



Forest Communities Program Newsletter

Issue #3, Spring 2009

Winter has come and gone for another year, and all of the Forest Communities Program sites are looking forward to a busy spring and summer season. In this issue, we highlight some of the projects completed in late winter / early spring 2009. If you have questions about any of the articles in this issue, please contact the FCP Secretariat at pcf@nrcan.gc.ca. To learn more about the Forest Communities Program, please visit us online at <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/index/fcpgm>.

MAKING BIRCH SYRUP IN LAC-SAINT-JEAN

On May 6, 2009, **Lac-Saint-Jean Model Forest** (LSJMF) invited the public to tour its birch sap processing facilities in Mashteuiatsh, Quebec, as part of Tree and Forest Month. Over 350 people from Lac-Saint-Jean, Saguenay, Mauricie and Montreal attended. The enthusiasm at the event was a demonstration of the development potential for this forest resource.

“The results of the harvest are very positive. Despite some logistical problems, we were able to produce a high quality syrup that competes with Alaskan production,” said James Moar, LSJMF birch syrup project officer. LSJMF General Manager Stéphane Turcot believes that the preliminary results show that the birch sap harvest model can maximize the benefits from the Lac-Saint-Jean Model Forest. “We plan to implement a sap collection operation where there would be a regional processing centre that would buy the sap from the various producers around Lac-Saint-Jean.”

“In addition to discovering a small sweet treat, this event helps build bridges between the [First Nations] community of Mashteuiatsh and everyone in the region,” said LSJMF President Colette Robertson. The event served as a meeting point for birch syrup producers, who came to share their knowledge and compare their products, and the public who learned about birch sap as an under-utilized resource and its associated health benefits.

Harvesting birch sap is a labour-intensive process. Between three and five people per day are needed between April and June for preparation and tapping of 800 birch trees, with another person processing the sap into syrup. About 120 litres of birch sap is needed to make one litre of syrup. Consumers pay approximately \$22 for a 250-ml bottle. The syrup is highly valued by professional chefs for its uses in marinades, roast vegetables and pecan pie.



A birch tree can produce up to 5 litres of sap per day.



LEARNING ABOUT NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS

Over 300 delegates attended three regional conferences for woodlot owners across Nova Scotia in spring 2009, sponsored by the **Nova Forest Alliance**, the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, and the Nova Scotia Primary Forest Products Marketing Board. The attendees gathered in Middle Musquodoboit, Digby, and Havre Boucher to hear about topics of interest to woodlot owners, including non-timber forest products (NTFP) such as jams, jellies, wines, small wood products and Christmas ornaments. In addition to NTFP presentations at the woodlot owner conferences, there were additional discussions on forest certification, as well as accounting practices, tax incentives, wildlife issues and small-scale forestry operations that can benefit woodlot owners.

To assist Atlantic woodlot owners in the NTFP market, INFOR Inc. and its partners have published *From Our Atlantic Woods*, a directory of non-timber forest products and services throughout the Maritimes, Newfoundland & Labrador and Maine. It includes 260 listings for businesses and other resources such as recipes, photos, links and information notes.

From Our Atlantic Woods can be located by contacting INFOR Inc. at 506-450-8787 or ntfp@infor.ca. Sobeys supermarket chain, a major project sponsor, has made copies of the directory available at their stores, with additional copies distributed by listed businesses, farmer's markets and tourism booths across the region. The directory is also available in English and French online at <http://www.fromouratlanticwoods.com>.



Left to right: Centre for Non-Timber Resources Coordinator Tim Brigham, retired Northern Forest Diversification Centre Manager Dave Buck, Manitoba Model Forest General Manager Brian Kotak, Manitoba Forest Association Extension Officer Ken Fosty

In other NTFP news, the **Manitoba Model Forest (MMF)** held six NTFP workshops in local communities in March / April 2009. More than 150 people attended, generating great interest in opportunities from the forest. The workshops were a collaboration between the MMF, the Centre for Non-Timber Resources at Royal Roads University, the Manitoba Forestry Association, and the Woodlot Association of Manitoba.

