

This report summarizes the activities of the FGCA in our 10th year of operation. We greatly appreciate our members' and associates' contributions, and especially those of our FGCA Board Members. In this report I have underlined organizations and bolded **people's names** to highlight their contributions in our 3 main program areas.

1. Biologically Appropriate Reforestation:



Ontario's Natural Selections

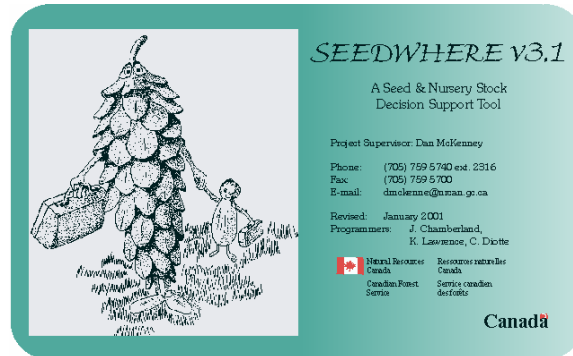
Our Seed Source Certification Program was once again our main focus.

- **Seed Collection** - FGCA Member, **Brian Swaile** and The Ontario Tree Seed Plant (OTSP) helped us deliver another Certified Seed Collector Workshop. The first edition of *Seed Source Matters*, a newsletter for Certified Seed Collectors was distributed to remind collectors of the importance of source documentation and to encourage them to register their seed lots, but progress has been slow.
- **Growers** - The certification manual was distributed to several nurseries interested in becoming certified.
- **Influencers** - Currently FGCA is targeting a key group, those who operate and fund programs, to convince them of the benefits of requiring known sources in their planting programs (Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, Trees Ontario, CA's etc). They have the economic power to influence the growers and then collectors to document the seed sources.

Other Reforestation Initiatives:

- Trees Ontario Community Tree Planting Program - The FGCA participated on the implementation committee of this program. Our efforts included promotion of known seed sources of native species in the Natural Resource Canada's Forest 2020 program, and a proposal to facilitate an increase in supplies of suitable species and seed sources for urban tree planting
- **Stewardship and Seed Supplies** - FGCA alerted Stewardship Councils of their potential role to locate seed sources, forecast seed crops, collect and bank seed supplies. Several Councils responded positively.

- **SeedWhere Workshop** - FGCA technical advisor and OMNR Forest Specialist, **Cathy Nielsen**, produced a report on use of Canadian Forest Service's SeedWhere. Cathy's report is the basis of a Workshop FGCA delivered to the staff at the OMNR's Ontario Tree Seed Plant. This report will help OTSP staff use SeedWhere to analyze seedlots of known specific sources. The resulting deployment zones could direct seed beyond the restrictions of the generic tree seed zones to better serve their clients' needs. FGCA hopes this tool will encourage collectors and growers to accurately document seed source.
- **Native Plant Resource Guide** - FGCA assisted FGCA member, Society of Ecological Restoration - Ontario Chapter with a fourth edition of the guide. Assistance included advertising, articles and sales.
- **Parks and Seed Collection** - FGCA and OTSP had discussions with OMNR Ontario Parks staff to promote the value of parks as sources of seed, as current interpretation of the Parks Act prohibits this.
- **Southern Ontario Regeneration Survey** - FGCA worked with Trees Ontario, Conservation Ontario and Forest Renewal Coop (formerly LUSTR) to develop a funding proposal for a survey of current practices and success rates to be better able to rank the research needs, e.g. species vs. seed source, site selection, stock type, tending, etc
- **Southern Ontario Stewardship Seed Bank** - The FGCA has a seed bank at the OTSP which we manage to maintain a base level of seed by seed zones. It can be accessed by growers if a southern Ontario planting destination can be proven. White and red pine are the target species for this bank.



2. Species Conservation

Species of Concern

Efforts this year focused largely on butternut conservation, and participation with a central Ontario large woodlands conservation effort. Other efforts were limited to discussions or general promotion.

