



THE WOODLAND ALMANAC



www.woodlot.bc.ca

Winter 2009

Jeff Mattes and Clint Carlson

Managing woodlots and several businesses
among the Kaslo mountains

by Deborah Greaves

“When I asked my dad to help me start out,” Jeff Mattes said in August this year while sitting on the deck of the Kaslo Hotel, “he wouldn’t do it. I guess that was actually his gift.”

A little while later, the young man headed out with a logging operation, just as he routinely does now. It was prophetic that he was working in the logging industry in his early work life, but his job back then was quite different. The twenty-two-year-old Mattes was the camp cook.

Before long, Mattes discovered that the men outside the cookhouse made better wages than he did, so he started out in the forest as a clockerman, making forty-five dollars a day. He found he liked being outside, and was satisfied by the demanding physical work. Gradually he picked up more skills, and in 1977 started contracting his services. In 1987, Mattes was awarded his first woodlot licence.

Jeff Mattes grew up in Oliver in the Okanagan Valley, and first came to Kaslo to help

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PHOTO: DEBORAH GREAVES

L – R: Jeff Mattes and Clint Carlson, woodlot licensees

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Member reflections

Tenure reform: What's possible and what's needed

by George Delisle

Tenure reform is necessary to ensure we capitalize on the opportunities at hand.

It is a bit of a puzzle why the large lumber manufacturing plants would even want to be weighed down with all the long-term responsibilities of a Crown tenure and the long-term management vision required to manage our forests to their true potential.

Their business structure is based on a day-to-day operation with the monthly or quarterly return to the shareholder being the main driving force in their operations. Long-term management of our resources does not fit well in this type of business structure.

In the past, some of the most profitable lumber manufacturing plants in BC were ones that did not have Crown tenure. Once these companies acquired Crown tenure through expansion, their profit picture declined to the point that some went bankrupt; one of the more notable examples was Doman Industries.

Even today, many of the mills that are still running in today's poor markets, are ones with few or no timber quotas. Under the current system, over 66% of the jobs are in harvesting and intensive forest management, and this number will only increase as the commodity processing plants automate more and more. The best opportunity for increased jobs will be in managing and harvesting the forested landbase, not in processing.

The government has the option to take back volume from the major tenure holders. Why can this not be the

first step to creating a revitalized forest industry? Buy back 50% of their tenure and offer it at cost into the small-scale forest sector.

The mills can use this money to upgrade the existing mills and tide themselves over till the markets pick up. At the same time, we would put control of our resources back in the hands of local people and satisfy the demands of the Softwood Lumber Coalition.

The least palatable option to help increase the competitive log market is the export of raw logs. When it comes to a competitive log market without tenure reform, the ability to export logs is important, as that is the only thing that the major tenure holders seem to be afraid of.

As long as local mills have the ability to block an export permit without

The Woodland Almanac is always looking for creative submissions for "Member Reflections" related to small-scale forestry. We'd like to hear from you on stories from the woodlot or see your photos from the block.

"Member Reflections" can also be used to share obituaries on licensees who are no longer with us.

If you'd like to submit an article or photo, please contact Cathy McClary at cjmclary@shaw.ca.

having to match the price for the same quality of wood, we will never have a truly competitive log market. As long as the majors are allowed to practice a monopoly over the log market, we will be price takers instead of price setters.

The atmosphere of collusion is always present when log buyers from

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PHOTO: TOM BRADLEY

A different kind of reflection: A photo of Kootenay Lake taken at the Kaslo AGM

■ Message from the President of the FBCWA

Who's on first?

by Mark Clark

The 2009/10 version of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations hit the ground running following an excellent AGM in Kaslo this fall.

Even considering the recent progress in timber pricing (with a tabular rate calculation now available to most who need it), the expansion of the woodlot program in many parts of the province, and the removal of punitive take-or-pay provisions, there are still some tough nuts left to crack.

At the day-long meeting that follows the AGM, the Directors were asked to identify and rank the key tasks they felt were most important to their members. This year, as usual, the list of 38 issues looks daunting, especially to a new President!

High-priority items include the removal of private land from woodlots, issuing one cutting permit over the entire woodlot area, mitigating the impact of catastrophic events on cut control and our land management plans, our communications with the Ministry of Forests and Range, woodlot safety performance, federal taxation on silvicultural investments, investigating the potential for selling carbon or other non-traditional products from our woodlots, and the perennial favourite, electronic submissions to government.

Medium priorities includes consolidating two woodlots, undercut carry-forward provisions, the pending open burning regulations, our response to the Resource Road Act, and several



Mark Clark,
FBCWA President

other government initiatives. Our discussions with Minister Bell also brought forward the topic of encouraging young entrants into the woodlot program, putting the woodlot landbase into the commercial forest reserve, and a reminder that the Forest Stewardship Council certification process will be reviewed in 2010 -- there is hope that the Federation will participate in that process.

But your Federation is all about the volunteers and the contractors who efficiently conduct the business of the Federation, even when the obstacles seem higher than Kaslo's mountains. We have a solid group of 13 standing volunteer committees, and we continue to receive great support from additional volunteers as needed.

For example, Dean Daly has agreed to chair the Timber Pricing Committee on a volunteer basis. Such volunteers are committed to finding workable solutions to the issues above, and to represent the woodlot licencees of BC.

On a personal note, I would like to say that my first few weeks as President have been a whirlwind of learning. I thank all of the volunteers and contractors for their assistance in starting me up the learning curve, and I look forward to the opportunities of the future.

As President of the FBCWA, I would like to thank Tom Bradley, Dick Brenton, and Jeff Mattes and all their volunteers from the West Kootenay Woodlot Association for

their most excellent Annual General Meeting. The beautiful setting of Kaslo, combined with excellent presenters, interesting venues, and reasonable costs, all led to a fully engaged crowd.

