



Woodland Owner

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NOVA SCOTIA
novascotia.ca/natr



Matthew Harrison receiving the woodlot sign from Don Cameron.

2016 Woodland Owner of the Year Award Winners

For 27 years the Woodland Owner of the Year Award in Nova Scotia has been recognizing woodland owners for outstanding stewardship of their woodlots. It is inspiring to see the leadership in sustainable woodland management that many woodland owners demonstrate.

CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL WINNERS – DONALD, CATHERINE, BONNIE, AND MATTHEW HARRISON

Matthew, Bonnie, Catherine, and Donald Harrison of Lynn Mountain, Cumberland County, are the central and provincial winners of the 2016 woodland owner of the year award. The Harrison family lives on an outstanding 1000 acre (405 hectare) woodland near Springhill. Matthew



The Harrison's Solar Panels.

focuses on long term viability of the woodland and understands the many values that the property offers. The Harrison's lot was previously owned by Matthew's grandparents who bought it in the 1950s. Matthew is now the current owner and has done an amazing job at maintaining the woodland through tree improvement practices, such as tree planting, selection management, developing recreational opportunities of the land, and sugar maple and blueberry businesses. In fact, for the past six years, the Harrisons have committed to at least 20 ha (50 acre) of selection harvest each year. This has resulted in a well-managed forest with continuous cover for wildlife.

In the 1990s Matthew started growing blueberries; which has expanded to 120 acres. Shortly after starting his blueberry business, he initiated a sugar maple business called the Hidden Mountain Maple Farm. The Harrison family currently manages 12000 taps and plans to add another 1500 by the end of this summer. The Hidden Mountain Maple Farm sells many products such as maple syrup, maple butter, maple cream, fudge, maple jelly and many more. Matthew has become a very passionate blueberry and maple farmer and because of this, he has been able to find value in both timber and non-timber forest products of his woodland.

Matthew and his family are also living completely off the grid; nearly all of their electrical power comes from the solar panels shown in the image above. These panels power a beautiful home that is made mostly of local wood materials. Their home is a great example of some of the wonderful things we can do with our natural resources in Nova Scotia.

To see this amazing woodland and learn more about how it is managed come to the woodland owner of the year award field day on September 24th.

WESTERN WINNERS – LARRY AND GRETA GOODWIN



Larry Goodwin receiving the woodlot sign from Simon Mutabazi.

Larry and Greta Goodwin of Hillgrove, Digby manage a lovely 230 acre (93 hectare) woodland. Much of their knowledge of woodland management has been passed down to them from Larry's grandparents who bought the lot in 1912. Beside being good woodland stewards, they have been very generous in sharing and making their land available to the public for hiking, snow shoeing and cross country skiing. In fact, the Acacia Valley Trail Extension is the result of the Goodwin's generosity.

The Goodwin's woodland has a healthy mix of species and ages. Over the years, the Goodwin family has planted thousands of seedlings to enhance the value of their land which has generated some income from timber sales.

Open Forest Day

On June 25th, 2016 the second annual Open Forest Day event was a huge success. Hundreds of people attended the event to celebrate Nova Scotia's natural resources and have some family fun. The Department of Natural Resources partnered with over 35 organizations, communities, and companies to create a fun-for-all outdoor event at Shubie Park in Dartmouth. Mi'kmaw drumming, canoeing, interactive displays, face painting, and hiking are just a few of the many activities that visitors to Shubie Park experienced.



One of the many hands on learning opportunities at the Open Forest Day! ▶



The Acacia brook that runs through the Goodwin's lot.

They manage hiking trails and run a small sugar maple business. Larry and Greta are both very active members of the board for the Acacia Valley Trail. The trail follows the Acacia brook and takes you through their beautiful woodland. They have spent much of their time working as volunteers to manage the trail and make it accessible to the public. Over the past three years the Goodwin's and other volunteers have been working on a new section of the trail that travels up the Acacia brook and through much of the Goodwin's woodland. The Acacia trail can be found on Mill Road off the Acacia Valley Rd. in Hillgrove, Digby. Use of the trail is encouraged by the Goodwins and it is open to all as long as the trail is used respectfully.

Come explore and hike the Acacia Valley Trail Extension on October 1st at the woodland owner of the year award field day.

EASTERN WINNERS – FRANK AND LELIA MACHNIK

Frank and Lelia Machnik, two retired teachers, have raised five children and now manage two woodlands and cottages on one woodlot. Although their woodlands and cottages keep them busy, they are involved in the community, meet with other woodland owners, even volunteer at the hospital and their church.



Frank and Lelia Machnik, the Eastern Region WOYA winners.

Their first woodland is located in Bayfield in Antigonish County, this 150 acre (59 hectare) lot was bought in the 1970s and it has become Frank and Lelia's home. This is also the location of the Sea'scape Cottages, their tourism business. People who rent these cottages enjoy a beautiful view of the beach and salt marsh that is adjacent to the Pomquet Beach Provincial Park. Their land offers various recreational opportunities such as beach walking, hiking, bird watching, boating and more.

Their second lot was bought in 2013, and is located in Polson Brook not far from the Machnik's house. Frank is succeeding at turning an unmanaged 400 acre (157 hectare) woodland into a

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events Calendar

AUGUST 8-11

Teachers Tour
Miramichi, New Brunswick
teacherstour.com

SEPTEMBER 9-11

Hunting and Outdoor Show,
Truro, Nova Scotia
NSHuntingANDOutdoorShow.ca

SEPTEMBER 17

Eastern Woodland Owner
of the Year Field Day,
Bayfield,
Antigonish County

SEPTEMBER 18-24

National Forest Week

SEPTEMBER 21

National Tree Day,
nationaltreeday.ca

SEPTEMBER 24

Central and Provincial
Owner of The Year
Field Day, Lynn Mountain,
Cumberland County

OCTOBER 1

Western Woodland
Owner of The Year
Field Day, Hillgrove,
Digby County

OCTOBER 22

Woodlot Management
Mentorship Program
Field Day, Yarmouth
County, Details TBA



Firewood harvest at the Machnik's lot in Polson Brook.

well-managed, sustainable and healthy woodland that will have more value in the future. Frank is passionate about caring for his woodlands and educating people about Nova Scotia's natural resources and woodlot management. He loves to tell stories of events that have taken place on his woodlot and talk about the different tree species, wildlife and his sustainable woodland management practices.

Come explore the woodlot and see the beautiful view it offers on September 17th at the woodland owner of the year award field day.

HONOURABLE MENTION TO OTHER 2016 WOYA NOMINEES

Adrian J Van Berkel, Ohio, Antigonish County, Doug Kemp, Burlington, Kings County, Ian Cameron, Hampton , Todd Kidston, Centreville, Kings County, Howard Porter, Woodvale, Stanley Scott, Barrington, Gerald Davis, Middle Musquodoboit.

Woodland Management Home Study Program



The home study program includes 18 different modules that cover a wide range of topics related to woodland stewardship and sustainable land management. Participating in the program is free and open to anyone with an interest in woodland management. Each booklet is comprised of helpful tips, case studies and chapter quizzes to help you remember the material. Contact us to receive your free copy of any or all of the modules.

COMING SOON:

**Module 17: Mineral Resources:
What A Woodland Owner Needs to Know**

Module 17 will soon be our newest addition to our woodland management home study program. This home study module will cover topics like the geological resources that could be on your woodlot, ownership and regulation of those resources, development of those resources and also the geo-hazards that may be on your woodlot. It's also a great guide for anyone interested in developing geothermal energy, geo-tourism, minerals or aggregates on your woodlot.

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