- **Species Recovery Fund** - At the FGCA 2003 agm, members asked the FGCA to investigate the idea of a general fund to support species conservation and recovery efforts. This would be replace the single species focused effort that was being investigated for butternut conservation efforts. Efforts this year were limited to planning discussions by the Board.

- **Ontario Tree Conservation Assessment Matrix - Dr John Ambrose's** draft paper on criteria to assess a species status (to help prioritise our limited time/resources) was reviewed at the FGCA 2003 agm and was sent to the **Steve Deon**, Petawawa Research Forest of the Canadian Forest Service to contribute to their biodiversity conservation initiative.
- **Butternut - Cathy Nielsen**, on behalf of the Butternut Conservation Coalition revised and submitted the status report to COSEWIC, who in November, recommended that butternut be listed as endangered nationally (ON, QC & NB). FGCA's conservation strategy efforts had been on hold pending the COSEWIC verdict. Cathy Nielsen and Barb Boysen are now focusing on the strategy development, including fundraising and landowner communications. They are also in discussion with Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service and representatives from Quebec and New Brunswick about a possible national recovery plan under the Species at Risk Act. A \$5,000 grant was obtained from the OMNR's Species at Risk Fund; a \$15,000 application to the National Endangered Species Recovery Fund was unsuccessful
- **Elm** - FGCA promoted The Arboretum's program to archive 'survivor elms' across S. Ontario.
- **Shagbark Hickory** - FGCA is advising MNR Kemptville and Eastern Chapter - Soc. of ON Nut Growers regarding conservation of a large northern stand.



Renfrew Butternut dieback

Silviculture Guidelines

- **Large Woodlands Conservation Cooperative (LWCC)** - The FGCA joined several partners including Trent University, Peterborough Field Naturalists, local Stewardship Councils, and Otonabee Region CA, to promote conservation of 6 areas of large upland hardwood forests in a 4 county area centred around Peterborough. This year's efforts involved the preparation of a detailed 3 year proposal to the Trillium Foundation to produce and test extension materials to influence landowners' actions. The FGCA will be working with other partners across Ontario to promote the LWCC's results.



Highgrade in LWCC area

3. Tree Improvement and Genetic Studies

White Pine Genetic Resource Management

- **White Pine Seed Orchard Management** for Seed and Conservation purposes is being activated in the following orchards:
 - Cayuga - managed by an MOU with MNR Guelph District - **Terry Schwan**, District Forester and the Haldimand and Area Woodlot Association and **Lorraine Norminton**, Haldimand Stewardship Council
 - Glencairn - managed by OMNR OTSP - **Al Foley**, Manager (good '03 crop)
 - Orono - Orono Land Trust Alliance is working with MNR Aurora District Office. Cone beetle research is being conducted here
 - Taylor Lake - Several partners (FGCA members) are interested in this orchard - Mazinaw Lanark SFL, Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF) and Ferguson Forest Centre (FFC). EOMF and FFC have undertaken mowing, pruning and mapping work. Clonal seed collections have been made - 25 more will complete the orchard set. The FGCA Board decided this orchard warranted FGCA funds to help raise additional funds for tree improvement - the next step being progeny testing. Taylor Lake SO - after lower pruning 2002
 - Gratton - Ottawa Valley Forest SFL is managing this orchard - many of its clones are included in a northern, Tembec sponsored progeny test
 - Snowdon Orchard - Bancroft Minden SFL is interested in managing this orchard but an insect infestation is threatening many trees
 - Crowe River - This orchard may be used as a seed collection area but a severe infestation of cone beetle will prevent any further investment
 - Conger - Westwind SFL is managing this orchard - many of its clones are included in a northern, Tembec sponsored progeny test.
- **Cone Beetle Research** - The FGCA helped raise matching funds from forest industry as required for an NSERC grant. **Andrea Brauner**, University of Toronto, advised by **Dr Peter de Groot**, Canadian Forest Service is doing a 2 year project to research a method to control the devastating effects this insect can have on seed crops (see Crowe River orchard above).