And banquet speaker Corky Evans deserves special thanks for his heartfelt summing up, not only of woodlots, but of forestry in general in this province. As always, Corky planted the seeds for some great discussions. ♦



Please note:

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



■ General Manager's Report

New book personalizes woodlots

by Brian McNaughton

The West Kootenay Woodlot Association and little ol' Kaslo did an exceptional job hosting this year's Annual General Meeting. While holding a meeting in a bar (before drinking hours) may seem a bit unconventional, it did create a relaxed atmosphere which seemed to spark the group, as there was more dialogue than usual.

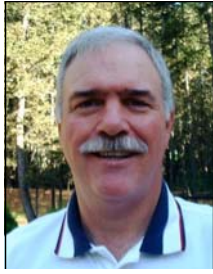
Of course, it didn't hurt the atmosphere to be able to look out the window and see beautiful Kootenay Lake framed by blue skies and hillsides dotted with fall colours.

It was a grand setting and a fantastic meeting, so thanks to Tom Bradley, Dick Brenton, Jeff Mattes, and all those who help with the organization. A job well done!

A big "thank you" also goes to Pat Bell, Minister of Forests & Range, who caught the first flight out of Victoria on Friday morning and made the long trek to Kaslo. It was a yeoman effort by Minister Bell to attend. Not only did the Minister address the group, but afterwards we had a lively and informative Q & A session.

Highlights of the Minister's remarks included how pleased government is with the expansion of the WL program, encouraging news about how the Chinese market is opening up for BC wood, and news of a new Act which facilitates, if not requires, the use of wood as the primary building material in all new provincially funded buildings.

The Minister asked the Federation to work on a number of topics, including developing non-timber forest prod-



Brian McNaughton,
General Manager

ucts as a business opportunity, young entrants into the WL Program, WLs as commercial forest reserves, and FSC certification.

During the Q&A session we discussed farm classification for WLs, tax reforms, waste billings, initial attack concerns and export permits, among other topics.

Mark Clark is the new President of the Federation, taking over from Cliff Manning. Cliff stays on the executive committee as Past President while Brent Petrick gets a well-deserved break. Rumor has it that Brent is using his newly found free time to run a hockey team: i.e., the Sam Pollock and Toe Blake of the Kootenays!

Thanks to Cliff, who did an exceptional job as President!

Lisa Marak was re-elected as Secretary. John Massier, Don Rosen and George Delisle were also re-elected as directors, and Derek Strimbold was voted in as a new director (all for two-year terms).

Chris Mosher, Director of Audits for the Forest Practices Board (FPB) was in attendance and addressed the directors during their Sunday meeting. Over the past couple of years, the Board has conducted audits on a number of woodlot licenses in different parts of the province. They have noticed some trends and have some suggestions which may help licensees improve their performance. The Federation and FPB agreed to collaborate on producing a bulletin to provide WL

holders with some guidance. This is planned to be done over the next few months and should be available by the spring of 2010.

The Federation's coffee-table book, "Forest Life: British Columbia Woodlots," has arrived and is available for order through your local woodlot association at a members' price of \$20/copy.

It can also be ordered via the Federation website (www.woodlot.bc.ca) at \$39.95 + taxes and shipping.

A few advance copies were circulated at the AGM and presented as speakers' gifts. It's a wonderful tribute to woodlots and woodlotters!

In fact, the book showed some of its value at the recent Union of BC Municipalities conference in Vancouver. Just about every local politician picked up the book and saw someone they knew. A connection was made immediately. Woodlots were personalized and politicians were able to relate woodlots to their communities' interests.

The Federation has developed a distribution plan to ensure the book gets into the hands of the people who will have the greatest influence in advancing the program and its goals. Part of the plan involves local associations distributing books to key community leaders. A key part of the plan is your sharing copies with family, friends, consultants and contractors. So please consider buying a few copies – maybe as Christmas presents!

Best wishes to you and yours for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. ♦

■ Coastal timber pricing

Rate reduction in the offing?

by John Marlow

As we near the end of 2009 logging, the Ministry of Forests and Range has indicated that current information suggests a major reduction in the coast average stumpage rates, perhaps on the order of 800%.

This is based on stumpage billing records from January 1 to October 31, 2009. The coast average rates are reduced to 30%, by species and zone, for the Woodlot Licence and Community Forest Agreement tabular rate schedule.

Based on scale volume to date, woodlot licensees will undoubtedly see a significant decrease in tabular rates for the coming year.

Based on ten months of stumpage billing data (with November and December still to be added), reduced to 30% for the 2010 tabular rates, by species, values for the North Zone are estimated to range from \$0.25/m³ to \$0.56/m³, and for the South Zone, to range from \$0.47/m³ to \$1.19/m³.

Final table values based on the complete 2009 calendar year of billing data may vary from these estimates.

A large percentage of coastal woodlot licensees continue to appraise timber under the market pricing system due to the existence of extended road amortization agreements.

At the request of several coastal licensees, we have submitted a proposal for a minor revision to the Coast Appraisal Manual to clarify the policy around the transition from MPS appraisals to tabular rates.



John Marlow, Coastal Timber Pricing Coordinator

If accepted, the protocol will be that once extended road amortization costs have been fully utilized in a timber appraisal and the licensee applies for their first tabular rate cutting permit, all cutting permit and road permit rates

from that point forward would be tabular rates.

This proposal was submitted in response to a situation where the road permit rates for a licensee were changed to tab rates because the licensee had used all extended road amortization costs.

to MOF concerns of a large stumpage allowance when VPH is very low.

