

This report summarizes the activities of the FGCA in our 11th 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.

Overall this year has seen an increasing interest of many partners and associates in our efforts ranging from seed supplies for reforestation to butternut recovery. It bodes well for a healthy, sustainable southern Ontario landscape where the role of our native forests is highly valued.

1. Biologically Appropriate Reforestation:

Seed Source Certification Program:

Ontario's Natural Selections was once again a main focus of our program.

- **Seed Source Identification** - The Ontario Stewardship Opportunity Fund and the OMNR Climate Change Initiative both provided funds for a project to identify significant sources of seed for the major reforestation species across southern Ontario (Seed Zones 32 to 38). Draft reports on the findings of the consultants, Silv-Econ Ltd and Forever Green Consulting, were submitted in March 2005 and future work will include work with partners and landowners to forecast crops, collect seed and increase the supplies of locally sources seed.
- **Seed Collection Training & Communications**- FGCA Member, **Brian Swaile** and The Ontario Tree Seed Plant (OTSP) helped us deliver 1 planned and one additional Certified Seed Collector Workshop for approximately 40 participants, who included teachers of high school education programs, First Nations, landowners, growers and forest consultants. There are now approximately 200 CSCs, though only 40 are active collectors. These latter CSCs we contacted a few times this year to pass on specific requests for seed from growers, exporters, and the National Tree Seed Centre, the latter establishing an ash conservation seed bank given the emerald ash borer threat. We also prepared lists of all CSCs by seed zone and distributed them upon requests from growers, conservation groups, etc.

- **Revised Manual** - *Insects of Seed Cones in Eastern Canada, Field Guide* was revised by Dr Peter de Groot and Jean Turgeon of the Canadian Forest Service, facilitated by Al Foley of the OMNR Tree Seed Plant and the FGCA. Copies will be made available through the CSC workshops and it can be purchased from the FGCA for \$20.
- **Seed Registration** - Progress is very slow; however slowly increasing activity in reforestation has generated requests for seed zone transfers, which allows us to make the argument for better seedlot documentation. Many more seed transfers, and therefore stock sales could be possible if we had sufficient source information to analyze and confirm the appropriateness of the transfer.
- **Growers** - The certification manual was distributed to a few small nurseries interested in becoming certified, but this aspect is not being pushed until more seed sources are documented and registered for certification.
- **Influencers - Creating the Demand.** Gaining support from those who facilitate and fund reforestation is key to building awareness and therefore change in how seed collectors and growers operate. We spent most of our effort this year on this aspect:
 - We participated on the steering committee of the new Trees Ontario planting program to stress the importance of seed source documentation and seed banking.
 - We used SeedWhere to analyze seed and stock transfers for Trees Ontario's first client group, Forest 2020.
 - We prepared a successful proposal for 5 years of funding from Toronto Hydro to help the City of Toronto increase the supply of appropriate stock for their urban planting programs.
 - We provided a SeedWhere analysis for the OMNR's Tree Replacement program for Essex County to help them plan a program to replace lost forest cover due to the emerald ash borer.
 - We provided information on seed source issues to the Oak Ridges Moraine Trust to be included in their restoration strategy.
 - We advised the Ontario Stewardship Program on a priority program to promote seed banking and seed collection training for local Stewardship Councils to consider; the Northumberland County Stewardship in particular is developing a program to train collectors and manage seed sources to help ensure good local seed supplies.

Other Efforts supporting southern Ontario Reforestation

- **Native Plant Resource Guide** - FGCA is promoting and distributing this guide produced by FGCA member, Society of Ecological Restoration - Ontario

- Chapter, the only comprehensive source to help people find native species stock for private land planting.
- **Southern Ontario Regeneration Survey** - FGCA worked with Trees Ontario, Conservation Ontario and Forest Renewal Coop (formerly LUSTR) on 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. A draft report was produced in March 2005.
 - **Southern Ontario Stewardship Seed Bank** - This FGCA managed bank was increased with a 2004 white pine crop from seed zone 37 Cayuga Seed Orchard managed by OMNR Guelph District Forester Terry Schwan and the Haldimand and Area Woodlot Owners Association and the seed zone 34 Glencairn Seed Orchard managed by the Ontario Tree Seed Plant. In times of need, it can be purchased by growers who can prove a southern Ontario planting destination.
 - **OMNR Greenspace Initiative** - The FGCA submitted background material on reforestation and conservation initiatives in support of a new OMNR focus for southern Ontario private lands.
 - **Best Management Practices for Agroforestry** - The FGCA wrote a section on reforestation practices for a draft publication coordinated by the Eastern Ontario Model Forest.
 - **Choosing the Right Tree** - The FGCA contributed to the revision of this publication that highlights appropriate seed sources, produced in partnership with Eastern Ontario Model Forest and the Ferguson Forest Centre.

2. Species Conservation

Species of Concern

Efforts this year focused largely on butternut conservation, and participation on a Carolinian Woodlands Recovery Team. Other efforts were limited to discussions or general promotion.

- **Butternut** - **Cathy Nielsen** and **Barb Boysen** co-chair an Ontario Butternut Recovery Team. Two team meetings were held followed by well attended stakeholder meetings in Ottawa and Cambridge. This work is supported by \$5,000 from the 2004/05 OMNR's Species at Risk Fund. The FGCA received many calls this year from planners who are finding butternut on development and aggregate sites and are looking for guidelines to handle this species at risk; unique in that habitat and low numbers are not the main threat. A draft Ontario Recovery Strategy was produced.

