woodlot licen-

(Continued on page 17)



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Ask Cathy

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# Letters from licensees: Your views

## Licensee feels RESULTS is not for him

### Editor:

I recently had a chance to attend a RESULTS training session at the Campbell River District office of the MoFR. It was well-attended by roughly half non-RPF licensees, with little or no RESULTS experience, the rest being consultants with and without licenses.

The session was well run, with laptops for everyone and three well-qualified and entertaining instructors. What struck me most was how the group constantly ran into minor-looking problem items that were neither explained on the screen nor in the manuals, and often resulted in discussions between the instructors and the experienced RESULTS users in the audience.

Every one of these problems would force novice users like myself to make multiple phone calls and might have them pull out at least some of their remaining hair (if there's any left, after years of dealing with MoFR attempts at streamlining and "simplifying" operations).

Having some tendency towards techno-nerdiness, I did not let this discourage me and set aside the next day to apply the newfound knowledge, in order to review the RESULTS data for our woodlot and maybe even to fix an error or two.

By early afternoon I had made several phone calls and sent off some emails but had yet to manage to do anything real. What I eventually learned is that you can get into RESULTS with

Internet Explorer, Version 7, but only into a dead end -- it won't let you do anything. The suggested fix, re-installing an obsolete version of Internet Explorer on my computer, was what broke this camel's back. I had a reasonably productive few hours in the woods later that afternoon and am resigned to the fact that RESULTS is not for me, at least not now.

The incident brings up memories of a computer course in Zurich in 1959, when the one computer filled a large room, an IBM typewriter was used to communicate with the monster, and programming was done in machine-code. The professor kept emphasizing the need to keep programs simple and to allow lots of time for de-bugging; he also pointed out that very large programs become obsolete long before they can be de-bugged reliably. If the log market or the weather are keeping you inside and mildly frustrated, why not try RESULTS and see what real frustration is like?

**Rolf Kellerhals**

**Partner, Discovery Forestry**

**Woodlot W1610 ♦**



PHOTO: BIBERTA, WWW.MORQUEFILE.COM

## "Where is the leadership?"

### Editor:

Has anyone checked out the value of real estate lately? Prices are in the clouds and forecasted to go higher. And how is your health and welfare program doing? I noticed an article in the report on BC's WL License Program that shows as of 2006 that 2/3 of licensees are over the age of 50 (since that report, we aged over 1600 years without any new young blood coming into the program or progress on WL issues.)

Every day we hear of more mill consolidation and closures and lower log and lumber prices (under \$200), forestry policy is in a shambles, cattle prices at maybe break-even and stock markets volatile.

Folks, the world is undergoing fundamental change and I think for the WL program to survive we must get back to thinking "outside the box." Every time we start down this road, somebody derails us back to the old ways of consult, review, and stall.

Where is the leadership? Everywhere we look, younger faces are coming on the stage but not in the WL program. Younger entrepreneurs must be encouraged to enter the program if it is to evolve and survive. This cannot happen with the issue of private lands attached to WL Licenses.

There must be total disengagement for the younger generation to be encouraged to enter our program. They cannot afford the price of buying and holding land. To this end I encourage the FBCWA executive to immediately engage the Minister

*(Continued on page 6)*

## ■ Message from the President of the WPDC

# Grin and bear it: Help with tough decisions

By Mike Larock

It was a cold and sunny day when we were doing cone and stake maintenance on a woodlot plantation. This is the best time of year to see the seedlings on brushy sites. We moved as a group of three over the area, talking as we worked.

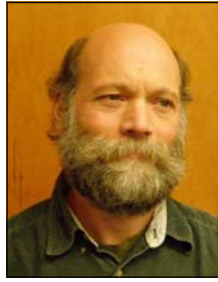
About one hour into the job, we discovered a bent seedling, struggling for survival in a small thicket of salmon-berry. There was an old stump in the middle of the thicket.

My partner fired up the brush saw and had just started into the thicket when out from under the stump climbed a bear.

We were shocked, to say the least!

The bear was obviously disoriented and after a few tense moments in apparent stand-off, the bear seemed content to sit in the sun. We didn't use the saw and continued about our work a little further away. After another hour the bear climbed back in the stump.

Now that was amazing, and saving



Mike Larock, WPDC  
President

the seedling would have to wait. It was nice to know that sometimes things don't change and that woodlot life goes on. This has not been the case for our forest industry in recent years. You just can't pick up a saw and go and make a living any more.

There are many things that affect our woodlot area, such as increased concern over hydrology, GPS requirements, electronic mapping and data reporting, timber supply problems, the mountain pine beetle crisis, safety systems, decreasing market revenues, increasing costs, climate change.

The effects can surely disorientate us. Are we up for the biological and technical challenges?

The completion of the questionnaire (see results article on page 10-11) helps us focus our energy to work in the right areas for you. This past winter the council reviewed our role, our legislated responsibility and considered the long view on what we want to do and how we're going to do it.

It is called a strategic plan, and it is not the end result but the beginning product. It is strategic because we are looking at the best way to respond to the circumstances affecting our woodlot community.

Many of the problems are very large and seemingly out of our control. The planning tool is the best way to match the tasks for the coming year to that of our long view.

It is the best time of year to marshal our resources and make the tough decisions about protecting our investments and supporting activities that are most important for our woodlot community to achieve success.

Our community diversity and our collective wisdom is certainly one of our strengths. Therefore, it is important for us to continue to hear from you.

It may seem best, even inviting, to crawl back in the stump. But we cannot stop moving forward on the stuff that affects the woodlot program. The challenges are large, but the woodlot way of life is worth defending. ♦

## Got a great idea for a project? The WPDC can help you develop it!

By Steven Wright, WPDC Treasurer

Each year the WPDC budgets money for development projects. These are proposal-driven and the results should be applicable for many members. The projects can cover any topic pertinent to woodlots -- alternative harvesting, by-products, silviculture, marketing, administration, information, or training.

The thrust of the project is to assist an idea that you have, and prepare a report, so the results can be shared with other members. If you have an idea that you would like to submit, please make a one-page outline of your idea and submit it to the WPDC.

From there, a basic approval, rejection or modification to meet the program design will be made. If the project

meets basic approval, a formal development project submission would be developed (if needed); then, hopefully the project will proceed. Don't be afraid of submitting an idea. Other people could develop the formal submission if your idea has merit. (For those with more than a basic idea, a project proposal form can be found at [www.woodlot.bc.ca](http://www.woodlot.bc.ca)) ♦

# Time to put politics aside in debate

By Brian McNaughton

The tough times just seem to keep getting tougher! If it's not beetles and forest fires, then it's plummeting lumber prices resulting in mill shut-downs and no place to sell logs for a decent dollar. Things must be serious, though!

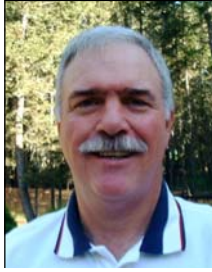
Within weeks of one another, BC's two main political parties both made major forestry announcements.

On January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Truck Loggers Convention, Premier Campbell made two major announcements. The first was creation of a Working Roundtable on Forestry and the second was a full regulatory review aimed at streamlining and reducing unnecessary red tape, cutting processing time, and eliminating regulatory-imposed cost burdens.

The working roundtable will be touring the province and meeting in various communities. It's imperative that woodlot associations, licensees, and owners attend the meetings and make their thoughts and feelings known!

Fundamentally, the Federation believes that BC's forest sector needs a mix of small, medium and large businesses producing a diverse array of products. While lumber, pulp and paper, plywood and OSB will still be key products, the product mix needs to be expanded to include more secondary manufactured and value-added commodities, bio-fuels, and non-timber forest products.

At their meeting on March 7 & 8<sup>th</sup>, the directors will develop the Federa-



Brian McNaughton,  
General Manager

tion's messages and presentation to the roundtable. It will be distributed to associations for their use.

How to take the announcement of yet another regulatory review? My initial reaction was YIKES – here we go again! The last regulatory re-

view, which was also supposed to streamline administration and make business with government more efficient and cost-effective, resulted in significantly increased expenses and workloads for woodlot licensees.

Since then, the Federation has been working to reverse these trends, most recently via two important initiatives: the e-FM (electronic forest management) project is examining WL e-business requirements, while the business working group is working with the Ministry of Forests and Range to get some longstanding priorities completed.

So, while the thought of another regulatory review is somewhat daunting, the optimist in me says that this review may have just opened the door to get rid of some of the things that have been plaguing woodlot licensees and the woodlot program. The surest way to achieve regulatory savings and efficiencies is to get rid of unnecessary legislation, regulation, policies, policies and obligations!

