April 2024
Issue #33

Friends of The Petawawa Research Forest

2024 Spring

Newsletter

Updates from the Research Forest you love to roam. Helping you stay active, involved and engaged!

What to Look For

The Friends and the Forest Welcomes You into Spring!

I am excited to introduce our Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest spring of 2024 Newsletter. And with spring comes the rebirth of life in our forests with leaves unfurling and birds performing their morning chorus. Soon it will be time for me to begin Arboretum tours, showcasing our collection and teaching tree identification.

Spring will bring out the bugs that pollinate our gardens and feed families of birds. On World Migratory Bird Day, May 11 th , the Friends will be hosting a Walk and Talk, where I will lead seasoned and budding birders along roads and through trails to hear and see our resident and migrating species and, hopefully, find a rare one as well. So, strap on your hiking boots and pack your binoculars for a morning of bird songs and flashy colours. We'll see you at 8:00 a.m. near the PRF entrance off of Clouthier Road.

Through the various academic programs using the PRF, we have not only current students using this forest as a place to learn and play, but we also run into alumni from schools such as Algonquin College, University of New Brunswick and University of Toronto! Our Board of Directors is mostly forestry students and alumni, and we're looking forward to seeing them on our trails, teaching their friends, family and volunteers about forest life and the values of the PRF. As older volunteers gradually drop out, it is wonderful to see the younger generations stepping up. This can be seen through new and innovative projects, such as research into reviving our sugar-shack and the recent productions of our Newsletters. Thank you to all who contribute.

We're happy to see people in our forests again now that the weather is changing. Come out and enjoy the Petawawa Research Forest and explore the spring ephemerals and the wildlife coming back or waking up.

A note: We've just come through a rather mild winter with little snow, probably disappointing for ski and snowshoe trail users. This has the PRF staff wondering - with low snow levels will this leave us with low soil moisture, contributing to dry conditions and increased forest fire risk this season? Plantations and experiments at the PRF are so valuable and vulnerable; we will all have to be careful in the woods. Please understand that at times some of the PRF gates will be closed to vehicles this summer when the fire weather index is high.

Robin Cunningham

Chair of the Board
Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest

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A Student's Memoirs

The Art of Winter Tree Identification in the PRF

By Abby Dombroski, Algonquin College Student Representative

My name is Abby Dombroski, and I'm currently enrolled in the Forestry Technician program at Algonquin College Waterfront Campus in Pembroke. This program has given me the opportunity to be a part of the Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest and its Communications Committee, which has enriched my academic experiences and enhanced my communications skills.

I'm here today to talk about how the PRF has tied into my college program. We typically venture to the research forest at least every 2 weeks for all kinds of different learning experiences in some of the most diverse forests Ontario has to offer. One of the most valuable things we've learned in the PRF is our winter tree identification. In my opinion, it was the best place for winter identification because it was like a one stop shop for all different kinds of tree species. We started doing some winter ID in the arboretum, which had pictures and signs of the tree species, and these were extremely helpful for me as I am a visual learner. To see trees in the books and then actually get out and start walking around the PRF, feeling the varying textures of bark on the trees, looking at the leaves, it all catalyzed my learning as a tree ID novice. We are insurmountably lucky to have this space full of knowledge and experiences a mere 45 minutes away from our campus. It is also a bonus that we do not need to attempt to learn all of with while confined by the 4 walls of a classroom. We are privileged with the opportunity to go out into the field and experience the real, living forest. The PRF has provided us with the resource needed to succeed in the Forestry industry, including the multitude of silvicultural research plots that can be found there. We can witness red pine plantations, natural forests and managed forests. It's been an amazing opportunity to have the PRF as my outdoor learning classroom, and I really look forward to spending more time there and continue learning what the beautiful forests have to offer.

Thank you for taking the time to experience the PRF through my eyes. I hope that on your next venture through this unique forest, you'll think back on the various values that I have found in this majestic place and recognize its beauties from a new perspective.

Abby Dombroski in front of a white pine while at the PRF learning winter tree identification.

Spring Birding with 'Merlin'

By Robin Cunningham, Chair and Treasurer of the FPRF Board of Directors

We enjoy the diversity of our bird life, especially in spring, when birds are in their finest breeding colours, singing away.

As birds fly up from the south, they are on their way to suitable nesting grounds. But in transit, they don't necessarily restrict themselves to their preferred habitats- they even come through urban yards and may sometimes seem tame. They are excited about their trip, looking forward to finding mates and territories, so are quite vocal with their songs. When trees and shrubs haven't leafed out yet, we can find and see them fairly easily, especially with binoculars.

A pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, photographed by Robin Cunningham.

