

# PEI Woodlot Owners

## Fall woodlot tours Schedule

- October 13<sup>th</sup> tour  
at Sid Watts',  
Kings County
- October 27<sup>th</sup> tour  
at Rick Peters',  
Prince County
- November 10<sup>th</sup> tour  
at Bill Glens',  
Queens County

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## Welcome to our membership

Welcome to the first edition of the PEI Woodlot Owners Association newsletter, a service to our membership, providing them with information to help make informed choices about their woodlots but also to connect woodlot owners around the Island and help share ideas among themselves.

This edition will act as an introduction to your board as well as an accounting of what has been accomplished in the last six months, we hope you enjoy this edition and are always happy to hear your comments.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Dear Members:

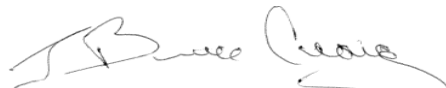
Expectations may be high but we should all keep in mind that one organization cannot be everything to everyone. Many Woodlot owners who join the PEIWOA will want something different than other members. While we will do what we can to find the middle ground and please as many members as possible, patience will be needed to give this new organization time to see what can be achieved. Trying to do too much too fast or focusing on single issues could turn people away from what everyone wants as a valuable asset for the future of PEI's forests.

The March meeting gave us a lot of information about the interests of woodlot owners. Many wanted to know more about "How to manage" their woodlot for multiple use, while others were interested in forest education and planning. Still more mentioned the need for "networking" and communication as well as the organization acting as a collective voice for the woodlot owners of PEI. Many members are passionate about what the organization should do or be for woodlot owners, but again, the Board of Directors must be cautious and not get bogged down in one issue which will make others feel left out in the cold and disappointed.

Starting this newsletter may be one of the most valuable tools to help educate and unite woodlot owners. Many woodlot owners are interested in learning more about what they can do to improve and manage their woodlot. This newsletter can become the vehicle for sharing that information, with the content being influenced by the membership as well. The Association will move forward on many items and we can all have input and evaluate the success of them. Some things won't work as well as hoped but they still have to be tried. We can learn from the occasional misstep and grow stronger.

This is the dawn of a new era for woodlot management in PEI. Markets have changed dramatically in the past decade and we are now at the very best time to set a new course. One which can have us look more closely at developing markets from within PEI while continuing to be less dependent on off Island commodity markets. A forest that is more focused on value and less on volume. A clear vision for where we want to go is needed before we can set a path for getting there, and I believe this organization may just be what is needed to make real progress. I am personally happy to be part of this new organization and hope you will be too.

Best wishes to all, Bruce Craig, Chair.



## Sid Watts' Woodlot Tour



Participants discuss the merits of Pruning the young hardwoods on Sid's Woodlot.

On October 13<sup>th</sup> the first leg of the fall woodlot Tours got under way at the property of Sid Watts in Heatherdale. The day started cold and damp but by mid morning the sun had come out and the participants were treated to an interesting yet informal tour from Sid. The tour started off with a demonstration of how to shear a Christmas tree, after that the group took a look at some of the low-tech equipment that Sid uses to extract wood from his property, including an ATV, a logging arch and a small log trailer, both of which can be used for small scale forestry projects. The tour moved through some stands of old field spruce that were beginning to give way to an assortment of hardwoods, some planted and some natural, giving the participants a good idea of how to manage one of the more typical forest types on the Island. Sid's property has a wealth of well managed plantations, and he gave an informative demonstration on pruning with his extendable saw, many great discussions followed as the tour took the guests through a host of different forest types. Sid, who is a big proponent of value added products from Island woodlots, concluded the tour with an interesting dialogue on the subject, he spoke of the many different options a woodlot owner has using the many other non-timber forest products that are found in the woodlots of PEI

## Rick Peters' Woodlot Tour



Forestry Technician Dale Gaudet Discusses Treatments performed on spruce trees.

