



New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners
Fédération des propriétaires de lots boisés du Nouveau-Brunswick

Member Newsletter - October 19, 2025

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Ecologically mindful firewood

What to harvest and burn to support a healthy forest?
Join the Nashwaak Watershed Association Inc. and
the NB Federation of Woodlot Owners to hear from
forestry professional Shawn McGrath on Tuesday, **No-
vember 4, from noon until 1 PM.**

Workshop Summary

Join us for a practical online workshop on responsible,
ecologically mindful firewood use. We'll cover how to
choose, harvest, and burn firewood in ways that sup-
port healthy forests, protect wildlife, and provide clean,
efficient heat. Learn what to look for when buying or
harvesting firewood and how everyday choices can
build climate resilience.

Speaker Bio

*Shawn McGrath is a forestry professional with experi-
ence in sustainable forest management, biomass ener-
gy, and supporting landowners in New Brunswick and
beyond. He works at the intersection of ecological for-
estry and practical wood use, helping communities bal-
ance heating needs with forest health and climate resil-
ience. He practices this important work in his role
with ACFOR and at home in his own firewood pile.*

**Ecologically Mindful
Firewood**

A webinar about what to harvest and burn to support a healthy forest
Tuesday, November 4th - 12:00pm-1:00pm

[Register](https://www.nbwoodlotowners.ca/calendar-of#event/2025/11/4/webinar-ecologically-mindful-firewood) here,
<https://www.nbwoodlotowners.ca/calendar-of#event/2025/11/4/webinar-ecologically-mindful-firewood>

From the Desk of the Executive Director

NBFWO held a very successful Annual General Meeting on Oct 8th. Presentations on biodiversity and forest health as well as an update on the work of the Northern Hardwood Research Institute were very well received. Additionally, we were very pleased to have the Hon. John Herron, Minister of Natural Resources and David Coon, the leader of the Green Party of NB spend time interacting with our membership.

We have 2 new board members, Carli Le Roux and Stephanie Phillips. We welcome them to the board and look forward to their contributions. Continuing on the board are David Palmer, Ron Smith, Mike Keenan, Jean Guy Comeau, Danny Murphy, Andrew Clark and Hazen McCrea. Rick Doucett has accepted another 3-year term as President. We want to express our sincere appreciation to Dalton Dickinson and John Sabine for their contributions to our board during their tenure. Their dedication and commitment are greatly appreciated.

Members who attended the AGM were given an opportunity to weigh in on the question of priorities for the association. The board will use this information to help inform their strategic planning for the coming year. Key areas that we are struggling to balance are lobbying, developing a carbon credit project, educational opportunities, other effective conservation measures, group insurance and attracting new members.

The group insurance is in collaboration with Canadian Forest Owners, and we hope to have group home and auto, liability, and standing timber insurance available in 2026. The standing timber will be against fire, wind and ice damage. This is an exciting opportunity for woodlot owners, and the standing timber is a new offering in Canada. This type of coverage is becoming more and more important because of the changing climate and the increased risk of loss.

NBFWO will be participating in provincial discussions around changes to the property tax system and we hope to participate in discussions about the clean water act as it is reviewed.

We continue to provide increased access to resources on our website, both our own creations and links to the work of others. We are continuously looking to collaborate with others groups and organizations to provide services to woodlot owners.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and participate at the AGM!

Respectfully submitted,

Susannah Banks

Executive Director, NBFWO
ED@nbwoodlotowners.ca
506-459-2990



Share your pictures!

We 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

News & Events

A round up of news from all over and upcoming events

News

- *Redefining wood products: How Timber Tiles is defying convention*
- *How will Maritime trees fare as the province warms? Plant them down south and find out*
- *Public consultations to help update Clean Water Act*
- *Consultation on emerald ash borer management in Canada*
- *N.B. researchers use satellite tech and AI to identify critical habitats in the wild*
- *Extra tariffs on softwood lumber, some wood products take effect*
- *Chaos, confusion at border as N.B. forestry industry navigates new tariffs on softwood lumber*
- *Parts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick experiencing once-in-50-year drought*
- *Money for embattled softwood lumber industry coming soon, minister says*
- [See more News](#)

Upcoming events

[October 19:](#) Workshop on Risk Assessment and Mitigation at Ganong Nature Park

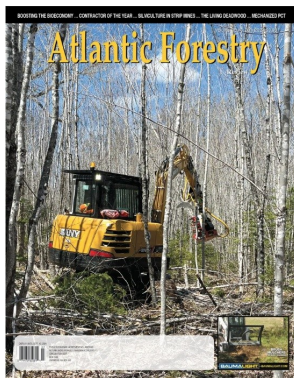
[October 25:](#) Workshop on Risk Assessment and Mitigation at Mactaquac Provincial Park