I think we all need to approach the roundtable and regulatory review in the most positive light possible during these tough times. Woodlotters have a lot of good ideas on how to improve

BC's forests and its forest industry. Now's the time to speak up and be heard!

For your information, the Federation has requested a seat at the Roundtable and to be part of the regulatory review so your interests can be well represented. ♦

## Federal mountain pine beetle program

The Federal Mountain Pine Beetle (MPBP) has three broad objectives:

- To slow the spread of the mountain pine beetle infestation, particularly the eastward progression
- To assess the impacts and develop options for recovering, where reasonable, the use of beetle-kill timber and to complete natural resource surveys within the beetle-zone; and
- To mitigate post-beetle impacts on community health and safety and on forest resource sustainability.

Under the three main program areas, there are several program elements to achieve the MPBP objectives. One of these, the private forestlands element, provides assistance and support to private non-industrial landowners in early beetle detection and direct control and post-beetle management activities.

For more information, call (250) 363-6036 or check out <http://mpb.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/> ♦

## ■ Forest Investment Account

# New FIA delivery model considered

By Carmen Wheatley

The Small Tenures Program is now at the tail end of its first year under the administrative umbrella of Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PWC). The most significant changes have been adjusting to the online FIA reporting system.

Although this new system does introduce some relative inflexibility, it also streamlines the quarterly and year-end reporting processes signifi-



Carmen Wheatley,  
FIA Contract  
Coordinator

cantly. The Federation continues to look after the allocation of Small Tenures Program funding to the lead woodlot associations, and is the main conduit for general communications.

The Ministry and PWC brought forward a new FIA delivery model (strategic approach) for consideration at the Federation's annual general meeting. The Directors decided they are interested in pursuing a more efficient FIA model, but

more time was needed to develop the strategic approach concept before they could agree to implementation. For this reason, the FIA delivery model will remain status quo for 2008-09.

The delivery concept for the strategic approach will be presented at the March Directors' meeting for feedback and input. Over the next few months, we will work cooperatively with the Ministry to further develop an effective delivery model for woodlot licensees.

Contact info: [cawheatley@telus.net](mailto:cawheatley@telus.net) or (250)996.8776 ♦

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## ► From page 2 Your letters

of Forests to reverse direction on this policy, for existing woodlots and for the proposed expansion and award process.

It should be noted there is a parallel structure to managing private forest land that has been in existence for years under the Forest Land Commission and BC Assessment that have much more freedom to manage and tax rates similar to farm. We do not need two systems. A new American government is in the wings that does not support the Free Trade Agreement with Canada. Our forest policy should be a sovereign issue.

Remember the Liberal government's Rural Revitalization Plan (read "Destabilization Plan")? Well, maybe it's time for somebody to eat some crow and bring the forest industry and woodlot program back to life.

George Dore, WL 475 ♦

## Is your woodlot eligible for replacement?

Is your woodlot eligible for replacement?

This is a reminder that the Ministry of Forests and Range is regularly providing an offer to replace certain woodlot licences during 2008. Please check your mail and, if you wish to accept the replacement, then sign and return the document within the required time period.

Please note that whether you accept the replacement offer or not, you are still responsible for completing the reforestation obligations (i.e., producing a free-growing stand on a harvested

area.)

Replacement offers are made halfway through the 20-year term of the woodlot licence (i.e., just before the 10-year anniversary) and extend the term by an additional 10 years.

The next edition of the Almanac will contain a list of woodlots that are eligible for replacement in 2008.

If you wish to check on when your licence is due for replacement, please check your current woodlot licence agreement for the issue date or contact your local district woodlot staff. ♦

**BC Community  
Forest Association**  
2008 Conference and AGM

May 30 to June 1, Sechelt, BC  
<http://www.bccfa.ca/conferences.php>

### ***Please note:***

*The opinions expressed in the Almanac do not necessarily reflect those of the Federation, the Council, or their members.*

## ■ Coastal timber pricing

# Winter snow maintains demand for cedar

By John Marlow

Things are generally quiet on the coast in regards to timber pricing and appraisal work. We continue to participate in minor revisions to the Coast Appraisal Manual (CAM), as well as reviewing and providing comments on the efforts to rewrite the CAM.



John Marlow, Coastal Timber Pricing Coordinator

### Tabular rates

An interim tabular system was introduced in the northeast and north-central parts of the province in regards to areas affected by the pine beetle.

In the interior, efforts continue towards developing a possible tabular system for the entire region. There has been no movement in regards to a tabular rate system on the coast, although we continue to monitor interior efforts and will review coastal options once an interior system is established.

### Coast Timber Pricing Advisory Committee (CTPAC)

There have been no meetings of the CTPAC over the last quarter; the next meeting is planned for late February.

Items on the agenda include CAM rewrite, detailed engineering cost allowances, ecosystem based management (EBM) allowances, appraisal risk ratings, specified operations, etc.

The following proposals have been submitted on behalf of the FBCWA in regard to a current CAM draft amendment:

**Definition of destumping:** Revised

wording has been proposed to make the CAM wording less prescriptive and to keep the destumping details in the site plan or ecological map.

**Timing of election of fixed rate:** Revised wording has been submitted to allow

woodlot licensees to elect the stumpage rate in effect as of the date of the effective date of the cutting authority. This in response to concerns that the timing of the fixed rate is often substantially later than when the CP is issued, and could be at a higher rate than expected.

An e-mail on these topics was previously sent to coastal licensees and association presidents.

### Appraisal Forecasting

**Disclaimer:** The following estimates are based on current available Vancouver log market sales ending in December 2007, as well as predicted trends.

Fd logs continue to be at historic low prices and the 3-month average price is catching up. The average grade H, I, and J Fd price is \$74.00+/- and is expected to continue to fall slightly or remain stable at these low prices.

Although difficult to harvest Fd at present, it is an excellent time to apply for Fd cutting authorities. Appraised stumpage rates for Fd will remain stable or will fall slightly over the next quarter.

Cw prices are now holding at relatively high prices, with this winter snow keeping demand high. Stumpage rates

are expected to remain stable over the next quarter.

Hw prices continue to remain stable with moderate demand for Hw gang and pulp. Due to the volatility introduced by recent mill closure announcements, markets are difficult to predict on the coast. Due to the generally lower log prices of Hw, stumpage rates at Hw cutting authorities remain generally low and the presence of Hw in a CP continues to help keep stumpage rates low. This trend is expected to continue.

If there are stumpage issues that should be discussed at the CTPAC meetings, or if you need clarification on any issue, I can be reached at [jmarlow@oberon.ark.com](mailto:jmarlow@oberon.ark.com) or (250) 285-2544 (Rockview Resources Limited). ♦

## Security deposits for woodlot licences

On March 31, 2006, the Advertising, Deposits, Disposition and Extension Regulation (ADDER) was amended to increase the security deposit required on woodlot licences from \$200 to \$1000.

This applies to all new woodlot licences issued and will be required for existing licences as they are replaced over time.

Security can be in the form of cash, certified cheque, safekeeping agreement, or letter of credit.

Please contact your district office if you have any questions. ♦



# That darn Electronic Forest Management!

By Coleen Marlow and Tom Bradley

*Coleen Marlow and Tom Bradley are working for the Federation on the Electronic Forest Management (e-FM) file.*

We know that the transition to sending the MFR information on our activities and plans in electronic rather than paper format has been less than smooth for many licensees.

Licensees are frustrated with paying consultants twice to send what seems to be the same information to different branches of the Ministry.

Access to maps that we need has been difficult and/or expensive, and information entered in the electronic systems about our woodlots contains errors.

The goal is simple: to start making things better. It will not all be fixed at once, but progress is being made.

## How we arrived at this point

As this is the first Almanac update on our work, a bit of history and a crash course in acronyms are called for. In

late 2006, the Federation acquired a seat on the Chief Information Officers (CIO) Forum. This Forum is made up of CIOs from major licensees and Ministry of Forests branches.

Needless to say, it was a little intimidating at first! The CIO Forum's mandate is to provide a working dialogue between industry and the Ministry "to ensure that efficiencies are realized in the existing model and that the correct focus is applied to new initiatives." ("Model" refers to the system of electronic information gathering and transfer.)

In mid-2007, the Woodlot Licensee e-FM User Group, made up of interested woodlot licensees, came together to map out where licensees want e-FM to head, to identify some quick fixes, and to provide a way for Coleen and Tom to get feedback from a group of Licensees.

