

AGM highlights wide diversity in woodlots

By DEBORAH GREAVES

Woodlot licensees from forest communities all over BC, loggers, mushroom growers, wildfire experts, resource technicians, forestry consultants and government representatives spent several days in scenic Kalso the last week of September for joint annual general meetings of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations and the Woodlot Product Development Council.

The theme of this year's conference was Employing Diversity. Over 70 woodlot licensees and their associates gathered to discuss their challenges, ideas and experiences. Among the eldest in attendance was Len Bawtree, an octogenarian and respected long-time forest manager and rancher from Enderby, BC who has been politically active for decades. The youngest participant was Derek Strimbold, a third generation woodlot licensee in his twenties from a Burns Lake family well-established in both forest management and ranching. Strimbold is the youngest-ever leader of a regional woodlot association, the Nadina Woodlot Association.

A highlight of each AGM for the two organizations is the Woodlot Stewardship videos. The Stewardship videos are taped each year at the homes and forests managed by woodlot licensees who have been judged by their peers to display exemplary forest management practices.

This year's profile featured second generation woodlot licensee Creole Dufour of the Cariboo region, a young man who well represents the Federation of BC Woodlot Association's hopes for the future. He returned home



Lorne and Creole Dufour exemplify excellence in forest management practices, according to their peers from around the province. These first and second generation family woodlot owners illustrate the positive impacts woodlot licensees can have on their environment and their communities.

from travelling abroad to help with the management of his family woodlot along with acquiring one for himself.

"We log selectively," Dufour said in the video. "Many people who visit our woodlot don't realize that logging activity has gone on there."

With the global economy, weather events, beetles and watersheds to consider, along with a long list of practical challenges, the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations conference also organized breakout sessions covering current woodlot management, bio-energy, wild land/ urban interface logistics, safety requirements and pole manufacture.

Several tours were provided. One took the participants to a successful Kootenay timber frame manufacturer, Hamill Creek Timber Homes, that sells its products to customers all over BC and beyond, with many in Hawaii. Also included was a visit to a marble quarry, salmon spawning creek and the Duncan Dam, with longtime woodlot manager Richard Brenton as guide.

Other treks took participants to woodlots where various kinds of partial cutting have been practiced and a variety of non-timber forest products such as gourmet and medicinal mushrooms are harvested. Challenges with public interface were presented as well.



Even at the end of September, the weather was perfect for students in Prince George to participate in "A Walk in the Woods" — an initiative of the Canadian Institute of Forestry to celebrate National Forestry Week.

A walk in the woods

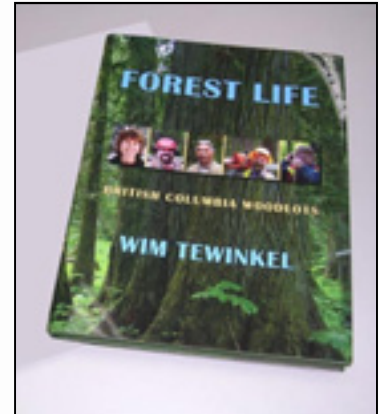
In celebration of National Forestry Week, 685 students from 16 Prince George schools took part in a Walk in the Woods on Woodlot 272. This woodlot is held by the Cariboo Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, a not for profit group with a demonstration and public education mandate. The CIF coordinated the 35 volunteers, busing, and teachers. The ABCFP Network of Forest Professionals provided many of the tour guides, and the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations provided materials from our education program, including promotional carabineers, teacher lesson plans, and bookmarks for each student.

Groups of 10 to 15 students were accompanied by a guide to the 17 stops along the educational trails. There were group discussions of the geographical history, and students were asked to describe the variations between the several ecosystems along the trail.

Students also enjoyed collecting and identifying the various species of plants along the trails, and their curiosity had some of the guides referring to plant guides on a regular basis! There were descriptions of how the forest would naturally respond to insect attack and blowdown, and how the harvesting and replanting of damaged trees was done and why.

Canada is a forest nation. As Canadians, we depend on and need our forests for benefits that encompass the economic, environmental and social. Special activities are promoted across Canada during National Forest Week, observed annually during the last full week of September, with the goal of Canadians learning more about the forest. There can be no better way to celebrate National Forest Week than going for a walk in the woods and learning more about the forest resource and all it has to offer.

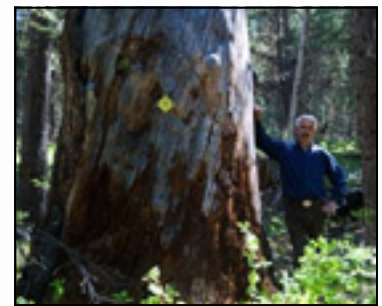
Woodlot book now in print



The Federation of BC Woodlot Associations is proud to present *Forest Life: British Columbia Woodlots*, a coffee-table book showcasing and celebrating BC's woodlots and woodlot licences and the families who diligently manage them.

Through beautiful photos and a few words, this book captures the seasonal beauty of coastal and interior woodlots and portrays the landscapes and diversity of our forests as well as the stewardship of those who manage them.

Copies of this beautiful book can be ordered from our website (www.woodlot.bc.ca). The cost is \$39.95.



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