

THE FOREST PRACTITIONER

2010 Annual General Meeting

Friday, January 29th, 2010

Wu Conference Centre

Main Topic: Voting on Right-to-Practice Bill

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ELECTION 2010

It is once again time to call on our membership to submit nominees for upcoming vacancies on the Executive Committee and Board of Examiners. It's an interesting time to volunteer; the RTP initiative is close to completion and we need members on the Executive who will actively support the project until the bill is passed. While terms of office are usually one year for Vice-president and two years for councillors, if new legislation is enacted this spring we may be required to elect a new Council and Executive following the passage of the bill.

The proposed legislation also will change how positions on the Board of Examiners are filled from elected candidates to the appointment

of members. Therefore, while we have two vacancies on the BoE to be filled by election for two year terms, these may be converted to appointments following passage of the legislation.

ARPFNB members may submit their own or names of other members in nomination to the following positions:

Vice-President: one year term, succeeding to the President's position for one year, then acting as Past-President for one year

Two Executive committee councillors: two year terms

Two Board of Examiner committee members: two year terms.

2009 Executive Committee

President: John Kershaw

Vice President: J.D. Woods

Past President: Doug Prosser

Secretary-Treasurer: Nicole D'Aoust

Councillors: Jean-Louis Laplante; Peggy McDougall; Roger Roy; Chris Smissaert

Executive Director: Jennifer Hacking

ARPFNB News & Announcements

Passing

It is with regret that we report Kenneth Keith, RPF #99, of Miramichi, passed away on July 19th of this year. Mr. Keith was a member of the ARPFNB for 50 years.

Interesting Websites

National Geographic on-line has captured an incredible image of a 300-ft tall giant redwood in California, completed using 84 separate photographs. Check out this link:

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/rdwoods/gatefold-image>

The Species-at-Risk Public Registry is a fascinating source for information about all of the listed endangered and threatened species in Canada.

The Parks Canada Agency, on behalf of the Minister of the Environment, posts recovery strategies for endangered species on this website. Members of the public are welcome to submit comments over a defined period and these are reviewed by the agency before finalizing the strategy. Last month, Parks Canada posted their proposed recovery strategy for the Dromedary Jumping Slug, an endangered resident of Vancouver Island. Find this and other interesting animals at: <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca>

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

Henry David Thoreau

New Member

Congratulations and welcome to Jamie Simpson, RPF #575, our most recent new registered member. Jamie works for the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax, NS and is also a NB woodlot owner.

Socially . . .

Our student BBQs, hosted jointly by ARPFNB and CIF Maritime Section, were appreciated by the hungry attendees at UNB on Oct 1, and UMCE on Oct 6. Several RPFs were also in attendance, the weather cool but dry, and a good time was had by all.

Our banner held out through wet, cold weather at the UNB Woodsmen's Competition on Oct 24. Not surprisingly, very few spectators were brave enough to withstand the conditions, but the competition was as fierce as ever.

Professional Foresters' Achievement Award

The New Brunswick Professional Foresters' Achievement Award, also known as Forester of the Year, is presented to recognize the outstanding achievement by an individual member of the Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick (ARPFNB). The Award recognizes the contribution made by an RPF to the sustainable management of New Brunswick's forests. A member of the ARPFNB or any member of the public can put forward a nomination.

Nominations must be received by the end of November at which time a selection committee of ARPFNB members will be struck to choose the honoree. The Award is presented at the Annual General Meeting. While the goal is to present this award annually, in some years there are no nominations. Honorees are recognized on the ARPFNB website, and on a plaque displayed in the Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre lobby.

2010 Annual General Meeting Plans

The 2010 Annual General Meeting will again be held at the Wu Conference Centre on the UNB Campus. Plan to be there on Friday, January 29th. It is being held earlier than last year to accommodate timing for introduction of the RTP bill to the Legislative Assembly in the spring, provided members vote to proceed with this initiative.

The meeting will start at 9:00 am, and will follow the standard format: approval of the agenda, and 2009 AGM minutes, followed by presentation of committee and financial reports. The main order of business, review and vote on the Right-to-Practice legislation, will be allowed time on the agenda for members to fully express concerns, recommend changes and have any questions answered before proceeding to the vote.

The final draft of the legislation will be circulated to all members in bilingual format at least 4 weeks before the meeting, allowing everyone ample time to review our proposed bill.

A preliminary draft of a new set of by-laws for the Association will also be available for review because while the legislation provides the framework and authority for RTP, the mechanics of how mandatory registration will operate must be outlined in detail in the by-laws. Programs which were been developed with RTP in mind and which will not change substantially will be attached as Schedules to the by-laws. These include the Forester-in-Training program, the Continuing Forestry Education program, and the Disciplinary Process.