The Federation of BC Woodlot Federations has submitted comments to the Coast Timber Pricing Advisory Committee strongly objecting to this initiative to selectively modify portions of the stumpage equation, due to concerns with low stumpage rates caused by that variable.

The concern is that the integrity of the process in developing this equation (a year-long statistical exercise) is greatly compromised by this MOFR direction.

The Coast Forest Products Association, representing major licensees is also strongly opposed to this change.

I do hope that combined with these lower tabular rates for 2010 will also be higher log prices, so we can get back to doing what it seems to me we love to do.

Merry Christmas to all and feel free to call me to discuss any of these issues! ♦

... Licensees will undoubtedly see a significant decrease in tabular rates....



As that licensee was still operating under MPS permit, it is logical and fair that the road permit rates for that licensee continued to be an average of all cutting authority rates for that license.

One other issue of note is a proposal by the MOF to change the “vol per ha” (VPH) variable in the stumpage equation such that the lower limit for VPH would be 271m³/ha for all CPs less than that volume.

This MOF initiative has arisen due

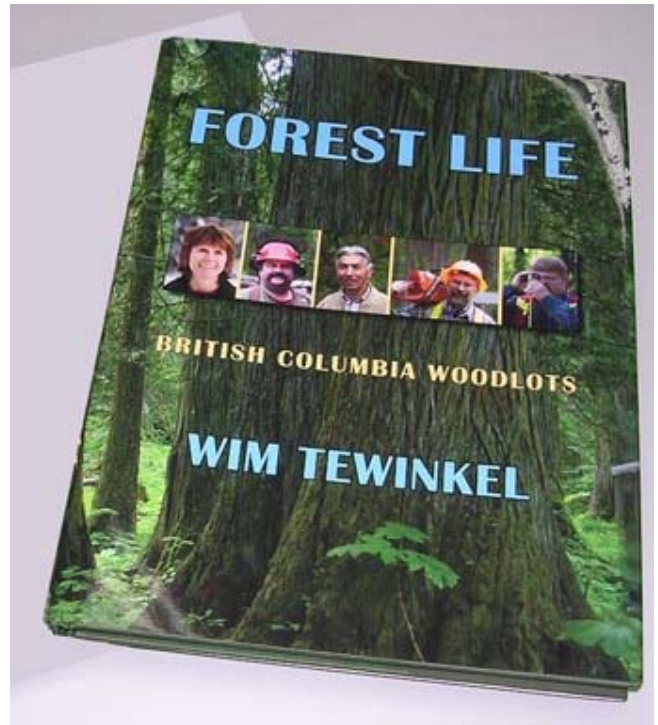


Woodlot book now in print

The Federation of BC Woodlot Associations is proud to present *Forest Life: British Columbia Woodlots*, a coffee-table book showcasing and celebrating BC's woodlots and woodlot licences and the families who diligently manage them.

Through beautiful photos and a few words, this book captures the seasonal beauty of coastal and interior woodlots and portrays the landscapes and diversity of our forests as well as the stewardship of those who manage them.

The book would make an excellent Christmas gift, and can be ordered from our website www.woodlot.bc.ca for \$39.95 or through local woodlot associations (to members) for \$20.00 ♦



The cover of the new woodlot coffee-table book, Forest Life, by Wim Tewinkel. The book makes a perfect Christmas gift.



Woodlot licensee Tibor Molnar of the Sea to Sky Woodlot Association, as pictured in Forest Life. The book contains many familiar faces.



This lynx is one of the woodlot inhabitants captured in the pages of Forest Life. The book is a great tool for teaching the next generation about the value of woodlots.

“You have to be passionate, because it’s a way of life.”

out at a friend’s hotel as a cook. Thirty-one years later, he’s still there, with adult children and a wife who has her own woodlot licence.

With a stunning view of Kootenay Lake and the surrounding steep mountains just behind Mattes as he talked about his work, it seems easy to understand why a person would make a life in Kootenays.

The work doesn’t always go smoothly though, even when it’s carried out in one of the most beautiful areas in BC.

Jeff Mattes’s first woodlot licence, #438, caught his eye when it was advertised at Fletcher Creek, near his home.

“The first few years were a sharp learning curve,” Mattes said. “Like most new licensees, I thought I could change the world.”

He soon found out that making a successful living in the forest required both intellectual knowledge and on-the-ground practical experience.

Over the years he’s been grateful for the assistance of a trio of RPFs – registered professional foresters – who have been very helpful: Irene Strucel, Greg Lay and Charlene Stralaeff.

“These people are passionate about forestry,” Mattes said. “They like to live and breathe it.”

Currently, Mattes has a thriving contracting business, a second woodlot, WL 491, in partnership with Clint Carlson, and finds himself an advocate of the benefits of clear-cutting.

It often happens that trees left on a site according to the rules blow down shortly after, Mattes said, and he finds

that a frustrating waste of effort. Government rules about cutting – how many, where, and what trees – are one of several sources of frustration for many woodlot managers.

“As soon as we know the rules and are willing to play by them,” Mattes said, “those rules change. That seems to happen about every five years.”

When woodlot 491 partner Clint Carlson joined the August 21 conversation in Kaslo, the two spoke of issues with the Ministry of Forests procedures and rule applications.

“You need to allow an entire year to get a cutting permit,” the partners said.

“If you have a mom-and-pop operation, it’s hard to put together a business plan under those circumstances.” They feel it’s hard enough these days to make money in trees.

“Because of our Kootenay Mix we at least have some flexibility,” Clint Carlson said. “We aren’t confined to a single log buyer.” Mattes and Carlson have opportunities to sell to several independent purchasers, “so we have a better chance to make ends meet.”

