



## Forest fire season has begun

### Did you know?

- Most wildfires in New Brunswick break out in the spring, just after the snow melts.
- Dead grass becomes flammable within only hours of snow melting, especially if there are drying winds.
- Grass fires burn hot and fast. They spread quickly.
- Human activity causes 95 per cent of wildfires in New Brunswick— only five per cent are caused by lightning.

### *In this month's issue:*

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The New Brunswick forest fire season began on April 15th.

Keep an eye on the [GNB Forest Fire Watch](#) page throughout the season.

What should you do if you spot a wildfire that seems to be unattended?

- Call 911, or call the [NRED office](#) closest to you.
- Provide the following facts:
  - ⇒ Your name
  - ⇒ Your telephone number
  - ⇒ The exact location of the fire
  - ⇒ A description of what is burning
  - ⇒ The size of the fire
  - ⇒ Is anyone fighting the fire?
  - ⇒ Access to the fire



## *A Message from the Executive Director*

In the last month, NBFWO has continued to work on the preparation to provide Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification in New Brunswick in 2025. We have also received a 3-year amendment to our 2Billion Tree project. If you have plans to plant on your woodlot in the next few years, please get in touch and see if you qualify for the program!

We continue to participate in the Appalachian Hardwood Forest working group and the Northern Hardwood Research Institute (NHRI) stakeholder group. We have also recently joined the Wolastoq Priority Place Collaborative (see [page 4](#) for more information).

We continue to sit on the Canadian Woodland Forum board of directors and Canadian Forest Owners (CFO).

Canadian Forest Owners was disappointed that the Personal Silviculture Saving and Investment Plan was not in the 2024 federal budget. NBFWO and CFO will continue to lobby for the creation of this important tax structure for woodlot owners.

CFO is also learning more about the new European regulations around deforestation and degradation. This regulation will go into effect in December and will require georeferencing of where all wood destined for the European market came from. This includes biomass and pellets. You can imagine that georeferencing every 4-ha plot and certifying that none of the primary forest products came from degraded forests is a huge task. Europe includes planted forests as degraded, so Canada has concerns. We will continue to monitor this file.

The province of NB has hired a consultant to create a Digitization Roadmap for NB forestry. We and the Marketing Boards are participating in the process. The project will design and recommend a digitalization strategy for the forest sector of New Brunswick.

NBFWO was asked to participate in the Climate Change Secretariat, Forestry Climate Solutions workshop last week. I presented on the challenges facing woodlot owners and made some suggestions on what encourages woodlot owners to maintain their land as forests. Hopefully, some of the suggestions will result in positive changes for woodlot owners.

I will be travelling to Ottawa at the end of the month to lobby on behalf of woodlot owners and there is a meeting with Chris Ward on April 25<sup>th</sup> to try and create a road map for and brainstorm around woodlot services and organizational ecosystem. We hope this will be a productive meeting. Marketing Board managers will also be attending this meeting. The following day I will be participating in a Wildland Fire Engagement meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Susannah Banks*

Executive Director, NBFWO

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## What's New?

A round up of news from our website, other organizations and upcoming events

The NBFWO office will be closed Monday May 20 for Victoria Day.

The video recording for the NBEN & NWAJ Webinar: Natural Edge - a [Guide to Riparian Restoration for Landowners](#) is now available for viewing.

The Forest Product Marketing Boards have asked us to remind anyone in possession of **Transportation Certificates (TC's)** that they should have been returned to their offices **by April 15th**. All books, whether they have been completely used or not, must be returned.

**SAVE THE DATE:** The Annual General Meeting will be held on **October 9th** this year. More information to come later.

MCFT is offering the following training: [Bear Safety and Awareness](#) May 8, [WAWA in French \(Bathurst\)](#) May 27 - 31, [WAWA in English \(Fredericton\)](#) June 10 -14.

April 24 - [Spruce Budworm Early Intervention Strategy Virtual Open House](#). Event hosted by Canadian Institute of Forestry in collaboration with Healthy Forest Partnership

Canadian Forest Industries (CFI) is seeking **logging contractors** across Canada to participate in a [short survey](#) to allow trend analysis and to check in on the status of the Canadian logging contractor.