Hall of Fame

The New Brunswick Forestry Hall of Fame was established to recognize and honor the achievements of individuals who have attained prominence and distinction in any field of forestry, and those who have made a major contribution to the development and advancement of forestry in New Brunswick.

Pictures and biographies of recipients are displayed in the Boiestown Woodsmen's Museum. Honorees are also listed on our website. Nominees are not only foresters, but any individual who has contributed to forestry. Candidates for election may be chosen on the basis of contributions in the field of Forestry Education, Protection, Utilization, Extraction or Silviculture but consideration is not limited to these fields. Entrance to the Hall of Fame is awarded jointly by the ARPFNB and the New Brunswick Forest Technicians Association (NBFTA).

Nominations shall be made on official nomination forms (available from the ARPFNB office) and submitted to the Selection Committee Secretary, and shall contain the fullest possible data concerning the achievements of each candidate. Each nomination shall be endorsed by at least three persons.

Following receipt of nominations, the Executive Committees will appoint a Selection Committee consisting of the President of the ARPFNB, the President of the NBFTA, three members nominated by the ARPFNB, and three members nominated by the NBFTA. As far as possible, the Selection Committee shall be representative of the Provincial and Federal Forestry Services, Forestry Education and the Private and Industrial Forestry Sectors.

Any ARPFNB or NBFTA member may nominate a candidate for the Hall of Fame. Please consider nominating an individual you feel deserves this honour. Selection will be made by the end of December

Continuing Forestry Education: Your Responsibility

In March, 2010, RPFs can expect two requests from their Association office; one asking for cash, the other for credits. Sure, you can pay your dues, but next year you will not be considered a member in good standing unless you also submit your report of Continuing Forestry Education credits earned. Two ways to do this: just note down the actual number of credits on the response form I send out and mail it in with your cheque, or print out the chart of CFE credits from your member's page on the ARPFNB website and mail that in. Or scan it and e-mail it. Or slip it under the office door.

Our audit system of quality assurance for RPFs comes into effect next year, three years after the revised CFE program was instituted. The CFE committee will select approximately 5% of our members and ask them to document their credit reports. That means, if your name comes up in the lucky audit list, that all the course outlines, attendance sheets, certificates earned, record of individual readings that you have faithfully kept since 2007 must be bundled up and sent in to the CFE committee, who will audit your CFE record. If your credits earned add up to 150+ over the last 3 years the committee is happy, and may even give you a little gold star for your report. What happens if you haven't earned at least 150 credits? You have to attend a seminar, webinar, read technical journals or find another way to earn the remaining number. Otherwise the ARPFNB is unable to confirm your good standing, and you may lose your RPF status. If you follow the CIF CFE program, and have a current certificate, you're covered.

Opportunities to earn credits are all around you: employer in-house training counts, and webinars or e-lectures are widely available. Attending meetings of relevant organizations (CWF, CIF, Marketing Boards, information meetings given by government) and serving on committees also earn credits towards continuing education.

Right-to-Practice Update

Before the end of the year, ARPFNB members will receive a copy of the proposed legislation that the working committee has been drafting and redrafting since the spring. Some delay has occurred; the NBFTA was divided on joining us in the proposal, and will be holding a special general meeting in the middle of November to vote on inclusion in the legislation. Following their vote, we can amend the draft bill as required and send it for translation.

I hope to have the final draft distributed to our members in its bilingual format no later than mid-December, allowing everyone time to thoroughly review it before the Annual General Meeting. At that meeting, a vote will be held on whether or not to present the bill to the Legislative Assembly.

At the same time, employers, marketing boards, government departments and environmental organizations in the province will be canvassed to review the draft bill and asked to provide letters of support for our initiative.

If the membership votes to approve the bill, we will be able to enter the next stages. First of all, a 6-week mandatory advertisement period can begin in mid-February. Then, we will be able to have the bill listed for the spring 2010 session of the Assembly. Private member's bills are customarily dealt with in spring session.

After a first reading, bills go to committee hearings where the public may freely comment for or against proposed legislation. The committee will decide, based on all information received to either approve, amend or reject bills. If approved, bills go to second and third readings before passed into law.

Optimistically, our proposed legislation could be in effect by June 2010.

Why Right-to-Practice might be a Good Idea

Questions and requests that come into the ARPFNB office cover a wide range of topics, and this past summer I received another unique query. A gentleman from the UK e-mailed the Association asking if we knew anything about an investment company based in Ireland and Denmark that owns land in New Brunswick. He had invested a significant amount of money in a plan to plant *Paulownia* trees in the province. The latest prospectus he had received reported that the plantation had been established and would be ready to harvest in ten years, promising a healthy return on investment.