As with most work in resource-based industries in the current economy, versatility is important.

“Anybody in the forestry business has to be an eternal optimist,” Jeff Mattes said last month. “Some are prepared, going forward, and some are not. Clint and I run a really diverse business.”

“Sometimes the woodlot is complementary to our business,” Carlson said, “and other times it’s vice versa.”

Mattes and Carlson feel the present

system of woodlot allocation will squeeze traditional mom-and-pop operations, once the foundation of the woodlot program, out of existence.

“The present system requires substantial cash investment, even before the required ten-thousand-dollar management plan is completed,” said Mattes. “People like Richard and Anne Brenton, who organized this year’s AGM here in Kaslo, are classic examples. They’ve worked hard, managed their woodlot well and made money, but it would be hard to do that the same way now.”

Mattes and Carlson feel today’s society doesn’t value loggers or the work they do. Lately, though, Mattes’s eighteen-year-old son is working in the business, swamping, cleaning culverts and running a mini-hoe. Despite the economic swings, some people still want in.

“There are so many good people in this business,” said Mattes in August. “It’s good to touch base with other people who walk the walk as well as talk the talk.”

When logs are selling, Jeff Mattes is busy, and runs a big crew.

“I’m lucky I can manage my woodlots within my logging contracting business,” he said over coffee at the renovated Kaslo Hotel. “I overfill my plate every day.”

His words of advice for those interested in the industry?

“You can’t be in forestry to trifle. You have to be passionate, because it’s a way of life.” ♦

Links of Interest

- One-month and three-month Coast and Interior log market reports: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/logreports.htm
- BC Forest Safety Council: www.beforestsafec.org
- FREP Extension Note #6, “Perspectives from the Cultural Heritage Resource Value Pilot Project” describes the pilot’s results to date, and encourages dialogue among forest managers by highlighting general findings and lessons learned during the 2008 field season and potential opportunities for improving CHR management: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/publications/extension_notes.htm
- FREP Report 20, “Monitoring Forest and Rangeland Species and Ecological Processes to Anticipate and Respond to Climate Change in British Columbia” recommends indicators and identifies potential data suppliers: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/publications/reports.htm ♦



Column by licensee Rod Krimmer

I changed my mind

An old adage states that if you want to see the future, simply look south. The devastating collapse of the forest industry decades ago in Washington and Oregon could have given us advance hints as to what we are facing now, if we were paying attention.



Rod Krimmer,
Almanac columnist

We can certainly notice other trends advancing northward as well: population growth, development, industrialization, and climate change, to name a few.

I recently had the opportunity to visit the east coast of Canada for the first time; there are some lessons to be learned by looking east as well.

The forest industry is much older there, but the only sign I saw of it were small logs loaded crossways on a few self-loading highway trucks. The locals told me the story, “They took the spar trees first, then timbers, then sawlogs followed by land clearing. Now they’re just pulping what’s left.”

One of the only value-added industries I saw involved laminating cutting boards, salvaged from larch pulpwood,

before the mills could grind it into fiber. There was not a mature tree to be seen anywhere on the landscape.

Even more sobering portents of the future could be seen in Newfoundland, where trees, as we know them, seldom grow, but lessons in resource use

abound. Abandoned docks, derelict boats, vacant homes, and barren beaches tell a

... now they're just pulping what's left.



chilling tale.

On the easternmost tip of North America there is a cliff clinging, whale-watching trail where the only whale to be seen is a picture on a signboard. It is a beautiful land, with wonderful people, but one stripped bare of

its rich natural heritage.

Maybe it is just the way I am looking at things, but my eyes are quick to pick up evidence of squandered abundance. Is this some inevitable march of progress that we must all learn to accept even as it encroaches on our own reality? There are many ways of perceiving our place in the world. Some cultures would view our idea of progress as a kind of terminal madness.

Looking elsewhere for signs of what is coming might be helpful, but nothing is a foregone conclusion. We can choose at any moment to change the way we see things and thus the way we do things. Our perception of the world becomes our world. To change it, we must simply change our minds.

At least, that’s my opinion.

Rod Krimmer, W0550, Big Lake Ranch ♦



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Scenic town of Kaslo hosts woodlot managers, forestry experts at two-day twin AGMs

by Deborah Greaves

Woodlot licensees from forest communities all over BC, loggers, mushroom growers, wildfire experts, resource technicians, forestry consultants and government representatives spent several days in scenic Kaslo during the last week of September, gathering for joint Annual General meetings of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations and the Woodlot Product Development Council.

The theme of this year's conference, hosted by the West Kootenay Woodlot Association, was Employing Diversity. Minister of Forests and Range Pat Bell was the luncheon speaker on Friday, September 25, and Corky Evans, retired MLA for Nelson-Creston, provided a thought-provoking speech on forest tenure at the Saturday night banquet.

Over 70 woodlot licensees and their associates gathered to discuss their

challenges, ideas and experiences.

Among the oldest in attendance was Len Bawtree, an octogenarian and respected longtime forest manager and rancher from Enderby, BC, who has been politically active for decades.

The youngest participant was Derek Strimbold, a third-generation woodlot licensee in his twenties from a Burns Lake family that is well established in both forest management and ranching. Strimbold is the youngest-ever leader of a regional woodlot association, the Nadina Woodlot Association.

The conference participants, most of whom live in "super natural" areas of the province, are used to breathtaking scenery. Nevertheless, several said the September 25 boat cruise on Kootenay Lake was a once in a lifetime experience.

Included in the AGM offerings were displays of diverse wood prod-

ucts, artworks, meals at the Rosewood Café and Kaslo Hotel, and presentations on the potential of NTFRs – non-timber forest resources. Sometimes called "gifts from the forest," these are products other than trees that can be harvested in forested areas, such as berries and mushrooms.

