

# NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

[www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com)



## September 2024

### President's Message

In the last NWOA newsletter I wrote about Oak Wilt. I mention it again because there is no cure for Oak Wilt. So, prevention and early detection are currently the most effective and low-cost solutions for managing oak wilt. We can help minimize the spread of the Oak Wilt disease in Norfolk by NOT pruning or wounding oaks between April 1<sup>st</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>. This is considered the high-risk period when sap beetles, that spread the disease, are active. Paint any cuts or abrasions that occur during the high-risk period with wound paint. DO NOT move firewood. Oak wilt is spread by the movement of infected wood. See the tips again at the end of this Newsletter.

We are inviting you on a tour of the Forest Stewardship Certified (FSC) Forest at Long Point Eco-Adventures (LPEA). LPEA has worked to have the Carolinian forest on the property and their management recognized through the Forest Stewardship Council certification, in collaboration with the Ontario Woodlot Association. Learn more about LPEAs forest management on October Friday 18th from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. There is ample parking plus the Marshview restaurant and the patio will be open before and after the tour. Details are provided in the next article. See you there!

To control cost, NWOA newsletters are emailed to NWOA members and posted on NWOA website. The few who do not have internet still have their newsletter mailed out, courtesy of our Newsletter Editor, Dr John Morrissey. Thank you, Dr John.

Most of NWOA members have renewed their membership in OWA and at no extra cost are also members of the Norfolk Chapter (NWOA). This is a reminder to some who have forgotten to renew (happens every year). Renew now to be sure you continue receiving the Woodlander magazine.

We welcome your comments, thoughts and ideas for our NWOA newsletter, workshops and AGM. We want them to be fun and informative, therefore require your feedback to show what is of interest. Thanks. You can post them on our website [www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com) (Go to the 'About us' Tab then select 'Contact us' to complete the message box), direct email at [membership@norfolkwoodlots.com](mailto:membership@norfolkwoodlots.com).

If you have any questions, please contact us at

Mail: **Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association**  
**c/o Norfolk County – Forestry Department**  
**185 Robinson Street, Suite 100**  
**Simcoe, ON                      N3Y 5L6**

NWOA website: [www.norfolkwoodlots.com](http://www.norfolkwoodlots.com)

NWOA email: [membership@norfolkwoodlots.com](mailto:membership@norfolkwoodlots.com)

Thanks,

John de Witt, President

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#### **Have you renewed your membership for 2024?**

Members can renew their membership online, using the OWA website.

Go to: <https://www.ontariowoodlot.com/Sys/Login>

If you have never logged into your profile, enter the e-mail address that is on your account and select “**Forgot Password**”

The system will send a temporary password where you will be asked to create your own password.

Once you are into your profile, there will be an option to renew your membership.

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### **Woodlot Tour at Long Point Eco-Adventures on October 18th**

NWOA has arranged for a tour of the Forest Stewardship Certified (FSC) Forest at Long Point Eco-Adventures (LPEA). In collaboration with the Ontario Woodlot Association, LPEA has worked to have the Carolinian forest on the property and their management recognized through the Forest Stewardship Council certification. Hope to see you there! Check out the events page on the OWA website at <https://owat.wildapricot.org/event-5887729>.

**The Real Deal: How Long Point Eco Adventures is using Active Forest Management and Certification to Build Community and Ecological Resilience**

Join the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association for a tour of a Carolinian forest and learn about the forest certification process. Friday October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 1:30 to 4:30 pm, at Long Point Eco Adventures, 1730 Front Rd., St. Williams, ON N0E 1P0.

Overlooking the Turkey Point Marsh on Long Point's Inner Bay, Long Point Eco Adventures (LPEA) is an exemplar of how private business and community groups can come together to restore forests and grasslands, all while providing tourism and local economic and community development. The facilities at LPEA provide opportunities and space for educational and community groups, local events, and for individuals and families to enjoy the beauty of the Long Point area.

LPEA recently worked with Glen Prevost of the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) to develop a forest management plan and to get their Carolinian forest certified to Forest Stewardship Council Standards (FSC). These actions have helped to coordinate LPEA efforts to restore a high-graded forest and old agricultural fields and ensure all activities use best practice.

The tour of the LPEA lands will include a discussion of the state of the forest when they acquired the property and a tour of ongoing work to restore this ecologically important area. Participants will see what it takes to become certified to one of the highest forest management standards. You will also be able to enjoy the amazing view overlooking the coastal marsh.

This tour will be an amazing fall afternoon spent next the Turkey Point Marsh, one of the ecological gems of the Great Lakes. **Please remember to let us know you are coming by using the online registration form, <https://owat.wildapricot.org/event-5887729> or by contacting Audrey Heagy, NWOA Director, [ahagy@kwic.com](mailto:ahagy@kwic.com), 519-410-2620.**

The onsite Marshview Patio restaurant (<https://www.lpfun.ca/marshview-patio>) will be open if you are interested in enjoying a meal or hot or cold beverage before or after the tour (reservations recommended).