[November 1:](#) Workshop on Risk Assessment and Mitigation at Bathurst (free for everyone, sponsored by the North Shore Forest Products Marketing Board)

[November 4:](#) Webinar - Ecologically Mindful Firewood

November 4: Northumberland Forest Products Marketing Board Annual General Meeting (contact admin@nfpmb.com or call 506-622-7733 for information)

November 11: The NBFWO office will be closed for Remembrance Day



One of the advantages of being a member of the NBFWO is receiving a \$6 discount off of the price of a 1-year subscription to the ATLANTIC FORESTRY REVIEW. **That's 6 issues a year for only \$14!**

Launched in 1994, AFR is a magazine for woodlot owners, foresters, contractors and technicians in Atlantic Canada. If you are interested or involved in forestry, AFR is an essential resource of up-to-date information.

Subscribe today on the [Shop](#) tab of the NBFWO website (members must login to able to receive the discount).



Writers wanted

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

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

Email info@nbwoodlotowners.ca

American Beech Trees

Adapted from [Meduxnekeag Valley Nature Preserve](#), originally by Holly Melanson

Sadly, most of the American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) trees on the Preserve show signs of beech bark disease.

Healthy beeches have smooth, gray bark—but a tiny non-native insect, the beech scale (*Cryptococcus fagisuga*), was accidentally introduced to Canada in the 1800s on a European beech planted in Nova Scotia. These insects feed on the bark, leaving cracks that allow a native fungus to invade. Together, they cause cankers that slowly kill the tree—most infected beeches die within 10 years.

Unfortunately, once a beech tree is infected with beech bark disease, it usually can't be saved. The scale insect and fungus combination is almost always fatal over time. However, some individual trees (although none that I am aware of on the preserve) show natural resistance, and researchers are working to identify and propagate those resistant beeches.



Photo: Healthy Beech Bark by Jim Frohn - cropped, University of New Hampshire.



Photo: Diseased Beech Bark by Holly Melanson, MVNP

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Sign up with an email address and your NBFWO Member Number, you can receive offers and discounts for all sorts of purchases!

Sign up on the [Member Home](#) page. Scroll down to the MEMBER PERKS and select the 'Perkopolis' tab.

If you have any questions you can contact [Perkopolis customer service](#) through live chat, phone, or email.



Series of webinars: Insights on climate-related risks

By Diane Fargialla, NBFWO Outreach Coordinator

The series of webinars as part of the project “Towards Resilient Woodlots: Risk Assessment and Mitigation” has recently ended. Four informative sessions gave us a better understanding of climate-related risks. Tree species at risk, drought, wind, pests and diseases, and wildfires hold no more secrets! Well, almost – the climate user guide still have many mysteries.

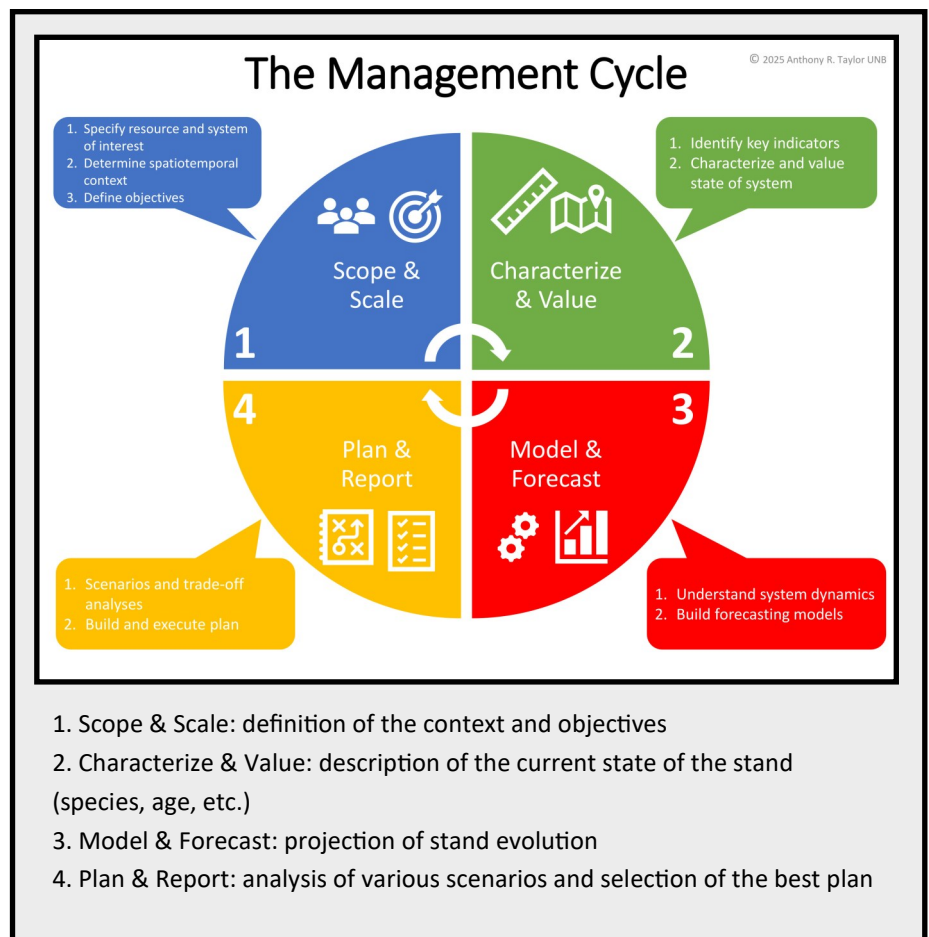
The first session was an introduction presented by Dr. Anthony Taylor. The goal was to better understand how to integrate climate change into forest management planning (see image).