An interested group of individuals showed up at the property of Rick Peters in Bloomfield for the second tour, which got underway on the warm and sunny morning of October 27<sup>th</sup>. They were treated to a walk through Ricks well managed property; as well Dale Gaudet was on hand from the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Forestry to interpret the various treatments performed on the property. The guests were shown areas that were harvested by horse logging, performed by none other than our Chair Bruce Craig, he was able to explain the benefits of this method of extraction including its low environmental impact. Ricks property had an exceptional road system that went the length of the property with many side roads branching off, on one such trail visitors were treated to the sight of many young hardwoods coming up in once bare fields. Dale talked of the virtues of the Forest Enhancement Program, and how it enables woodlot owners to improve their forests with subsidies from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Many great conversations ensued and many valuable connections were made.

## Bill Glens' Woodlot Tour



Bill Glen talks of the importance of Thinning white pine plantations

November 10<sup>th</sup> dawned cold and windy for the final woodlot tour of the season, at Bill Glens' property in Bonshaw, however there was a good showing of a dozen or so interested participants who braved the cold winds to tour this diverse and dynamic woodlot. Among those in attendance included the chair of the PEIWOA, Bruce Craig as well as PEI Forestry technician Wayne Francis who was responsible for the administration of the forestry treatments under the Forest Enhancement Program on this property.

The group assembled at the young hazelnut orchard near the front of the woodlot, here Bill gave a very informative discussion detailing the planting and year to year maintenance of this long term venture, from there the group proceeded through a natural zone towards the plantation portion of the property where Bill showed off a recently pruned Norway spruce plantation that was beginning to show exceptional growth as well as a plantation of white pine that had been pruned around seven years before. Bill stressed the importance of pruning and thinning these plantations to increase the general growth and health of the trees. The group continued to the back of the woodlot where they encountered a well thinned plot of European larch, these fast growing trees had already had two thinning treatments performed and the plantation is barely 20 years old, with some trees approaching 20 meters!

This woodlot was a real treat for the participants, opening their eyes to the possibilities of growing a high production woodlot from old field in under 25 years. The most amazing part of this story is that the woodlot owner himself did almost all the work by himself, and continues to do so.

Special thanks to the PEI Department of Agriculture and Forestry and their technicians, as well as the woodlot owners who hosted the tours and the many participants. who helped make these tours a success.

### Did you know?

**There are over 16,000 private woodlot owners on PEI.**

**In 1900 PEI had only 30% forest cover compared with 44% in 2000.**

**PEI has the highest per capita private land ownership of any province.**

**The Provincial tree of Prince Edward Island is the red oak**

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**There are many woodlot owners, (as we have seen above) that have been diligent forest stewards for many years, quietly working away and building beautiful productive woodlots. Often this work goes relatively unnoticed, but through woodlot tours these works can be both an education and an inspiration to others. Do you have managed forest land to show other woodlot owners, or maybe you are interested in seeing what other folks are doing with their own woodlots? If you are you interested in showcasing your woodlot the PEIWOA is interested in hearing from you the woodlot owner.**

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## Board Members Biographies

The Board of Directors, responsible for the day to day business of this association is a group of dedicated volunteers, who share our memberships concerns and passions regarding their woodlots. These individuals are:

**Bruce Craig**- Chair: Bruce is President of Craig Construction and Cabinet Making Ltd. He co-owns 155 acres of woodland in the Northam area with his two brothers. His email is: [info@craigconstruction.ca](mailto:info@craigconstruction.ca)

**Lawrence Millar**-Vice Chair, Heatherdale, Co-owns (with his wife) approximately 20 hectares of which 2/3rds is wood land with plantation and natural mixed stands. His email is: [millarlawrence@hotmail.com](mailto:millarlawrence@hotmail.com)

**Dave Carragher** –Treasurer: Lives in Charlottetown but manages a woodlot in Kelly's Cross. His email is: [dcarragher@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:dcarragher@pei.sympatico.ca)

**Ira Smith** – Board member: Ira is a retired public servant, and owns several woodlots in the Freeland/Lot 11 area of PEI. He can be contacted at [ira.smith@bellaliant.net](mailto:ira.smith@bellaliant.net)

**John Rowe**- Board member: John J. Rowe is a retired educator who grew up on the family farm on PEI. He owns several woodlots in Queens and Kings Counties and has been involved with their management plans for over thirty years. He can be contacted at [rowe@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:rowe@pei.sympatico.ca)

**Richard Davies**- Board Member: Richard Davies owns 1000 acres of land in Flat River, Belle River and Melville, of which 700 are managed forest land. He joined the forestry program in 1981 and continues to work with the Department of Forestry staff to ensure a productive forest and enhanced wildlife.

