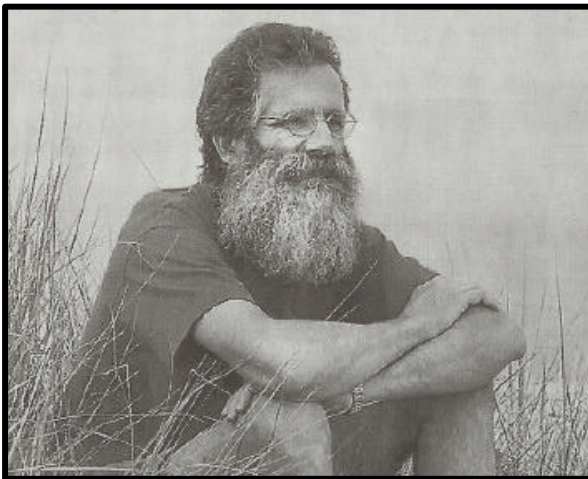




Annual Report 2005- 2006

This report summarizes the activities of the FGCA in our 12th year of operation. It was a challenging year as we extended our program to take advantage of new opportunities such as Trees Ontario. It was also a significant year in terms of the loss of very special FGCA friends.

With Bob Griffiths' retirement from the OMNR we lost a long time board member that helped to link us to the MNR regional and field programs. With the closure of Domtar's eastern Ontario forest program we lost Wayne Young, our chair, from active FGCA duty. Wayne has been with us since the beginning and his vision, enthusiasm and pragmatism will be sorely missed. Ken Yaraskavitch is stepping down as FGCA's longest serving MNR Director and FGO representative. Ken has been a steady, guiding, efficient force who I came to count on for quick and thoughtful reviews of any matter, not to mention as a quick-on-the-draw cheque co-signer – much appreciated by our partners.




And finally Henry Kock's death from brain cancer is a huge loss we must share with a great many people in Ontario and beyond. But he left deep roots in our FGCA program and we will continue to benefit from his unique perspectives and wisdom.

In this report organizations and **people** are so noted to highlight their contributions in our 3 main program areas, which are proving relevant even as new opportunities arise – a legacy of the strategic thinking of Cathy Nielsen our founding Director and continuing member.

1. Biologically Appropriate Reforestation

The **Seed Source Certification Program** was once again a main focus.

- **Certification trademark received** – After several years, we finally received certification of, meaning the exclusive right to use, the phrase  **Ontario's Natural Selections** to denote people who operate under the standards of our certification program and to prevent not certified people from using it to market their business or products.

- **Seed Source Identification** – Finalized the Ontario Stewardship Opportunity Fund and the OMNR Climate Change Initiative sponsored reports re identification of good seed sources for the major reforestation species across southern Ontario (Seed Zones 32 to 38).
- **Seed Collection Training & Communications** – FGCA Member, **Brian Swaile** and The Ontario Tree Seed Plant (OTSP) helped us deliver 2 planned (at OTSP) and two additional Certified Seed Collector Workshops (Niagara and Essex) for approximately 120 participants, including high school teachers, First Nations, landowners, growers, and forest consultants.

Brian Swaile teaching at Ganaraska Volunteer Seed Collector Workshop



- **Seed Registration and SeedWhere Transfer advice** – Seedlot certification is still very slow. However the increased activity due to the Forest 2020 program resulted in many requests for SeedWhere analyses which helped us make the argument for better future seedlot documentation. Several growers are regular customers for the SeedWhere analysis. Many more seed transfers, and therefore stock sales could be possible if we had sufficient source information to analyze and confirm the appropriateness.
- **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** – We focused again this year on gaining support from funders and facilitators to build awareness about the need to plan for good seed and stock to help seed collectors and growers meet their needs:
 - ◆ Trees Ontario Foundation received support from MNR's Natural Spaces program to increase private land reforestation efforts and this year the FGCA worked closely with them to

