

## Small Woodlands Program Active In Pilot Regions



*Extension Forester Bob Baker of Prince George (centre in vest) with a group who attended a SWP forest health workshop in Prince George.*

**T**he Small Woodlands Program has been active throughout the winter with landowner consultations and training courses.

Two more Master Woodland Manager courses have been run on Vancouver Island, bringing the total number of graduates in 1999 to 33. A workshop was held in February to update these graduates on the Small Woodlands Program, and to solicit their feedback toward finding a permanent location to house the Master Woodland Manager course and related activities.

Extension services have continued with a series of lectures in the Omenica-Peace Region. In November Forester Bob Baker held a forest health workshop for private forest land owners in the Prince George area. As well, Agroforestry Specialist Richard Hallman traveled to Vanderhoof, Prince George and Fort St. James in January to give presentations on agroforestry. Hallman provided landowners with a range of ideas for making their forest land productive in the short term.

Extension foresters in the Omenica-Peace region have been

actively consulting with landowners throughout the Peace, Prince George and Vanderhoof areas. Requests for consultations have also come in from the McBride area, and an extension forester will soon be available to landowners there.

In late March the program sent one landowner from Vancouver Island and an extension forester from the Omenica-Peace to Washington State to attend the Private Forests Forum – Summit 2000 sponsored by Washington State University. These delegates have reported back to the program on initiatives, practices and ideas from over the border. Look for a report on Summit 2000 in the next issue of the *SWP Update*.

### Inside:

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- ...And More!

# Landowner Consultations Proving Popular

Consultations with Extension Foresters contracted to the Small Woodlands Program are proving to be one of the program's most popular services.

"We've had many requests and they keep coming in," said Extension Services Coordinator Jill Dunbar.

Forester Lee Foster runs Aspen Ridge Consulting Ltd. in Vanderhoof. Over the last few months he has walked the property of many landowners who contacted the Small Woodlands Program. Foster provided site inspections of their private woodlands, and made management recommendations.

## Richard and Patty Borek

Richard and Patty Borek were told that one Lodgepole Pine stand on their Vanderhoof-area property was roughly 120 years of age. Foster said the stand is harvestable, and gave the couple an estimated timber yield. Another mixed wood stand could be managed for conifer growth, Foster noted, or it could be left as a Pine/Spruce/Aspen stand with the potential for harvesting in 45 years.

A previously cleared site was recommended for planting with Lodgepole Pine, as was an unhealthy Aspen stand in another area.

Foster concluded his consultation by directing the client to some reading material on planting.

## Don and Brian Ross

The Ross brothers of Charlie Lake, B.C. have private forest lands dominated by mature Aspen, with occasional stands of Lodgepole Pine and White Spruce. Foster age-classed the stands and recommended several potential markets for the older Aspen. Febreco at Taylor wants high-quality wood, so does not currently purchase wood with staining or rot. However, the plant is planning a \$6 million expansion, which would allow them to use wood with a higher degree of stain. As well, Louisiana Pacific is planning to build an oriented strand board plant on the north side of the Peace River. Foster said this type of plant usually can accept the type of over-mature aspen that commonly exhibits stain.

## Frank Burg

Foster visited two separate parcels of land owned by Frank Burg of Vanderhoof. He was favorably impressed with how the rancher has managed his forest land base. Trees of various age classes are thriving.

Foster noted some harvested areas that would benefit from reforestation, and gave Burg information on how to proceed with this should he choose to do so in the future.

## Extension Services Continue

Requests for visits by extension foresters continue to come in, Dunbar said. Foresters currently providing services for the program include Bob Baker, RPF and Mark Clark, RPF of Prince George, and Lee Foster, RPF of Vanderhoof. If you would like a consultation from an extension forester, contact the Small Woodlands Program message centre at **1-877-847-1830** and make your request. Or email the program at [swp.bc.ca](mailto:swp.bc.ca).

*Frank Burg on his Vanderhoof-area private woodland.*



# Bark Beetles a Hazard for Small Operators

Photo courtesy of Canadian Forest Service



**P**private forest landowners could see their timber supply wiped out by a bark beetle infestation if they fail to remain knowledgeable about outbreaks in their area.

Mountain pine beetles and spruce beetles are both reaching epidemic proportions in parts of the Omineca-Peace Forest Region, said Provincial Forest Health Manager Tim Ebata.