Participants learned about a variety of NTFP topics, including local and international marketing, value-added products, and exploring local resources. Participants were also



able to get hands-on experience in the field by growing their own shiitake and oyster mushrooms on logs, tapping Manitoba maple trees for sap and maple syrup production, and sampling herbal tea from Russia.

The workshops are part of a long-term plan to build capacity and expertise in NTFP businesses in the MMF. A new curriculum on NTFPs is being developed for an intensive training course and will be piloted in the MMF in fall 2009. For more information, please contact Brian Kotak, MMF General Manager at (204) 367-5232 or miette@explornet.com.

BIOENERGY WORKSHOP EXPLORES POSSIBILITIES IN THE MARITIMES

There are a number of reasons businesses and communities are considering the use of bioenergy. With the rising costs of alternatives, less expensive sources of energy are required in order to trim expenses and remain competitive. Biomass harvesting has the potential to provide new market opportunities for fibre from New Brunswick forests and to contribute to the self-sufficiency of rural, forest-based communities.

On February 24, 2009, the Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre in Fredericton, New Brunswick, hosted a Forest Biomass Feedstock workshop organized by the **Fundy Model Forest**. Dr. John Richards, Director-General of the Canadian Forest Service - Atlantic Forestry Centre, provided opening remarks for the workshop, highlighting that the workshop was "integral to advancing our understanding of the role of bioenergy and biorefining as our forest industry transforms to meet the demands of the new economy."

Speakers at the workshop included Dr. Paul Arp and Jean-Francois Carle from the University of New Brunswick, Dr. Evelyne Thiffault from Natural Resources Canada, Eric Kingsley from Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, Dr. Darren Sleep from the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, and Shawn Morehouse from the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources. Workshop participants explored a variety of topics, including the definition of biomass, New Brunswick's biomass harvesting policy, the impacts of biomass harvesting on nutrient levels and forest productivity, and the importance of developing baseline information and indicators to monitor the effects of biomass removal over time.

Videos of the speaker presentations are available on the FMF website (http://fundymodelforest.net/cms/forest_biomass_videos). Continuing education credits have been assigned to the videos by the Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick and the Canadian Institute of Forestry (New Brunswick). For information on the credits, please visit the association's website (<http://www.arpfnb.ca>) or email them at info@www.arpfnb.ca.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE IN CHILE

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources and the **Prince Albert Model Forest (PAMF)** have completed a two-week science and technology exchange and fact-finding mission in Chile in March / April 2009. The Chilean Araucarias del Alto Malleco Model Forest, the Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF – Chile's National Forest Corporation), representatives of the Mapuche indigenous people of central and southern Chile, and a number of non-profit groups and commercial forestry businesses all participated in meetings with Canadian representatives.



PAMF representatives Larry Stanley & Alex Juorio meet with Washington Alvarado, General Manager of the Alto Malleco Model Forest in Chile, and representatives of the plywood company, EAGON.

Both the Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources and the PAMF have benefitted from the exchange of ideas and methodologies involving small- and medium-sized value-added processing companies in the forest sector. Different wood characteristics limit direct competition between Saskatchewan and Chile in the same global market niches, but there are still opportunities for collaboration in the development of similarly engineered value-added wood product technologies. For example, both jurisdictions are seeking to increase the availability of affordable, efficient housing for indigenous families. Collaboration between Saskatchewan First Nations “Ready-To-Move” pre-fabricated housing companies and the Mapuche forest product companies in Chile is one potential partnership area.

A number of information exchange arrangements were made during the mission, including academic research about model forest governance. The Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources is also preparing a compendium of contacts and information on participants in the provincial bioenergy industry. The province sees significant opportunities for bioenergy science and technology exchanges with its counterparts in Chile.