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## **Selling Timber from Your Woodlot - A Beginner's Guide**

By: Adam Biddle

For many woodlot owners in southern Ontario, their forested property provides an opportunity to be active outdoors. Some enjoy activities like hiking, ATV-ing, bird watching, or just passively enjoying nature. Others look to the forest for the bounty it provides such as wild game, nuts, berries, and other wild edibles. With timber being one of the most prevalent products in the forest, the idea of taking some of those trees and turning them into money is a thought that has undoubtedly crossed many landowners' minds at some point in time.

Undertaking a timber harvest, however, is something that many woodlot owners may only do once or twice in their lifetime, if ever. Even if your top priority doesn't include revenue generation, sometimes removing trees from a forest is necessary to salvage the value of trees that are dying, encourage the regeneration of new trees, or improve the overall health and structure of a forest.

It can be a long road, from the time you start considering harvesting your trees to the time the timber harvest is actually completed, and there may be some upfront costs. This article is intended to instill a bit of confidence in you by providing you with an overview of how to successfully manage a timber harvest on your property. Understanding the process and being involved can be the difference between feeling satisfied at the end of the transaction or being upset and feeling ripped off.

### **Step 1: Deciding Which Trees to Harvest**



One of the first steps in undertaking a timber harvest on your property is deciding which trees to select for harvest. To do this properly, the forest should be sampled to determine current stocking levels, the ratio of Acceptable Growing Stock (AGS) to Unacceptable Growing Stock (USG), and species composition. You should have a concept about what you intend to achieve through the timber harvest to help direct the tree marking. As a general rule, the harvest should improve the ratio of AGS to UGS trees, meaning the tree marking should target trees that are defective or in decline for removal over trees that will continue to grow and increase in value.

Ultimately, and depending on local by-laws, a landowner has a few options when undertaking the marking of trees: they can undertake the tree marking themselves; they can bring in a timber buyer to undertake the tree marking; or they can hire an independent consultant to mark the trees. If you don't think you have the technical expertise to do the marking yourself, you are left with the latter two options. In most cases, bringing in an independent consultant to help you with the tree marking allows for an impartial application of tree marking practices and allows you to competitively market your timber to prospective buyers.

Proper tree marking will identify which trees to harvest, protect sensitive areas and wildlife features, and sometimes identify property boundaries. If you plan to advertise the timber for sale to prospective buyers or want to get an estimate of the value of the marked timber before it is sold, the tree marking should also produce a timber estimate, that is, a list of all marked trees and their volume, summarized by species.

### **Step 2: Selling Your Wood/Selecting a Harvesting Contractor**

There are several different arrangements that can be made when it comes to having your trees cut and getting paid for them. Despite the plethora of options available, they all boil down to whether you are selling your trees "standing" or if you are selling them after they are "cut". Selling your timber standing versus cut may have different tax implications, so it is best to get financial advice about how the revenues may impact your income tax.

 <b>Standing Timber</b>	 <b>Cut Timber</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marked timber is advertised to potential timber buyers (based on timber estimate)</li> <li>• Timber is bought and paid for “standing”</li> <li>• Timber buyer responsible for harvesting the timber</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reputable timber buyer or logging contractor is selected to harvest the trees</li> <li>• Timber is bought and paid for after it is cut</li> <li>• Requires logs to be scaled and graded before payment</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payment is usually made in one lump sum payment, or may be broken into multiple payments (down payment plus lump sum before harvest is complete)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different payment arrangements agreed upon between the logging contractor and the landowner</li> </ul> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60% of sale value paid to landowner, 40% of sale value paid to logging contractor</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• landowner pays logging contractor to harvest the trees (\$/board foot), landowner keeps all revenues from sold timber</li> </ul>

Regardless of how you sell your timber, it is always advisable to have a contract in place. A contract protects the buyer and the seller by avoiding misunderstandings and misinterpretations. Almost everything in a timber sale is negotiable, there is no single standard contract form. Many buyers will have their preferred form, just be sure there are provisions included to protect you, the seller. Typically a contract will include:

- Date the contract was entered into
- Name and address of the buyer and seller
- Description of land on which the timber is situated (municipality, lot, concession and tax roll number).
- Description of the trees to be harvested/sold (quantity by species and how they are identified).
- Payment terms (method of payment and timing of payment).
- Start and end date of contract (extensions may be permitted).

### **Preparing for the Harvest Operation**

It is important that as the seller and owner of the forest you have a clear understanding of what to expect from the harvest. Be sure to discuss with the buyer or harvesting contractor expectations about post-harvest conditions such as logging damage, conditions of access roads and trails, and whether or not the removal of tree tops for firewood are included in the sale. You should also be clear about access and timing (ex. wait for crops to be harvested) and the location of property boundaries. Be sure you are provided proof of insurance and Workplace Safety Insurance Board coverage before the contractors move their equipment to the site. All these conditions can be included in the timber sale contract.