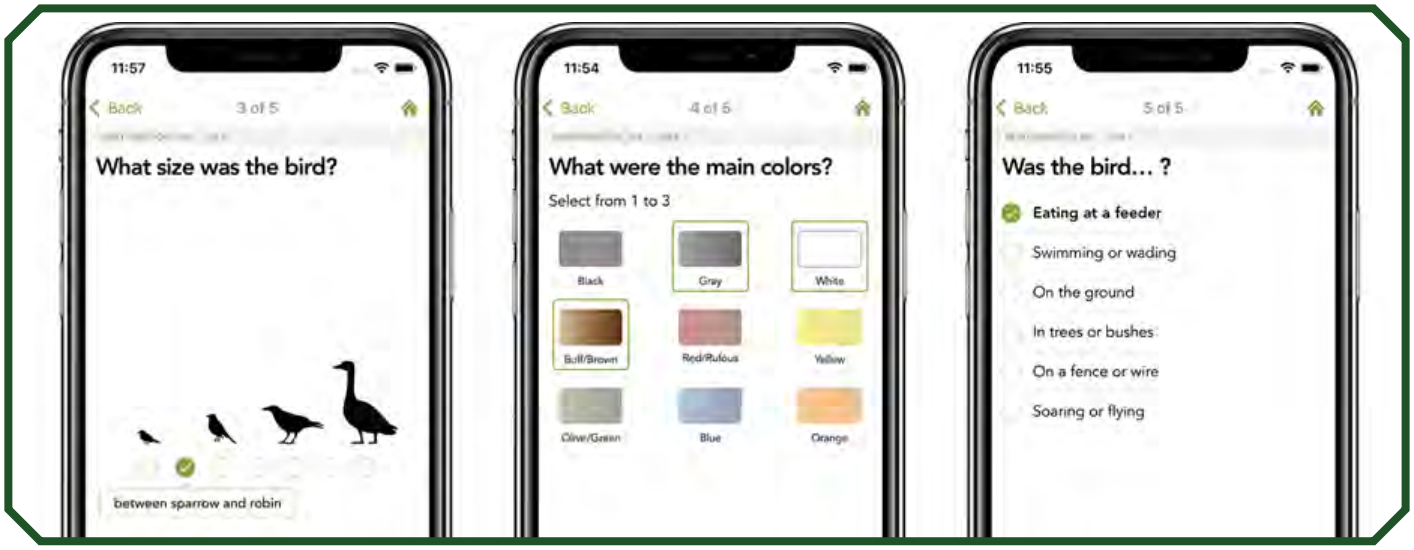
Later, when they reach their territories and start nesting, the leaves unfold, and the birds are more hidden--less visible to us, especially those high in the tree-tops and deep in the swamps. Finding them even with binoculars can be very difficult. We try to locate them by their movements and sound. Being able to identify their songs is a handy thing but requires study. Breeding bird surveys are done primarily by identification of sounds-often few birds are actually seen. Recognizing sounds can save you from treading through thornbrush and swamp, only to find out that you've found a common bird that you already saw.

Birders now have additional tools to help us. There are several apps for our cell phones. I like the Sibley app. It is basically the 'Sibley Guide to Birds' book with added recordings to help you learn the songs and calls. https://www.sibleyguides.com/product/sibley-birds-v2-app/

But there are so many birds in any field guide, that perhaps new birders find them daunting. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology (which has tons of resources on birds and birding) has come out with 'Merlin', a free app you can download onto your cellphone or tablet to help with bird identification. https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/

You start by choosing a 'Bird Pack' for your geographic region, which selects birds likely to be in your area. (This is especially valuable to use when you are travelling afar.)

With The Step By Step ID function you simply answer three questions about a bird you are trying to identify and Merlin will give you a list of possible matches. Then you use Merlin or another field guide to try to confirm the species.



(When you have the app downloaded onto your phone, you can practice by trying it out for birds that you know.)

The Photo ID function on Merlin can also attempt to identify a bird photograph.

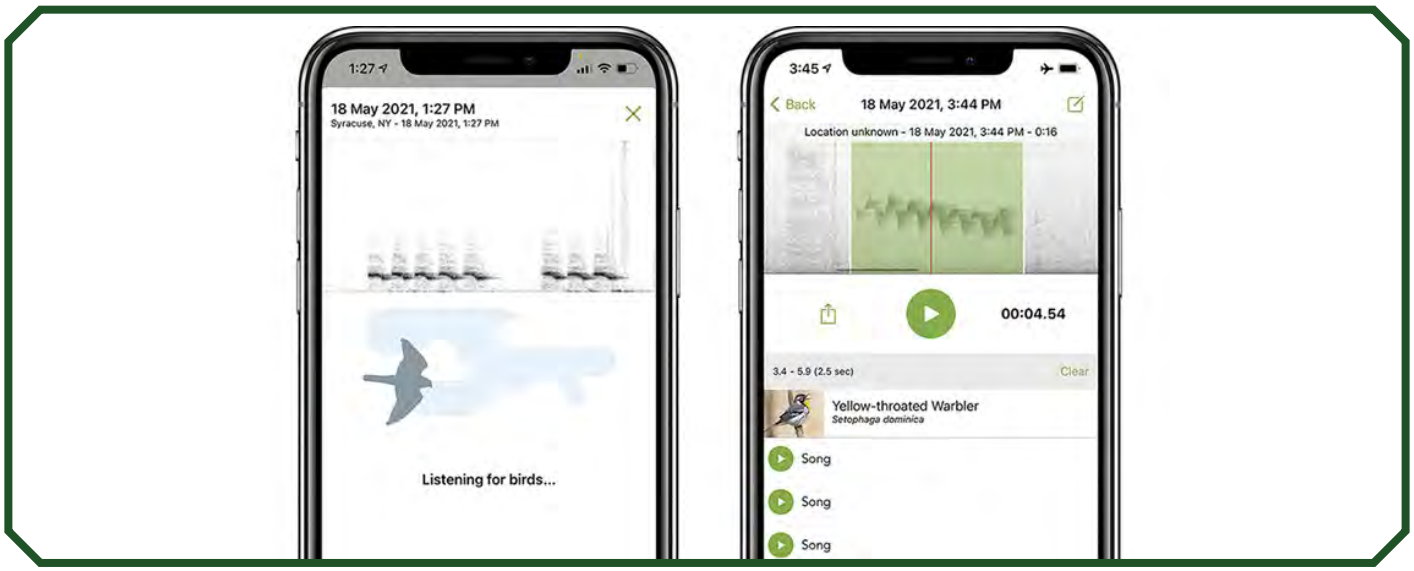
If you hear a bird you can't recognize and you can't see it, how do you identify it? Merlin now has bird song recognition capability. Sound ID listens and attempts to identify birds all around you and lists who it thinks are singing.

Above: 'Merlin's' inquiries on its quest to identifying your bird. Simple questions, yet vital to the process.

Note that Sound ID is not always accurate in identification. It can't distinguish some birds with similar songs such as Red-eyed Vireo and the less common Philadelphia Vireo. I once caught a mistake when it confused a Baltimore Oriole with a Northern Cardinal. So you must check its results—but this becomes easier as you learn bird songs.

