

Newsletter
February 2010, Issue 8

Weberville Community Forest Project

"A pilot project for a landscape-level private land forest management plan"

WCFP 3rd Annual Community Dinner

You and your family are invited to enjoy an informal evening of dining and presentations sponsored by the Weberville Community Forest Association.

Saturday, March 27th, 2010

Weberville Community Hall

5:30	Doors open
6:00	Supper
7:00	Welcome and overview of Weberville Project Phase II
7:30	AB Agriculture - Video presentation
7:45	Derek Bakker - ASRD Trail Development
8:00	Doug Macaulay - Trees & Carbon Credits
8:15	Sam Glauser - Solar Energy
8:30	Chris McBean - Canadian Model Forest Network
9:00	Closing remarks and plans for Weberville Project Phase III

Tickets \$20, children under 12 free
Payment for tickets will be accepted at the door
PLEASE pre-register before March 20th

Contact:

Lisa Ladd 780-618-2624 lladd@nait.ca or
Juri Agapow 780-624-4529 juri.agapow@fpinnovations.ca

Canadian Model Forest Network

The Canadian Model Forest Network is a network of 14 model forest sites across Canada. Each local site involves numerous partners who all work towards sustainable landscape management. As a network the CMFN collectively works to raise the profile of model forests in Canada and around the world and coordinates relevant national initiatives.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(excerpt from the CMFN website <http://www.modelforest.net/cmfn/en/>)

What is Sustainable Forest Management?

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is management that maintains and enhances the long-term health of forest ecosystems while providing ecological, economic, social and cultural opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations.



What is a “Model Forest”?

A Model Forest is a partnership of public and private landowners, government, industry, universities, Aboriginal communities and other organizations that have a common interest in achieving SFM within a local, defined forest area. Each Model Forest is run by a not-for-profit organization and, except for a small administrative staff, all those involved in the Model Forest not only donate their time and expertise, but also often bring additional financial support. At the heart of each Model Forest are the partners who work together to promote forest management that takes into account ecosystem health, cultural values and economics. Model Forests range in size from 113,000 hectares to 7.7 million hectares, covering typical scales at which district-level forest management decisions are made.

Why call it a “Model” Forest?

A Model Forest is a “model” or example of sustainable forest management. It acts as a giant laboratory where leading edge techniques are researched, developed, applied and monitored to work towards achieving SFM. The Model Forests serve as examples of how other forest areas within Canada can achieve SFM.

How are Model Forests structured and governed?

The Model Forests are not-for-profit organizations. A management body, such as a Board of Directors, is responsible for managing funds. The internal structure of each Model Forest differs, but most use committees to oversee project initiatives and these committees advise the main management body. All Model Forests have a small administrative staff, headed by a General Manager, which is comprised of forest, geomatics and communications specialists.

Why are partnerships so important in the Model Forests?

Many Canadians live in forested areas and are directly affected by forestry practices. As such, it is important to form partnerships that bring various environmental, cultural and economic organizations and values together. Partnerships are necessary to address and satisfy the diverse needs of the people who live in the Model Forest. Partnerships bring people together to sort out conflicting ideas and, in many cases, also bring most of the funding to the Model Forests, which supports project work.

How are projects chosen in Model Forests?

Various committees and Model Forest staff advise the management body on particular projects. The management body makes the final decisions, dependent on available funding.

Can I visit a Model Forest?

Yes. It is recommended that you contact the individual Model Forest for site visitation details.

CANADIAN MODEL FORESTS



Why are Model Forests important?

Model Forests are important because they bring divergent views together. They create communities. Each partner in a Model Forest contributes and shares their values, expertise and experience with others. In doing so, s/he creates a shared environment where views on how to better achieve SFM are refined and put into practice. For example, Model Forests put landowners in closer contact with researchers and policy makers, allowing everyone to learn about better SFM practices from differing points of view.

Does a Model Forest restrict the activities of private landowners?

No. Model Forests have no jurisdiction over the management of the land used as a testing ground. Rather, Model Forests encourage landowners within their boundaries to work with other stakeholders to make a difference towards improved forest management.

Wood Bio-energy for Rural Residents

*Part 2 of a 2 part article by Toso Bozic
Woodlot Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development*

There are many products on the market in Alberta (very few or none from high efficiency European technology), but your individual energy needs and wood fuel availabilities are the key to find the products that are suitable to your needs and requirements.

Description of wood burning systems for domestic use:

Open and enclosed fireplaces: secondary heating source. Wide spread in Alberta and relatively low efficiency. Problems with smoke

Various wood burning stoves: suitable as an additional source of space heating. Efficient way of burning logwood. Efficiency is better than open but still have an issues with smoke

Pellet stoves: fuelled on pellets and unlike conventional wood burning stoves, pellet stoves are automatic. Wood pellets are fed from the storage hopper into the fire. Warm air is circulated and the heat output is adjustable or made completely hands-free with a thermostat.

Pellet boilers: for space and water heating. Performance and size similar to oil boilers.

Logwood boilers: similar to pellet boilers, although larger for the same performance and operationally less flexible. Need for heat storage tank. Fuel management an issue.

Woodchip boilers: fully automated fuel-feed systems – similar convenience as oil or gas boilers.

Controllable, no heat storage tank necessary. Large wood chip storage facility required. More suited to applications where heat demand is high.



Picture 1: KOB – European high efficiency wood combustion boiler in Edmonton

Myths about wood bioenergy

There are several myths about wood bioenergy that many people don't fully understand and I will address few major ones.