A highlight of each AGM for the two organizations are the woodlot stewardship videos. They are taped each year at the homes and forests managed by woodlot licensees who have been judged by their peers to display exemplary forest management practices.

This year's profiled licensee was second-generation woodlot licensee Creole Dufour of the Cariboo region, a young man who well represents the Federation of BC Woodlot Association's hopes for the future. He returned home from travelling abroad to help with the management of his family woodlot, along with acquiring one for himself.

"We log selectively," Dufour said in the video. "Many people who visit

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Tour participants with Dick Brenton, who led a tour during the AGM. L – R: Allen Bahen, Dick Brenton, Gary Burns, George Delisle, Fred Marshall (front), David Zirnhelt, Jane Marshall, John Salo (see article, facing page).

Purpose of the WPDC

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

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

(Continued from page 10)

our woodlot don't realize that logging activity has gone on there."

With the global economy, weather events, beetles and watersheds to consider, along with a long list of practical challenges, the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations conference also organized breakout sessions covering current woodlot management, bio-energy, wild land/ urban interface logistics, safety requirements and pole manufacture.

Several tours were provided. One took the participants to a successful Kootenay timber frame manufacturer, Hamill Creek Timber Homes, that sells its products to customers all over BC and beyond, with many in Hawaii. Also included was a visit to a marble quarry, salmon spawning creek and the Duncan Dam, with longtime woodlot manager Richard Brenton as guide.

Other treks took participants to woodlots where various kinds of partial cutting have been practiced and a



Licensee Paul Galliazzo at the Duncan Dam on beautiful Kootenay Lake during the Kaslo AGM.

variety of non-timber forest products such as gourmet and medicinal mushrooms are harvested. Challenges with public interface were presented as well.

Presenters during the conference represented many years of experience and expertise and included resource technicians, registered professional

foresters, consultants, and experts in energy, stewardship and silviculture.

On meeting two conference participants in a Kaslo boutique, a longtime Kootenays resident said, "I think woodlot licensees, people who are part of the community, are our best bet when we're looking for sustainable forestry." ♦

John Salo: "the last of a dying breed"

Editor's note: While working on the group photo on the facing page, we were able to identify everyone except one man. When we asked, "Who is that guy in the red suspenders?" this is the answer Dick Brenton gave us.

by Dick Brenton

The guy in the red suspenders is John Salo from Sointula on Malcolm Island. My son, Sean worked for John in Rivers Inlet for a few seasons. John is one of the last of a dying breed.

He was born and raised up coast in a float house; married Jenny from the same situation; and raised their family till high school age the same way.

He then hauled his house to Sointula, pulled it out on the beach and moved in. He is one of the last A-

frame loggers from the old days.

When all hell breaks loose on the West coast, people call John on the radio to get them out of the jam, and he does!

Sean said that if you give that guy a piece of rope, there's nothing he can't do.

John doesn't do recreation. After the meeting, we took them to a very beautiful local hike high in the mountains surrounded by glaciers. They loved it. Jenny kept taking pictures of John not working because nobody back home would believe it.

So there's your man in the red suspenders, and one hell of a man he is!

It has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Sean to be with John 24/7 for weeks at a time. ♦

portunity for Sean to be with John 24/7 for weeks at a time. ♦



John Salo of Sointula — "If you give that guy a piece of rope, there's nothing he can't do!"

AGM memories

*A selection of your photos from the September 24-26
AGM held in beautiful Kaslo on Kootenay Lake.*



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FBCWA Business Resolutions

22nd Annual General Meeting, Kaslo, BC, September 24 — 26, 2009

Note: The resolutions were presented to the general membership and voted on by delegates at the AGM on September 26, 2009. The FBCWA Directors considered, reviewed and voted on the same resolutions at their meeting on September 27, 2009. The outcome of both sessions appears below each resolution.

1. Whereas:

- BCTS and the MFR as a whole are still replanting with pine in spite of the beetle devastation (not good)

Be it resolved that the Executive gives consideration to:

- Going back to broadcast burning to alleviate fire hazard and rejuvenate the soil.
- Doing more site prep to take advantage of natural seed sources.
- Noting that the tab rates on the stumpage really help us to get through these tough times – DON'T CHANGE IT.

Moved: R. Pattison (by mail)

Seconded: Derek Strimbold (at AGM)

Membership: Defeated

Directors: Defeated

2. Whereas:

- The coffee table book has cost FBCWA members \$38,622 which was paid for via membership dues
- According to data from 2004-2008 there are 21-24 dues-paying woodlot associations representing about 550 members.
- Another \$20,000 is to be spent printing 2000 copies for a total projected cost of \$58,622.

- The current proposal includes a sales cost to members of \$20. Based on the above figures the members have already paid \$70 so their total cost for one copy of this book would be over \$90 (general sales set at \$40)

Be it resolved that the Executive gives consideration to:

- A copy of the book should be distributed without any additional charge to all paid-up Federation members. These people have already paid for this book so they should receive one with no further charges.

Moved: Fred Marshall

Seconded: George Delisle

Membership: Defeated

Directors: Defeated

3. Whereas:

(Text purposely omitted by mover)

Be it resolved that the Executive gives consideration to:

- The executive (Federation) putting to government that woodlots being area-based, that First Nations reference be done once to deal with relevant issues.