“This is a big problem for small private forest land owners, because (an outbreak) forces them to salvage harvest in order to sanitize their stands,” Ebata said.

The landowner may not have been planning to harvest for several years. But once a beetle attack has killed a tree, its market value declines steadily over the next 2-3 years, until there is no saw log value remaining. That forces people into harvesting trees they would have preferred to leave until prices rise.

“There is a glut of pine beetle wood on the market right now,” Ebata pointed out.

Unfortunately, the North Central part of British Columbia contains a lot of susceptible host material for the beetles. Large diameter mature trees are the ideal hosts for bark beetles. Younger, more vigorous stands are not so susceptible. These immature trees are able to flood the insects with pitch and literally “pitch” them out.

The Ministry of Forests has been addressing the problem by increasing funding for surveys and treatment of beetle infestations on Crown lands.

But is up to private landowners to keep a vigilant watch on their own stands. Current information on beetle infestations is available from forest district forest health officers.

Ebata advises landowners who suspect that they may have some beetle-infested trees to hire a survey technician to pinpoint the location of the problem and come up with a strategy for treatment.

“(Landowners) may find that they have to log very quickly,” he said.

**A big problem:** the mountain pine beetle poses problems for private landowners in the central interior. The bark-boring pest reduces timber values and forces many landowners to salvage harvest.

## Advertise in the Update

The Small Woodlands Program *Update* currently reaches 10,000 private forest landowners and other stakeholders throughout the pilot regions of Omineca-Peace and Vancouver Island.

Throughout 2000/2001, as the Small woodlands Program expands to other regions of British Columbia, the *Update* will eventually reach 20,000 landowners.

For information about our advertising rates and deadlines, contact the Small Woodlands Program at 1-877-847-1830. Or e-mail us at [swp.bc.ca](mailto:swp.bc.ca).

# Will Wildlife Damage Crops?

One question—especially for farmers—often hangs over agroforestry: what about the animals? Won't the planting of trees and shrubs attract animals that will cause damage to

apples—why animals keep returning to your property. Depending on your site and the wildlife in the area, it may not be practical to try to grow some crops.

Can agroforestry make wildlife problems worse by creating habitats attractive to animals? In a small minority of situations, agroforestry may make matters appreciably worse, but in most cases carefully designed agroforestry systems will help address animal problems before they become problems. There are steps you can take to address wildlife concerns.

## Step 1: Assess the problem

- What are the animals that are causing problems or might cause problems in the future? The major problem animals likely to impact your operation are

ungulates (deer, elk), birds (including waterfowl), and rodents. Beavers can also be a real concern, either because they're taking down trees, or because of the flood damage they can cause with their dams. Different animals require different interventions.

## Step 2: What are your options for controlling damage?

- What is the easiest, cheapest, most practical, and least haz-



ardous way to control your animal problem?

- Depending on the problem, a number of options exist for animal control, among them: chemical control (repellents, poisons), fencing, and habitat modification.
- 'Habitat modification' has often meant *removing* trees or brush in the past. Another option may be to *provide* habitat as part of an agroforestry system to attract animals away from crops. You may also want to consider providing 'raptor roosts' from which birds of prey may hunt. Attracting hawks and owls with roosts can be a highly effective (and cheap) form of natural pest control.
- You won't control anything without spending some money. In some cases the investment can be quite small (single strand electric fence), in others quite large (deer fencing over extended areas).

Before you embark on any control program, or if you require advice on what has worked in your area, contact your local BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food office. The MoAF has done extensive research on animal control issues.

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Photo: Myron Kozak Collection

agroforestry and other crops on the property?

As long as humans have practiced agriculture, they've had to contend with animal 'pests'. Throughout the years, people have tried many methods to control the damage. And they're still at it. Animal damage to crops is not going to go away anytime soon. The fact is that many farms have been developed on prime wildlife habitat such as valley bottoms; in other words, there are often good reasons—besides your

# Farm Succession Planning

The lifetime of a farming couple has meant dealing with raising a family, facing the elements managing debt and fluctuating market returns. Now after this investment in time, emotions, and hard work a time has come to decide on the next phase of their life.

What do they want to do with their investment? How do they face the dilemma of securing a retirement for themselves and following the time honoured tradition, of keeping the farm intact?

The first question they need to answer is do they want to sell the farm to someone outside the family or do they want the farm to continue in the family.