As is fitting, the e-FM User Group communicates and meets through e-mail. The group published their find-

ings in September 2007, and the user needs document is a foundation component of the overall e-Fix planning process.

## Woodlot issues addressed

Membership in the CIO Forum has been key to getting the woodlot sector's e-FM issues addressed. Nelson Lah, the former Chair of the Forum and CIO for the MFR Information Management Branch, provided introductions to key ministry officials and promoted the inclusion of small volume licenses in e-FM planning, so we now have direct contact with the people who drive the development of e-FM.

The Forum has initiated several projects directly or solely relating to woodlots: Business Drivers; Inconsistent Business Practices; Data Requirements; Information Sharing; and TRIM Access. Each project had a woodlot-specific outcome, and has helped smooth the road to e-FM success for woodlot licensees.

The Business Driver project led to the creation of the MFR / FBCWA Joint Business Plan Working Group (JBPWG), the purpose of which is to assess and increase efficiencies of business drivers for Woodlot management. Brian McNaughton, Brent Petrick and Cliff Manning represent us at the JBPWG.

## Projects provides "road map"

The Woodlot e-FM Strategic Plan project, currently underway with a March 31, 2008 finish date, is an offshoot of the Joint Working Group. This project is aimed at mapping the business rules for all electronic submissions affecting woodlot licensees.





## The goal is simple: to start making things better

Sounds esoteric, but it is vital: What is the information used for? Why is it required? Is there duplication? Can the process be streamlined? The goal is to systematically identify problems and opportunities for improvement.

The product will be a strategic plan with short-, mid-, and long-term recommendations and proposed timelines and resources for implementation, including who should be responsible for implementation. That may sound weak to an association of doers, but without a well-thought-out road map, we are not going to be very successful in modifying something as complex as the MFR electronic reporting system.

### Confidential website accepts your feedback

The CIO Forum team responsible for dealing with inconsistent business practices came up with BAPS (Business Alignment Practices System). BAPS is a confidential website that allows anyone to enter a comment pertaining to “. . . inconsistent business practices; i.e., between policy intent and district practice.” Comments are grouped with like comments or questions, and assessed for action by the committee. Feel free to test out the site (see address at the end of this article).

The projects on data requirements, information sharing and TRIM access projects are inter-related and have been the most time-consuming.

### New RESULTS is friendlier

As part of the work addressing data requirements, the Forest Practices

Branch (FPB) formed a RESULTS for Woodlots working group, which Coleen sits on. RESULTS has a web browser interface that allows licensees to input and view disturbance history and silviculture data for their woodlot.

However, many of you have experienced frustration with RESULTS, or even just getting into RESULTS.

The new Version 3.1 will help by providing activity-specific browser

**A printed guide will make e-filing smoother and more cost-effective.**



screens, improved block reports, and the ability to transfer a digital map of single standards unit cut blocks from tenures to RESULTS. The rollout of 3.1 has been delayed, mainly due to your woodlot representative’s comments during testing . . . sorry. Word from above is that it should be out soon.

The Working Group oversaw “woodlot-friendly” improvements to RESULTS, and development of woodlot-centered RESULTS training sessions held in March.

The FPB training team, including Tom and Coleen, developed the training presentation, tested it with three trial

groups, refined it, and then presented it in a series of sessions held around the province. It was a cooperative exercise, and we hope that the program was beneficial to licensees.

### Cheat sheets available

Coleen has also developed several information templates (cheat sheets) to assist licensees in gathering the information needed for RESULTS and Forest Tenures Administration (FTA) entry, and to assist in deciphering the RESULTS fields.

Our theory is that a printed guide to what you need to have on hand before you log in, or send your material to a service provider, will make the e-filing experience smoother and more cost-effective. After much group commentary and editing, the forms were distributed in mid-February.

### TRIM access addressed

Access to digital TRIM mapping has been an issue for woodlots. TRIM mapping is the standard base map for woodlot licence plans. While major licensees have enjoyed low- to no-cost access to TRIM under Date Exchange Agreements (DEAs), woodlots have paid full price for each map sheet.

Agreeing to fix this inequity was straightforward; *how* to fix it was a bit more complicated. The Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) was not enthused about negotiating 800+ woodlot DEAs, and has agreed to a policy change allowing licensees access using their BCEid. During startup, the Federa-

*(Continued on page 16)*

# There was no stamped envelope

## Results of the 2008 Levy Questionnaire

When the 2008 Woodlot Licensee Levy questionnaire was mailed out, indeed there was no stamped return envelope. That did not deter 139 licensees from submitting their questionnaire. This translates to a 22% response rate, up 2% from last year.

The levy is the \$0.25 per cubic metre charged on the Crown portion of the annual allowable cut of each woodlot license. It is collected by the BC Ministry of Forests and Range along with the annual rent and is transferred to Council four times per year. The levy funds cannot be used to lobby government.

The questionnaire is the woodlot licensees' opportunity to inform Council on how to spend the levy in the next year. It is the first step in the budget planning process. All answers are compiled and reviewed by Council and Federation directors. A summary of the responses is presented to the directors at their annual budget planning meeting in March. The results from the questionnaire are considered when assigning funding priorities to the joint work plan of the Council and the Federation.

This year Council conducted two surveys. A random sample of 20% of the licensees was selected to be surveyed by phone. The intent of the phone survey was to remove any bias from those who regularly submit the surveys. Council is grateful to Kathy Larson for the time taken to conduct the phone survey. Kathy person-

ally spoke with 73 licensees, or 43% of the randomly selected licensees. The remaining licensees had the opportunity to complete the survey online or mail in a paper copy. A sincere "thank you" to the 212 woodlot licensees who took the time to respond by phone, mail or online!

This article presents a summary of your responses. To view the entire results of either survey, go to the website: [www.woodlot.bc.ca](http://www.woodlot.bc.ca)

### Part A: Demographics

According to our survey, the typical woodlot licensee is a 50-59 year old male who has held the woodlot license for almost 10 years. Woodlot licensees are all log sellers. Most licensees (48.6%) either complete the administrative tasks themselves or share the workload with contractors (42%).

Surveys were submitted by 29% of the licensees from the Southern Interior, 25% from the Coast and 21 % of the

licensees from the Northern Interior. Licensees identified the following top five factors as having the greatest impact on the ability to manage the woodlot: timber pricing, forest health, legislation and regulation policy, timing delays, and annual allowable cut volume.

Many licensees said that dealing with the government and paperwork were their least favourite aspects of managing the woodlot.

Conversely, their favourite part of having the woodlot is being out in the woodlot, watching the land regenerate and feeling the sense of pride in forest stewardship.

### Part B: The FBCWA

It is refreshing to note that over 90% of licensees choose to join the local woodlot associations, want to attend association meetings, and are reasonably informed of Federation activities.

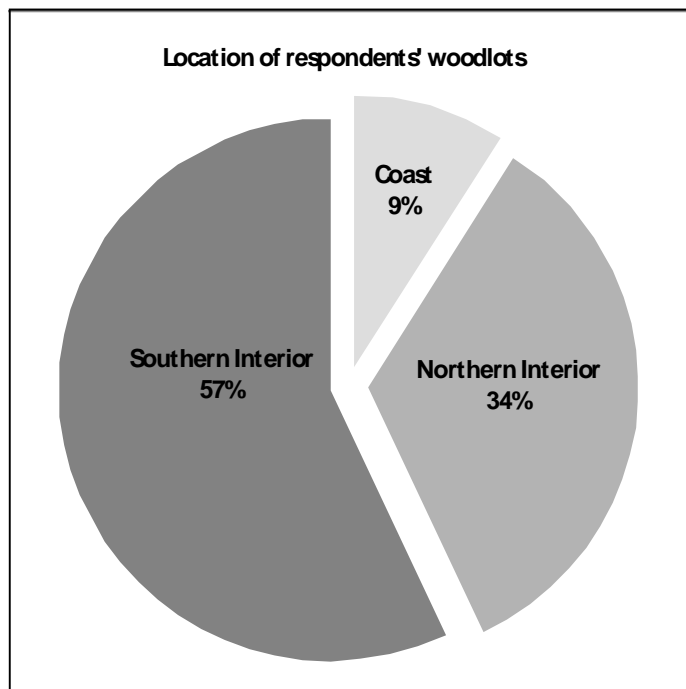
Reading the Almanac was cited by 95% of the respondents as the primary source of staying informed.

Other ways include talking to other licensees (72%), reading emails (65%), and attending association meetings (62%).

When planning to attend the Annual General Meeting, location was cited as the main factor influencing the decision to attend. (Note: this year the AGM is centrally located in Kamloops – plan now to attend!)