We collate media articles, press releases and other updates about forestry on our News page. [Check out some news you may have missed this month](#)

- *Successful Reforestation Is Keeping the Eastern U.S. Cooler*
- *The State of Canada's Forests Annual Report*
- *Biochar Is 'Low-Hanging Fruit' for Sequestering Carbon and Combating Climate Change*
- *West Fraser ceased the use of glyphosate in BC*
- *Marketing Board district meetings happening*
- *As wildfire season starts, N.B. ready to take firefighting to 'whole new level'*

Keep an eye on the [News](#), [Ads Board](#), and [Calendar of Events](#) on the website for additional events and details.

## ***The Wolastoq / St. John River Priority Place***

The Wolastoq / St. John River contains productive riparian areas, freshwater wetlands, and intact forests. This area is among the most diverse in Atlantic Canada.

### ***What is a Priority Place for Species at Risk?***

The federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, has agreed to the implementation of the [Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada](#). This new approach shifts from a single-species approach to conservation to one that focuses on multiple species and ecosystems.

The priority places selected have significant biodiversity, high concentrations of species at risk, and opportunities to advance conservation efforts.



*Photo credit: New Brunswick Images*

### ***Why was Wolastoq / St. John River chosen as a Priority Place for Species at Risk?***

Wolastoq / St. John River Priority Place is one of [11 priority places for species at risk](#) that were identified across Canada. This Priority Place is in the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik “People of the beautiful and bountiful river”. There are 6 Wolastoqiyey communities here: Matawaskiye (Madawaska); Neqotkuk (Tobique); Pilick (Kingsclear); Sitansisk (St. Mary’s); Welamukotuk (Oromocto), and Wotstak (Woodstock).

The Wolastoq / Saint John River hosts the highest densities of species at risk in New Brunswick, including some of the province's rarest species. There are 33 terrestrial species at risk in the Wolastoq / Saint John River. There are 84 priority bird species from the Bird Conservation Region Strategies (BCR 14) in this Priority Place.

### ***Wolastoq / St. John River Priority Place Collaborative***

The Wolastoq / St. John River Priority Place Collaborative is a working group of organizations that are implementing projects funded through the federal governments Priority Places for Species at Risk program. They meet regularly to keep each other up to date on project work and find ways to support each other. Woodlot owners in the area are stakeholders in the work being implemented by many of these projects, so the Federation was invited to join the Collaborative. We will support various projects dedicated to conserving species at risk and their habitat throughout the New Brunswick portion of the river by collaborating in the creation and sharing of information regarding species at risk, stewardship recommendations, and related educational opportunities.

We are looking forward to be able to provide more information as the various projects are implemented, so stay tuned!



## SEEDS OF WISDOM

*Bits of information to help you make the most of your woodlot adventures*

### Animal Facts

**Common name:** Chimney Swift  
**Scientific name:** *Chaetura pelagica*  
**Type:** bird  
**Diet:** insectivore  
**Weight:** 17 to 30 grams  
**Length:** 12 to 14 centimetres  
**Status:** threatened

A bird best identified by silhouette, the smudge-gray Chimney Swift nimbly maneuvers over rooftops, fields, and rivers to catch insects. Its tiny body, curving wings, and stiff, shallow wingbeats give it a flight style as distinctive as its fluid, chattering call.



*Photo credit Alison Manthorne, Birds Canada*

Before European settlement Chimney Swifts mainly nested on cave walls and in hollow trees or tree cavities in old growth forests. Today, they are more likely to be found in and around urban settlements where they nest and roost (rest or sleep) in chimneys and other manmade structures. They also tend to stay close to water as this is where the flying insects they eat congregate.

This enigmatic little bird spends almost its entire life airborne. Swifts even bathe in flight: they glide down to the water, smack the surface with their bodies, and then bounce up and shake the water from their plumage as they fly away. It's estimated they fly more than 800 kilometres each day and when they land, they can't perch—instead they cling to vertical walls inside chimneys or in hollow trees or caves.