If your goal is to keep the farm intact within the family then the next question is do you want to be fair or do you want to be equal? Often the farm resources will not be able to provide for both farming and non-farming children. What is fair in one family will be entirely different in another.

## Planning for the Solution

The best plan is when parents and children negotiate and agree on a plan and determine “what is

fair” within the farm family.

Second best is when the parents decide what is fair and inform the family members of the decision

The plan with the most problems is when there are different ex-

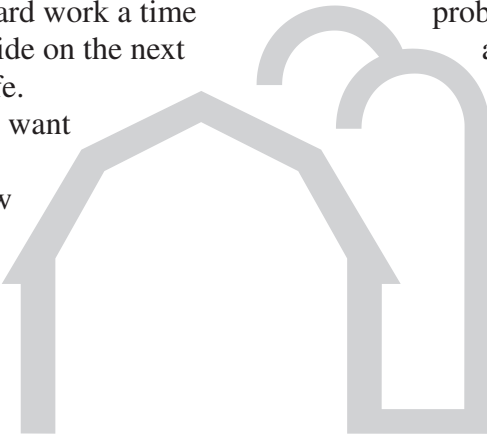
pectations amongst family members and the decision made is a surprise to all.

Good plans take time and effort. Good plans also require the

coaching of a good tax advisor. Once your strategy has some shape and form then it is time to visit a tax/financial advisor to look at the plan to see if it works, that it is “bankable” (financially sound) and that it fits the current tax rules.

The BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, has two publications that can help farm families with this task.

*Estate Planning Checklist* will help farm families with the initial stages of a succession plan. *Estate Planning for the BC Farmer* will provide farm families with basic understanding of some of the current tax rules. Both publications are available from Ministry offices.



## Delayed but not deleted!

Publication of Small Woodlands Program guidebooks has been delayed. The Business Planning and Marketing Guide, the Agroforestry Guidebook and the Extension Services Catalogue are undergoing final edits, and will be available soon.

The Private Woodland Planner, a software program that is a companion to the Business Planning and Marketing Guide, is undergoing product testing. It will also be available in the near future.

We apologize for the delay, but want all those who ordered the guidebooks to know that the books will be that much better for the intensive review they have received from field experts.

The guidebooks will be sent out immediately following publication.



# Agroforestry on the Internet

Private Forest Land Owners with an interest in agroforestry, and who have internet access, can subscribe to the *NWAgroforestry Mailing List*. The purpose of the list is to promote communication and sharing of agroforestry information throughout Northwest North America.

The mailing list contains discussion topics on a wide range of subjects related to agroforestry and the cultivation of Non-timber Forest Products. Primary topic areas include:

- Forest Farming – intentional growing of medicinal plants, mushrooms, floral and Christmas greens and other crops in a forest setting
- Intentional culturing on Non-timber Forest Products
- Fiber Farming – hybrid poplar, hybrid willow and other hardwoods and softwoods for pulp and solid wood products
- Alley cropping – planting various trees on agricultural lands and growing shorter rotation crops between them
- Riparian buffer strip plantings - planting edges of lakes and streams with woody and non woody plants to decrease erosion, improve water quality
- Windbreak plantings for livestock and crops protection and to produce a marketable crop
- Silvopasture - grazing livestock in seeded and unseeded forests
- Seeding forest lands with grasses and legumes

- Farming lands in utility right-of-ways
- Christmas tree production in plantations, native stands and on utility right-of-ways
- Intensive management of trees in woodlots
- First Nations and Agroforestry
- Community Economic development based on Agroforestry
- Integration of Agroforestry with traditional forestry and agriculture
- Agroforestry and land use planning
- Economics of Agroforestry in the North West

## To subscribe to the NW Agroforestry Mailing List

Send mail to:

[mailserv@cariboo.bc.ca](mailto:mailserv@cariboo.bc.ca)

Content of message:

subscribe NWAgroforestry  
FirstName LastName

Example: subscribe

NWAgroforestry John Smith

## To send mail to the list

Send mail to:

[NWAgroforestry@cariboo.bc.ca](mailto:NWAgroforestry@cariboo.bc.ca)

## Replying To a Message

If you want your reply message to be seen by everyone on the List please cc the list

([NWAgroforestry@cariboo.bc.ca](mailto:NWAgroforestry@cariboo.bc.ca))

## Other Interesting Information

*Goods from the Woods...A Handbook for Developing Your Non-timber Forest Products Business*

A handbook funded by Forest Renewal BC that covers the nuts and bolts of starting a non-timber forest products business in BC. It covers business structure, regulations, sustainable harvesting, safety in the woods, etc. The handbook was designed to accompany a course developed by KWC Training. To obtain a copy contact KWC Training, 1323 Walnut Street, Vancouver, BC V6J 3R2. Tel.: (604) 732-8675 Fax: (604) 732-8838.

