

Weberville Community Forest Association



Home of the Weberville Community Model Forest

Welcome to the new Board of Directors

We are pleased to announce the new Weberville Community Forest Association Board of Directors which was elected at the May 14th Annual General Meeting. New directors include Wanda Laurin, Victor Guerette, and Bob Cameron, in addition to the long-standing members Juri Agapow, Stan Jensen, Peter & Doris Harter, Wendy Boggs, Tanya Nagy, Wayne Davie and Bonnie Hood. Advisors to the group include Owen Cook with Sustainable Resource Development, Hugh Bailey with Agri-Environment Services Branch, and Toso Bozic with the Agro-forestry and Woodlot Extension Society (who replaces Doug Macaulay since Doug has moved to another position with Alberta Agriculture). A special thank-you goes out to our dutiful food services manager, Lorraine Jensen, who always keeps the group well fed and watered! And I, Lisa Rybchuk of Woodchuk Enterprises, am happy to remain under contract as the General Manager for the WCFA and the Weberville Community Model Forest. The group continues to meet on a monthly basis and is enthusiastic about the ongoing and upcoming projects in Phase IV.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012

Executive

Juri Agapow -President
Peter Harter-Vice President
Doris Harter- Treasurer
Lisa Rybchuk-Secretary

Directors

Stan Jensen -Alternative Energy
Wayne Davie-Trail Development
Wendy Boggs-Networking
Tanya Nagy-Social Media
Bonnie Hood-GPS and Data Mgmt
Wanda Laurin-Environment
Bob Cameron-Watershed
Victor Guerette -Agriculture

Advisors:

Owen Cook-Advisor,
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Hugh Bailey-Advisor,
Agri-Environment Services Branch
Toso Bozic-Advisor,
Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society

Staff

Lisa Rybchuk-General Manager
Michael Voltz and Patrick Hiesl- Forest
Technicians

Contributors

Lorraine Jensen-Food Services Coordinator
Jean-Marie Sobze-Boreal Research Institute

What's growing in the Model Forest?

Junior Forest Rangers

The WCFA was thankful to have the assistance of the Junior Forest Rangers once again this summer. This is the third year that the JFR's have assisted the WCFA with various community forest projects including tree planting, forest thinning, and trail clearing. The 6-week summer program is for boys and girls aged 16-18 years from across the country who have an interest in forestry related activities. To learn more about the Junior Forest Rangers contact Owen Cook with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development 780-624-6539.



Paintball

To show their appreciation for the work of the Junior Forest Rangers, the WCFA sponsored a Paintball Game on July 23rd at T.A.G., located in the Weberville area. The 8 JFR's and their 2 leaders rivalled several WCFA Directors and local landowners. A good time was had by all, with special thanks to Owen Cook of ASRD for 'taking one for the team'!

JFR's and WCFA members went head to head in an all out game of Paintball on July 23, 2011

Trail Scouting to the Peace River

A little rain didn't dampen the spirits of Board members as they headed out on a trail scouting trip down to the Peace River. WCFA is currently working with Jeff Poekens and Derek Bakker of ASRD to get approval to lease an area on Crown land by the Peace River. In order to achieve this, an extensive application process is required to address the many environmental and management considerations. As part of this process, the ATV riders used a GPS to track the route and will plot it on a map with the help of Bonnie Hood, GIS specialist with ASRD. In addition, observations were made along the ride, noting any environmental features such as beaver dams, raptor nests, wildlife indicators, water crossings, etc. Once the application process is complete and approval is granted the trail system will be available for public benefit and access.



Stan & Lorraine Jensen, Wayne & Merry Davie, Juri Agapow and daughters, Lara and Katarina, and Lisa Rybchuk, enjoyed the day trail scouting on August 6th.

Trail Scouting to the Whitemud River

A second trail scouting event was held on September 10th, which saw several WCFA Board members and guests mapping a route to the Whitemud River. One of the identified goals and objectives of the WCFA is to develop a system of inter-connecting recreational trails in the Weberville area. With the support of ASRD and by following the guidelines from the Alberta Recreation Corridor & Trails Classification System, the WCFA hopes to formalize a network of trails with standardized signage and approved management protocols in the coming year.