- Promote good reforestation principles among the many partners.
- Make a successful Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation Proposal to build a system to ensure appropriate seed sources are available to ORM restoration programs
- Establish a web based seed forecasting system with the Eastern Ontario Model Forest to ensure good crops are not missed
- Continue work on the Toronto Hydro sponsored City of Toronto program to increase appropriate stock for urban plantings.
- ◆ Advised the Emerald Ash Borer Restoration Response Program for Essex County on seed sources.
- ◆ Ontario Stewardship Program sponsored volunteer workshop
 - in eastern Ontario for the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Stewardship Council
 - in central Ontario for Peterborough and Northumberland Stewardship Councils and the Large Woodland Conservation Cooperative
- ◆ With Forest Renewal Coop., completed and distributed the results of a survey of reforestation experiences on private land (see bibliography)\
- ◆ Followed and supported member/director **John Ambrose's** work to promote ONS principles on municipal Environmental Advisory Committees in Guelph and other areas.

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.
- **OMNR Natural Spaces** (was Greenspace) - The FGCA continued to advise MNR Natural Spaces and Southern Region Planning Unit staff on issues of native species diversity and conservation and reforestation opportunities.

2. Species Conservation

Species of Concern

Again we focused largely on butternut, with some contributions to the Carolinian Woodlands Recovery Team. As well we joined a new initiative being led by the Canadian Forest Service to form a Canadian Gene Conservation Organization.

- **Butternut** In July 2005 Environment Canada (EC) officially listed butternut as nationally endangered; Ontario now lists butternut as 'endangered not regulated'. Specific efforts included:
 - **Cathy Nielsen and Barb Boysen** continue to co-chair an Ontario Butternut Recovery Team. A second team meeting was held in Cambridge with presentations and field trips for stakeholders.
 - **Barb Boysen** prepared an article which appeared in the new Canadian Trees magazine and announced the Eastern Ontario Model Forest's new Butternut Recovery Fund (tax receipts available) – thank you to a few FGCA members who have already donated to this fund.
 - A draft Ontario Strategy was submitted to EC in support of the National Recovery Strategy Development
 - **Barb** and **Cathy** participated on the National Recovery Team with a deadline for completion for July 2006
 - Advised MNR Species at Risk staff re guidelines for butternut under the Provincial Policy Statement
 - Initiated discussions with OMNR Forest Policy staff re butternut guidelines under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act
 - **Crispin Wood**, Algonquin College student produced butternut web pages for www.fgca.net
 - Advised the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority on their eastern Ontario, Trillium Foundation supported program to identify healthy seed trees and propagate butternut with the Ferguson Forest Centre for private land plantings; also Tree Canada Foundation supported this work with funds from their new endangered species fund which features butternut among other species.
 - **Ed Czerwinski**, MNR Forest Health Technician and **Cathy Nielsen** developed a monitoring protocol for a MNR Central Ontario Parks Zone assessment, which was then passed on to other stakeholders – e.g. Nature Conservancy Canada is now using it in their forests.



Lindsay area landowner A Chrichton thinned around this 'healthy' butternut to help maintain its vigour

- **Carolinian Woodlands Recovery Team - Barb Boysen** participates on this large Recovery Team - the first Ontario, large ecosystem based effort.
- **Elm** - FGCA promoted The Arboretum's program to archive 'survivor elms'.
- **Ash** - FGCA is helping the National Tree Seed Centre and trying to raise interest among other partners to archive populations of several species of ash in the emerald ash borer threatened forests of southwestern Ontario.

Silviculture Guidelines

- **Large Woodlands Conservation Cooperative (LWCC)** - The FGCA worked with other LWCC members to help a targeted group of landowners manage their forests. This year's efforts included a seed collection workshop to introduce the concept of managing their forests as seed sources.

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. Crop forecasting and collection and pest management are current key activities. Topping is needed very soon and thinning soon after.
 - **Cayuga** (SZ 37/38) - managed by an MOU with MNR Guelph District and the Haldimand and Area Woodlot Association; crown topping started.
 - **Glencairn** (SZ 32-34)- managed by OMNR OTSP; beetle trapping trials by CFS, Dr Peter de Groot. 2005 crop destroyed by beetles.
 - **Taylor Lake** (SZ 35/36) - Discussion with partners re future of orchard. Lanark County Stewardship (LCS) finished mulch removal; OMNR Kemptville District and Ferguson Forest Centre (FFC) collected limited crop due to early cone opening and Cone beetles.
 - **Gratton** (SZ 28-30) - Ottawa Valley Forest SFL manages this orchard. Missed crop due to early cone opening; beetle problem is growing.
 - **Snowdon Orchard** (SZ 28-30) - Bancroft Minden SFL is managing a pine false webworm infestation; cone beetle infestation is developing.
 - **Crowe River** - (SZ 28-30) Bancroft High School Northern Outdoor Studies Teachers are monitoring this orchard with their classes; beetle infestation could limit seed crops.
 - **Conger** - (SZ 31) Westwind SFL manages this orchard; CFS conducted Cone beetle trapping.
 - **Scugog** - (SZ 34) Local Stewardship Councils and OMNR Aurora District are planning operations; cone beetle population is growing.

- **Cone Beetle Research – Dr Peter de Groot, Canadian Forest Service** continued to advise us and conduct cone beetle research and trapping.
- **White pine Status Report – Silv-Econ** was hired to digitize the location of the southern Ontario white pine stands reported on in the 1996 White Pine Status Report

Hybrid Poplar

FGCA continued to advise people considering hybrid poplar about the former eastern Ontario program, limitations of clones and costs of management.

Administration:

FGCA Board of Directors – AGM 2004 to AGM 2006

Appointed:	Ken Yaraskavitch	OMNR, Chatham	Board Co-Chair
	Monique Rolfvondenbaumen Clark	OMNR, Bancroft	
	Peter Nitschke	SCR SFL, Bancroft Minden Forest Co	
	John Enright	Conservation Ontario (Upper Thames River CA)	
Elected:	Wayne Young	Domtar Inc., Cornwall	Board Chair
	Jim Coles	Woodlot Owner, Bruce County	
	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 2005 – 2006

Government Agencies:

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

Canadian Forest Service - Dale Simpson

Conservation Ontario – John Enright

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

Corry Lake Nursery

Ted Cormier

Chris Caron

Forestry Associations:

Ontario Forestry Association

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

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

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 Programs**
- **Presentations/Displays at OMNR Southern Region Forest Focus, OMNR Pembroke District, Somerville Nursery Stock Viewing Day, Trees Ontario Soils Workshop, Southern Ontario Forest Health Update, Latornell Conference, Trenton Woodlot Conference, Kemptville Woodlot Conference, ON Woodlot Assoc. Annual General Meeting, University of Guelph Student Research Symposium**
- **Website** - fgca.net and ontariosnaturalselections.org updates
- **FGCA 2004 Annual General Meeting** - June 2005. The agm was held in south western Ontario at Rondeau Provincial Park. Presentations included Rondeau Park centered landscape diversity, a local Forest Health Update, Emerald Ash Borer Response Restoration Program, Butternut Recovery and Seed Source Surveys. A field trip was held in the greater area to see Emerald Ash Borer Ash removal, a 3 year old pit and mound Carolinian Woodland restoration project and a red oak direct seeding effort.



MNR Forest Health Technician Ed Czerwinski & FGCA MNR Director, Monique Rolfvondenbaumen watch FGCA member Brian Swaile talk acorn direct seeding with Jamie Littlejohn, a farmer who became an ONS Certified Seed Collector this year.

We revisited Mathis Natvik and Nature Conservancy Canada's Clear Creek Pit & Mound Restoration Site 3 years post agricultural field



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