

WOODLOT STEWARDSHIP COOPERATIVE E-BULLETIN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Highlights from the Public Summary of the WSC Certification Report</i>	2
<i>New Group Chain of Custody Model</i>	3
<i>Non-Timber Forest Products</i>	3
<i>Maritime Regional Steering Committee</i>	4
<i>GPI Forest Accounts</i>	4
<i>A Tale of Two Forests</i>	5
<i>Sawdust and Filings</i>	7

WOODLOT STEWARDSHIP CO-OPERATIVE BECOMES FIRST FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC) GROUP CERTIFICATION IN THE MARITIMES.

The Woodlot Stewardship Co-operative (WSC) has achieved Forest Stewardship Council and Silva Forest Foundation Eco-Cert certification of its forest lands (SFF-FM/COC-025). The first of its kind in Eastern Canada, the WSC is an initiative of Falls Brook Centre, a non-profit community development demonstration centre in Western New Brunswick.

FSC certification of the WSC means that member's woodlots are well-managed forests according to the *Certification Standards for Best Forestry Practices in the Maritime Forest Region* (endorsed in January 2000). Based on the 10 FSC International Principles and Criteria, the Maritime Regional Standard is supported by a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including social, environmental, Indigenous and industrial interests.

The certification assessment has revealed that the WSC and its members are setting an exceptional example of ecologically responsible forest management in New Brunswick. "The progressive stewardship of the WSC's member lands was confirmed by complimentary input from neighbours, local First Nations and other stakeholders," said Wendy Vashbinder, Certification Program Co-Manager for the Silva

Forest Foundation. "This certification represents an important step forward for FSC certification in New Brunswick".

This is just the first step in a long journey for the WSC! By collaborating, WSC members have shared the human and financial costs associated with certification, developed a collective mechanism to address issues, and support one another in the pursuit of sustainable forestry. Encouraging members to join, completing the supply chain with the implementation of a group Chain of Custody project (see article in this issue), marketing certified forest products, and on-going development of cooperative services will strengthen the cooperative over the coming year.

On-going support from Falls Brook Centre, Silva Forest Foundation and the McConnell Family foundation have made this project possible. Continued partnerships with regional, national and international members of the FSC family will strengthen the initiative and encourage others to engage in the certification process.

To learn more about the Woodlot Stewardship Co-operative and its FSC certification see the contact information on page 2 of the E-bulletin. The remainder of this E-

bulletin highlights some emerging FSC activities, Silva Forest Foundation's certification of the WSC and non-timber opportunities in the Acadian Forest. Enjoy, and as always please contact us with any questions or comments you have. Until next time,

Simon J. Mitchell

Simon J. Mitchell, B.Sc.F. is the Woodlot Stewardship Co-operative Manager. He is responsible for program development, implementation and outreach.



FSC Trademark © 1996 Forest Stewardship Council A.C. FSC-CAN-0001



The Woodlot Stewardship Cooperative is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing assistance to landowners in developing sustainable forest management strategies that maintain the long-term social, ecological, and economic benefits from our forests.

Woodlot Stewardship Cooperative

PRESIDENT
Tom Allen

VICE-PRESIDENT
Roland Roy

SECRETARY
Simon J. Mitchell

MANAGER
Simon J. Mitchell

Vol.1 No. 2

Woodlot Stewardship Cooperative E-Bulletin is published Tri-annually.

Writers:

Pam Langille, Forest Campaigner
Simon J. Mitchell, Manager, Woodlot Stewardship Co-operative;
Anna Sheridan-Jonah, Coordinator, Maritime Regional Steering Committee
Jane Stewart, Co-operative Forestry Intern, Falls Brook Centre
Wendy Vasbinger, Certification Program Co-Manager, Silva Forest Foundation;

Editor:

Simon J. Mitchell, Woodlot Stewardship Cooperative

Layout:

Owen Campbell, Social Forestry Intern, Falls Brook Centre

Proof Reading:

Sarah Shima, Atlantic Centre for International Cooperation (ACIC)