Smoke – many Albertan's have been asking me about this issue, as they remember the smoke on farms and in small towns in the 1940's or earlier years. It is a very legitimate environmental concern. My answer to them is simple; the technology has changed so rapidly (especially in Europe, where environmental standards towards smoke and other emissions are much higher than here). Most

European systems are fully combustible, safe and reliable. We have, in the heart of Edmonton a wood burning boiler facility that is heating over 37000 square feet with NO smoke and no environmental complaints from anybody including regulatory folks.

Reliability – being used to the reliable and convenient natural gas source for heating in Alberta, people are asking, if wood bioenergy can be as reliable and convenient for their heating needs. A well planned and installed wood system is relatively close to the reliability of natural gas and the convenience of heating oil, though despite the automatization of the technology, there are differences to be recognized. A wood boiler system has more mechanical components, where handling might cause problems (eg piece of wood stuck in wood supply chain). With a solid service partner and your natural gas system as a paid for back up, such "emergency" should be easy enough to handle. See, I always wondered what the back up system for natural gas would be- folks from eastern Canada learnt that their back up systems were wood burning stoves

Bio-energy continued...



Picture 2: “Smoke” from high efficiency wood boiler system in Edmonton while heating 37 000 sq ft facility at minus 23 C temperature

Fuel delivery– storage is required for wood bioenergy systems compare to natural gas – there are several options in regards to fuel storage. For most of people in farm settings this is not an issue. In the urban areas several various bin storages are available.

Price – natural gas in North America is priced by the market and market fluctuations where none of us have any control. Most of rural residents own forest resources and plentiful available sources for wood bio-energy fuel. You will be able to project the cost and price of the energy that you produce and be in full control of it. Many small businesses will be able to project and obtain lower energy prices from wood bioenergy and be come more competitive on the market

Wood bioenergy is a very reliable and possible solution for many farms, local communities and businesses. Education and understanding is the key to success in this field. Thousands of small farms and business have been using wood biomass for over 40 years in Europe and would not consider going back to other energy sources.

Web sites for various wood boilers:

<http://www.kalwabiogenics.com/>

http://www.kob.cc/kus_tree//powerslave.id,1,nodeid,1,lang,EN.html

<http://www.hargassner.at/heiztechnik.htm>

Call for Landowners

The Woodlot Extension Program is assessing interest and feedback for a potential tree-planting initiative and is looking for interested landowners. According to Doug Macaulay, principal organizer, the project would require approximately 6-10 landowners, each with 20-60 hectares (50 to 150 acres) to grow a “super aspen clone” plantations similar to the model used by Al Pac in Athabasca. Landowners could potentially receive a per acre payment annually for 20-25 years before trees are harvested. In order to qualify for carbon credits, the land must not have had trees on it prior to December 31st, 1989.

Contact Doug 780-618-8900 for more information



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What's new in the Weberville Forest?

Alberta Emerald Award

The Weberville Community Forest is proud to have been nominated for an Alberta Emerald Award!

This prestigious award recognizes and rewards excellent environmental initiatives undertaken each year by large and small corporations, individuals, not-for-profit associations, community groups and governments.

Each year the Foundation receives over 100 nominations in a number of categories. A panel of knowledgeable judges, with cross-sectoral experience, carry out an independent evaluation based on specific criteria.

This year the nineteenth annual Emerald Awards will take place on Thursday, June 10th in Calgary.

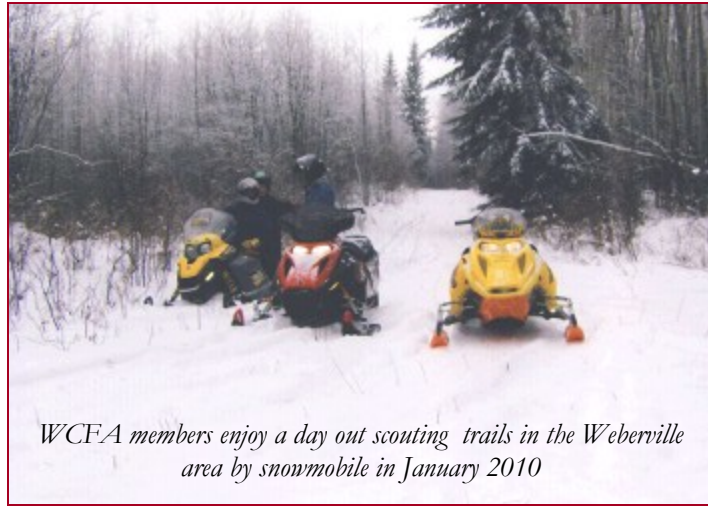


Trail Development in the Weberville Area

Area residents will have easier access to trails in the Weberville Area thanks to the efforts of Stan Jensen and his son Nash, Wayne Davie, and Wade Nagy.

Equipment for the trail clearing was kindly donated by TW Construction and Rentco Equipment. The group spent 2 days scouting and cleaning approximately 6-7 miles of existing trails in need of some maintenance.

Progress is also being made on snowmobile trails starting from the Leddy Lake Campground by members of the Peace Valley Snow Riders. The WCFA and the PVSF have agreed to collaborate on trail development where possible.



WCFA members enjoy a day out scouting trails in the Weberville area by snowmobile in January 2010

Questions or Comments:

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PROJECT LEADERS 2009/10



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