*Provincial Seedling Stock Type and Ordering Guidelines*

This information is available free of charge while supplies last. Contact: Extension Services, BC Ministry of Forests, 14275-96<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Surrey, BC V3V 7Z2. Tel.: (604) 939-3303 Fax: (604) 775-1288 Email: [Eric.vanSteenis@gems5.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Eric.vanSteenis@gems5.gov.bc.ca)

*Agroforestry: A Newsletter for the BC Agroforestry Industry.*

A newsletter published by the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Articles cover breadth of topics related to the diverse and emerging agroforestry industry.

To be placed on the mailing list, email Carmen Conn at [Carmen.Conn@gems3.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Carmen.Conn@gems3.gov.bc.ca), or Contact: Food Industry Branch, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Box 1980 – 218 Northwest Boulevard, Creston, BC V0B 1G0. Tel.: (250) 428-3255 Fax: (250) 428-3271 Internet: <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca>

# Master Woodland Manager Update

**A**t a February 4-5 workshop at UBC's Oyster River Research Farm on Vancouver Island, 33 graduates of the Master Woodland Manager course came together to discuss management of private forest lands, and to discuss finding a permanent home for the course.

Small Woodlands Program Forester Liz Williamson received enough feedback to draft terms of reference for proposals to house the Master Woodlands Manager course. A few Vancouver Island organizations have already expressed interest in accommodating the course.

Part of the urgency in finding a home for the course is to provide a supporting organization for course graduates to work from. Each graduate has a volunteer

requirement in order to repay the Small Woodlands Program for their training.

Some MWM graduates are already fulfilling their 40-hours of voluntary service for the Small Woodlands Program. However, in order for others to complete this requirement an organization is needed to identify suitable volunteer projects, and to then manage and track volunteer time.

There is a clear desire on the part of Master Woodland Manager graduates to remain connected with each other. A home for the course will enable these private forest land owners to continue their management activities within a network of like-minded colleagues and peers.



*Tonio Bacharach tackles tree coring.*

## Website Alert

A Master Woodland Manager website has been designed and is being maintained by a MWM course graduate in fulfillment of his 40 hours of voluntary service for the program.

The web address is:

<http://woodlandmanager.w2w.cc>



*Graduates of the Master Woodland Program Manager course, held at the Cowichan Lake Education Centre.*



### Step 3: Is it worth it?

- Once you know what your options are, is the problem costing you enough money to justify the cost of controls? It can be expensive and time-consuming to embark on a control program. When the economic loss surpasses control costs it's time to look at a control program.
- Keep in mind that *controlling* damage is your aim; in other words, you want to get damage down to a level you can live with. It's not realistic to obliterate these species from your area, nor is it desirable. Studies have shown that attempting to wipe out a whole population of 'pests' leads to more problems when populations rebound. And anyway, not all of the animals attracted to your agroforestry plantings are 'problems': agroforestry also creates habitat for predators that will help to keep problems under control.

*This information was excerpted from the Agroforestry Guidebook developed by KWC Training of Vancouver.*

# Calendar of Events

## May 5-6

The Annual General Meeting of the BC Institute of Agrologists is taking place in **Prince George**. See BCIA's web page at [www.bcia.com](http://www.bcia.com)

## May 24-25

A Non-Timber Forest Products workshop is being held in **Creston**.  
Contact: Michael Keefer, Ethnobotanist,  
Ktunaxa Kinbasket Tribal Council.  
Ph: 250-489-2464

## May 8-12

National Forest Week  
Watch for local events in celebration of National Forest Week.



## Change of Address?

If your address has changed, please fill out the following form and forward it to us.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

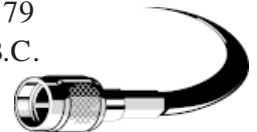
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

## Stay Connected!

### Mail:

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PO. Box 2179  
Smithers, B.C.  
VOJ 2N0



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Website: [www.swp.bc.ca](http://www.swp.bc.ca)