Juri Agapow and Wayne Davie assess a beaverdam crossing on the trail to the Whitemud River

MEMBERSHIP – NEW!!!

The WCFA is implementing a new membership program, as per the resolution passed at the AGM (see reverse for more information).

Benefits of WCFA Membership:

- ◆ Receive *quarterly newsletters* in digital and/or print form
- ◆ Access WCFA *programs and opportunities*
- ◆ Participate in WCFA *recreational activities* such as ATV, snowmobile, and horseback trail rides
- ◆ Attend *educational events* on Agroforestry-related topics
- ◆ Have your say on WCFA operations and programming at the *Annual General Meeting*
- ◆ Each membership address is entitled to one *vote* at the Annual General Meeting
- ◆ Membership Fee is only **\$25 plus GST** per address and is renewable each calendar year. **Join today and get the next 3 months FREE!**



Watch our website for more information and a calendar of events at www.wcmf.ca



2012 WCFA Membership Application Form

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Land Location (optional): _____

Preference for receiving newsletters and other information:

Email Postal Mail Email address (optional): _____

Areas of Interest (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational Trail Use | <input type="checkbox"/> Forests and Forest Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife and Biodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian and Watershed Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bioenergy and Alternative energies | <input type="checkbox"/> Sawmilling and Tree Harvesting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Health and Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Tours and Educational Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon credits and Forest Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Payment:

- I have enclosed a cheque payable to Weberville Community Forest Association for **\$26.25**

Please mail this form, along with payment, to :

Weberville Community Forest Association, Box 5195, Peace River, AB T8S 1R8

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE AGM

At the May 14th Annual General Meeting, a number of resolutions were passed which will help to define the goals and strategies for the group, particularly in light of becoming a Model Forest. Some of these resolutions are presented here.

Membership Fees

WHEREAS the WCFA is providing valuable services to its members; and

WHEREAS the WCFA needs to recover some of the costs occurred by providing these services to its members; and

WHEREAS association membership fees are a common practice for various associations to aid in cost recovery

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

the WCFA will implement an annual \$25.00/member association membership fee where every member in good standing will have 1 vote at the Annual General Meeting held each spring. Membership fees for board members and advisors will be waived



The WCFA Annual General Meeting was held on May 14th, 2011 at the Weberville Hall and saw over 20 individuals in attendance and included a supper and presentations by the Boreal Research Institute, Alberta Conservation Association, Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society, and the Woodland Operations Learning Foundation.

WCFA Area of Operation Definition

WHEREAS the geographical area of operation and interest of the WCFA has substantially increased since the acceptance as a member of the Canadian Model Forest Network; and

WHEREAS the WCFA has been approached to accept membership from areas outside of the initial community forest pilot project area; and

WHEREAS the WCFA has an interest to widen its geographical area to implement/offer projects and activities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

the initial pilot project area will be described as the "Core Community Forest Area"

all other areas in the Peace Region subject to WCMFs interest and activities will be described as "Model Forest Area"

memberships will be accepted from both areas

WCFA Board of Directors

Composition Guidelines

WHEREAS decisions made by the WCFA board of directors concerning the core community forest area have a direct effect on its core members and landowners; and

WHEREAS concerns have been voiced that directors residing in non-core areas could have an adverse influence on decisions made regarding the core community forest area; and

WHEREAS the WCFA membership is increasing and many members have shown interest in board participation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

that the total number of voting directors will be limited to 11 members including all positions

that the majority (over 50%) of all voting directors have to be residents of the core community forest area

decisions concerning the core community forest area can only be made, if the majority (over 50%) of all present and voting directors at the time of decision making are core community forest area residents

What's growing in the Model Forest?

Meeting at Leddy Lake

The WCFA made the most of the unpredictable summer weather by holding their regular monthly meeting at the Leddy Lake picnic shelter on June 14th. The unseasonably wet and cold summer weather kept many farmers from getting out on their land when they'd hoped. The WCFA focuses not only on forestry but 'agroforestry' which incorporates the overlapping needs of forestry and agriculture.



