

NEW BRUNSWICK FOREST TECHNICIAN'S ASSOCIATION

AZIMUTH NEWSLETTER *SPRING 2015*

NBFTA NEWS

2015 Annual General Meeting

Technicians, please plan to attend The New Brunswick Forest Technician's Association Annual General Meeting to be held in Moncton at the Delta Beauséjour on April 2nd. As in past years, the meeting will be held in conjunction with the Canadian Woodlands Forum spring meetings, in room C from 1-5pm. For those interested in taking part, there will be some excellent technical sessions going on April 1st and 2nd as well. For more information check out the CWF website at <http://www.cwfcf.org/>.

Your interest and input into your association are very important!

NBFTA Executive Meeting

An NBFTA executive meeting was held on Jan 31 2015, via tele conference. Many items were discussed, including the NBFTA scholarship, Association finances, membership, CFE and certification, and ongoing collaboration with the Canadian Woodlands Forum. NBFTA President France Roussel reported on a positive meeting with Don Floyd, President of the ARPFNB. There was also discussion about Sylvicon 2015 and final preparations for the 2015 NBFTA AGM.

A copy of the complete minutes of the meeting can be viewed on the NBFTA website at <http://www.nbfta.org/>.



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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Looking back at the past year's accomplishments, we have made considerable progress on the objectives we had set. Communication with our members was tremendously improved with the revival of our newsletter (The Azimuth). The accuracy of our membership database has progressed but it is an on-going issue. We have also dealt with numerous other issues through our executive meetings.

I want to thank the executive members for their hard work and continuous support.

Our AGM will be held in Moncton, NB on April 2nd at the Delta 1:00pm to 5:00 pm. I encourage all members to attend this annual event. Hope to see as many of you as possible in Moncton.

France Roussel, CFT
NBFTA President

A WORD FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

In the last year the NBFTA executive (with the help of many other members) have been working hard to ensure the Association is back on solid footing after a few spotty years where survival was the main concern. Now we need to firm up our base and work on growing our roots. As an Association we are very keen to grow our membership and generally we get quite excited with the addition of a new CFT. However, with Certification comes the commitment to continuing education. Currently many certified members are behind with their CFE applications and as an association, if we plan to grow our roots, we need to firm up our base. That being said, over the next year, the NBFTA executive will be pushing our members to get their CFE up to date so we can move forward stronger than ever. Additionally we (or I) need to better communicate with new CFT's the commitment they have made to continuing education, as well as the timelines and process involved with this.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM in a few weeks.

Best Regards,
Riley Côté-DeMerchant

"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

Warren Buffet

NBFTA SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

On January 14 I had the pleasure of awarding this year's NBFTA 2nd year student \$500 scholarship to Jolene Frenette at the MCFT Bathurst Campus. I was also asked to give a talk about my career experience since attending MFRS in 1999. I also gave a brief presentation on the NBFTA, certification and continuing education, the NBFTA scholarship and the MCFT award. The presentation was well received and after speaking with the director we committed to do this annually.

Jonathan DeGrace CFT
Region 1 NBFTA Representative



(Above) Jonathan DeGrace(l) presents NBFTA scholarship to Jolene Frenette (r)

SYLVICON 2015

After a six year hiatus, Sylvicon was revived in 2015, and by all accounts it has to be considered a success. Over 300 delegates registered to attend various sessions and functions offered over the course of the two day event, which was held at the Delta Hotel in Fredericton on Feb 25 and 26. Many students from UNB and MCFT took advantage of the opportunity to take in technical sessions free of charge, and there were some delicious meals served as well.

Day one activities kicked off with Forest NB and Canadian Institute of Forestry AGM's in the morning, followed by the ARPF AGM in the afternoon. A keynote address by John McLaughlin entitled "Opportunities to Lead Change" ended the afternoon session, and the Sylvicon/CIF ring ceremony and awards banquet closed the evening.

The following day participants were treated to a variety of technical sessions in which presenters covered a wide range of topics from opportunities for investment in the forest industry, the current and future financial outlook for the industry, conflict resolution, emerging technologies, career opportunities for new graduates, conservation opportunities and successes, to the spruce budworm. Day two was hi-lighted by a luncheon where the Minister of Natural Resources, Hon. Denis Landry took some time to speak on the importance of forestry to the economy of New Brunswick, and the important role that responsible resource development will play in our province now and into the future. Mr. Landry also entertained a few questions about the Crown Forest Management Strategy after his talk.

In all it was a good event, and plans will soon be underway for Sylvicon 2016. If you were unable to attend in 2015, make plans to attend in 2016, I'm sure you will find it worth your while.



(Above) MCFT Class of 2015 at the Sylvicon CIF ring presentation ceremony

NBFTA Remains a Voice for Forestry

As the New Brunswick Forest Technician Association approaches its second decade of representation for working in the province, it is timely to reflect on the founding principles and the relevance of the organization as a professional body.

In a province where forestry is arguably the most important industry and economic driver, it is important that forest technicians and technologists charged with managing and supervising the technical aspects of forest management have a responsive and self governing organization that is guided by a robust set of professional principles and ethics.

Kenny McGinn the first president of NBFTA recalls that the first he had ever heard of the concept of a forest technician association was in 1986, shortly after his graduation from Maritime Forest Ranger School and beginning employment as a Field Instructor at the School, he remembers, Director John Torunski in a casual conversation, suggested that New Brunswick forest technicians should form an association.

"John was a very well respected man and forester, and when he spoke, you were compelled to listen. At the time, I didn't give his comment much thought, but as time went on, John's comment made a lot of sense" said Kenny.

"Technicians never had a united voice' commented Kenny. "They were highly trained, and in the woods doing important work. Some technicians were signing off on Crown lands and industrial management plans, but technicians as a body of professionals, were never asked what their opinion was on important issues impacting forestry. After we became organized, and were set up, one of the first things the association was asked to do was to provide comment on the Protected Natural Areas Strategy. We had representatives sit on that panel and the association contributed to that process in a serious way and the contribution was valued" recalled Kenny. He added that participating in the PNA Strategy provided an opportunity for the association to show the membership and the forest sector that technicians served an important and responsible position in the forestry sector."

McGinn recalls that Girvan Harrison began working as an instructor at MFRS, and he had enjoyed a long a relationship with the Nova Scotia Forest Technician Association, and he was able to point out the positive contribution that the NSFTA had made to the Nova Scotia forest industry.

"A bunch of us talked about an association for a few years, and in 1995 a few of us went down to NSFTA Annual Meeting to get an understanding who they were and how they operated. They were very welcoming, and we saw how they were organized and the comradery they shared. We also realized the respect they had had politically, with industry and with their Registered Professional Forester Association."

The first annual meeting of NBFTA took place in cafeteria of MFRS in 1996, and Kenny McGinn was elected as the first president and was supported by slate of officers, and a number of working committees. The executive, together with a fledgling membership and working committees developed a set of objectives, as well as a code of ethics that continues guide the association.

Commenting on the support provided by the NSFTA, McGinn recalled that the two organization enjoyed a reciprocity agreement that allowed executive members to sit in on one another's meetings. He said that sharing those meetings was a great capacity building opportunity and certainly helped the association grow.

In 1998 the Canadian Institute of Forestry awarded Kenny McGinn and Girvan Harrison the Tree of Life Award, recognizing their contribution, dedication and achievements to forestry, including their contribution to founding the NBFTA.

The pursuit of a high degree of professionalism led NBFTA to study processes to provide certification that would reflect an individual technician's commitment to continued learning and commitment to professional practice in their career.

The association evaluated a number of professional certification systems and eventually determined that the best approach would be to develop their own criteria and testing. Their certification testing reflects the requirement of lifelong learning, and in particular, specifically challenges technicians with knowledge requirements and scenarios that they would typically face in the practice of forestry in New Brunswick.

After developing and detailing a comprehensive and technically challenging test, a dozen experienced technicians challenged the test in 1997. Those initial 'certified technicians' became key part of certification program, providing assessment of work experience level and other criteria for member technicians wishing to challenge certification testing.

When the 'Right to Practice Forestry' legislation was another issue that showed technicians and technologist play key part in the forestry sector. The NBFTA studied the proposed Act and considered it flawed and poorly crafted. The NBFTA was a central voice pointing out shortcomings in the proposed legislation, which led to the proposal being dropped.

The value of your professional organization is a reflection of the effort you invest in it. Attending the annual general meeting is an excellent opportunity to review the past year efforts, and to offer input and discuss initiatives the association may pursue in the next year. The NBFTA continues to play a relevant role in the forest industry, as well as economic and environmental sustainability of the province.

George Fullerton

NBFTA CODE OF ETHICS

1.1 No Code of Ethics can prescribe appropriate conduct under all circumstances. Its purpose is to provide a general guide of ethical conduct principles to allow members to carry out their duties to the environment, Association members, the profession and the public. Members are bound by the law, acts, and regulations of the Province of New Brunswick and the rules and articles of the New Brunswick Forest Technicians Association Inc.

1.2 This code shall be interpreted by the following guidelines.

1.2-1 The Golden Rule ("Do unto others as you would have them do unto you").

1.2-2 Honorable judgment errors are not unethical and must be evaluated in that context rather than by strict adherence to the written Code of Ethics.

1.3 As a further guide, members are encouraged to ask themselves four critical questions when faced with ethical decisions:

1.3-1 Is the potential action legal in the criminal or civil sense?

1.3-2 Is the action within the guidelines of the NBFTA Code of Ethics?

1.3-3 Is the action balanced or will it heavily favor one party over another?

1.3-4 Am I comfortable with the action and willing to have it known by all?

1.4 Code of Ethics Articles

1.4-1 A member shall protect and promote safety, social, economic, and environmental interests.

1.4-2 A member shall only undertake work that he/she is competent to perform by virtue of training and experience.

1.4-3 To maintain their certification a certified member shall, within three years of initial certification receive their certificate in Continuing Forestry Education (CFE). The Continuing Forestry Education certificate must be maintained every three years by its anniversary date to maintain certification.

All certified technicians must meet this criteria by the Annual General meeting 2002

1.4-4 A member shall recommend that other specialists be consulted on problems beyond his/her competence and shall cooperate with such specialists to the extent necessary.

1.4-5 A member shall regard the business of their employer as confidential unless released from this obligation.

1.4-6 A member, working simultaneously for clients whose interests in the work might be conflicting, shall notify all parties concerned.

1.4-7 A member shall be fair and honest in dealing with employer, client, subordinates, peers and members of the public.

1.4-8 A member shall be responsible to their employer or client and in the working relationship shall place their interests above everything except when those interests conflict with acceptable forestry practices.

1.4-9 A member, as a forest technician/technologist, shall not give opinions other than those based upon knowledge and experience.

1.4-10 A member shall not engage in any activity likely to result in an unfavorable reflection on the profession. This shall apply to conduct as a member of the profession and not as a citizen at large.

1.4-11 A member who engages in public discussion or controversy on forestry topics shall do so with dignity and honesty befitting his/her profession.

1.4-12 A member shall not condone untrue or misleading opinions concerning forestry.

1.4-13 A member shall not claim credit for facts or opinions, which are not his/her own.

1.4-14 A member shall not distort or withhold information for the purpose of supporting his/her opinions.

1.4-15 A member shall not make unsolicited or untrue comments to anyone about another forest technician/technologist's work or methods but shall disclose evidence of unethical actions to the Disciplinary Committee or the Appeal Board of the Disciplinary Committee of this Association.

1.4-16 A member shall not support the admission to this Association any person believed by them to be inadequately qualified or unworthy.

NBFTA CONTACT LISTING - 2014/2015

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Revised 2014/11/12

PARTING WORDS

Spring is just around the corner (I hope!) Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue, particularly George Fullerton for his article on the NBFTA. We will be preparing another Azimuth to be distributed this fall – if you have any ideas for future articles, or have pictures, articles or news items you would like to contribute, please contact myself or Riley Cote Demerchant.

Dustin Corey, CFT



(Above) A common New Brunswick spring scene in years gone by.