In a climate change context, it is recommended to define goals adapted to this reality. The woodlot should then be assessed and climate-focused scenarios considered. This will help implement a forest management plan that enhances the woodlot’s resilience.

After this interesting introduction, we explored various climate-related risks. Megan de Graaf presented tree species at risk. Loïc d’Orangeville spoke about drought. Dr. Anthony Taylor focused on wind. Sarah Weatherby talked about pests and diseases. Finally, Roger Collet discussed forest fires. To conclude the series, we presented a summary of the various talks.

Here are the key takeaways:

- **Tree Species at Risk:** Consider the current species composition and the regeneration layer. Also, observe the site characteristics that might limit composition shifts. Don't forget the importance of both species diversity and the complexity of the woodlot.
- **Drought:** Diversify the stand and encourage species adapted to warmer and drier conditions. It is therefore recommended to reduce the proportion of vulnerable species. Also, remember that thinning reduces the effects of drought and competition for water.
- **Wind:** Be mindful of topographic exposure and soil rooting layer depth when assessing your woodlot. Also, promote mixedwood stands whenever possible, as they are more resilient to wind. Don't forget that trees shield one another.



- **Pest and Diseases:** Promote mixed stands with multiple age classes and resilient species. In the case of pests or diseases, act quickly by removing infected trees. Also, adopt strict biosecurity and consider integrated pest management.
- **Wildfire:** Prioritize mixed hardwood stands. Also, reduce fuel loads by clearing blowdowns or insect-damaged areas. Practice wildfire prevention—for example, reduce or suspend woodlot activities during periods of extreme drought.

No matter the risk, we strongly recommend that you regularly monitor your woodlot and seek expert advice before taking action. In addition, you must accept that change can be a long process and may require additional material and financial investment. You must also accept that a certain degree of vulnerability will persist in the long term. No woodlot is entirely risk-free, even with proper management. Finally, don't forget the key word: diversity.

We would like to thank the speakers for collaborating and sharing their invaluable knowledge. Their contributions help us feel better prepared to face the challenges ahead.

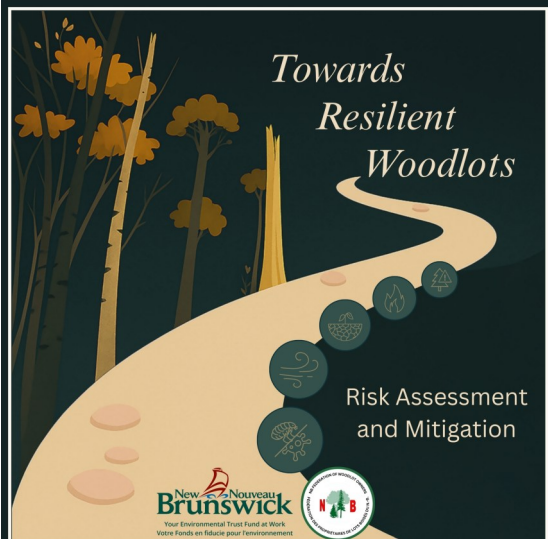
Now, it's time for the series of workshops. Three are planned in different regions of the province:

- Sunday, October 19 – Ganong Nature Park
- Saturday, October 25 – Mactaquac Provincial Park
- Saturday, November 1 – Bathurst

Each workshop will start with a presentation to explore climate-related risks and work on some case studies. After lunch, we will take a walk in a site to conduct on-site case studies. We will observe and assess various risks, and discuss potential management and mitigation strategies.