Going out with experienced birders is probably the quickest way to build your life-list; but learning on your own is now easier with the new tools available. People are finding Merlin to be a fun app to use and are fascinated by the sound capabilities. It's free and user friendly. Give it a try.

Below: 'Merlin's' unmatched listening skills will put its best ear forward in attempts to identify your birds' calls.



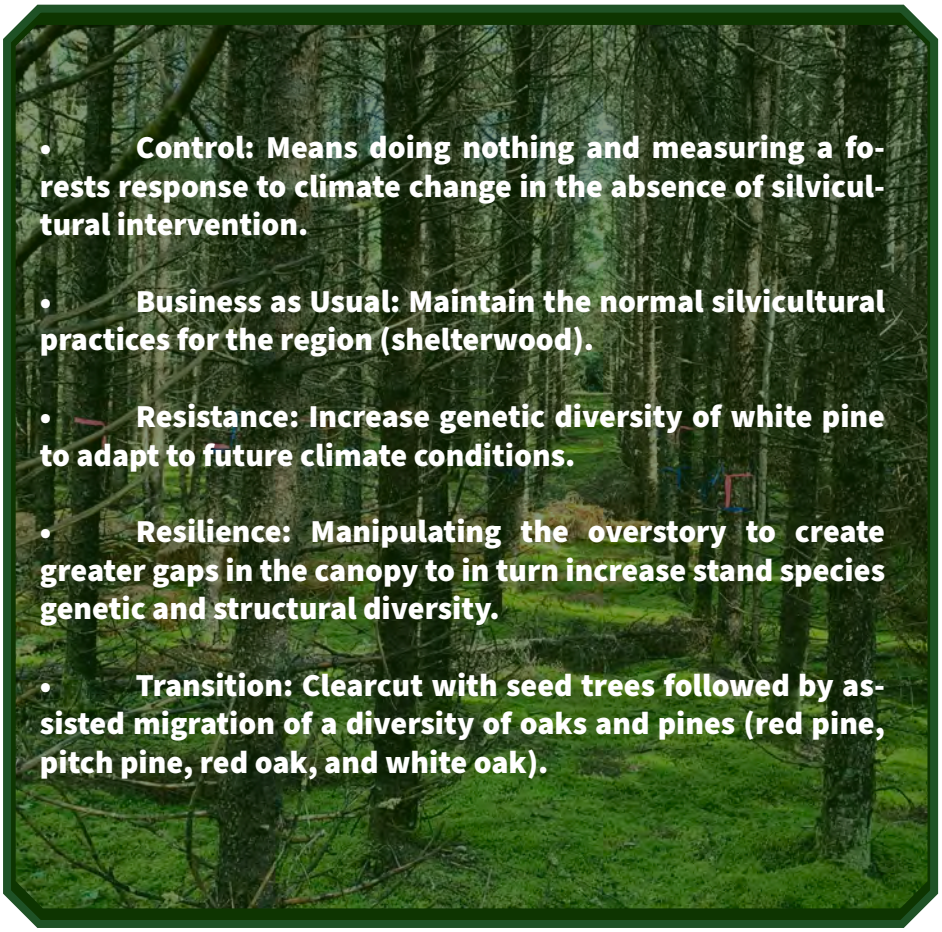
Forestry that Isn't Urban

A New Perspective through the PRF

By Johann Lepa, Algonquin College Student Representative

Upon arriving in Pembroke, my knowledge of research forests and the projects that go on within them was extremely limited. Once beginning my Forestry Technician program at Algonquin College my understanding became much clearer, the PRF is a setting in which students, military, researchers and more can study and learn about forest management, climate change and silvicultural methods/practices. I received first-hand experience working alongside staff at the PRF to complete a white oak acorn planting for the Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change (ASCC) research project. At the time I didn't realize it, but that plant was a part of the transition silvicultural method (which I'll explain a little later). My curiosity had peaked, and I was extremely intrigued by the ASCC project. The friends of the PRF were lucky enough to have Liz Cobb give us the run down on the different aspects of the project, this included discussing the TransX 2023, Moosegrove MSIP 2023 and ASCC projects. The main focus of the presentation was on the ASCC, we learnt that the project was implemented in 2019, with the overall focus on "long-term management of eastern white pine forests". Throughout the presentation Liz detailed the different methods of site preparation such as mechanical and chemical, as well as detailing the different methods of tending they used such as brush saw work and aerial chemical sprays. I learned that there were five different silvicultural solutions/methods being implemented into this project, the five methods consisted of Control, Business as Usual, Resistance, Resilience and Transition.

Having worked for an urban forestry company, I had planted many trees/shrubs in my day, but there was a different sense of accomplishment and pride that I felt, had planted trees that I hope will have provided insight and data into a brighter future for this generation and the next.



- **Control: Means doing nothing and measuring a forests response to climate change in the absence of silvicultural intervention.**
- **Business as Usual: Maintain the normal silvicultural practices for the region (shelterwood).**
- **Resistance: Increase genetic diversity of white pine to adapt to future climate conditions.**
- **Resilience: Manipulating the overstory to create greater gaps in the canopy to in turn increase stand species genetic and structural diversity.**
- **Transition: Clearcut with seed trees followed by assisted migration of a diversity of oaks and pines (red pine, pitch pine, red oak, and white oak).**

The PRF, So Much More than A Research Forest

By Sam Brooks, Algonquin College Student Representative

The Petawawa Research Forest has been a staple of Chalk River since it was established back in 1918. Covering around 10,000 hectares (24,711 acres) it has become a vital resource and a living laboratory into the study and pursuit of forest knowledge, collecting invaluable data and assisting researchers in developing strategies to combat some of our most pressing issues, from climate change to invasive species impacting Canada's forests.

However, upon closer inspection, the PRF serves an equally important purpose for the local residents and the wider community of Chalk River and the surrounding areas. The PRF is a sanctuary away from the stresses and complications of the modern world, it allows people to unwind and reconnect with a vital part of the human experience, nature and the natural world. Whether you are an avid bird watcher, snow shoer, a hiker or just someone who likes to walk their dog after a long day at work, the Petawawa Research Forest is a home away from home for so many. Reconnecting us with the peace and tranquility that modern life so often deprives us of.