Moved: Jeff Mattes

Seconded: Chris Choquette

Friendly Amendment: David Zirnhelt / Cliff Manning (deleted wording "for all time")

Membership: Carried as amended

Directors: Carried as amended

4. Whereas:

- RESULTS is a burden to licensees, having been off-loaded by government

- The program and security problems are not well understood by most all licensees
- Yet the issue is a mandatory requirement

Be it resolved that the Executive gives consideration to:

- Requesting that the WPDC put out tenders to hire one or more persons to offer their services to licensees at no cost.

Moved: George Dore

Seconded: Deirdre Dore

Membership: Defeated

Directors: Defeated

5. Whereas:

- Forest fire protection is a concern to the woodlot fraternity and the general public;
- Fire occurrence is causing major financial stress to the province, as well as causing severe losses to merchantable standing timber

Be it resolved that the Executive gives consideration to:

- Approaching the MFR as to ways that the FBCWA could assist in the formation of local licensee crews for initial attack on accessible fires and
- Further, where licensees having woodlots in an interface area might assist in hazard reduction relative to a "fire smart" program.

Moved: G. L. Benwell

Seconded: Tom Quirk

Membership: Carried

Directors: Carried ♦

Welcome to new and returning Directors

Mark Clark is the new President of the Federation, replacing Cliff Manning, who now assumes the Past President position.

Brent Petrick, who was the Past President, now gets some time off from the Executive. Apparently, he is going to spend his newfound “free time” becoming the Toe Blake of the Kootenays, as he has taken on responsibility for managing and coaching a midget hockey team.

Lisa Marak was re-elected as Secretary and will continue her excellent work as Chair of the Communications Committee.

John Massier, Don Rosen, George Delisle and Tom Bradley were all re-elected. In addition, Derek Strimbold was voted in as a director.

The current executive committee:

- President: Mark Clark
- Past President: Cliff Manning
- Vice President: Shawn Flynn
- Treasurer: Nancy Pezel
- Secretary: Lisa Marak



The Logger's Prayer Wheel is an artistic sculpture outside the Kaslo Hotel made up of the heads of old marking hammers. The sculpture caught the attention of several delegates during the Kaslo AGM.

- Directors: Don Rosen, John Massier, George Delisle, Tom Bradley, Derek Strimbold, Nigel Ross, and Miles Fuller.
- Last but certainly not least, we'd

like to acknowledge Cliff and the great job he did as President. Much has been accomplished over the last two years under Cliff's leadership. His commitment and dedication to the Federation is extraordinary. ♦

Thank you to the AGM Organizing Committee

Co-Chairs:

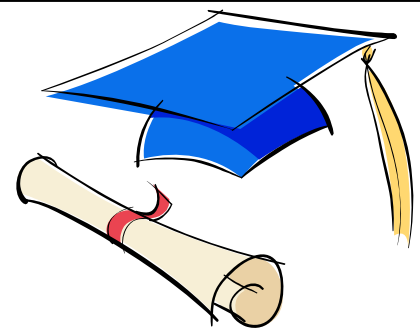
Dick Brenton
Tom Bradley
Jeff Mattes



Committee:

Peter McAllister
Gary Burns
Stuart Deverney
Rocky Hawes
Brent Petrick
Hugh Watt
Marvin Work
Adrianna Work

Thank you also to the AGM photographers whose work is featured in this issue: Tom Bradley, Mark Clark, Deborah Greaves, Dave Haley.



The amount raised for the FBCWA Scholarship from the Silent Auction this year was \$1338.

Thank you to everyone who submitted items for the auction — this truly benefits the young people of our province.

A walk in the woods



Even at the end of September, the weather was perfect for students in Prince George to participate in “A Walk in the Woods” — an initiative of the Canadian Institute of Forestry to celebrate National Forestry Week.

by Deborah Greaves

In celebration of National Forestry Week, 685 students from 16 Prince George schools took part in a Walk in the Woods on Woodlot 272.

This woodlot is held by the Cariboo Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, a not for profit group with a demonstration and public education mandate.

The CIF coordinated the 35 volun-

teers, busing, and teachers. The ABCFP Network of Forest Professionals provided many of the tour guides, and the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations provided materials from our education program, including promotional carabineers, teacher lesson plans, and bookmarks for each student.

Groups of 10 to 15 students were accompanied by a guide to the 17 stops along the educational trails.

There were group discussions of the geographical history, and students were asked to describe the variations between the several ecosystems along the trail.

Students also enjoyed collecting and identifying the various species of plants along the trails, and their curiosity had some of the guides referring to plant guides on a regular basis!

There were descriptions of how the forest would naturally respond to insect attack and blowdown, and how the harvesting and replanting of damaged trees was done and why.

Canada is a forest nation. As Canadians, we depend on and need our forests for benefits that encompass the economic, environmental and social. Special activities are promoted across Canada during National Forest Week, observed annually during the last full week of September, with the goal of Canadians learning more about the forest.

There can be no better way to celebrate National Forest Week than going for a walk in the woods and learning more about the forest resource and all it has to offer. ♦

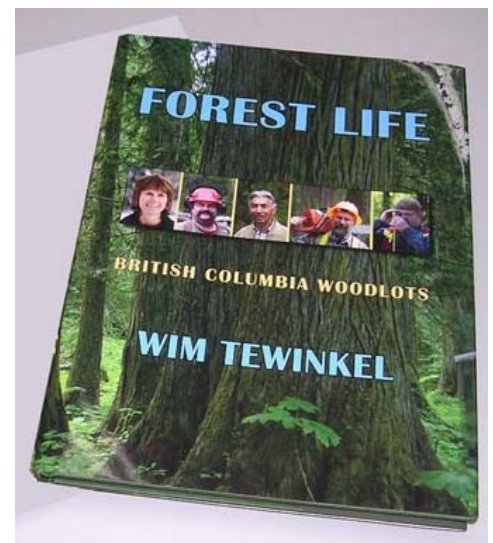
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Christmas shopping made easy!