These [workshops](#) are free for NBFWO members. We highly encourage you to participate. Just a few clicks and you'll be registered.

We look forward to seeing you to learn, discuss and take action together!

 <i>Towards Resilient Woodlots</i> Risk Assessment and Mitigation New Brunswick Your Environmental Trust Fund at Work Votre Fonds en fiducie pour l'environnement NBFWO		October 19  Ganong Nature Park	
		October 25  Mactaquac Provincial Park	
		With Anne MacKnight Chris Higgins	
November 1  Bathurst	Sponsored by 	With Patrick Doucet	SERIES OF ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS





Leave Trees for Bats

By [The Nashwaak Watershed Association](#)

While bats can use man-made structures for roosting, their natural roosts are in large trees. Bats like to roost in large, old trees with cavities (holes) and sloughing bark. These trees could be alive or dead (snags).

During the maternity season (June-July), bats can use many different trees for roosting (over 40 in one season). The roosting colonies could have up to 30 individuals. Bats like roosting trees near water, providing a source of insects for food as well as water to drink. Bats have been found roosting amongst beard lichens, and in pine, spruce and oak trees (although it is very difficult to study their tree species preference).

If you need to remove a snag or dying tree, it would be best for bats if you do this outside of their maternity season (June-July) to avoid disturbing a maternity roost.

For more information about the bats found in NB, check out this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8ISrz2nfDI>. This webinar, presented by Dr. Karen Vanderwolf, was recorded last January and was a partnership between the NBFOW and NWA.



Picture credit: Nashwaak Watershed Association

Species Spotlight: Red-breasted Nuthatch

Small but full of personality, the Red-breasted Nuthatch is a favourite among birders. Known for its bold colours—blue above, rusty below and a sharp black eye line—this tiny bird's distinctive honk-like calls and habit of climbing tree trunks (often upside down!) make it easy to recognize and fun to watch.

Found year-round across Canada, Red-breasted Nuthatches prefer forests with plenty of coniferous trees such as spruce and pine. Their diet includes insects, seeds and especially Spruce Budworms, a forest insect that can cause major tree damage. During Spruce Budworm outbreaks, these birds often gather in large numbers to feed.



Red-breasted Nuthatch
Photo: Kerrie Wilcox

Source: [Birds Canada](#)

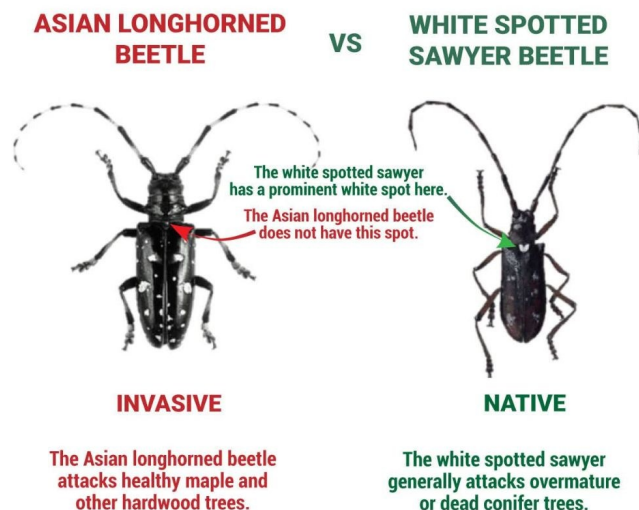
Who's who?

If you spot a large black beetle with long antennae, check the spots! A single white dot on the neck means it's a native white-spotted sawyer, but scattered wing spots point to the invasive Asian long-horned beetle—aka the 'starry night' beetle.

Sawyer beetles help decompose dead conifers, while Asian long-horned beetles damage healthy hardwoods like maple and elm.

Remember, one way you can help protect our forests from pests, is by not moving firewood.

Sources: [Invasive Species Centre](https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/), eddmaps.org



Can owls really turn their heads 360 degrees?

Owls are incredible and awe inspiring, but no, they can't turn their heads a full 360 degrees, but they sure can turn pretty far! Owls can twist their necks almost 3/4 of the way around to look over their shoulder—much further than a human can. Their neck anatomy gives them the extra flexibility they need to perform this feat. Learn more in this quick [video from Bird Academy](#).

Generally, bird necks are more flexible than mammal necks. Almost all birds can look directly behind themselves—that's how many birds sleep! Even so, there's something about owls that seems uncanny, even compared to other birds.



Photo: Great Gray Owl © [Xin Cen / Macaulay Library](#)

If you would like to submit an article or pictures for the newsletter, please email Patricia at info@nbwoodlotowners.ca

Thanks for reading - Until next time!

www.nbwoodlotowners.ca