The pursuit of knowledge is not restricted to government employees and the student body attending Algonquin Colleges outdoor programs, alone. For a long time, the PRF was home to The Sugar Bush, an interactive way for local elementary school students to come and see nature in action. Teaching a wide range of arts, crafts and skills The Sugar Bush was a perfect example of community and the sharing of knowledge coming together. Tapping the wide assortment of Sugar Maple trees that inhabit the PRF and showing one of Canada's most well-known cultural practices, the making of Maple Syrup.

There is a hope that, with time and funds allowing, the Sugar Bush will be able to make a return to the PRF and serve the local community once again. Taking its place as another avenue of study, opening up the Petawawa Research Forest to a new generation of students and teachers, alike.

From research and data collection, to wildlife observation and management, to many forms of social interaction and avenues of relaxation, the Petawawa Research Forest is a vital part of the Chalk River community and the province of Ontario, as a whole. Simply put, in a world that values progress and instantaneous gratification, the Petawawa Research Forest takes a moment to unite us and bring people together for the most important of reasons, a sense of community and a passionate love for nature.

Long may it continue.

A Field Trip to the PRF from Across the Globe!

The International Model Forest Network Global Forum 2025

By John Pineau, Member on the FPRF Board of Directors

Above: International Model Forest Network Logo.

The International Model Forest Network (IMFN) will be hosting a Global Forum based in Kemptville in May of 2025. This will be the first global form since 2011, and it will bring to Canada, up to 200 delegates who represent over 60 Model Forests from around the world. Model Forests are generally defined as a process for bringing together a diverse partnership of individuals and groups to realize a common vision of sustainable development and multi-use within a region. Geographically, a Model Forest is a fully working landscape of forests, farms, protected areas, water, and municipalities.

The 2025 IMFN Global Forum will be planned and delivered by the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) and the Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF). It will include a plenary event, multiple concurrent sessions, facilitated meetings, and several field tour options. The primary goals of the Forum include allowing for effective networking, strengthening the governance of the IMFN, knowledge sharing and exchange of best forest management practices information, and promoting camaraderie and a common sense of purpose and achievement amongst member Model Forests.

The Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest (PRF), have been specifically asked by the organizers of the Forum to host a day-long field tour, providing delegates with the opportunity to visit a number of the PRF's world class research installations and learn about them firsthand. The Friends will work closely with the staff of the PRF to develop a comprehensive tour that will include specifically chosen and relevant sites, excellent guides and guest-speakers, detailed interpretive handouts, and a fully safe, comfortable, and enjoyable visit.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the PRF," says Friends of the PRF Communications Director, Ashley MacRae. "Over many years we have had thousands of people, groups and organizations visit the PRF, however this might be one of the largest and most diverse groups that has ever been hosted, and we have so much to show them. There is exciting potential for the visiting delegates to effectively apply what they learn here at the PRF, back in their own forests."

Above: International Model Forests throughout the World.

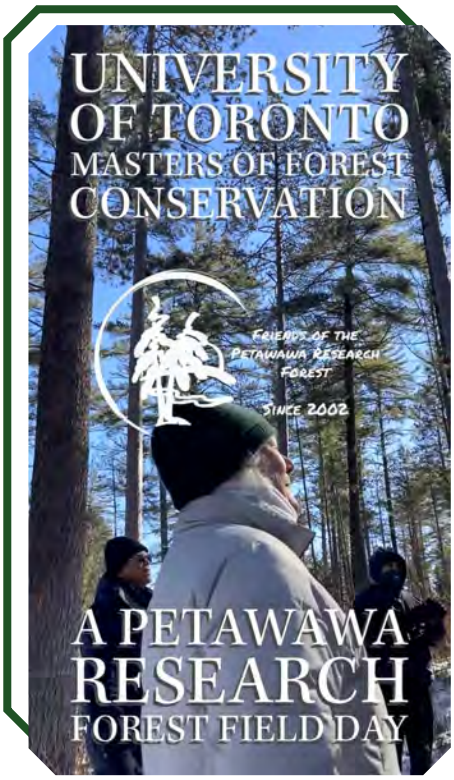
The IMFN is a voluntary global community of practice whose members and supporters work toward the sustainable management of forest-based landscapes and natural resources through the Model Forest approach. The IMFN is supported by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), and its headquarters are based in Ottawa. For more information:
https://imfn.net/

Right: Left to right - Joanne Dudka, Marta Zwart and Sionaid Eggett deciding on a venue for the IMFN Global Forum in 2025.