- **Carolinian Woodlands Recovery Team** - **Barb Boysen** participated in two meetings of this large Recovery Team - the first Ontario, large ecosystem based effort and then chaired a committee to develop draft Goals and Objectives. FGCA member **John Ambrose** is preparing the draft strategy due March 2005.
- **Species Recovery Fund** - Board Members **Brian Barkley, Steve Smith** and **John Ambrose** volunteered to work as a committee to explore options for establishing this fund. Specific work was postponed as butternut work increased this year.
- **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.
- **Ash** - FGCA helped connect local seed collectors to the National Tree Seed Centre regarding a new project to archive populations of several species of ash in the emerald ash borer threatened forests of southwestern Ontario. Our Certified Seed Collector database is helping with this effort.

Silviculture Guidelines

- **Large Woodlands Conservation Cooperative (LWCC)** - The FGCA helped prepare a successful proposal to the Ontario Trillium Foundation worth approximately \$220,000 over 3 years. The funds will help us develop a landowner outreach program along with many southcentral Ontario partners including Trent University, Peterborough Field Naturalists, local Stewardship Councils and CA's, to promote conservation of 6 areas of large upland hardwood forests. FGCA participated in selecting a part time coordinator to lead the program which began analysis of results of a landowner survey.

3. Tree Improvement and Genetic Studies

White Pine Genetic Resource Management

- **Seed Orchard Management** for Seed and Conservation purposes has been reactivated in all of the white pine seed orchards:
 - **Cayuga (SZ 37/38)** - managed by an MOU with MNR Guelph District and the Haldimand and Area Woodlot Association; 2004 seed collection; mapping completed; crown topping initiated.

- **Glencairn** (SZ 32-34)- managed by OMNR OTSP; 2004 crop collected; Cone beetle research noted a growing problem.
 - **Orono** - Orono Land Trust Alliance is working with MNR Aurora District Office. Cone beetle survey noted a heavy infestation.
 - **Taylor Lake** (SZ 35/36) - Several partners are interested - Mazinaw Lanark SFL, Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF); Lanark County Stewardship (LCS) and Ferguson Forest Centre (FFC). LCS undertook mulch removal this fall. Unfortunately a medium cone crop opened too early to collect. A cone beetle survey saw a potentially serious problem.
 - **Gratton** (SZ 28-30) - Ottawa Valley Forest SFL is managing this orchard - many of its clones are included in a northern, Tembec sponsored progeny test; 2004 cone collection. Cone beetle survey - little activity noted.
 - **Snowdon Orchard** (SZ 28-30) - Bancroft Minden SFL is interested; pine false webworm infestation and a small cone beetle infestation will have to be managed; Stewardship Rangers completed mapping.
 - **Crowe River** - (SZ 28-30) Bancroft High School Northern Outdoor Studies Teachers became certified seed collectors and are interested in managing this orchard with their students and the Bancroft Stewardship Council; cone beetle infestation could limit seed crops.
 - **Conger** - (SZ 31) Westwind SFL is managing this orchard - many of its clones are included in a northern, Tembec sponsored progeny test; small 2004 crop collected; Cone beetle is a growing problem.
 - **Scugog** - (SZ 34) The Northumberland Stewardship Council and OMNR Aurora District are reviewing management operations for this orchard
- **Cone Beetle Research** - **Andrea Brauner**, University of Toronto, advised by **Dr Peter de Groot**, Canadian Forest Service finished a 2 year research project on a method to reduce the devastating effect this insect can have on seed crops. Dr de Groot, **Kathie Brosemer** and MNR regional silviculture specialist **Bill Rose** accompanied Barb Boysen on a tour of the 5 central Ontario orchards to determine future challenges and opportunities for cone beetle research and management.

Hybrid Poplar

FGCA continued to advise people considering hybrid poplar about the former eastern Ontario program, limitations of clones and costs of management. With the cutbacks in Domtar's eastern Ontario program, archiving the clones is a concern, some of which exist exclusively in the production stoolbeds at FGCA member, Ferguson Forest Centre. *A Growers Guide to Hybrid Poplar* (Boysen & Strobl, 1991) has now been fully distributed and is out of print. Copies of *A Crop For You?*, 1991 video about the E. Ontario hybrid poplar plantation experience is still available

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	
	John Enright	Conservation Ontario (Upper Thames River CA)	
Elected:	Wayne Young	Domtar Inc., Cornwall	Board Chair
	Henry Kock,	The Arboretum, University of Guelph	
	Jim Coles	was asked to fill in for Henry this year - Thank you Jim	
	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:	Barb Boysen	FGCA Coordinator	

FGCA Membership 2004 - 2005

Government Agencies:

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ken Yaraskavitch, Bob Griffiths, Al Foley

Canadian Forest Service - Dale Simpson
Conservation Ontario - John Enright
Grand River Conservation (GRCA)
Conservation Halton - Bill Gaines

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

First Nations:

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne - R. David

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

Individuals:

Cathy Nielsen
Barb Boysen
Dr C.W. Yeatman
Glenn McLeod
Ben Wang
Brian Swaile
Jim Coles
Dr Pengxin Lu
Dr. John Ambrose
Dr K. Morgenstern
Hank Jones
Dr Peter de Groot
Arthur Mathewson

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
Herman Doornbos
Corry Lake Nursery
Ted Cormier
Chris Caron

Conservation Groups:

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

Forestry Associations:

Ontario Forestry Association

General Communications & Promotion:

- **FGCA e-mails** about genetics & general forest information and issues
- **Contribution** to OMNR's Southern Region Forest Strategy and Regional Planning Unit.
- **Presentations/Displays** - Trenton Woodlot Conference, Lindsay Woodlot Conference, ON Woodlot Assoc. Annual General Meeting
- **Website** - fgca.net and ontariosnaturalselections.org updates
- **FGCA 2004 Annual General Meeting** - June 2004 - Parry Sound.

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