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The British Columbia Council of Forest Industries (COFI), with support from the **Resources North Association (RNA)**, will be running its Forest Education Program in May, June and September in Quesnel, Bulkley Valley, Nechako Valley, Prince George and the Peace Region in British Columbia. For the past 8 years, COFI has been partnering with local school districts in north-central British Columbia to offer high school students an opportunity to gain insight into careers associated with natural resource management.

Some 200 students and their teachers will have the opportunity to learn from a variety of professionals – including archaeologists, wildlife and fish biologists, foresters, engineers, ecologists, entomologists, firefighters, forest pathologists and research scientists. Over a two-day period, students and teachers will participate in hands-on workshops in the field. At the end of the camp, student teams will utilize their newly acquired skills as they compete to become the winning team in “The Amazing NRM Challenge.”

NEW STAFF AT THE MODEL FOREST OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

The **Model Forest of Newfoundland and Labrador (MFNL)** has hired two Coordinators for its Local Community Networks (LCNs). Each LCN is considered an independent network, linked through the MFNL. Coordinators in each network will develop collaborative activities to enhance human resource development in rural communities and regions across the province.

Coordinator Scott Carroll has been hired in the White Bay South LCN (located near Corner Brook, NF). Carroll, a recent graduate of Sir Wilfred Grenfell College’s Environmental Studies program, will focus on promoting the economic, environmental, and aesthetic values of local forest ecosystems. Through research, business plan development, training and workshops, and offering technical assistance, these communities will begin to implement sustainable forest management initiatives.

“One of the main components of the position is to come up with alternative uses of forests in the region of White Bay South, and to focus on adventure tourism and ecotourism,” says Carroll. “Right now I am working on creating a small initial project for the area. We are focusing on an adventure tourism workshop for the region and a workshop to provide an update on the forest industry in Newfoundland at present, and what non-timber forest products are.”

Coordinator Chantal Weir has been hired for the Northern Peninsula LCN. Weir is based in Roddickton, and will have a similar role as Carroll’s, but will focus on Northern Peninsula communities. Each LCN is unique in both its needs and capabilities, but the goal remains the same: to build and maintain the capacity for forest-based communities through the development of alternative forest-based resources.



PREMIER MCGUINTY VISITS NEW CEDAR MILL IN CHAPLEAU, ONTARIO

Northeast Superior Forest Community (NSFC) has been assisting local entrepreneurs to access cedar resources for a new cedar mill in Chapleau, Ontario operated by its partner, Niska North. The mill has the flexibility to shape different ranges of wood, including different species and log sizes. Up to 40 jobs will be created in the community through the production of high-quality cedar and white pine lumber. The milled wood will make log homes, flooring, decking and other products.



Left to Right: Ontario Minister of Northern Development and Mines Michael Gravelle, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Mike Brown, Niska North General Manager Kevin Lindquist and Niska North President Wade Cachagee

“We are committed to a strong, vibrant North. Investing in this new sawmill is good for our families, good for our workers and good for the economy,” said Premier Dalton McGuinty during a recent visit to the mill. Since October 2003, the Ontario government has invested \$1.5 million to help Niska North cover the costs of equipment, renovations, and construction. Local First Nations investors own a 51% stake in the company.

EOMF GENERAL MANAGER BRIAN BARKLEY RETIRES



Brian Barkley

The **Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF)** recently saw a changing of the guard with the retirement of Brian Barkley, their founding General Manager. A graduate of the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry, Mr. Barkley began his career as a Regional Forester with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. This career experience would provide the basis for his strong leadership at the EOMF over the past 17 years.

Colleagues attribute Mr. Barkley’s success to a combination of affability, inspired leadership, skilled management, and a love of connecting people with the forest. During his tenure, the EOMF has played a key role in accomplishments in eastern Ontario, including the designation of a Biosphere Reserve, the formation of the Algonquin-to-Adirondack Conservation Association, the renewal of the Ferguson Forest Centre, and the genesis of a state-of-the-art Wood Centre & Eco-Industrial Park. Mr. Barkley’s efforts



have served as a leadership model for both the Canadian and international model forest communities.