Woodlot Stewardship Co-operative

125 South Knowlesville Road
Knowlesville, NB
E7L 1B1

Tel: (506) 375-4310

Fax: (506) 375-4221

E-mail: simon@fallsbrookcentre.ca

<http://www.fallsbrookcentre.ca/Programs/Forest/foreststewardship.htm>
(click on WSC link)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PUBLIC SUMMARY OF THE CERTIFICATION REPORT FOR THE WSC

“Why certification has been awarded: Following extensive document evaluation, stakeholder consultation, and field assessment, certification was granted by the SFF Certification Committee subject to the eventual fulfillment of 17 conditions. Certification has been awarded by SFF because the operations of the WSC are being conducted to a very high standard of forest management.”

“Restoration activities figure largely in all aspects of the WSC’s management. Most of these forests have been subjected to several hundred years of colonial influence, in particular high-grading during the past century. As a result, improving stand quality and restoring ecological integrity are key objectives of the WSC’s membership.”

“Group structure – The WSC has developed a group structure that brings together not only landowners, but also contractors who may work in the WSC forests. The idea of bringing in contractors and providing them with training pertinent to certification and to the WSC’s objectives for its forest areas is an excellent idea.”

“This certification assessment revealed that the WSC and its members are setting an exceptional example of ecologically responsible forest management in New Brunswick. The progressive stewardship of the WSC’s members was confirmed by complimentary input from neighbours, local First Nations and other stakeholders.”

“CONDITION.WSC.14: Within 6 months of the date of certification, the WSC shall revise its group documentation through the inclusion of: a) an explanation of the certification process; b) notification to group members that plans will be made publicly available; and c) a commitment to notify SFF within one month following the entry, withdrawal, or expulsion of members to/from the group. (See Appendix II, Element 3.3.3.4)”

“RECOMMENDATION.WSC.7: The WSC should prepare an annual newsletter, or other type of communication material, that includes a summary of observations and results from monitoring the indicators under criterion 8.2. This newsletter should be distributed to local First Nations, neighbours, and other stakeholders, and should also include details regarding new group members, training opportunities, and educational workshops sponsored by the WSC. (See Appendix 1, Standard 8.5.1)”

Silva Forest Foundation is the FSC accredited certification body for the Woodlot Stewardship Co-operative Ltd. A complete copy of the “Public Summary Report for the WSC” is available online at www.silvafor.org or at: www.fallsbrookcentre.ca/Programs/Forest/foreststewardship.htm (follow the link to the WSC and then to the Public Summary).



NEW GROUP FSC CoC MODEL DEVELOPED

Falls Brook Centre has developed a group Chain of Custody model for small-scale woodworkers in Carleton County, New Brunswick. The model follows the recently released FSC Group CoC Policy, with a manager coordinating the certificate requirements for the group, and the group entity receiving the FSC certificate.

Members are required to track their certified inputs and outputs to ensure that certified products are not confused with non-certified ones. This means maintaining a paper record of all purchases and sales, and ensuring physical and/or temporal separation of materials, works-in-progress and finished products in the workshop. Templates for timber tracking and purchase/sales invoices are available for group members. Prospective members have reviewed and provided input throughout the process and reached agreement that such a system would not be difficult to implement. Recording of NTFP products is a challenge, which will be addressed through appropriate tracking measures.

A second objective is to ensure the group entity is financially sustainable. To eliminate the cost of a paid group manager, the model proposes a rotating manager position, with each group member assuming managerial responsibilities for one year. An internal monitoring committee consisting of one external auditor and two group members will alleviate some of the costs associated with the maintenance of the certification.

FBC is currently working with several woodworkers in Carleton County to develop the structure of the group entity, promote FSC certification to other local producers, and discuss potential marketing strategies for FSC-certified products in the region.

