

2018	President	Jessica Smeekens	519-803-1447	Director	Wayne Stonehouse	519-899-2722
Board of	Vice President	Dave Ferguson	519-847-5516	Director	Donald Craig	519-695-2028
Directors	Past President	Dave Braet	519-882-1829	Director	Earl Elgie	519-683-2901
	Secretary/ Treasurer	Dave Braet	519-882-1829	Director	Rick Wilkins	519-678-3885

or Email
swwaowa@gmail.com

January 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

South West Chapter Annual General Meeting

Saturday March 2nd 1-4pm, Upstairs meeting room of the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre.

Speakers:

Ian Fife, Bird studies Canada. Forest Birds at Risk and Forest Management: Working together for a diverse and sustainable woodlot

Jay Ebel, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. Managing windbreaks

OWA Annual General Meeting

Friday April 5, 2019 at the [Lion's Community Centre](#). This event is now preceded by a half day tour of the Northumberland Forest on Thursday April 4, along with an evening meet-and-greet at the [Best Western Hotel](#). The AGM Planning Team is finalizing the speakers and more details will be available in early February. Stay tuned!

Elgin Middlesex Chapter AGM late March more details later

Tour of Earl and Bill Elgie's Maple syrup operation.

Once the syrup season starts The Elgie's will pick a date and time and it will be forwarded to people with email. If you do not have email it will be sent by Canada Post if there is time.

Saturday April 20th, (rain date 21st)

Rick Wilkins, 45 acre woodlot. Sydenham field Naturalists have organized a tour of Rick's woodlot and have allowed Rick to invite SWWA members as well. This is an intensively managed woodlot. Shortly after purchasing the woodlot in 2001 he cut out several hundred grape vines to

release trees from the competition. In 2011 he sold timber in an improvement harvest where the trees with the most potential have been left to get bigger. He removes culls annually for firewood and has a program for controlling garlic mustard. He hosted a tour for our members in 2011 after the harvest.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

As you may know from the Woodlander The OWA has created a Chapter Support Committee to come up with ways and means the OWA can assist Chapters with their various issues. Donald Craig and Rick Wilkins are both on this committee. If anyone has any suggestions for ways we can get more pertinent information either to the chapters or to members directly, please contact either Donald or Rick. In particular any feedback about the website would be very useful.

AREA NEWS

Tree Planting

It's never too late to plant trees. Every year your local Conservation Authorities plant thousands of trees. Whether it is windbreaks, riparian buffers, or block plantings, qualified Conservation Authority staff are ready to assist you with your plan. Staff can recommend appropriate species, site preparation and tending. Most also offer planting and tending services. They also work very hard to source funding to offset some of the costs associated with tree planting. So, whether you are looking to have several acres planted or looking to order trees to plant yourself it is time to start planning. Contact your local Conservation Authority about their Tree Planting Program.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WOODLOTS

I am not sure how many of you noticed the small article on Gower Pesticide Safety Course by OWA President Paul Robertson in the last issue of the "Woodlander" It should be of interest and importance to those members who are not farmers but wish to use pesticides like Roundup to control invasive species in their woodlots. Until now only people qualifying as farmers could take the course. However, if you use farm equipment or machinery (chainsaw or tractor.) Or if you grow crops including trees and your woodlot is larger than 2.5 acres you are eligible to take the one day Growers pesticide course. If you are interested you should go to the website www.o pep.ca. soon as some courses are already over and other courses are filling quickly.

For those of you who use the internet there is a lot of information available on forest management relative to woodlots in this part of Ontario.

First there is the OWA website. You can view a lot of recent relevant articles on the web site. You can get information from the Twitter portion of the site even if you do not have a Twitter account. (you may be able to get more if you have a Twitter account) I was able to read articles and view videos without one. However, I was unable to see much on face book without an account.

Another good site is Penn State University Forestry Extension site. <https://extension.psu.edu>.

I saw two good articles on there this morning. The first one was on planting trees - primarily deciduous species native to this region. It covered everything from assessing site characteristics through the pros and cons of various site preparations to post-planting tree care until the trees reach free to grow. The second article was on integrated forest management which, among other things, talked about controlling invasive species. I found something I have never heard before. They have found a wilt disease which apparently only affects Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) a major invasive species south of the Great Lakes and currently a minor one here. They are currently investigating whether they can use this wilt disease as a control of this invasive species.

Ontario Invasive Plant Council.
<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca>

In their section on Best Management Practices they have 18 species of plants listed along with best management practices for controlling them.

If anyone finds useful websites that may be beneficial to other woodlot owners in this area or a broader area of Ontario please pass them along to me and I will include them in future news letters for the rest of our membership.

While I was cruising the internet this morning I saw an article about growing trees which indicated the deer were rubbing bark off trees because their antlers were "itchy". When the antler "velvet" dies and starts to fall off it may annoy the animal into rubbing it off on a tree or two. However, the main reason for rubbing bark off of trees and shrubs is territorial marking. The fresh rub may be smelled from several hundred meters downwind and any Buck that gets the fresh scent will follow the scent to the rub and then when very close detect the scent of the rub's maker and therefore who's territory it is.

A buck marking territory may mark several trees each day in the two weeks before the rut begins in earnest. The only way to be certain a tree will not be rubbed is to put a wire or plastic barrier around the tree until it is 10-15 cm in diameter. Another method that works almost as good and is much less expensive if you have several hundred trees is to plant more desirable species on the corners and along edges of your planting. In this area conifers in general and eastern red cedar in particular are the more desirable species.

SEEKING INPUT!!

If you are interested in contributing to the newsletter please send your articles to,
Donald Craig- dcraigtreeman@sympatico.ca
or
Tim Payne
St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
tpayne@scrca.on.ca