The Chimney Swift uses glue-like saliva from a gland under its tongue to cement its nest to the chimney wall or rock face. Sometimes an unmated swift helps the breeding pair rear the young. The young outgrow the nest after about two weeks and have to cling to the nearby wall, in many cases even before their eyes are open.

This species has suffered sharp declines as chimneys fall into disuse across the continent.

Large numbers of Chimney Swifts roost together in a single chimney during the nonbreeding season. There's warmth in numbers: during cold nights, the temperature inside a chimney roost can be 70°F warmer than outside.

Unmated swifts continue roosting together in the summer, sometimes in large groups. But the species does not nest colonially: you'll find only one breeding pair nesting in any one chimney. The pair may tolerate other nonbreeders roosting in their chimney.

The oldest recorded Chimney Swift was a male, and at least 14 years old when he was recaptured and released during banding operations in Ohio in 1970. He was banded in the same state in 1957.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Black bears sometimes stand up on their hind legs to see better. They also sometimes also lift their noses to smell better. These behaviours, even if they are accompanied by low growling, are not signs of aggression.

However, chattering of teeth or loud blowing should be considered a warning. If the bear hits the ground or hits objects with its paws, or if it looks like it's going to charge, it is clearly showing that it does not want you on its territory.



MEDUXNEKEAG  
**RIVER**  
ASSOCIATION INC.

Source: Meduxnekeag Valley Nature Preserve

You probably already know that the [Ads Board](#) on the Federation website is **FREE for members** to post their ads. Everyone can view the Ads Board, so post your ad and reach a wider audience!

But now non-members can buy a 3-month subscription to advertise on the Ads Board as well. If you know anyone that would like to reach a larger audience, point them to the Ads Board page!



### *Share your pictures!*

We would love to see your woodlot pictures! Send us your pictures and they could be showcased in the newsletter, on social media or on the website.

Email them to: [info@nbwoodlotowners.ca](mailto:info@nbwoodlotowners.ca)

## Do these headlines interest you?

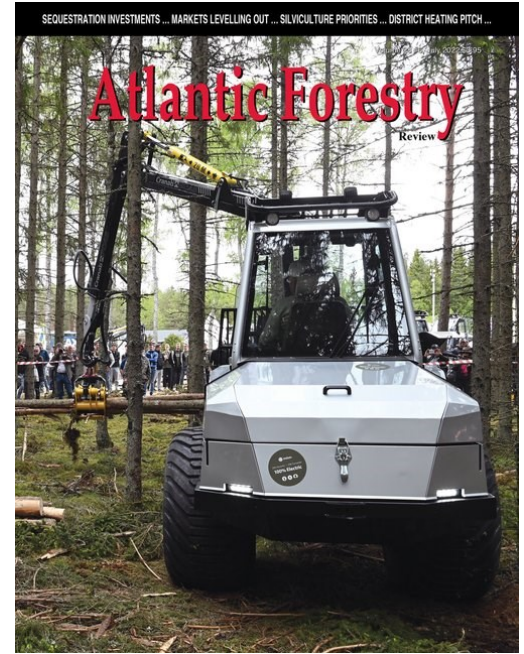
- *The More (species) the Merrier: forest diversity linked to greater carbon sequestration*
- *Getting FireSmart*
- *Good Medicine: for this ER doc, woods work is part of a balanced life*

These articles and much more are in the latest edition of the Atlantic Forestry Review!

As a NBFWO member, you can receive a \$6 discount off of the price of a 1-year subscription. **That's 6 issues a year for only \$14 - what a deal!**

**Makes a great gift too!**

[Click here](#) to sign up today!



### **Writers wanted**

Do you have an interest in writing? We are looking for members who would like to write about forest-related topics for the Newsletter and Blog.

If you are interested, please get in touch with the topic(s) you would like to write about.

Email [info@nbwoodlotowners.ca](mailto:info@nbwoodlotowners.ca)

## EARTH DAY

### 2024

*Planet vs Plastics*

60% reduction in the production of plastics by 2040, and an ultimate goal of building a plastic-free future for generations to come.



**Thanks for reading**

**Until next time!**

[www.nbwoodlotowners.ca](http://www.nbwoodlotowners.ca)

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