Are you “stumped” for gift ideas for your favourite woodlotter? Is it difficult to know what they “wood” like?

Look no further!

Forest Life by Wim Tewinkel showcases and celebrates BC’s woodlots, woodlot licensees, and their families. You can order it from www.woodlot.bc.ca for only \$39.95, or get it through your local woodlot association (members-only price) for \$20.00 ♦



Forestry Labour Force Development Program



The Forestry Labour Force Development Program provides funding for training to forest workers who are not eligible for Employment Insurance.

Its goal is to provide support to unemployed forestry workers to help them develop or enhance their skills in harvesting, human resource and business practices, and business innovation developments, to help them return to the forest industry.

Who is eligible?

Eligible participants must have worked in the forest industry; be self-employed, or unemployed, and NOT eligible for Employment Insurance benefits; reside in one of the pilot program areas:

- Cariboo
- Nechako/Lakes
- Northwest
- Northeast
- Not be receiving support for the same training from another source

What funding is available?

- Costs of approved courses
- Travel and Accommodation up to \$500

What kind of training will be paid for?

The Program will pay for entry into a variety of courses being offered by various trainers around the region, including:

- First Aid, all levels
- Transportation Endorsement
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG)
- S100 or S100 Refresher
- Bear Aware
- H2S Alive or H2S Alive Aware
- WHMIS
- Computer basics
- Computer software use— forestry or

business management related

- Human Resources Management
- Project Management
- Negotiation and Conflict Resolution
- Dealing with Substance Abuse in the Workplace
- Business Essentials Skills Training
- Supervisor Training
- Smart Driver for Forestry
- Fire Suppression/ Fuel Management
- Equipment Maintenance Basics
- Truck Maintenance Basics
- Technology Use
- Internal Auditor
- Financial Management
- Contract Management

We can also customize the program to help participants get training or courses that would most help them succeed with their businesses and sustainable in the forest industry.

Other Opportunities

The CILA will also be presenting two series of workshops throughout the region over the fall of 2009 and during spring of 2010.

Fuel Efficiencies: This FERIC workshop provides tips and tools for tracking and managing fuel consumption and efficiencies in vehicles and harvesting equipment. The workshop is open to all log haulers, harvesting contractors, silviculture contractors, community forests, woodlot owners and others interested in saving money.

Industry Trends & Issues: This workshop will be facilitated by Roy Nagel and MaryAnne Arcand of the CILA, bringing contractors up to date on forestry trends, issues, and needs for the future. It will cover upcoming legislation, issues that affect various aspects of operations, and trends for

the recovery – who will be left? What will the industry look like? How do we get better utilization of equipment? How do we diversify, but stay in the industry?

Eligibility checklist

- Are you unemployed or underemployed (not working as much as you used to)? **If yes, please continue.** If no, sorry, you're not eligible.
- Are you self employed? **If yes, please continue.** If no, sorry, you're not eligible.
- Are you eligible for EI? If yes, sorry you're not eligible for this program. **If no, please continue.**
- Were you recently working in the forest industry? **If yes, please continue.** If no, sorry, you're not eligible.
- Do you plan on continuing to work in the forest industry? **If yes, please continue.** If no, sorry, you're not eligible.
- What was your occupation in the forest industry?
- Are you currently receiving funding for training from another source? If yes, sorry you're not eligible for this program. **If no, please continue.**

If you meet all the above criteria, give us a call to request an intake package and let us know what kind of courses you would like to take: 1-877-562-5668 or 250-562-3368.

Funded by the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada in partnership with the Central Interior Loggers' Association and the Truck Loggers' Association. ♦

Forest Life is a “must-read”

The new coffee-table book produced by the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) entitled “Forest Life – British Columbia Woodlots” showcases woodlot licences throughout British Columbia.

“We commissioned the book to celebrate the Federation’s 20th anniversary,” says Mark Clark, FBCWA President. “It was quite the undertaking but we are extremely pleased with the result. Our intent was to showcase woodlot management as well as the people who manage them. It’s a tribute to the Federation, its members and to BC’s woodlot program.”



Minister Bell receives his copy of Forest Life. L-R: Kathy Mayes, Minister Bell, Mark Clark.

licenses scattered throughout BC. “Over 100 are showcased in our new book,” says Brian McNaughton, General Manager for the Federation. “Woodlot licensees make their livelihood by harvesting timber from the woodlot while still maintaining the biodiversity, integrity and beauty of BC forests.”

According to Bell, “Woodlot licences are an integral component of BC’s forest sector. They provide communities with economic, recreation, and social benefits while delivering some of the highest quality forest management in the world. That’s why we are expanding the program and offering about 60 new woodlot licenses over the next two

years.”

“Forest Life” is available via the Federation’s website at www.woodlot.bc.ca ♦

“I received a copy of the Federation’s new coffee table book as a speaker’s gift at their annual general meeting in Kaslo, BC, and was extremely impressed,” said Pat Bell, BC Minister of Forests and Range. “As soon as I opened the cover, this book captured my imagination. It is a must-read for anyone that has an interest in BC’s forests. Every corner of BC is

featured, the flora and fauna, woodlot management, the woodlotters themselves and the things that they do beyond forestry.”

“The first woodlot licences in BC were introduced in 1948 to allow farmers and ranchers access to Crown timber as a means to supplement their income.

Today there are over 840 of these



MFR Woodlot Noticeboard

Official notices from the Ministry

- Amendment No. 13 to the *Provincial Logging Residue and Waste Measurement Procedures Manual* was approved on October 30, 2009. It establishes procedures for assessing regular standing timber left on a cutting authority that is subject to tabular stumpage rates. The amendment came into force on November 1, 2009.
- New guidelines: *Guidance when Dealing with a Catastrophic Event Necessitating Increased Harvesting on Woodlot Licences* was released September 22.