### Part C: WPDC Strategic Plan

The WPDC has three goals: to promote a positive image of the woodlot industry, to educate the



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### Over 80% of licensees are in favour of developing a woodlot directory

general public and buyers about the benefits of BC woodlots and to initiate and support research programs for the development and enhancement of the woodlot industry.

While most licensees believe the Council is meeting its mandate, improvements are always needed, especially in addressing goals 2 and 3. As part of the annual work plan, the Council sets aside an amount of funding available to individual or woodlot associations for projects that benefit all woodlot licensees.

No wonder that up to now the budget item has been under-utilized, since 66% of the respondents were not aware of the opportunity.

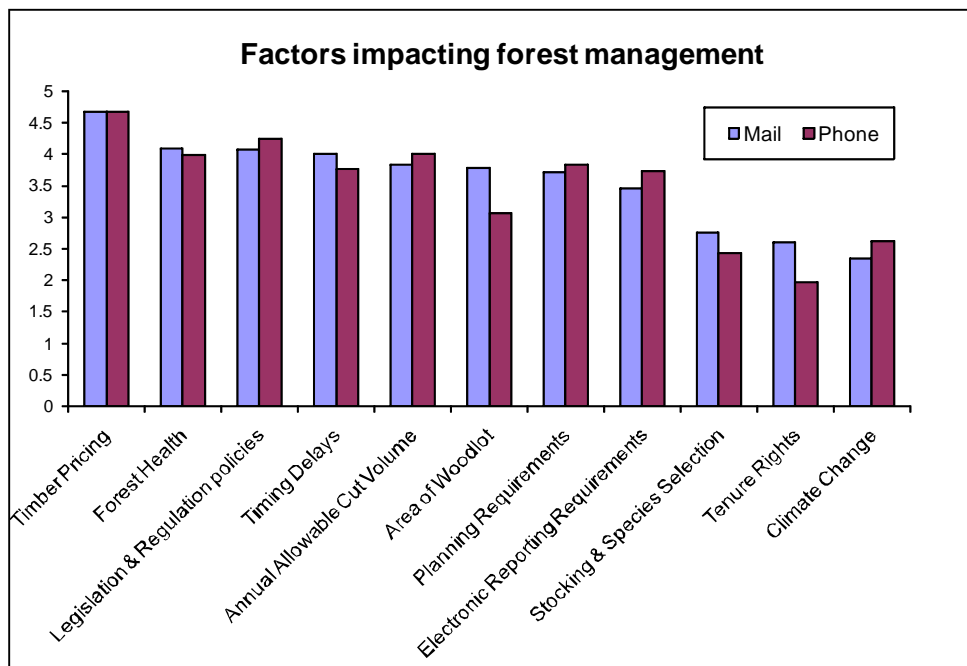
#### Part D: Communications

To support the goals of increasing public awareness and education of the woodlot system and its benefits to communities, the Federation prepared a communications plan.

Judging from the responses in the survey, licensees support the recommendations in the plan.

The top three supporting statements are: Respond clearly and consistently to issues as they arise in a timely manner; promote positive, sustainable and environmentally responsible actions; and enhance its government relations campaign at a provincial level.

Over 80% of woodlot licensees are in favour of developing a woodlot directory to be used as a reference document for providing a listing of licensees who would welcome other licensees when visiting the area, offering their woodlot



for tours or school visits. However licensees are more reluctant to add their own name to the directory, with only 61% agreeing to do so.

#### Part E: Funding Priorities

Every year we ask you to rank possible initiatives that could be funded by Council. The final ranking for the mail responses has the top three priorities unchanged from last year:

1. Timber Pricing & Stumpage
2. Reduction of Administration & Planning Requirements
3. Legislation, Regulation and policy changes
4. Tenure Rights
5. Forest Health
6. Communications
7. Woodlot Licence Plan Support
8. Product Diversification
9. Privatization
10. Training
11. Safety Representation

With the results from the phone sur-

vey, the top three are the same, with legislation being ranked higher than the reduction of administration. The message from licensees is clear: “Strive to obtain a system that is fair and equitable to all woodlot licensees.” ♦

#### Fleece vest winners

Two more licensees will be sporting fleece vests with their woodlot number and the Federation logo embroidered on the front.

Winners of the draw from those who submitted the questionnaire were Dean Toll (W1706) of Vanderhoof for the mail-in survey, and Richard Clausen (W1052) of Quesnel for the phone survey.

Congratulations to both! ♦

# Fred Marshall, volunteer extraordinaire



This lynx near the Marshall woodlot represents just one of the many species of wildlife that make their home there.

By Anne Scott

Fred Marshall is a lucky man. In conversation, the fulfillment he's derived from more than 22 years of volunteering with woodlots shines through.

As well, he's carved out another career as consultant and educator (Marshall Forestry Services), which he enjoys immensely.

And to top it off, he lives in the middle of his woodlot near beautiful Midway on BC's southern border.

From his home office, he looks out on a wilderness landscape that constantly reminds him why he's dedicated to small-scale forest management. "From my office window I can see elk, deer, cougars, and coyote – we had a herd of 23 elk here for a few days recently," he says. "And I go for a walk in the woods every day."

On the brisk winter day he spoke to the Almanac, he and his wife Jane had gone for a 5-kilometer cross-country ski through the woodlot. They have been licensees for almost 20 years, and have raised their family on the woodlot. "Nowhere else can you get such an opportunity – to have a piece of Crown land to manage," he says.

Given his pride in the woodlot, it's no surprise that he loves giving tours. "Every year I take youth groups, naturalists, and school children on tours of the woodlot – it's one of my favourite things to do," he says. This year, for example, he treated the President and executive of the ABCFP to tea, cookies and what he calls "the three Fs" -- Fred's Forestry Philosophy – plus, of course, a walk in the woods.

With a master's degree in forestry from Yale (yes, *that* Yale!), Fred is superbly qualified to teach: he taught at Malaspina College and Selkirk College for many years and has developed four university-level courses accredited by the ABCFP, which he teaches out of the shop/classroom next to his barn. He also teaches a course on policy to RPF and RFT students, and notes that close to 50% of the people writing the ABCFP exam each year take this course – perhaps because his students tend to have a very high pass rate!

All this is impressive enough, but it's in Fred's volunteer resume that he really shines. He was one of the "Founding Fathers" of both the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations and the WPDC; in fact, it was during his term as Federation President that the WPDC came about.

"If it hadn't been for Bill MacIntosh, who spearheaded this project, and myself as President supporting Bill to see it through, it never would have happened," he recalls. "We wrote and called woodlot licensees throughout BC (this was before e-mail!) to ensure they voted. We also had a supportive government behind us. In many ways we were extremely lucky—I doubt the WPDC and levy would now fly."

During his three-year term as President the FBCWA managed on a total operating budget of around \$8,000 per year. "We had no paid people and no people on contracts," he says. "Everything was done by volunteers with only expenses covered – and then not fully by any means!"

To move ahead, licensees clearly needed better financing; hence, the work put in to develop the WPDC and the levy.

During his term as President, the Federation grew in stat-



The Marshall home is in the centre of the woodlot. Fred prefers to "live green," shopping locally, living in a small, environmentally friendly home, and maintaining a simple, low-consumption lifestyle.

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“My goal is to change policy so that BC is a garden of Eden.”

ure to a respected organization. Highlights included the appointment of representatives to the Coastal and Interior Appraisal Committees, resulting in the LVCA being reestablished close to its current level, saving licensees millions of dollars. As well, over 250 new woodlots were added during the NDP’s expansion program.

After Fred’s term as President, he revised and updated the Federation’s Constitution and arranged for its adoption by the membership and acceptance by government.