For more information contact Simon J. Mitchell at (506) 375-4310 or by email at simon@fallsbrookcentre.ca

NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS : SEEING THE FOREST BEYOND THE TREES

Blueberry pancakes and maple syrup in Canada. Bamboo furniture in China. Perfume in Paris. Cancer research in USA. Can you find the common link? These are all examples of non-timber forest products. Over 1.6 billion people worldwide rely directly on forest products – and if you have ever picked blueberries, used a wood stove or cut your own Christmas tree, you are one of them.

Forest products can be divided into two groups: timber and non-timber. Timber forest products are what we commonly associate with industrial forestry: lumber, wood chips, pulp and paper. However, forests are more than just trees, and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are increasingly being recognized as an important aspect of forest management. You may have heard of NTFPs referred to as “special forest products,” “non-wood forest products” or “secondary forest products.” In general, the term NTFP can be used to cover all income-generating forest activities other than timber harvesting.

With the increase in globalization and environmental degradation, there is growing awareness about the link between healthy rural communities and sustainable forest use. While people have used NTFPs for centuries, forest managers are only now becoming more interested in the multiple uses of forest plants.

Examples of these multiple uses are everywhere around us. Common shrubs such as willow or dogwood grow along streams and riparian buffer zones. These shrubs can be used for furniture, providing economic and ecological benefits.

(continued on page 6. . .)

Mission Statement

Provide assistance to landowners in developing sustainable forest management strategies that maintain the long-term social, ecological, and economic benefits from our forests, and assisting in applying for third party certification by the Forest Stewardship Council

Co-op Vision

To create a sustained flow of forest benefits including timber, wildlife, clean water, aesthetics, and recreation that promote the health and resilience of both Acadian forest communities and human communities. Maintain the environment and rural character of New Brunswick through forest conservation and restoration, and by placing the responsibility for environmental health back in the hands of local people and communities.

MARITIME REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Over the past year, the newly constituted Maritime Region Steering Committee of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has been working to meet the Conditions of Endorsement, which were placed on the Maritime Standard in December of 1999.

In December of 1999, after more than three years of consultation with individuals, groups and companies, FSC International approved the Forest Stewardship Council's Maritime Standard. However, several conditions were placed on this endorsement. Three of these conditions involved clarifying the language of the standard and referencing applicable provincial and federal laws, which are applicable. The two other conditions, however, involved demonstrating substantial support for three contentious standards that covered the use of exotic

species, plantations and biocides in sustainable forestry.

In order to determine support, the MRSC consulted with more than four hundred individuals and organizations involved in forestry, including Forestry companies, woodlot owners, environmentalists, recreational users and First Nations stakeholders.

After reviewing and evaluating all of the responses, the MRSC wrote a report offering suggestions for the rewording of the three contentious standards, which reflected the input provided to the MRSC. This report was forwarded to the FSC Canada Working Group and was approved at the Annual General Meeting in June. The report was then forwarded to FSC International for approval. The MRSC is currently waiting to hear back from FSC International. The approval of this report will mean some small changes to the Maritime Standard but will not change the Forest Stewardship Council's commitment to the highest possible standard of sustainable for-

estry.

In the upcoming two years, the Maritime Regional Steering Committee will begin the process of reviewing the standard in its entirety with the goal of learning from people's experiences with certification and from new findings in forestry. The MRSC is also hoping to encourage woodlot owners and operators, as well as value-added producers, to consider FSC certification as their choice of certification system.

The Forest Stewardship Council Maritime Region Standards Committee is a non-profit body, which makes all decisions by consensus. In the next few months, the FSC in the Maritimes will be electing a new steering committee, which will oversee the standard review, carry out education and outreach activities and contribute to the establishment of a National FSC Standard for Boreal forests.

Anna Sheridan-Jonah is the MRSC Coordinator. She can be reached at (506) 536-2175 or through email at anna_k_sheridan@yahoo.ca

GPI FOREST ACCOUNTS : THEIR ROLE IN SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

In November 2001, GPI Atlantic released 'The Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index Forest Accounts', a two volume, 466-page, document providing indicators of the ecological, economic and social values of forests in Nova Scotia as well as detailed case studies of sustainable forestry. The forest accounts were welcomed by individuals and organizations with concerns for the sustainability of Nova Scotia's forests.