Hybrid Poplar

FGCA cautioned groups interested in planting hybrid poplar in carbon sequestration programs that any efforts must include long term breeding, testing and plantation management programs. The FGCA continues to distribute:

- A growers guide to hybrid poplar (Boysen & Strobl, 1991).
- A Crop For You? 1991 video, E. Ontario hybrid poplar plantation experience

Administration:

FGCA Board of Directors - AGM 2002 to AGM 2004

Appointed:	Ken Yaraskavitch	OMNR, Chatham	Board Co-Chair
	Bob Griffiths	OMNR, Parry Sound	
	Peter Nitschke	SCR SFL, Bancroft Minden Forest Co	
	Martin Neumann	Conservation Ontario (Grand River CA)	
Elected:	Wayne Young	Domtar Inc., Cornwall	Board Chair
	Henry Kock,	The Arboretum, University of Guelph	
	Steve Smith	Society for Ecological Restoration - ON Chapter (Alt. - John Ambrose)	
	Brian Barkley	Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF)	
	Ed Patchell	Ferguson Forest Centre (Alt - C. Mansfield, Somerville Nurs.)	
Non-voting:	Cathy Nielsen	OMNR Technical Advisor	
	Barb Boysen	FGCA Coordinator	

FGCA Membership 2003 - 2004

Government Agencies:

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
 - Ken Yaraskavitch, Bob Griffiths
 Canadian Forest Service - Alex Mosseler
 Dale Simpson
 Conservation Ontario
 Grand River Conservation (GRCA)
 - Martin Neumann
 Conservation Halton - Bill Gaines

Industry:

Domtar Inc. - Wayne Young
 Ottawa Valley Forest - Jeff Leavy
 Westwind For. Stewardship - Steve Munro
 Bancroft Minden Forest - Peter Nitschke
 Mazinaw Lanark Forest - Travis Hossack

Seed & Stock Sector:

Urban Forest Associates - Steve Smith
 Somerville Nurseries - Carl Mansfield
 Nature's Common Elements - Kim Creasey
 Ferguson Forest Centre - Ed Patchell
 Tim Mathers, Stouffville
 Herbert Doornbos
 Corry Lake Nursery - Sherry Funnell
 Forest Care - John deWitt
 Pineneedle Farms - Paul Richardson

Forestry Associations:

Ontario Forestry Association

Eastern Ontario Model Forest - B. Barkley
 Society of Ont. Nut Growers, E. Chapter
 Ontario Woodlot Association - Wade Knight
 ON Prof. Foresters Assoc. - Rick Monzon
 Carleton Place Urban For. Advisory Comm.
 - Jim McCready
 Huron Stewardship Council - Steve Bowers

First Nations:

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne - R. David

Individuals:

Cathy Nielsen
 Barb Boysen
 Dr C.W. Yeatman
 Glenn McLeod
 Ben Wang
 Brian Swaile
 Jim Coles
 Dr Pengxin Lu
 Dr Marilyn Cherry
 Dr. John Ambrose
 Dr K. Morgenstern
 Hank Jones

Conservation Groups:

The Arboretum, U. of Guelph - Henry Kock
 Soc. for Eco. Restoration - ON Chapter
 - Steve Smith

Communications & Promotion:

- **FGCA e-mails** about genetics & general forest information and issues
- **Contribution to OMNR's Southern Region Forest Strategy and Regional Planning Unit; OMNR - OMAF annual forestry meeting; CFS and EOMF Feasibility assessment of afforestation for Carbon Sequestration Meetings**
- **Newsletters** - seed collection note in On Woodlot Association newsletter
- **Presentations/Displays** -Lindsay Woodlot Conference, Bancroft Stewardship Conference, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Stewardship Meeting, ForestCare Stock Viewing Day, ON Woodlot Assoc. Annual General Meeting
- **Website** - fgca.net and ontariosnaturalselections.org development
- **FGCA 2003 Annual General Meeting** - June 16 & 17, 2003 - Bancroft area.

Bibliography: * = new, Contact Barb Boysen to receive copies.

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The Arboretum. 1999. Elm Recovery Project. University of Guelph. (Pamphlet)