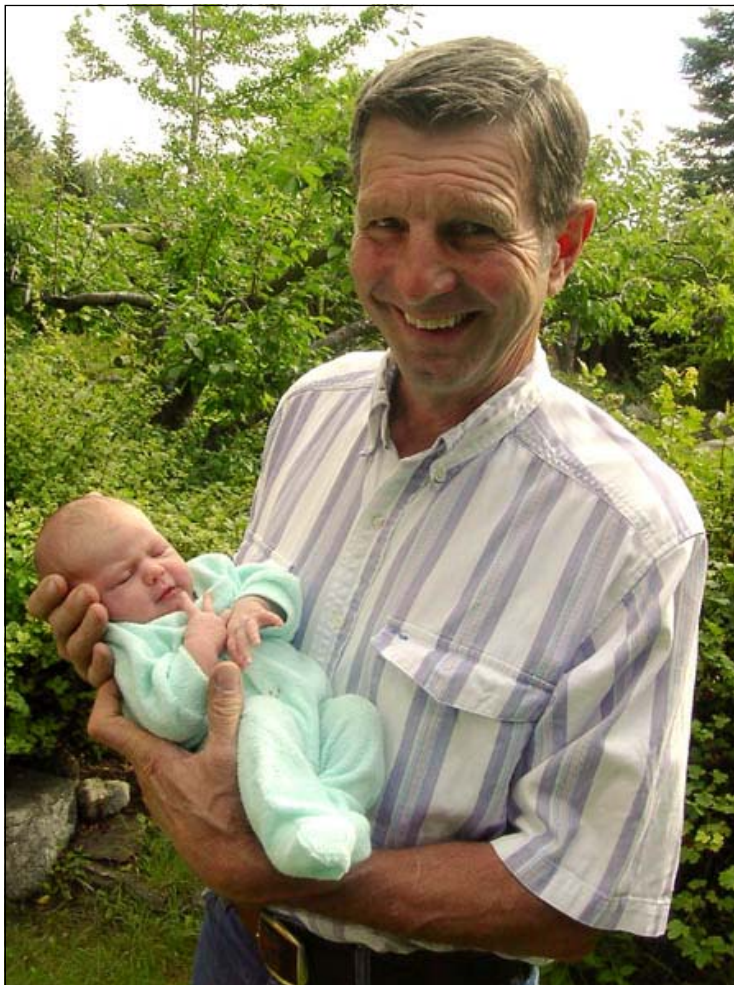
And let’s not forget that he was President of the Boundary WLA for more than 22 years. He’s still involved with woodlots throughout BC, in policy development, day-to-day affairs, and sharing ideas. “My biggest goal is to change resource policy so that BC is a garden of Eden,” he adds.

“That’s what BC’s lacking – a vision. That’s why we can’t get there.”

To this end has advocated widely for change, including promoting the use of an incentive system to reward excellent forest management (rather than the punitive system used today), promoting the community forest concept, and arguing in favour of unsubsidized, global free trade.

“I believe strongly in the woodlot program,” he concludes. “It’s a good thing for BC and for rural people.”

An undeniably true statement — and Fred Marshall is certainly good for the woodlot program! ♦



Fred Marshall, Recipient of the 2001 Stewardship Award of Excellence, enjoying the outdoors with granddaughter Rio.

### *Fast facts on the Marshall woodlot*

- Located in the western portion of the Monashee mountains, abutting the Okanagan highlands, in the Kettle River drainage
- Part of the Boundary TSA
- 600 ha of Crown land, 400 ha of private land – one of BC’s largest private land contributions
- Biogeoclimatic zone: IDF dm1 (interior Douglas fir)
- Species mix: mainly Douglas fir and larch with some yellow pine, spruce, lodgepole pine and a bit of cedar
- AAC: 1170 m<sup>3</sup>



“These are three of the four violet green swallows who live in this box — one was shy!” says Fred. He and Jane have about 26 bird boxes set up, which they monitor every year. Fred has also coordinated the West Boundary Christmas bird count for over 25 years.

# Putting the puzzle pieces together

## Briggs Wood Products of New Brunswick succeeds with new product

*The article originally appeared in the National Post on December 24, 2007 and is reprinted here after consulting with the owner, Dan Briggs.*

Dan Briggs thinks the future for his company, Briggs Engineering Wood Products Inc. may be a puzzle. Not a metaphorical puzzle; a real put-the-pieces together puzzle.

Briggs Wood Products is a small Plaster Rock, New Brunswick, manufacturer of furniture components and flooring. It is a tough business. Mr. Briggs has to face intense competition from low-cost woods imported from Asia and Eastern Europe.

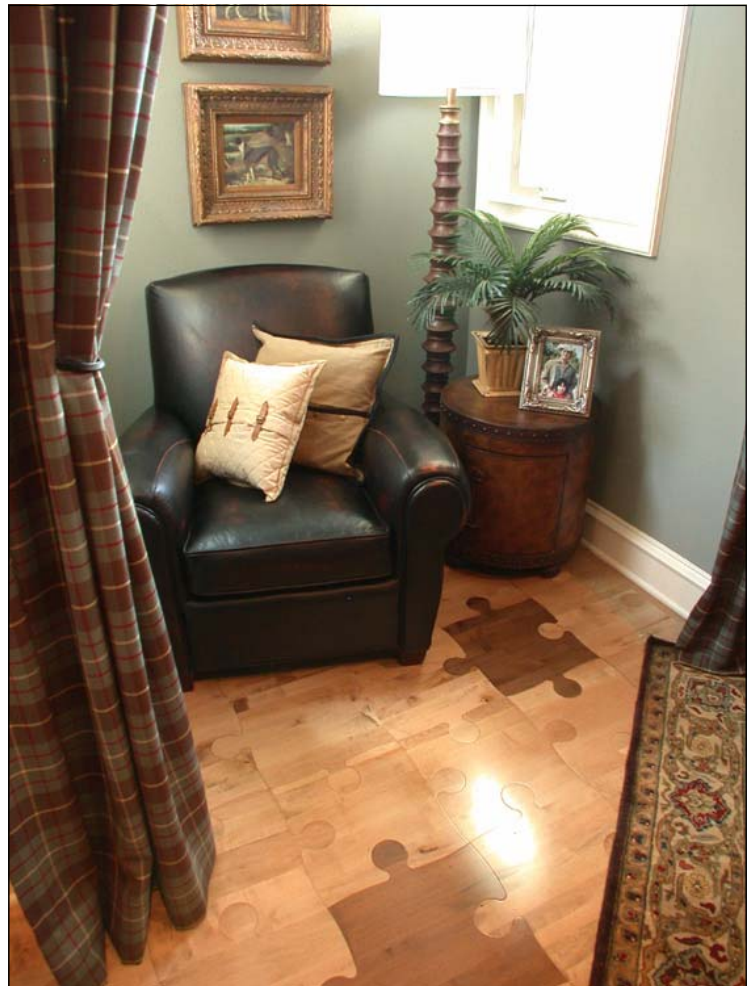
At home, he has to ensure supplies of the birch and maple necessary to create high-end drawer fronts, bedroom suites, dining room tables, kitchen cabinets and, of course, hardwood floors.

His route to the future is in value-added products, he says; products that lift themselves well above that foreign competition in quality and imagination. That is where the puzzle comes in.

Dan Briggs has launched a new line called Puzzle Floor, targeted at discerning U.S. and Canadian buyers, and possibly, Europeans as well. In fact, anyone with a yearning to make their floors stand above the crowd. Puzzle Floors fit together like jigsaw puzzles, with each piece snapping into its irregularly shaped neighbour. The pieces are wonderfully finished from natural 5/8<sup>th</sup>-inch hardwoods, harvested from woodlots surrounding the northwestern New Brunswick plant.

Just provide Briggs with the dimensions of the room and choose from among available patterns and the factory will design, saw and finish the pieces to perfectly fit the room. What is more, Briggs Engineered Wood products can personalize those floors with names, logos or even family crests, if desired.

“Puzzle Floor accounts for maybe just 55 of our sales now, but I think it is an example of the value-added products we have to turn to continue to grow and prosper,” he says “In fact, right now we are working on more



The new “puzzle floor,” available in a variety of colours, is a hit.

new designs to bring to market.”

Another value-added product is private-label work. The Plaster Rock plant also creates built-in chopping boards for Koehler sinks. “They just slip right into place and lend a nice touch to a high-end kitchen,” he says. The bulk of the company’s \$5 million a year in sales comes from furniture components, but it’s best not to rely too much on a single line, especially given the globalization of trade, he says.

Dan Briggs knows about globalization. About 11 years ago, he left his job as a mechanical engineer with Nexfor Fraser Papers Inc. borrowed \$750,000 from friends, relatives and banks and set out to build a company that would take the lumber that local suppliers had little market for, process it

*(Continued on page 15)*



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“We have gone from \$250,000 to \$5 million in 11 years.”

(Continued from page 14)

and then sell the resulting products wherever he could find markets.

That first year, he did \$250,000 in sales. “You know, I never worked out what our annual growth has been,” he says. “What I know is that we have gone from \$250,000 to \$5 million in 11 years. You do the math.” He found markets in the U.S., which now accounts for 65% of sales, in Canada (30%) and in Europe (5%).

“I can see that growth rate continuing for a while yet,” he says. “There is still pretty strong demand for the basics and I am really encouraged so far by new products like Puzzle Floor.” U.S. housing starts are down but, at the same time, renovations are up. “People are looking around at the market and deciding to stay in their current homes. When they make that decision, many then figure they may as well renovate. The two things on top of their list are kitchen cabinets and floors, and we do both.”