A Planned Visit from the University of Toronto

The UofT Masters in Forest Conservation Winter Field Camp

By John Pineau, Member on the FPRF Board of Directors



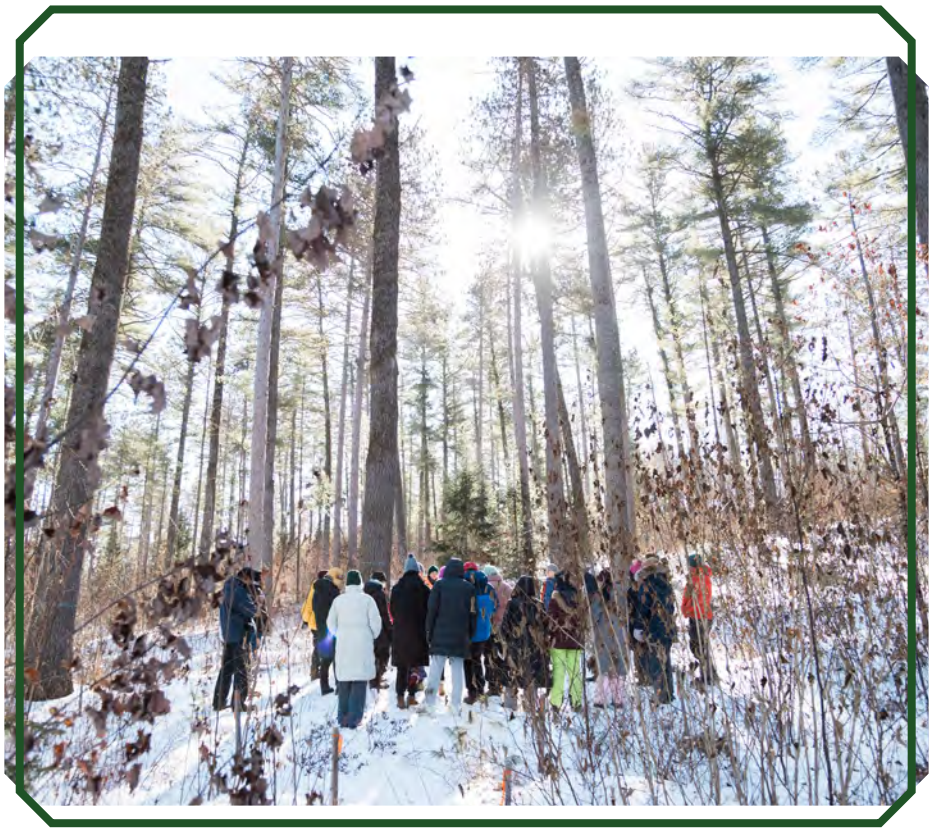
The annual University of Toronto (UofT) Master of Forest Conservation (MFC) Winter Field Camp was a great success and a lot of fun again this year, with many members of the Friends and Petawawa Research Forest (PRF) and PRF staff providing time and support during the full day at the PRF (Saturday, Feb. 24th). The camp ran from Thursday, Feb. 22nd through to Sunday the 25th, and was based at the Canadian Ecology Centre near Mattawa.

The Saturday at the PRF included tours of Permanent Sample Plot (PSP)1 and PSP2, emphasizing the importance of the data collection legacy. The Fire Ecology Site near PSP2 was also visited, with an explanation of the timelines and results and impact of this important research. The students were also toured to the Hardwood Trail, where they learned about hardwood-specific management (including tree marking) and common defects in hardwoods. Lunch at Silviculture Building included presentations about LiDAR and forest management at the PRF, and demos of high-tech data collection tools. The afternoon included a look at the Uniform Shelterwood system, and a quick stop at the White Pine Demonstration Trail, which emphasized the Importance of white pine management and tree marking.

Above: Frank Knaapen educating UofT students on the importance of silviculture (or sun light management dependent on tree species), specifically focused on White Pine Shelterwood systems.

Special thanks to Frank Knaapen, Pete Arbour, Sionaid Eggett, Ashley MacRae, and John Pineau for contributing to the success of Saturday's site visit to the PRF. Thanks also to Melissa Vekeman and Aidan Holland of the PRF staff, who also provided great leadership and support for the day!

Other Camp highlights included visits to Bryson's Forestry in Sundridge, a tour of active harvesting in the Nipissing Forest, a visit to Green Legacy Farm, and mill tours of Columbia in Rutherglen and Quality Hardwoods in Powassan. The final stop of the long weekend was Sugarstone Farm, where the students learned all about maple syrup production.



Above: Peter Arbour demonstrating field equipment including drones, the GeoSLAM and the Vertex.

Left: UofT students learning in the PRF.

"The UofT students and faculty have been coming up to our region for almost three decades now," said Robin Cunningham, Chair of the Board of the Friends of the PRF. "The Friends have helped to make the camp a comprehensive and powerful learning experience that includes operational forestry, the interdisciplinary and sustainable use of forests, and of course leading-edge forest science and research. I am one of many who are happy that UofT keeps returning each February."

Mobile LiDAR Scanning

Field Plot Measurements in the PRF

By John Pineau, Member on the FPRF Board of Directors

Above: GeoSLAM unit for on the ground data collection.

Left: Ben Gwilliam demonstrating the use of the GeoSLAM unit.

In recent years, the Petawawa Research Forest (PRF) has been a focus site for studies relating to LiDAR, and its use in forestry, specifically in the production of enhanced forest inventory data. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is a type of remote sensing technology that uses pulsed laser light to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth. It produces a three-dimensional point cloud of latitudes, longitudes, and elevations, which can be analyzed and modeled by computer algorithms to accurately georeference and classify forest structure.

Recently, a new project, funded by the Forestry Futures Trust, was announced; it will evaluate the use of mobile LiDAR scanning technology for collecting field data, specifically calibration field plots. The project – Field Plot Measurement Using Mobile LiDAR Scanning, will test methods to accurately acquire and process tree diameters and heights on fixed-area plots of mixedwood, hardwood and conifer forest types during leaf-off and leaf-on seasons. Scanned data will be compared to field crew measurements. Operational solutions will be suggested to meet the challenges with tracking tree numbers, tree status, species, geo-referencing plot center and ground control targets.