(Left) WCFA Director, Wendy Boggs, takes her turn at flipping burgers at the WCFA Board meeting held at Leddy Lake June 14th

(Right) WCFA welcomes local landowner and farmer, Victor Guerette (l) standing with Stan Jensen (r), to the WCFA Board of Directors.



WCFA Welcome German Forestry Student, Michael Volz

German Forest Economics student, Michael Volz, arrived in Peace River from Germany on August 24th to follow up with the private woodlot inventories which has been conducted over the past three years. Patrick Hiesl, who conducted the previous inventories, was on hand for the first two weeks to assist Michael and show him the ropes. Michael has his work cut out for him as he has begun work on 6 inventories to date but he is available to conduct another 5 or so. WCFA President, Juri Agapow, encourages interested landowners to come forward if they are interested in having a inventory conducted of their land by contacting him at 780-618-4700. According to Juri, *"A woodlot inventory is a valuable tool which provides information on soil types, stand types, merchantable timber, and other factors which allow landowners to make informed management decisions about their woodlots."*

On the 'Brink' of Afforestation

The WCFA has been working closely with Brinkman & Associates out of New Westminster, B.C. since early April 2011. The company approached the WCFA as they were seeking to conduct a pilot project on afforestation and conservation for the purpose of attaining carbon credits. Although a formal carbon credit protocol for afforestation in Alberta is not yet in place, the group is working other sources to fund the project, using the Model Forest as a pilot area.

Four landowners have come forward to offer a total of 60 hectares of land for the project. Brinkman & Associates would manage the project, which would see approximately 100,000 mixed species of hybrid poplar planted, and much of the contracting, including site prep, fencing, and weed control, would be awarded to local landowners and contractors. At this time, the WCFA is awaiting the final approval from Brinkman & Associates in order to initiate the site prep phase of the project. While this initiative is only at the pilot project stage, the potential exists to conduct similar afforestation projects on a broader scale in the near future.

Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society News

Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society (AWES)

AWES has been a supporter of the WCFA since its inception in 2008, though at the time it was called the Woodlot Extension Program and was led by Doug Macaulay. Recently, Doug accepted a new position within Alberta Agriculture, and Toso Bozic, Woodlot Extension Specialist took over as the representative advisor to the WCFA.

Toso brings with him great enthusiasm and knowledge for all things agroforestry related. He is most excited about the survey which AWES is currently conducting to collect information about the agroforestry needs of landowners. When completing the survey, please enter "County of Northern Lights" as the region in which you live (if appropriate), as this will enable AWES to collect data specific to this area. The information collected is for the purposes of the survey only and will not be shared.

No name is required on the survey.



ALL landowners with trees on their land are asked to complete the survey on the AWES website at www.awes-ab.ca. The survey closes at the end of October 2011.

Update on the Research Board

The novaNAIT Boreal Research Institute is the Primary Research Partner for the WCFA and with that title comes the responsibility of coordinating and overseeing the Research Board. The Research Board is made up of a variety of stakeholders including Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd, ASRD, AWES, Canadian Forest Service, FPInnovations, and the County of Northern Lights. The next meeting will be held in October.

Want to learn more about Agroforestry? We want to hear from you!

With the support of AWES and the Woodland Operations Learning Foundation (WOLF), the WCFA is ready and willing to provide short courses and public education events on topics of interest to landowners.

Potential topics include:

*Bioenergy
Carbon Credit Trading
Forest Stewardship
Agri-Tourism
Leadership Development
Trail building and Maintenance
GPS Basics,*

Let us know what short courses you'd like to see offered by sending an email to lisa@wcmf.ca.

Questions or Comments? Contact:

Lisa Rybchuk, Weberville Community Model Forest – General Manager

Box 5195, Peace River, AB T8S 1R8

Phone: (780) 617-4720 Fax: (780) 624-4567 E-mail: lisa@wcmf.ca

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