**Pat MacInnis**- Board Member: Pat is the Kings County representative for the Association; he lives in Frenchfort and owns a woodlot located in Launching. Pat has been managing his forest under the Provincial program for 20 years.

**Terence MacDonald**- Board Member lives in Mount Stewart.

**Cyrus Bernard**- Board Member: Cyrus is a horse logger, he lives in Tignish.

**Greg Ridgway** - General Manager, lives in Breadalbane, he has a small woodlot with the Dunk River flowing through it.



## What we've been up to

The PEIWOA was established this spring after the interim board developed a set of bylaws and a mandate to move forward with the business of representing the woodlot owners of Prince Edward Island. From that meeting in Mid-March the Association came away with a better idea of what the membership expected of them, and in the following months the board was occupied with finding a suitable manager to see to the day to day business as well as the funding to support this. In August a funding

agreement was reached with the PEI Model Forest Network which would allow securing of a part-time manager. The goals set by the membership at the foundation meeting consisted of the three basic premises of representation, education and connection. The fall woodlot tours are a good example of how the association plans to build those connections, by bringing woodlot owners together from all over PEI to share ideas and visions of the forests that our future generations will inherit. We welcome all

woodlot owners who are interested in showcasing their managed properties to contact the PEIWOA and become a part of the future woodlot tour showcase. The board has also been proactive in representing the concerns of our membership, and is currently involved in discussions at the political level to speed change in legislation and regulation regarding buffer zone issues as well as the removal of the HST on firewood. Any concerns or ideas you have that could become an activity of the board, are welcome from the membership.



## Where we are going

Over the winter there is a full slate of activities. We plan on hosting a couple of educational seminars; topics considered include the generational transfer of land as well as the marketing of woodlot products, if you have ideas regarding a topic of interest to woodlot owners let us know.

The Winter Woodlot Tour is on again this year in late January, it is partnered by the Model Forest and the Wheatley River and Hunter River watershed groups, and the PEIWOA will be there to answer your questions we will keep you posted as to the time and place

The AGM is slated for the middle of March, but before that time we will be looking to increase our membership as well as recruit new board members.

We are working on getting the website running soon, when it is operative the newsletter will be imbedded in the website, however we will notify you at that point in an email or in the following newsletters coming out every 6 weeks or so.



## Links to Other Island Associations

### PEI Woodlot Owners Association

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Charlottetown PE  
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OFFICE:  
902-621-0957

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902-620-9774

[peiwoodlotowners@gmail.com](mailto:peiwoodlotowners@gmail.com)  
[www.peiwoodlotowners.ca](http://www.peiwoodlotowners.ca)

[www.peiforests.ca](http://www.peiforests.ca)  
[www.peiwoodlotowners.ca](http://www.peiwoodlotowners.ca)  
[peiwatershedalliance.org/](http://peiwatershedalliance.org/)

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/environment/buffer-zones>

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/FEP>

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We are a new organization and are interested in forming networks with organizations interested in preserving and enhancing the integrity of our Island forests, if you are a member of an organization that you feel would benefit from a network with us let us know.

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## MISSION STATEMENT



The PEI Woodlot Owners Association (PEIWOA) is an inclusive organization that will provide the private woodlot owners of Prince Edward Island with sound advice and practical information to let them make the best choices for their woodlot. We will accomplish this objective by working closely with the membership to identify and pursue the issues of concern relating to the forests of PEI, encompassing the economic, environmental and legal aspects of ownership as well as representing members on the Provincial and National stage.

By forging connections between woodlot owners and all other members of PEI's forest communities the PEIWOA will create new and exciting partnerships, and help to develop the frame work for the future of PEI's forest lands.