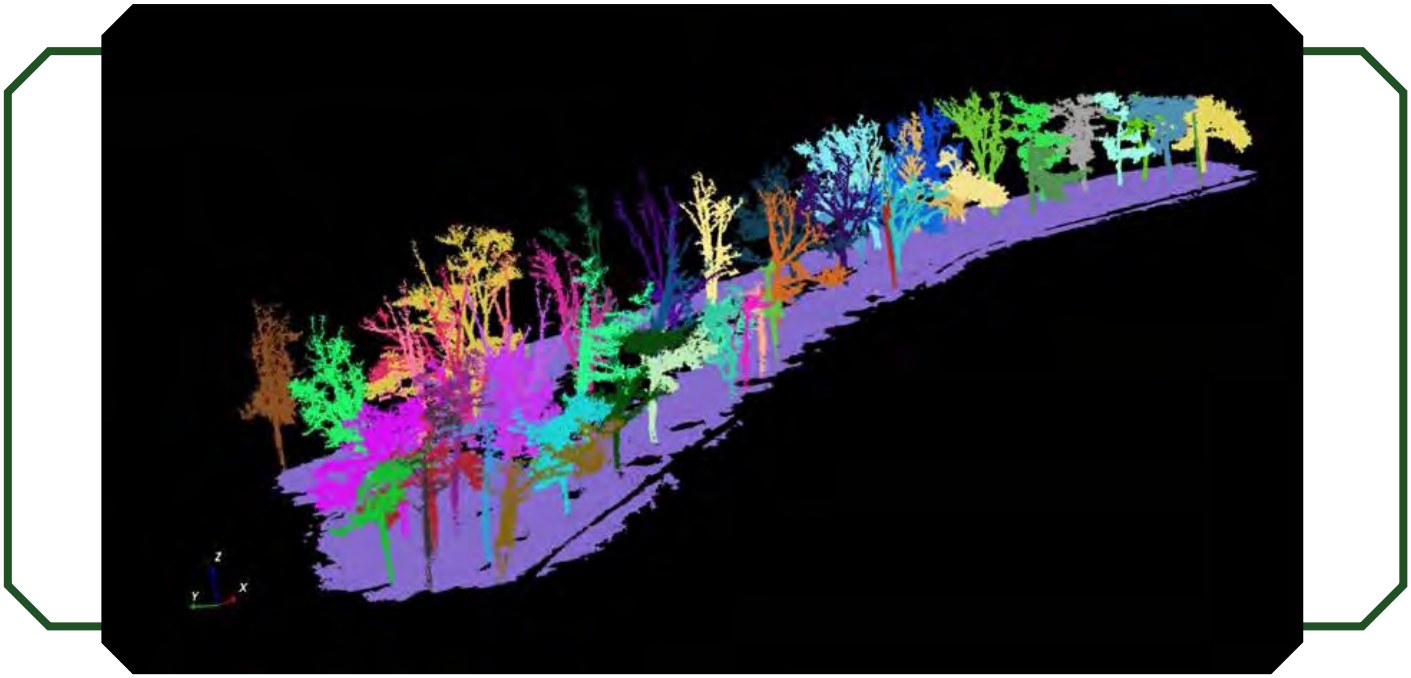
Forest Analysis Ltd. is leading the project, with Murray Woods, a member of the Friends of the PRF Board, and Margaret Penner overseeing all field work and analysis. Murray and Margaret have been key players in many of the past and on-going LiDAR related projects at the PRF. The project is also closely linked with Dr. Bastien Vandendaele of the Northern Hardwoods Research Institute Inc. (http://www.hardwoodsnb.ca/) and a Quebec mobile LiDAR scanning project funded by the Canadian Wood Fiber Center, led by Dr. Richard Fournier of the University of Sherbrooke along with Amélie Juckler, a PhD student.

The project will mainly focus on using a GeoSLAM terrestrial (handheld) LiDAR unit. However, part of the project is also centered around how well can drones using photogrammetry measure plots to generate point clouds over calibration plots. And can these point clouds produced from drone imagery increase the accuracy and precision of GeoSLAM collected data by providing additional overhead point cloud returns to obtain total height). There is keen interest in parts of the forest sector with the opportunity to utilize mobile LiDAR scanning technology to support current forest inventory efforts. The Ontario Woodlot Association is particularly interested in this approach, as it relates to its private land forest inventory initiative.

Above: Drone that collects ground proofing data.

"We are excited by the opportunity to test both terrestrial LiDAR and drone-based photogrammetry to evaluate the potential to further advance the production of enhanced forest inventory data," says Murray Woods. "We are grateful to the Forestry Futures Trust for recognizing the value of our project, and supporting this work at the PRF." "We are very excited about the partners we have working with us on this project"

Below: Data point cloud from mobile LiDAR scanning.

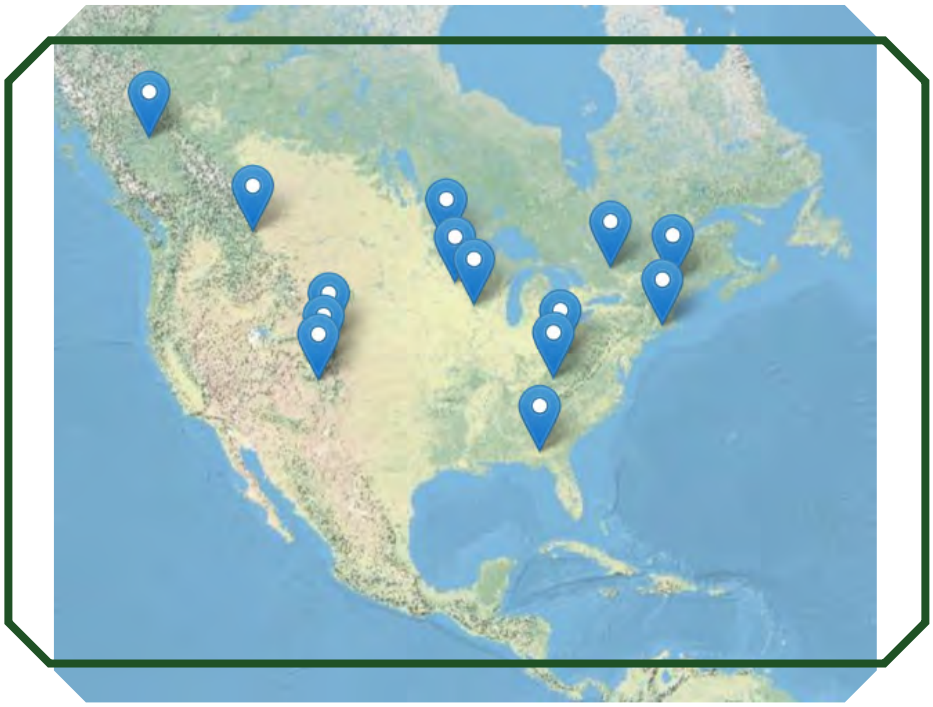


Resistance, Resilience and Transition

Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change

By Sionaid Eggett, Member on the FPRF Board of Directors

In the last newsletter, Liz Cobb gave an operations update that mentioned the Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change (ASCC) project at the Petawawa Research Forest (PRF). I wanted to take the opportunity to expand on the project framework. I have utilized the concepts and research in my own work and am so grateful to have access to these sites. The ability to physically visit the sites brings research and papers to life in an immersive experience which I view as an integral part of education and learning.