Not familiar with the tree, I had to google *Paulownia*. The genus originated in Asia, and is composed of tropical to temperate broad-leaved species with extremely rapid growth. From the investment company's own information their northern range extends to 45° latitude, just south of where we are. The tree is grown for lumber in Asia and has straight-grained, light wood. The species was successfully introduced to the southern U.S; too successfully in fact, it's now considered an aggressive invasive species producing masses of light, wind-dispersed seeds.

The investor who contacted our office became concerned after being unable to get any definitive information about the progress of the plantation, and asked me if I had heard about the investment company or their NB project. Feeling shut-in at the office, I drove out to the property owned by the company, a standard 100-acre strip, just to see what was there. Maybe I'd get to see a *Paulownia* tree or two.

Luckily, no *Paulownia* trees are on site, yet. In fact, there are no trees at all on one-third of the marshy property. The rest of the land has a standard Acadian forest mix of immature trees. The investment company prospectus outlines plans to prepare the ground by first installing drainage tile on the woodlot. In fact, the project outline claimed that tile had been installed and the trees had been planted in 2008.

Any of us could outline some of the concerns, but I'll summarize:

Foresters should be aware of the damage caused by invasive species, and should know whether or not a species has been classified as invasive.

Could the introduced species survive in this province? Setting aside the invasive species issue, would a responsible forester recommend planting it without first determining whether it would survive the winter?

Would any forester in this province recommend installing drainage tile on tree plantations, no matter how fast they grew?

4. The annual reports issued by the investment company, with input from the forestry manager, fell between misleading and categorically false, and were amended only after one of their investors started asking questions.

Through some contacts, I learned that an RPF is the project manager for the NB land owned by the investment company; at least he was in 2008 when the plantation was to be established. What action should be taken by the professional organization? Well, in this case, we might be in luck because the forester is not registered with our Association, but with one in a province that has mandatory registration for foresters. I notified the Registrar of that Association of the RPF's connection to this project and inquiries are underway.

If the forester had been a New Brunswick resident two scenarios would be possible right now. If an RPF, a complaint could be lodged, a hearing could be held, the RPF could be fined or even expelled from the Association. Then, the forester could continue working for the investment company on the same project and perhaps we'd have *Paulownia* trees across the Maritimes twenty years from now. If the forester was not an ARPFNB member, no repercussions for him would result. No complaint, no fine, no recommendation to change the management plan, and perhaps

we'd have *Paulownia* trees across the Maritimes twenty years from now.

Still, the current project manager could give up RPF status in his mandatory jurisdiction and continue working for the investment company, and we just might

have *Paulownia* trees across the Maritimes twenty years from now. It's a great argument for mandatory registration in this province.

CIF Maritime Section News

101st CIF AGM & Conference

The 101st annual general meeting and conference of the Canadian Institute of Forestry was held in Nanaimo, BC from September 21-23. The theme of the conference was "Stewardship: Energizing forestry through new strategies and partnerships". There was an impressive list of speakers including Werner Kurz and Elizabeth May, as well as one of our own Maritime section members, Thom Erdle. The speakers covered a wide variety of partnerships such as First Nations, Canadian Model Forest Network, bioenergy sector, and community forestry. The field tour allowed participants to see old growth Western cedar, second-generation Douglas-fir which look like old growth to an Easterner (!), and Harmac Pacific Mill where a mill that went bankrupt encouraged its employees to pool their resources together and re-open the mill as shareholders. The conference was very well organized and allowed practitioners across the country to share knowledge about the new role for forestry in the bioenergy and carbon sectors.

Recent Events: student BBQs and mussels for members!

The CIF Maritime Section co-sponsored the Third Annual UNB and UdeM student BBQs with the Association of Registered Professional Foresters of NB. On October 1st 50 students, faculty and staff from the Faculty of Forestry & Environmental Management attended the event. On October 6th 25 students, faculty and staff from the Faculté de Foresterie at the Université de Moncton, Campus d'Edmundston, attended the event.

Members shared with students their knowledge, experience, interest in forestry and a few good humor stories too! Thank you to Ron Smith, Mandi Smith, and Roger Roy for their help in organizing the food.

On October 6th the CIF Maritime section co-sponsored the Ice Breaker of the Canadian Woodlands Forum's Fall meeting. Members and their spouses were invited to attend. This gave an opportunity for members to meet and talk to other members and participants at the meeting. Mussels were served in the lobby of the Hugh John Flemming Forestry Center in Fredericton.

The Maritime Section also sponsored the UNB Woodsmen Competition this year, which was a success despite the inclement weather. The event was held on October 24, and we gave the Forestry Association \$200 towards set-up and operation costs. CIF council members were there to work the crowd, and the banner was posted briefly before the rain started. It was a good chance to spread the word to schools outside the Maritime Section as well as outside of Canada. Thanks to those who braved the weather and came out to this event. The UNB Men's A team placed first in the overall standings!