Granted, Briggs’ market is not low-end. New Brunswick maple and yellow birch, provided 75% by his former employer Fraser and 25% by local woodlots, come at a price.

But what Briggs has going for it is quality, the ability to create striking new designs and fast delivery times. “We can get products to customers within three days of taking the order,” he says. “Imports can take three months- and that is only if there is no problem at ports.”

On the home front, the company has the advantage of being an overlooked local niche market for woodlot owners. “We use four-foot boards,” he says. “That is the size most other major users don’t want or need. That gives us leverage when it comes to ensuring supplies.”

Interestingly, Dan’s original intent was not to go it alone. When the idea for an engineered wood products business in Plaster Rock came to him, he prepared a business plan and first took it to his bosses at Fraser. “They took a pass,” he says. “They told me they preferred to focus on their core business, which was softwoods and pulp and paper. But I was certain this would work, so I went out on my own.”

And in 11 years, he has not had cause to regret a day, he says. “I think we have a great future here,” he says. “I have great people, a good company and a great place to live and work. It may be the best decision I ever made.” ♦

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## Timber marks for woodlots: “Designate” explained

**Note: this article is a follow-up to the article on timber marks which appeared in the summer 2007 issue of the *Almanac*.**

The “Designate” (or Mark Designate) is a new concept introduced for woodlots on June 1, 2007 to allow more timber marks to be available. It does **not** replace the licence # or the Road Permit (RP) #. It is used only for **timber marks**.

Each woodlot has been assigned a “designate.” This is a four-character identifier beginning with W that can be found on the main tenure screen in FTA (and also in a spreadsheet which will be posted on the RTEB website ([www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/woodlots/woodlot-program.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/woodlots/woodlot-program.htm))).

For woodlot licence # 0123 with RP #

45678 and “designate” WABC, the licence number remains W0123 and the RP # remains R45678. The licence document and road permit document are **not** changed.

However, for all **new** crown land harvesting applications, the “designate” will be used for the timber mark.

For new cutting permits (CP) the timber mark will be the four-character “designate” plus two alpha-numeric characters: whatever the licensee wants to use to identify his CP.

For example, if they want to call it CP 4, the new timber mark will be WABC04 (the system automatically backfills with a zero if only one character is used). It is the CP document that has the timber mark identifier.

For RPs, applications for new harvesting, the timber mark will have the four-character “designate” plus R1 (this has been automatically generated by the system and can be found on the “CP/Mark” screen in FTA if there is a valid RP in place). For this example, the road permit timber mark would be WABCR1.

For RPs, when new harvesting (new section or amendment) is applied for, the RP document will need to be amended and notification sent to the licensee to identify the new timber mark (WABCR1 in this example). For electronic submissions, the only place that the “designate” is needed is in the ECAS submission as part of the timber mark. ♦

## New look for *Almanac*

This month's issue of the *Almanac* sports a new look. The Federation, under the guidance of Communications Director Lisa Marak, has developed a communications plan that includes a fresh look for the website, the brochure, and even for letterhead paper. In keeping with this initiative, the *Almanac* was also redesigned. The previous "look" was nine years old — it's time for a redesign.

We hope you like the change! As always, your feedback is welcome on this or any other topic. And, a special thanks to Lisa for all her hard work! ♦

## Woodlots: Facing our Future

Plan to attend the 2008 Annual General Meetings of the WPDC and the FBCWA. Come join us on October 3-5, 2008 at the South Thompson Inn, quietly nestled on 55 scenic acres stretching from the shores of the South Thompson River to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, 15 minutes east of Kamloops, BC.

Accommodation on site is limited to 57 sleeping rooms at a conference rate of \$129. To avoid disappointment, reserve your room early—call 1-800-797-7713 and mention the FBCWA. Registration and program details will appear in the summer issue of the *Almanac*. ♦

## Tapping into birch syrup

A workshop introducing birch syrup production



PHOTO: TED TRAER, MOOSE MEADOWS FARM, QUESNEL

**Saturday April 19, 2008, Quesnel**

For a registration form or more information, visit [www.quesnelinfo.com/birch.asp](http://www.quesnelinfo.com/birch.asp), or contact April Cheng, Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation, at 250-992-3522 / [acheng@quesnelcorp.com](mailto:acheng@quesnelcorp.com) ♦

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## Numerous improvements to e-FM are in the works

tion will maintain a database of licensees and/or their selected mapping consultants, acting as the BCeID profile manager for our members.

Licensees who have registered can log in to the Land and Resource Data Warehouse (LRDW) site with their BCeID, and download TRIM and other data at no charge. (There will still be a \$50 handling charge per map sheet for ortho photos).

Further details will be sent out by the MFR via Canada Post to all licensees. The Federation has submitted a first version of the access authorization database with the names of those we know have been waiting for data. We will update the access authorizations as new names and access requests come in.

Electronic forest management has been a long and sometimes arduous but, we feel, necessary slog. Business information is now stored and exchanged in digital format, and we have seen the downside of letting other parties carry out this function for us, such as the endemic errors in the RESULTS information entered for us from our paper annual reports.

The Federation is now fully engaged in the e-FM process, and working to make e-submission more cost effective for licensees. Our most significant accomplishment so far has been taking a seat at the table. Previously, woodlot licensees were under the radar when policy and systems were put in place that directly affects our lives and busi-

nesses, now we are meaningfully consulted at the planning stages.

The MFR and industry representatives have been helpful in working on woodlot-related e-FM issues. In the short term, quite a bit has been accomplished at the policy level. Over the next five years or so, work will continue to simplify processes and increase efficiency at the practical level.

Links of interest:

- BAPS: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/pscripts/pab/fordisc/view\\_discussion.asp?TopicID=78](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pscripts/pab/fordisc/view_discussion.asp?TopicID=78)
- CIO FORUM: [www.fimbc.ca/default.htm](http://www.fimbc.ca/default.htm)
- LRDW: [www.lrdw.ca/](http://www.lrdw.ca/)
- RESULTS: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/results/](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/results/) ♦



## “Either we harvested the pine stands, or the beetle did.”

sees are accustomed to living and doing business in their own communities. Regardless of the massive assault their forested lands have suffered, said Clark, woodlot licensees feel an intense “moral, financial as well as legal obligation” to replant. “Natural regeneration isn’t predictable, and planned regeneration on the current scale is daunting and will be very expensive,” he said.

There are 92 woodlots in the Prince George district, most of which the beetle has dramatically altered. “It’s emotional to look at dead trees — mature and young — in plantations that were meant to be an investment in the future,” woodlot licensee Kathy Mayes said recently.

Mayes manages another Prince George woodlot, and she and husband Blair have also involved their children in managing it for the future. It is held by a family-owned company, KBSC Futures Ltd., with the initials representing each family member.

Their woodlot was infested by mountain pine beetle. Blair Mayes recalls, “We tried to chase beetles, with the naive thought that we could control the spread. We started with single tree cutting (snip and skid). Then we moved to small patch harvesting over two or three winters, then ultimately the small patches became big ones. We’ve over-harvested, but we had no choice. Either we harvested the pine stands, or the beetles did.”

“Our situation is different from some,” she added. “We have only about one third of our woodlot in pure pine stands, with the rest a mix of spruce, Douglas fir, balsam and pine. Relatively speaking, that gave us some diversity to offset the beetle impact. Other woodlots were much heavier to pine and in some cases, almost 100%. These woodlots were totally wiped out.”

She adds, “Our last harvest was in January of 2006. Our mature pines are now gone. Now we’re trying to regroup, trying to anticipate what the revised annual allowable cut will be. We’re in year one of a five-year plan.”

The Mayes family, like most in the woodlot business, is in this for the long haul. Their young adult children are among those who have taken an interest in the harvest, management, and planting of trees.

Most young people who grow up in a woodlot family learn a lot about tree biology and the management skills needed to run small businesses. In today’s forestry world, woodlot activities have the same plan requirements as major licensees, so woodlot

kids are exposed to planning for logging, hauling and silviculture. Like most of the adaptable families who are licensed to manage woodlots, the Mayes family lives and/or does business near their woodlot and has other sources of income.

Trees, despite fire, drought and pestilence, will grow. Despite the fact that some woodlots have seen all of their trees wiped out, said Clark, 60,000 – 70,000 new trees will be planted on his woodlot alone this spring. Though much diminished, most woodlots will continue their activities. Some, fortunate enough to have young trees left behind that grow fast, will actually see an increase in their sustainable harvest within a few years.

“There may be a period where there are fewer woodlots,” Blair Mayes said earlier. “For many hit by the pine beetle, the next opportunities to harvest will come in decades. Some people will hang on, hoping their grandchildren may benefit while others, by necessity, will have to turn back.”

Ironically, there are some indications that the very conditions that contributed to the recent success of the pine beetle may also help new trees grow faster. Blair Mayes feels there will be some success stories. A milder climate, better quality seedlings and better plantation management are predicted to bring increased future harvests — in about sixty years. ♦



Curtis Mayes, who grew up in a woodlot family, gets some hands-on silviculture experience. He’s the son of Blair and Kathy Mayes of Prince George.

# The new kid on the agroforestry block

## Introducing Perigord black truffles

by April Anderson, Administrator, Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative

Agroforestry is known for innovative farming and forestry practices that increase the diversity of outputs from the land, while simultaneously providing beneficial land use mitigation and invaluable landscape amenities.

These include riparian and ecosystem restoration and protection, fish and wildlife habitat, and soil-protecting and micro-site-enhancing windbreaks and shelterbelts. As well, there's aesthetic value in these fine-grained land management systems, with their engaging patterns of use on the land, and their medley of crop shapes and sizes, colours and textures, and seasonal change.

Agroforestry products cover a wide spectrum of societal and cultural goods: Christmas trees and holiday boughs; hardwood boards and firewood cords; birch tree sap and maple tree syrup; medicinal herbs and kitchen savouries; floral greens and flowery wreaths; meat and poultry; nuts and berries; fruit and vegetables ...

### Introducing truffles

We can now add to this cornucopia of products one that evokes exoticism and

opulence, the stuff of myth and mystery, of fabled hunts with keen-nosed hogs and dogs through misty autumn forests ... coveted by humble cooks and culinary connoisseurs alike, the legendary and elusive Perigord black truffle (*Tuber melanosporum*). Hidden just beneath the soil surface, co-evolved with their host trees to form mycorrhizae to their mutual benefit, this symbiotic fungal partner seems to embody the very spirit and intention of agroforestry.

This new kid on the agroforestry block can fit in well in a variety of neighbourhoods from south coast to southern interior ecosystems and environments. Its critical requirements are mostly soil pH and nutrients (all of which can be manipulated), elevation (temperature), seasonal timing and amount of rainfall, and site history (previous tree cover).

Cultivated on hazelnuts (*Coryllus avellana*) and oaks (*Quercus robur* and *Q.ilex*), once producing (year 4 or 5) truffles are an annual crop of ~150g per tree, possibly increasing thereafter; according to other less conservative sources, eventual annual yields can be as high as 450g per tree.

The truffle fungus is beneficial to the host tree, increasing its health and vigour, and concurrently nuts<sup>b</sup> and wood production.

If truffles are grown on hazelnuts, this would provide two annual or semi-annual (allowing for variation in crop yields from one year to the next) harvests: nuts and truffles.

If they are grown on oaks, truffle crops could be harvested annually between timber rotations (if timber is the intended end product). If the trees are intended mainly for habitat creation, environmental protection, or aesthetics, then the truffles would provide a nice cash crop as incentive to maintaining these trees for those purposes.

### Lucrative crop

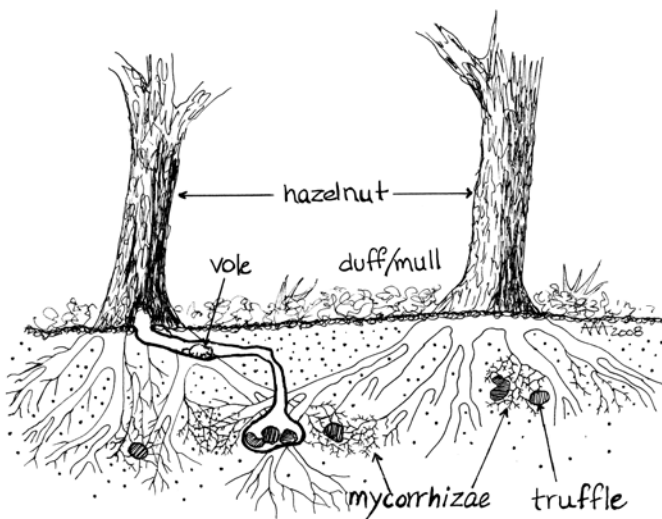
Speaking of cash, Perigord truffles sell for up to \$1400 per kg. Once the truffle mycelium is well-established and flourishing (usually by year 4), that would be roughly \$210 (using conservative yield predictions for hazelnuts) to \$700 (using optimistic yield predictions for oaks) per tree per annum, with yields increasing thereafter for the life of the tree (~50 years). Italian white truffles (which can also be considered for cultivation here) sell for considerably more.

### Demonstration project on four sites

The Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative (AIDI), a program administered by the Federation and hosted on the Federation webpage ([www.woodlot.bc.ca/agroforestry/](http://www.woodlot.bc.ca/agroforestry/)), has contributed funding for a demonstration project to help establish a commercial truffle industry in BC.

The project proponent is the Truffle Association of British Columbia (TABC), an organization that was formed in 2004 to (among other things) manage this project. The project will install truffle orchards, known as *truffières*, at four sites in the southern half of the province: Oyama, Abbotsford, Vancouver, and Vancouver Island.

These sites will be the basis of research



and measurement of establishment requirements, inoculation success and longevity, yields, and more. One of the truffières is producing most of the inoculated growing stock for the project, which will be provided to the other three establishments. Extra stock is being produced and is for sale to interested potential growers, at a cost of \$40 per tree.

## Risks and challenges

In terms of risk associated with this crop, there are really only two critical factors to be considered: colonization and contamination. Colonization is the process of host tree roots becoming inoculated by a mycorrhizal fungus. The biggest challenge for cultivating truffles is to prevent the host trees from becoming accidentally colonized by unwanted native fungi (contamination).

These native fungi have a competitive advantage in our soils and ecosystems, over the less-well-adapted, non-native Perigord black truffle fungus. The key to avoiding this contamination is mostly controlling soil pH (keeping it at a level considerably more alkaline than is tolerated by native fungi) and choosing host trees that are adapted to high soil pH. A production cost associated with contamination is monitoring and adjusting soil pH and soil nutrients.

The other risk factor, colonization, refers to the challenge of achieving a well-established amount of truffle fungus on the root system of the host tree, and then keeping it there over time, preferably for the lifespan of the tree.

The former is the responsibility of the nursery that produces the trees, but ongoing monitoring of the amount and species of fungal mycelium on the host tree roots will need to be carried out on-site by the truffière, and this will be a considerable cost of production, especially in the early



PHOTO: APRIL ANDERSON

One truffière recently planted hazelnuts on  $\frac{1}{3}$  hectare of land. Eighty-two trees were planted using a 4m x 4.5m grid (just enough room for a small machine to pass between the trees). The anticipated fourth-year return from this small installation is \$51,000.

establishment phase.

Another production cost is control of competing vegetation between the trees, such that the truffles can be dug up without a lot of ground surface disturbance (such as breaking up sod or strong root growth of other weeds, in order to get to the truffles).

Truffles are found anywhere from 2 to 15 inches below the ground, usually in a circular formation about 4 to 5 feet from the base of the tree. One of the few indications that truffles have formed is a *brûlé* -- an area around the tree where the vegetation appears “burnt.”

Ideally, surface conditions between the trees would be a loose duff or porous mull that mimics hardwood forest conditions, but this duff or mull condition is difficult to achieve while still allowing enough light to the ground surface to provide sufficient warmth for truffle growth – and increased light means increased weeds and decreased duff/mull conditions.

## Mulch and pruning

Furthermore, truffle trees are pruned as an upside-down pyramid (the opposite of the usual pruning technique of nut trees) to allow more light on the ground. The

jury is still out on the tradeoff between allowing more light on the ground surface for increased temperature, and decreasing the light that arrives on the ground, to discourage weeds and encourage a duff or mull surface condition.

Organic mulch could be used on the orchard floor to mimic duff, but then soil pH will have to be monitored regularly to ensure that the soil remains alkaline. More information on this will be forthcoming from the TABC.

Because of the value of the crop, a lucrative truffière can be established on very little land, so the “cost” of the land may not be a significant cost of production. Here in BC we do have native truffles in the wild, growing in symbiosis with Douglas fir, but small mammals and deer harvest them as quickly as they fruit, which is a good thing, because truffles use these animals for spore dispersal.

This is undoubtedly why truffles are so deliciously aromatic and pungent (and therefore tasty); animals need to be able to smell them underground in order to find them. Voles, shrews, mice, rabbits, deer, all apparently have highly sophisti-

(Continued on page 22)



## Scholarship Award Information

### RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Applications for this award must be received prior to April 23, 2008. Late applications will not be considered.
2. Applicants must be direct family member of a woodlot licensee or private land owner who is a member of the local Woodlot Association and/or the FBCWA.
3. Applicants must be planning to attend a post secondary institution within 24 months of the application deadline.
4. Preference will be given to students entering a forestry-related program. Students entering other areas of study are welcome to apply, knowing there is preference for forestry related study.
5. The award of \$1,000.00 will be payable, on receipt by the FBCWA of documentation confirming registration into the institution for post secondary education. This generally occurs in mid September.
6. Essays and photos from applicants, particularly the successful applicant, may be printed in the Almanac.
7. The decision of the Awards Committee is final.
8. The Award Committee of the Federation of B. C. Woodlot Associations will be empowered to
  - a) Grant this award at its discretion;
  - b) Withhold this award in any year if there are no eligible applicants, or for any reason deemed good or advisable.

### IMPORTANT

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Please complete the application form and attach:

1. A letter describing the reasons which you feel qualify you for this award. Your letter should also include a detailed description of your experience in forestry, particularly on woodlots. Your letter may include information about your various interests and extracurricular activities.
2. A one-page (approximately 500- 700 word) typewritten essay titled "Woodlots, Family Forests." This is an open-ended topic, for you to decide how to approach it.
3. Two letters of reference from previous or current teachers or employers,
4. A copy of your *most recent* report card, and
5. A recent photo of yourself.

Return to: Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations  
Attention: Mrs. Kathy Mayes, Treasurer  
2772 Ridgeview Drive,  
Prince George, British Columbia  
V2K 4M9

Or send it digitally to [kmayes@mag-net.com](mailto:kmayes@mag-net.com) with a subject heading of FBCWA Scholarship Application

***Applications must be received by April 23, 2008***



## Scholarship Award Application

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Information:

Currently enrolled in: \_\_\_\_\_

Post-secondary school you plan to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Program you will be registered in for 2008-2009: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Woodlot Licensee or to private land owner for Woodlot #

(e.g., daughter of Joe Smith, Woodlot #2345) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Woodlot Licensee/Private Land Owner to whom you are a direct family member, has been a member of which woodlot association and for how many years?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please include information on volunteer work, extracurricular activities, membership in school and community organizations, sports, interests, hobbies, etc., as well as employment information. (You may use another sheet if you need more room or if it's more convenient.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## New website connects buyers and sellers

The North Island Woodlot Association (NIWA) consists of over 31 woodlots in the northern Vancouver Island region, harvesting about 90,000 m<sup>3</sup> of wood per year. NIWA's new website, [www.NorthIslandWoodlot.com](http://www.NorthIslandWoodlot.com), helps connect buyers and sellers of forest products.

Most economic activity on woodlots is the production of logs for lumber. As well, woodlots can produce a variety of other products, such as telephone poles, house logs, floral greens, landscaping supplies (boulders, native plants), mushrooms, maple syrup/wine, firewood, Christmas trees, and exotic woods (yew, cherry, crab-apple, burls).

The members of NIWA know their forests intimately. If an artisan is looking for a maple burl to turn into a salad bowl or coffee table, he can visit the website and see if any NIWA members have one in the correct size. If a guitar-maker is looking for some high-quality Sitka spruce, a NIWA member can probably find it for him.

Services that NIWA members offer are also listed on the site. Members include registered professional foresters, forest technicians, professional engineers, biologists, hydrologists, geographical information specialists (computer mapping), lawyers, road-builders, fallers, log traders, logging truck drivers, sawmillers, and tree planters. If you need anything done in the forest, a NIWA member can provide professional advice.

Through this website, NIWA members hope to better serve their customers. ♦

► From page 19

## Truffles: An exciting addition to your woodlot operation

(Continued from page 19)

cated palates, and even more highly sophisticated senses of smell that allow them to locate and enjoy this crop long before most humans; it's very difficult to beat a shrew to the truffle in the wild, hence the tremendous opportunity for establishing a cultivated truffle industry.

This article is intended just to whet your appetite (an apt figure of speech) and to get you thinking about this intriguing and enticing newcomer as a possible addition to your woodlot operation.

Much more specific and technical information will be forthcoming soon, from the AIDI Perigord Truffle project.

A good way to keep in touch with information as it emerges is to check the TABC website for its regular updates

([www.bctruffles.org/](http://www.bctruffles.org/)), or e-mail me, AIDI Administrator, at [aaa@netidea.com](mailto:aaa@netidea.com) ♦

### Purpose of the Woodlot Product Development Council

The primary purpose of the WPDC is to ensure that levy fees are spent on woodlot licensee priorities that will benefit and promote the woodlot industry throughout BC.

Funds are collected through the powers granted to the Council under the *Farming and Fishing Industries Development Act*. ♦

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## Resilient forestry the theme at this year's SISCO Winter Workshop

The 2008 workshop of the Southern Interior Silviculture Committee (SISCO) will be held from March 31 - April 2, 2008 at the Lakeside Resort in Penticton. The theme is "The Resilient Forest: Defining it, Designing it, Planning for it."

For several seasons, SISCO has explored the stresses on British Columbia's forests due to climate change, the growing human/forest interface, and major changes in disturbance regimes such as fires and insects. A resilient forest may be the strongest strategy for responding to these forest management challenges.

The Chief Forester of British Columbia has embarked upon a program called the Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative, is intended to address the impacts of climate change on forest and range ecosystems. One of the watchwords of this initiative is resilience – "the capacity of a community or ecosystem to maintain or regain normal function and development following disturbance"

What does it mean to manage for a resilient forest, and to what extent can we define it, design it and plan for it? What are the implications to silvicultural practices, and how would it affect the industry and communities in British Columbia? Come and join your colleagues in the exploration of this timely topic.

For more information or to register, please contact April Anderson at (250) 226-7641 / fax (250) 352-2211. ♦

## Thank you to our contributors for this issue

April Anderson  
BC Ministry of Forests and  
Range  
Tom Bradley  
Dan Briggs  
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### Links of interest

- 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Field Guide to Noxious Weeds and Other Selected Invasive Plants of British Columbia: <http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca>
- 1 & 3 Month Coast & Interior Log Market Reports: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/timber/amv.htm> ♦

### Advertising Rates

As a service to FBCWA members, the Woodland Almanac will make space available for non-commercial ads, free of charge. Commercial advertising space is also offered to enterprises at the following rates:

- Business card....\$50
- Quarter page ...\$135
- Half page.....\$175
- Full page.....\$250

There is a 10% discount for ads appearing in two or more issues. A complementary annual subscription is mailed to all advertisers.

# Our family forests

## Educating BC students and others on the woodlot license program

By Lisa Marak

At last, the FBCWA has an educational program to take to the general public, schools, fairs and any venue where there is an opportunity to educate people about woodlot licences and the work licensees do managing a small plot of public/private forest land in BC.

The program includes a 12-minute DVD which introduces the forest, what a woodlot licence is, and the hands-on management provided by woodlot licensees around BC.

There is also a lesson plan to assist with delivering the program, a vocabu-



Lisa Marak, Communications Coordinator

lary quiz, a crossword puzzle, educational cards on a carabiner, and bookmarks. For teachers, curricular connections are provided to connect our program to the current science curriculum taught in schools.

We promoted woodlots as outdoor educational opportunities for schools or the general public, as they are near communities. A contact list of directors is included in the program to learn where woodlots are in local communities, how to access them, and what learning opportunities the small scale forest offers.

Susan Bondar, woodlot licensee and Thompson Region Forest Education Coordinator and I presented the program at the 2008 ForestEd West Conference January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> to forest educators in western Canada. It was well received and many were interested in taking our program back with them to use in their classrooms, forestry camps, or communities.

We have a great opportunity to promote woodlots in our communities by offering a bit of forestry education and a visit to a woodlot licence. If you are interested in presenting our program or know of someone who would be, please contact Cathy McClary for a complete package. ♦

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### FBCWA Vision

Woodlot holders/owners will participate in a healthy and diverse forest industry with woodlot licenses and private forest lands, making significant contributions to local communities and providing a sustainable supply of forest products.

The FBCWA will have a voice in forest and economic policy.

BC's woodlots will be models of forest management excellence, and world-renowned for their social, economic, recreational, cultural, and educational contributions to rural communities. ♦



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