The GPI Forest Accounts provide analysis of what's happened, what's happening and where we could place emphasis for sustainable forest management in the Acadian forest region. In short, the GPI Forest Accounts show a sustainable way forward.

Interestingly, while the ink was still wet

on the document, it was dismissed out of hand by the Chair of the Nova Forest Alliance (NFA). Several organizations, enthusiastic about the work of GPI, had been participating on various committees in the NFA's federally funded model forest program in Nova Scotia. These environmental, naturalist, First Nations and woodlot owner partners of the NFA expressed outrage at the Chair's unwarranted attack. After all, the model forest program was supposed to provide opportunity for multi-stakeholder input towards long term sustainable forest management, and many participants looked to the contribution the GPI Accounts could have in steering the work of the model forest partnership. These partners now recognized that the industry-heavy alliance was closed to new ideas and intent on preserving its "business as usual" practices, with their almost exclusive reliance on clearcutting. By spring 2002, these disgruntled organizations decided to shift their efforts from the NFA initiatives to move on independently to promote and demonstrate 'truly' sustainable forest management following the analysis and

recommendations of the GPI Forest Accounts.

Keep a watch, therefore, for Ecology Action Centre's 'Standing Tall' campaign and the Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association 2002 Field Day, 'The Old Man and the Trees' on the 1400 acre woodlot of retired (1969) Deputy Minister of Lands Dr. Wilfred Creighton.

GPI Atlantic representatives participate in the Social Chamber of the Maritime Regional Steering Committee and support the growth of FSC certification in the Acadian forest region. For more information on GPI Atlantic Forest Accounts visit the web site at www.gpiatlantic.org

Pam Langille is a Forest Campaigner in Nova Scotia. She represents GPI, a social chamber member of the MRSC.

A TALE OF TWO FORESTS

Many would suggest that the current level of harvesting on New Brunswick Crown Lands is ecologically unsustainable and is producing fewer economic benefits. The result is a less healthy forest because of decreases in biodiversity, wildlife habitat, old-growth and economic opportunity.

This seems to be brought about by the values that our society has placed on the forest. Within the last 200 years (roughly the time in which our forests have been subjected to the most human disturbance) wildlife numbers, water quality and the abundance of many tree and plant species have been on the decline. Recently, there has been a shift towards agricultural style land management for the maximizing of pulp and sawlog production. This style of land management does not satisfy habitat and biodiversity objectives. These high demands from our forests are mostly accomplished through plantations of genetically manipulated trees, and harvesting in the most economical fashion. This usually means harvesting practices that do not emulate a natural disturbance.

The Conservation Council has been promoting a lower impact approach to forestry that is ecologically sustainable. In an effort to determine what such a management approach would mean in terms of restoring biological diversity and what its impact might be on economic opportunities in the long-term, we launched a project called "A Tale of Two Forests." The idea was to model forest growth and development over 80 years on one of the Crown land licenses under a low impact forestry regime and compare the results with those expected from the status quo.

We began in May of this year to model through strategic analysis the New Brunswick Crown License 2 (Nepisiguit watershed) under FSC standards. The results will provide a comparison to current management in

terms of resultant species composition and ages, biodiversity, old-growth, habitat and economic opportunity 80 years in the future. The same Woodstock forest modeling software used by industry and the Department of Natural Resources and Energy (DNRE) was used to forecast changes in these values over time. These results were then compared to what the forest will be like under the management plan produced by industry, and submitted to and approved by DNRE this year.

The FSC management guidelines were chosen because they provide a readily available set of prescriptive standards for the Maritimes region that result in low-impact forestry. A forest managed under FSC guidelines results in a shift toward the more naturally occurring forest type for a given site, and more economic opportunities due to a wider range of forest products. There would be fewer plantations, less clear-cutting, more wildlife habitat, and the average age of the forest would be much greater.

