



ONTARIO
WOODLOT
ASSOCIATION

Ontario Woodlot Association Conference Guided Tour of the Nipissing Forest April 27th, 2022

This tour will focus on some of the historic tree improvement research that was done in Ontario, explore some Red Pine thinning research, as well as include stops at local OWA member woodlots. The woodlots will highlight managing for multiple objectives in an award-winning maple syrup focused forest, and managing a mixed wood forest with a hardwood transition forest objective. There will also be a special demonstration of the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and terrestrial LiDAR to develop forest inventories.

Agenda

8:30 a.m. Depart from the Canadian Ecology Centre (CEC) by Bus

9:30 a.m. Arrive Bella Hill Maple Syrup. Powassan



Owners Lori and Dan Costello, OWA Members.

*Their syrup was named **world champion in the golden/delicate taste category at the 2018 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair**. They produce over 15 maple syrup products including several fruit infused syrups.*

The focus at this stop will be presenting their syrup collection, process, and product manufacturing processes, as well as a focus on the forest.

We will explore how an award-winning maple syrup producer makes decisions about tree removals that incorporate maple syrup production, wildlife habitat, and improves forest health and encourages desirable regeneration.



11:30 a.m. Depart Bella Hill-Lunch on Bus

12:00 p.m. Arrive Gurd Forest Research Site

This part of the tour will focus on the legacy of forest research since the late 1950's. Participants will see some of the earliest tree improvement efforts conducted in Ontario. The biological legacy represented on this site dates to plus tree selections from the late 1950' from numerous locations in Ontario. It also represents a legacy no longer on the forest landscape. Planned stops are listed on the next page...



Gurd Forest Research Site (continued)

- **Red Pine Thinning Trial** – *this trial looks at row thinning with light thinning in intervening rows, vs. just thinning from below, vs an un-thinned control.*
- **Beachburg Clonal Seed Orchard**
- **White Pine Clonal Seed Orchard**
- **Red Pine Clonal Seed Orchard**
- **White Pine Progeny Test (the only one in Ontario)**
- **Red Spruce Provenance Test**
- **Red Spruce Seed Production Area**

2:00 p.m. Depart Gurd

3:00 p.m. Arrive Green Legacy Farms



Our host will be Dean Assinewe R.P.F., Dean is an OWA member and a member of Sagamok Anishnawbek. Dean will share his vision of using the property to pay forward to future generations sharing his learning experiences on his property.

The focus will be mixed wood forestry and how to work with nature to direct the forest to a more natural hardwood condition. He will share his experiences about life on the farm, including beekeeping, gardening, and learning about sawmilling.

The forest tour will also focus on Dean's tree marking decisions to protect wildlife habitat, protect sensitive ground water sites, and promote succession of a mixed wood forest to a tolerant hardwood forest.

*Dean will also showcase the work he is doing with Wikwemikong Department of Lands and Natural Resources and work promoting forest resource inventory using **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and terrestrial LiDAR** systems to complete woodlot planning and mapping projects.*



4:30 p.m. Depart Green Legacy Farms

5:30 p.m. Arrive CEC