For more details on either of the above, contact your local Ministry of Forests and Range office. ♦

Notices

Upcoming conference

Western Silvicultural Contractors Association Annual Conference and Trade Show takes place January 27-29, 2010 in Prince George www.wsca.ca

Woodlot Directory available

The Woodlot Directory is now available. Woodlot licensees provide contact information in the directory for other licensees who want to network and who may be traveling through their area.

Licensees can order a copy through Cathy McClary 1-888-925-9995 or cjmccclary@shaw.ca ♦

(Continued from page 3)

different major tenure holders talk on the phone, sometimes on a daily, or weekly basis. This even flows down to within divisions of companies.

The major tenure holders will not allow the purchase of wood past one of their own mills from one division into the same company's plant in another division, even though the extra cost of hauling is more than made up for by a higher price from the second division. It is not about log supply, it is about controlling the price of raw materials.

We need to develop a system of incentives to get the forest industry to invest in growing more and higher-quality trees to realize the true potential value from the whole forest and deliver an atmosphere that supports value-added investments.

We need to seriously look at all opportunities and impediments in or-

der to realize the un-tapped potential and opportunities of BC's forested landbase. It is time for the government to provide for, and to look to, the small-scale forest sector for leadership and innovative approaches to managing our forests more efficiently.

Therein lie the growth, resilience and opportunities to extract more value from our abundant natural resources owned by the people of BC. The small-scale forest sector is a vibrant, innovative independent group of individuals who, given adequate opportunities and incentives, will help grow more trees, produce high-quality wood, produce a stable local economy, and strengthen communities. This is much more than we can expect, and will get, from large corporations.

George Delisle, Woodlot #411,
Boundary Woodlot Association ♦



new

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. ♦

WPDC Investment Fund: Your input needed

by Steven Wright, WPDC Treasurer

Background

Over the last decade, the Council's revenue from the levy has been greater than expenses, due to increased AACs (attributed mostly to the MPB epidemic).

This extra money has been placed in an investment fund with the understanding that it would be available for future WPDC needs.

We have now reached that point, as anticipated, when the levy income has fallen below the annual expenses of operating the WPDC.

To ensure we are providing the services that the membership supports, we are requesting your opinions on the use of this fund.

After careful consideration, Council will decide on the best use of the money, keeping in mind the issues and with guidance from our members.

Options include a lower budget that will result in less service to members, the status quo that will maintain existing service, or reallocating where the funds are spent.

The graphs on the facing page illustrate three possible scenarios. The resultant plan could be a combination of two or be completely different.

Option 1: Status quo

Continue to deal with current issues; the budget shortfall is picked up by the investment fund until extin-

guished (i.e., spend until we reach the reserve fund level of \$600,000).

Option 2: Preserve capital – provide less service

Try to preserve the capital and spend only revenue plus the increase of the fund due to interest (approx \$100,000 per year), allowing for minor fluctuations due to return on investment changes.

Option 3: Reallocation of funds

Use this money for projects, create new initiatives and help create products for members, etc. (Some products cost-recovery, some to benefit members)

Questionnaire will gather input

This year's annual questionnaire will focus on gathering information to help guide the decision to be made by the Council executive on how to spend the money over the next few years. We value your input.

Whether you are contacted by phone or through a mail-out survey, please take the time to let Council know your opinions on managing the investment fund. The questionnaire will be distributed in December.

You may also contact any or the WPDC Directors to share your ideas, or the WPDC coordinator: Cathy McClary: Tel: 1-888-925-9995 / Fax: 1-250-962-9199 / cjmclary@shaw.ca

Questions for you to consider:

1. Do you want this money invested in high-, medium- or low-risk investments, or a blend of risks, as it currently is? (Note that losses can still occur with low-risk)
2. Do you want the money used to fund new initiatives? If "yes," do you have any suggestions?
3. Do you want to preserve capital and have some annual funding not dependent on AAC revenue?
4. Do you want to let the WPDC and the FBCWA decide on the best use of the fund?
5. Do you have a great project that would benefit most members? WPDC would like to hear your ideas.
6. Do you want to use the fund for up front money for projects that would have anticipated cost recovery in the future?
7. Do you want to use the fund for projects that benefit most members and not recover the capital?
8. Do you want to be a director of WPDC and help set the direction to take?
9. Do you have other ideas that may not have been addressed in this article? ♦





Scholarship Award Rules and Regulations

1. Applications for this award must be received on or before April 23, 2010. Late applications will not be considered.
2. Applicants must be a 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 in Grade 12, and recent high school graduates.
5. 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.
6. The award of \$1,000 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.
7. Essays and photos from applicants, particularly the successful applicant, may be printed in the Almanac.
8. The decision of the Awards Committee is final.
9. The Awards Committee of the Federation of BC 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.

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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 **“How does expanding the woodlot license program benefit British Columbia?”** This is an open-ended topic, so you can 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 BC Woodlot Associations
Attention: Nancy Pezel, Treasurer
173 W. Hoylake Road,
Qualicum Beach, British Columbia
V9K 1K3

Or send digitally to islandswest@shaw.ca with a subject heading of “FBCWA Scholarship Application”

Applications must be received by April 23, 2010



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 2010-2011: _____

Relationship to woodlot licensee or to private land owner for Woodlot #

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

The woodlot licensee/private landowner 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.)

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FAX: (250) 998-4558

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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.

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BC Ministry of Forests
& Range

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Thank you
to our contributors for this issue



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