An alternative approach would have been to develop our own criteria for low impact forestry, but in the interest of time we simply applied the prescriptive standards worked out by FSC for Acadian forests (MRSC endorsed January 2000). The FSC supports environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. This is consistent with the vision of the Conservation Council.

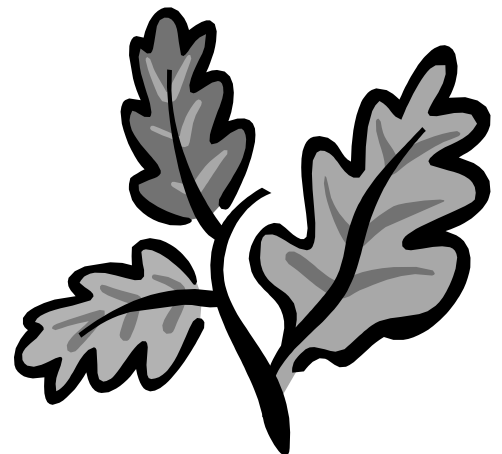
The software used offers great potential for examining many options in terms of how, when and the level of each treatment; and in turn the resultant forest you get under each scenario. Even though the results of the modeling were being tabulated at the time of writing, there are some general trends emerging. By conducting more selection harvests and tailoring treatments to the given site an increased potential for restoration and a shift toward a more naturally occurring forest type occurs. As a result, biodiversity and old-growth value are increased by maintaining more area in the older age classes. Of

course, these forest health benefits come with a compromise on the annual allowable cut (AAC).

In the opinion of this writer, this reduction in harvest level should not be a deterrent for improving the health and long-term sustainability of our forest ecosystems. Possible ideas for absorbing this decrease in AAC could be through recycling of more paper products and a decrease in mechanization that would yield more job opportunities. The resultant increased diversity in products available also bears much potential for a value added marketplace.

After all, it is the *forest* as a whole that sustains us, not the *timber* one can gain from it.

Mark Hudson worked for the conservation council of New Brunswick this past summer. This article originally appeared in Eco Alert Volume 33 (3) September 2002.



(NTFPs Continued from page 3)

The Many Faces of NTFPs

So what are NTFPs? You know some of the big ones: maple syrup, blueberries, and Christmas wreaths. NTFPs can be grouped into seven general categories.

- **Food:** Syrups, berries, mushrooms, nuts, honey, wild rice.
- **Health and Personal Care:** Herbal medicinals, natural health products, cosmetics, pet care products.
- **Materials and Manufacturing:** Wooden instruments, tool handles, craft wood, wood chemicals, essential oils.
- **Environmental:** Fuelwood, recycled wood products
- **Landscape and Garden:** Native plant species, needle mulch
- **Decorative and Aesthetic:** Christmas trees, wreaths, dried flowers, cones, wood carvings, birch bark crafts.
- **Non-consumptive Services:** Eco-tourism, biodiversity conservation, recreation, cultural heritage, water quality.

(Source: Ontario Ministry National Resources, 1999)

In degraded areas, forest restoration can occur along with an income-generating program. For example, berry shrubs could be planted under a regenerating mixed wood canopy. Rural communities can work together to establish a handicraft industry using local forest products, generating local employment and pride. The possibilities are endless! NTFPs, when appropriately managed, offer a win-win-win situation: environmental protection, social/ local benefits, and economic gain.

Our experience with other natural resources has shown us that there is a fine line between economic use and exploitation; NTFPs are no different.

Already there have been violent “wars in the woods” over wild mushrooms, salal (an evergreen shrub in BC) and wild ginseng, suggesting that these resources are already being over-harvested. In Canada, NTFPs generate \$240 million annually. An aging human population, increased demand for natural medicinal and beauty products, and growing interest in “environmentally-friendly” products all mean that the demand for forest products will continue to increase. One study has estimated the market potential of NTFPs in Canada to be \$1 billion, which is comparable in size to the BC salmon fishery or the Newfoundland timber industry. As forest stewards, our challenge is deciding how we want to manage NTFPs. A billion dollar industry will have a significant impact on our forests: it is our decision if it will be a positive or negative one.