The ASCC research project spans North America with the PRF being the first Canadian installment. It is a collaborative effort where a common framework is applied to the different forest types with locally suited climate change adaptation treatments. These treatments will be assessed for their adaptative responses to climate change for the region. This will help to inform management decisions of forestry professionals in the face of climate change.

The framework of the ASCC project is Resistance, Resilience and Transition (RRT). The different adaptative concepts of the RRT framework outline the degree of actions or changes applied to the landscape. The PRF has 4 sites where each different adaptative concepts were installed including a business-as-usual site as a control. The business-as-usual site utilized current operational treatments for white pine at the PRF.

Resistance is action that maintains, restores or improves the existing composition and structure of the forest against change or disturbance with relatively unchanged, to little change, in conditions. At the PRF, resistance is managed the same as the business-as-usual plot but also integrated assisted migration by regenerating the site with white pine seedlings from a local and more southern seed source.

Resilience is action that involve some degree of change to composition or a return to previous referenced conditions. It includes more interventions than those taken at the resistance site but are still relatively minor. Resilience at the PRF moves a uniform stand to an irregular condition to create a more diverse vertical structure. White pine, red oak and white oak seedlings were planted from a southern seed source.

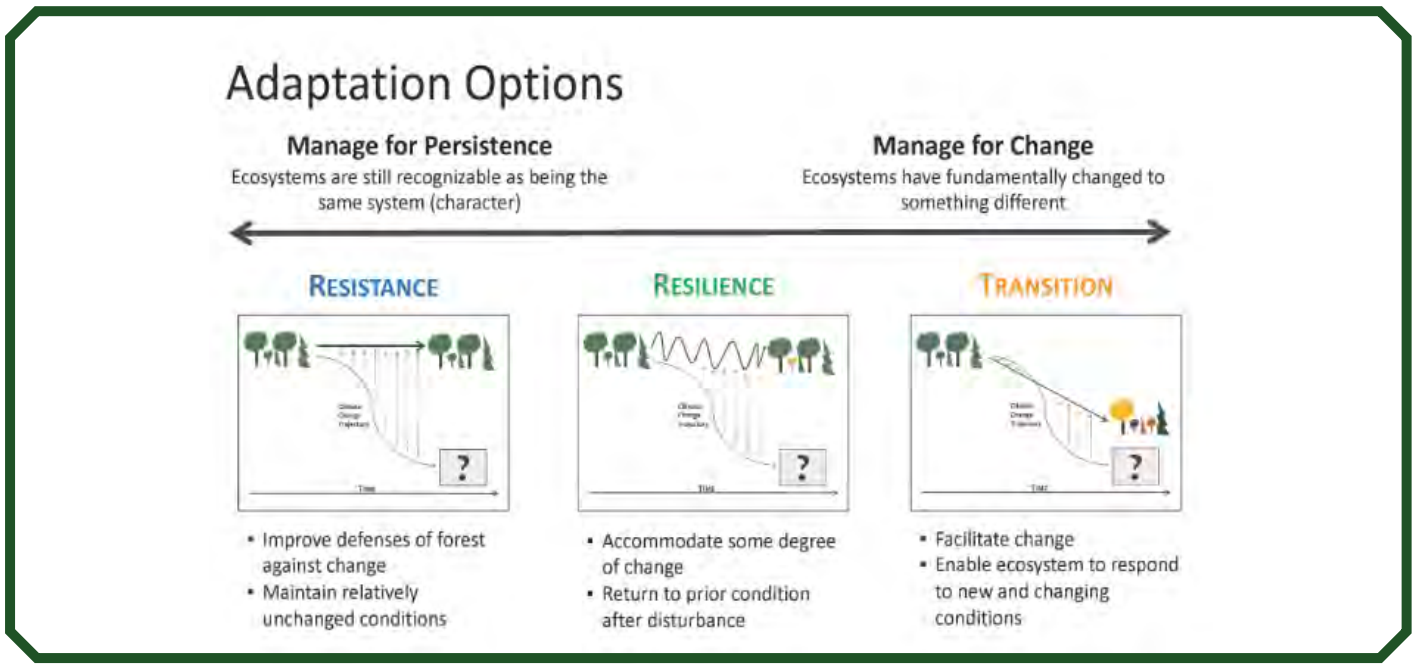
Left: Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change project logo.

Transition is action that intentionally accommodates change by actively shaping composition or structure to adaptively respond to changing and new conditions. Transition at the PRF involves a clear cut with seed trees and the planting of southern sourced pitch pine, red oak, white oak and red pine seedlings.

Utilizing seeds from another seed source is called assisted migration. The concept behind utilizing seedlings from a more southern seed source is that these seedlings are already adapted to the warmer more southern conditions that are slowly working their way up to this region through climate change. Trees that are already adapted to these conditions should have better adaptive qualities to potential climate change impacts.

There is no denying the climate is changing. After the warmest recorded winter worldwide, many may be asking themselves what can be done to adapt to these projected impacts. Research like this can help to inform a proactive approach to forest management and give forest managers, landowners and interested persons tools to adapt and thrive. If you haven't had a chance yet to go see these sites in person, I highly recommend taking the time to check them out!

Below: Adaptive Options, sourced from Sionaid Eggets research throught the Ontario Woodlot Association.