Mark Richardson has been named as the new EOMF General Manager. Mr. Richardson was EOMF's Project Forester from 1999 to 2007, and is returning to the organization after working as an Invasive Alien Species Policy Advisor at Environment Canada.



CANADIAN FOREST COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

CONFÉRENCE DES COLLECTIVITÉS FORESTIÈRES CANADIENNES

2009

NEW DATE FOR THE CANADIAN FOREST COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE 2009

The **Forest Communities Program and its partners** are hosting the “Canadian Forest Communities Conference 2009: Trends and Opportunities” at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in Nanaimo, BC on November 4-7, 2009. Municipal and Aboriginal leaders, government agencies, industry partners, economic development officers, community groups and researchers will attend to hear about bioenergy, eco-tourism, new business models and markets, non-timber forest products, innovative forest tenures, environmental goods and services, economic infrastructure and community engagement and adaptation. For more information, please visit <http://www.fcc-ccf.ca>.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

New Brunswick forester and woodlot owner Jamie Simpson has written a book titled, “Restoring the Acadian Forest: A Guide to Forest Stewardship for Woodlot Owners in the Maritimes,” with the assistance of **Fundy Model Forest** and **Nova Forest Alliance**. A practical guide for woodlot owners, it offers advice on woodlot planning, tree harvesting, promoting wildlife habitat, finding revenue sources, as well as providing information on the trees of the Acadian forest. Copies can be purchased directly from Jamie Simpson (bocabec@gmail.com) or the publisher, Res Telluris (<http://www.restelluris.ca/>).

“Invasive Species – Management Options for the Ontario Landowner” by Mark Richardson and Peter Neave is a new publication by the **Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF)**. The guide includes current information on invasive plants, pests, and diseases that threaten the health of forests, waters, and livestock. Developed in partnership with the Ontario Woodlot Association and Environment Canada’s Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program, the publication represents ongoing collaboration efforts between the EOMF, Ontario Stewardship, and Conservation Ontario. The publication can be viewed or downloaded at <http://www.eomf.on.ca>.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The *Stewardship and Conservation in Canada 2009* Conference, sponsored by the Land Stewardship Centre of Canada, will be held in Calgary, AB on July 8-11, 2009. For more information, please visit <http://www.stewardship2009.ca>.

Biofuels and Bioenergy: A Changing Climate Conference, sponsored by IEA Bioenergy, will be held in Vancouver, BC on August 23-26, 2009. For more information, please visit <http://www.bioenergyconference.org>.

The Economic Developers Association of Canada will hold their 2009 Conference in Vancouver, BC on September 19-22, 2009. For more information, please visit http://edac.ca/html/shtml/edac_con.shtml.

The Canadian Institute of Forestry is hosting its annual general meeting and conference, *Stewardship: Energizing forestry through new strategies and partnerships*, on September 21-23, 2009 at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in Nanaimo, British Columbia. For more information, please visit <http://www.viu.ca/cif/>.

On October 15-17, 2009, *Ecological Economics: Prosperity for a Sustainable Society*, the 8th Biennial Conference of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics, will be held at the Vancouver Convention Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia. For more information, please visit <http://www.cansee.org>.

The 13th World Forestry Congress is being held on October 18-23, 2009, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. For more information, please visit <http://www.wfc2009.org>.

About the Forest Communities Program

The Forest Communities Program (FCP) is a \$25-million, five-year program that funds 11 forest community organizations across Canada, as well as national projects. The FCP community partnerships are located in defined geographic areas at a regional scale, and include a mix of urban, rural and Aboriginal communities. Typically, these community partnerships are diverse, with participants drawn from community groups, industry, Aboriginal organizations, various levels of government, landowners, research groups and educational institutions. The FCP assists forest community organizations in developing and sharing new knowledge, practices and strategies to meet the challenges of forest sector transition and to develop new, forest-based economic opportunities.

FCP Contact Information

Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Service

580 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E4
Email: fcg-pcf@nrcan.gc.ca
Web: <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/index/fcpgm>