There are many examples of sustainable NTFPs around the world. In eastern China, families are growing highly valued mountain hickory nuts on their forest land. These trees have the additional benefit of stabilizing mountain slopes in this monsoon region. In England, venison has recently been FSC-certified as a sustainable forest product. While there are no FSC-certified NTFPs in Canada, Falls Brook Centre is currently working with the Forest Stewardship Council to generate general management standards for non-timber forest products in the Maritimes. Organic certification of maple syrup has already proven advantageous for several local sugar bush operators.

Certification is a useful tool for ensuring the sustainable management of forest resources; however, as with wood certification, there are several challenges in certifying NTFPs. While some, such as maple syrup, have been studied and managed for years others are relatively new products. For example, Ground Hemlock (or Canada Yew) is harvested for Taxol, a cancer fighting drug. New products pose unique challenges for sustainable management as very little is known about their growth and repro-

duction. As a result, it is difficult to determine sustainable harvest rates or best management practices.

Another major challenge to growing NTFPs in New Brunswick is the limited information on supply and demand; which plants are being used for what purpose, where they are growing, and where they are sold. The NTFP Research and Demonstration Partnership (a coalition between Falls Brook Centre, Canadian Forest Service and University of New Brunswick) is conducting research into balsam tips, cedar leaf oil and Canada Yew as three significant NTFPs in New Brunswick. In the future, Falls Brook Centre will continue to dedicate itself to the exploration of alternative forest resources.

The untapped potential of NTFPs gives woodlot owners a unique opportunity – time for a little creativity in the woods! As members of the Woodlot Stewardship Cooperative, NTFPs offer a way to earn some money while showcasing our sustainable forest management practices. As our study into potential NTFPs continues, we would be interested in hearing your ideas, comments and creative brainwaves.

Jane Stewart is a Co-operative Forestry Intern at the Falls Brook Centre. She is presently at the FSC International office in Oaxaca, Mexico



SAWDUST AND FILINGS...

INTERESTING WEBSITES AND MATERIALS, RECENT NEWS & UPCOMING FORESTRY EVENTS IN THE MARITIMES

INTERESTING WEBSITES

- **Falls Brook Centre website:**
www.fallsbrookcentre.ca
- **FSC Canada website:**
www.fsccanada.org
- **FSC International website:**
www.fscoax.org
- **Silva Forest Foundation:**
www.silvafor.org

UPCOMING FORESTRY EVENTS

- **Maritime Regional Steering Committee Meeting - Sackville, N.B. December 6, 2002**
- **Atlantic Region Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) Workshop Rescheduled for February 1, 2003, Fredericton, New Brunswick**

This workshop will focus on practical approaches to the development of established and emerging NTFPs.

For more information contact Ramsey Hart: ramsey@fallsbrookcentre.ca

- **Welcome to the 9th National Forest Congress - Ottawa, May 1-2, 2003**

The National Forest Congress - a tradition since 1906 - will celebrate Canadian accomplishments, address priority issues, and endorse new initiatives to face the long-term challenges ahead.

For more information, see:
www.nfc.forest.ca

CONGRATULATIONS TO SOME RECENT CoC CERTIFICATIONS IN ATLANTIC CANADA !!

- **Kintore Hills Sawing and Milling Lower Kintore, New Brunswick**

Tel: (506) 273-6065
Email: kintore@nbnet.nb.ca
Contact: Philip Allen
Products: Lumber

- **Jeff Amos (Proprietorship) Riverport, Nova Scotia**

Tel: (902) 766-4527
Email: jeffamos@auracom.com
Contact: Jeff Amos
Products: Custom furniture, flooring, siding, and millwork

- **Forest Futures Ltd. New Germany, Nova Scotia**

Tel: (902) 543-0122
Email: jim@windhorsefarm.org
Contact: Jim Drescher
Products: Construction lumber, kiln dried lumber, flooring, wainscoting, panelling, moulding