‘A Total Eclipse of Our Hearts’

A Reflection on Nature and a Recognition of Nurture

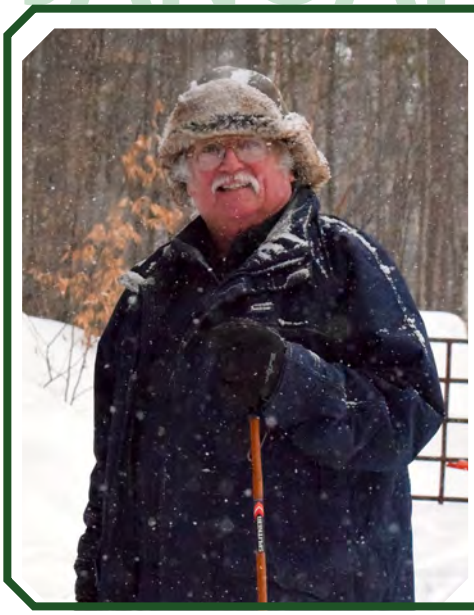
By Ashley MacRae, Communications Director for the FPRF Board of Directors

As many of you may know and may have observed, North America experienced its most recent total solar eclipse on April 8th, 2024. A day turned into night and transitioned back into day within the span of just a few minutes. Witnessing how integral the processes of the Sun and the Moon are to the wildlife that surrounds and sustains us every day was absolutely enthralling. I witnessed spring peepers peeping their loudest at 3 o’clock in the afternoon. I heard birds perform their morning chorus within the same few minutes as the Sun began to peek out from behind the Moon, and it was like I had lived and witnessed a full 24-hour cycle within an instant. Obviously, I hadn’t, but the complete confusion of the surrounding wildlife was almost proof enough that I had. I cannot even imagine what it would be like to not understand this completely magical occurrence, and knowledge is most definitely something that I take for granted every day of my existence.

So, let us begin to recognize the people who teach what they have been taught or learned through years of experience. Those who volunteer their time to the continued sharing of knowledge when they could so easily be focused on other matters.

These four members have been chosen to be our member spotlights for the last four months and, as such, were chosen to be recognized on our social media platforms as well.

JANUARY 2024



Robin Cunningham
Chair of the Board of Directors

I first visited the Petawawa National Forestry Institute as a University of Toronto student on a field tripin the early 70’s. Later, I was teaching in the Forestry Technician program at Algonquin College, and we regularly took classes to the PNFI. I was disappointed at the closure and dismantling of the PNFI. Although I wasn’t at the first meetings of the Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest, I joined soon after. I’ve been Chair of the Board of Directors for at least half of the time since, and I believe in our mission to support and promote the PRF. Among my contributions, my pet project has been the creation of the Arboretum.

Our January Member Appreciation was our cherished Chair of the Board of Directors, Robin Cunningham. Robin's contributions to the PRF have been invaluable. His volunteerism has lead to the creation of our treasured arboretum, arboretum tours, bird walks, and other activities. Thank you, Robin, for your hard work and dedication to the PRF.

FEBRUARY 2024

Sionaid Eggett
Board Member

I first heard about the PRF from an uncle who spent a few summers there as a student during the 80's. My first visit to the PRF was with my Forest Technician Program at Algonquin College. Although, much has changed since his experience and my time spent there, the valuable learning resources available to students in the PRF and its extraordinary features remains the same. The PRF has a little bit of everything. I think access to this unique site contributed greatly to my skills and knowledge as a forest tech.

February's Member Appreciation was Sionaid Eggett. She has been sitting on and contributing to the FPRF Board of Diresctors for her 3rd year now, caring for the forest that we love with boots on the ground and through our communications committee. Thank you, Sionaid, for your appreciation of and dedication to the Petawawa Research Forest.

MARCH 2024

John Pineau
Board Member

My relationship with the Petawawa Research Forest spans several decades now, and it has enriched my life in a multitude of ways. Indeed, many find spiritual renewal when strolling through a forest, and I count myself as one of those fortunate souls. However, the PRF is singular in the benefits and joys it offers, both the tangible and the abstract… the real and the ethereal. Its diverse attributes offer so much to anyone willing to spend the time and effort to get to know its complete hallowed geography. The science and research undertaken by countless dedicated professionals over more than 100 years at the PRF, is truly priceless.

Our Member Appreciation for the month of March was John Pineau. His sense of volunteerism is unmatched. He sits on multiple Boards, including the EOMF, CIF Algonquin, CEC , CEC Foundation, Forests Without Borders, and the Mattawa Museum. With all this, he is also the Executive Director of the OWA and a part-time teacher in the Forestry Technician program at Algonquin College.

The Friends of the PRF are truly gifted to have you on our team, John. You go above and beyond to make this world a better place for now and in the future.

APRIL 2024

Frank Knaapen
Vice Chair and Head of Trails

It was at the home of Kit Yeatman that the Friends really came into being. The Friends became a public voice for the PRF as its 5 employees could not. Politicians only think in 4 year terms, but the PRF is a living research lab sometimes yielding results only 50+ years later. That is why I became a founding member, and still am - to help protect and maintain that important research. Having been the coordinator for the Forestry Technician program at Algonquin College, I witnessed the students' absorption of knowledge through the PRF's safe learning environment. Later, other programs began to use the area too. Meanwhile, it was also decided that the public should benefit from the PRF and one way was through its trail and road network. That became my passion; as Head of Trails, I coordinated with volunteers to create the safest environment possible for trail-users. The PRF had an extensive ski trail network which was reduced to a practical length for the public, and we introduced snowshoe trails. As long as I am healthy, I will remain on this board and continue to share my skills and knowledge.

April's Member Appreciation was our Vice Chair and Head of Trails, Frank Knaapen. This is due to his love for our Petawawa Research Forest. He has been here since the beginning! Being a founding member on the Board of Directors, Frank is one of our longest standing members with the Friends of the PRF. His appreciation for this forest has fostered Frank's deep connection with its trails and has led to the continued maintenance of them throughout the years.
Thank you, Frank, for your never ending support and contributions!

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Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest

If you would like to make a **monetary donation**, become a more active **volunteer** or are interested in our **Swag**, please contact us at:

friendsofprf@gmail.com

For a virtual tour of the PRF, visit:
https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/