### **Monitoring the Harvest Operation**

The best advice for anyone undertaking a timber harvest is to BE INVOLVED, especially as the harvest operation gets underway. Keep in mind this operation is taking place on your property, and it is best to address any concerns or issues with the operation as they occur, not after everything is done. Don't be afraid to walk the forest at the end of each day, or at least periodically as the operation is taking place. Check in with the logging contractors for updates and ensure everything is going smooth on their end.

No logs should leave your property unless you have received at least partial payment (lump sum sale), or the logs have been scaled and graded (sale by scale or sale by shares). Once the logs leave the property, tracking them becomes nearly impossible, you will never see them again.

### **Final Words of Wisdom**

Most of the pitfalls encountered with timber harvests can be avoided by working with reputable timber buyers and contractors. Don't be afraid to ask around and check references. There are over 100 properties harvested annually in Norfolk County, so there is plenty of experience out there to draw upon. Ask family, friends, and neighbours about their experiences.

You shouldn't feel rushed into making any decisions. You don't need to hire the first person that knocks on your door interested in harvesting your trees. In most cases the trees aren't going anywhere, and making quick, rash decisions may create long-lasting problems for you.

Be sure to stay involved in the process and seek out expert advice if you are unsure of anything. Maintain open communication with the timber buyer and logging contractor, and be clear on all aspects of the sale and operation.

Undertaking a timber harvest doesn't have to be a daunting task if you're not in a rush, you do your homework, and you work with professionals throughout the endeavour.

# Oak Wilt

An Invasive Pathogen Threatening Oak Trees in Canada



P Kurzeja, Forest Health Division, Michigan D. N. R.

What is it?	Trees at risk:	Where is it?
<p>Oak wilt is a vascular disease of oak trees, caused by the fungus <i>Bretziella fagacearum</i>. The fungus grows on the outer sapwood of oak trees, restricting the flow of water and nutrients through the tree.</p>	<p>All oak species are susceptible and at risk. The red oak group (red, black, pin) is the most susceptible, with mortality frequently occurring within one growing season. Oaks in the white oak group (white, bur) are also affected but are more resistant.</p>	<p>Oak wilt has spread throughout the Eastern United States. In 2023, oak wilt was confirmed for the first time in Canada in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Additional infected sites have been confirmed in Ontario.</p>

## Signs and Symptoms:



Invasive Species Centre

- Leaves turn dull green, brown or yellow
- Discoloration of leaves progressing from the edge of the leaf to the middle
- Wilting and bronzing of foliage starting at top of the tree and moving downwards
- Premature leaf fall (including green leaves)
- White, grey or black fungal mats just under the bark that emit a fruity smell
- Vertical bark cracks in the trunk and large branches as a result of the fungal spore mats (also referred to as pressure pads) exerting outward pressure on the bark


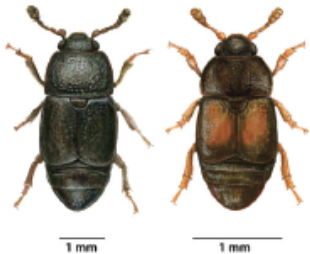

## Impacts:



D.W. French, University of Minnesota, Bugwood.org

- Impacts property values and neighbourhood aesthetics
- Increased costs with tree maintenance, removal and replacement
- Loss of a valued shade tree
- Negative impacts to the forestry industry and production of high value oak products
- Reduction in food source for forest animals provided by oak trees
- Loss of habitat for some species
- Reduction of ecological services (air and water filtering)
- Safety and liability issues

# How is oak wilt spread?

Roots	Insects	Humans
<p>The disease spreads from infected trees to uninfected trees of the same species through root-to-root contact.</p>  <p>James Solomon, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org</p>	<p>Insects such as sap-feeding nitidulid beetles can move spores from infected trees to healthy trees.</p>  <p>USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry</p>	<p>Movement of wood products, (particularly those with bark), such as firewood can spread the pathogen over long distances as they can harbor fungal mats.</p>  <p>Joseph OBrien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org</p>

## What can you do?

There is no cure for oak wilt infected trees. The best approach is to avoid or reduce infection in areas where disease occurs by:

- Identifying and removing diseased trees
  - Preventing or severing root connections between diseased and healthy trees
  - Minimizing wounds on healthy trees during the flight period of potential insect carriers
- **DO NOT** prune oak trees from April to July. If pruning must occur, or if a tree is injured, apply a thin layer of wound paint immediately.
  - **DO NOT** move firewood. Oak wilt is spread by the movement of infected wood.

If you see signs and symptoms of oak wilt, report the sightings to:

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)  
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/about-the-cfia/contact-us/eng/1299860523723/1299860643049>
- EDDMapS  
<https://www.eddmaps.org>
- Invading Species Hotline  
1-800-563-7711

For more information on oak wilt visit:

- Oak wilt species profile on the Forest Invasives Canada website  
<http://forestinvasives.ca/Meet-the-Species/Pathogens/Oak-Wilt>

Produced in collaboration with:

