

Manitoba Forestry Association

900 Corydon Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3M 0Y4

2009 Annual Report

Book of Reports for the 2010 Annual General Meeting



Table of Contents

Our Organization	Page 3
Our Mission	Page 3
Staff	Page 3
Board of Directors 2009-10	Page 3
President's Report	Page 4
Executive Director's Report	Page 5
Forest Centres	
Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre (SFDC)	Page 7
Atikameg Forest Centre (AFC)	Page 8
Duck Mountain Forest Centre (DMFC)	Page 9
Interlake Forest Centre (IFC)	Page 10
Education Programs	
In-School Programs	Page 10
Project Learning Tree (PLT)	Page 11
National Forest Week	Page 11
Commemorative Tree Planting Initiatives	Page 12
New Initiatives	Page 12
Manitoba Envirothon	Page 13
Seedling Sales Program	Page 14
Woodlot Program	Page 15

Our Organization

The **Manitoba Forestry Association**, established in 1919, is the oldest forest education group operating in the province. We are a non-profit, registered charity governed by a board of voluntary directors.

Our Mission

Our mission is to inform and educate all Manitobans about wise management of trees and forests as a vital part of the larger ecosystem including their impact on climate change. We want the public to understand that forests are an integral part of the global ecosystem and the lives of all human beings. Forests are used, but they must be managed in a sustainable manner to ensure they will remain healthy and productive today and for future generations.

Staff

Executive Director

Patricia Pohrebniuk

Education Program Manager

Andrea Swain (On Maternity Leave)
Michaela Knispel

Administrative Assistant

Andrea Kraayeveld

Envirothon Coordinator

Lisa Tack

Woodlot Technician

Ken Fosty

Contract Woodlot Technician

Garry Kennedy

Board of Directors 2009-2010

EXECUTIVE:

President – Jennifer Lidgett

Vice-President – John Dojack

Vice-President – Jim Potton

Past President – Trevor Stanley

Director-at-Large – Al Mackling

Treasurer – Barry Waito

Secretary – Glenn Peterson

Executive Director – Patricia Pohrebniuk

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Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba

Honourable Gary Doer – *Premier of Manitoba*

His Worship Sam Katz – *Mayor of Winnipeg*

HONOURARY BOARD:

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M. Beth Gourley

Peter Macdonald

The Honourable Pearl McGonigal

Kathleen M. Richardson

The Honourable Duff Roblin

The Right Honourable Ed Schreyer

Honourable Stan Struthers

Honourable Rosann Wowchuk

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Graeme Olson

Ward Perchuk

Dave Wotton

HONOURARY LIFE DIRECTOR:

Dianne J. Beaven

ADVISORY BOARD:

Bill Jonas

Gordon Robb

Dale Stewart

President's Report

Jennifer Lidgett

The past 3 years as the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA) President has been full of changes and major successes. To celebrate our first 90 years as the MFA and launch ourselves into the next 90 years we redeveloped our MFA image with the unveiling of our new "Think Trees" logo and new www.thinktrees.org website, which now not only allows us to inform and share information about all our great MFA programs and activities, but also now allows all Manitobans to order seedlings, become members, make donations, and volunteer online. Also to mark this major milestone in our history we sprouted new education programs, an in-school program for K-4 featuring our new mascot "Bruce the Spruce" and new tailored School and Weekend Family Programs delivered at our Sandilands Discovery Centre.

Education about Trees and Manitoba's Forests is the primary focus of the MFA and in 2009 we saw;

- Our largest Manitoba Envirothon to-date, with 35 teams competing this past year at the International Peace Gardens. Due to this amazing success of our Envirothon Program and to meet the ever growing interest and demand the 2010 Manitoba Envirothon is piloting 3 regional competitions prior to the provincial competition in Brandon. Meaning that for 2010, the teams will have to opportunity to participate in both a regional and the provincial competition.
- The delivery of another successful ForestEd Workshop to 19 Manitoba teachers, which was held last March for 2 days in the beautiful Whiteshell Provincial Park. Forest Ed is designed to draw together educators to learn about sustainable resource management through field tours from resource professionals and hands-on activities from qualified instructors.

- Our newly created Forest Education Committee, which is continuously growing new resource education ideas and initiatives, which included this past year the successful creation and launch of the new Kindergarten to Grade 4 in-school natural resource management program. This program "Forests in the Classroom" uses short informative talks, interactive activities, and features our new friend "Bruce the Spruce" to discuss renewable resources.
- The reopening of our Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre, located near Hadashville, to the public during the months of July and August. This Centre which has been delivering School Programs since 1957, continued to do so in 2009. The Centre saw over 650 Manitoba students come and discover the forest, lead by our 2 seasonal interpreters. This Centre also provided newly created weekend family discovery programs throughout the summer, which drew in the largest public crowds the centre as seen in many years.



The past 3 years as the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA) President has been full of changes and major successes.

I believe the new MFA saying of "Think Trees" completely encompasses our many long-term and very successful Tree Planting, Woodlot Management, and Seedling Sales Programs, all of which continue to be very successful. "Think Trees" also completely summarizes our new partnership with the Manitoba Government's "Trees for Tomorrow" Program, in which will help the Manitoba Government plant 5 million trees over the next 5 years.

I am sad to say this is my last years as President of the Manitoba Forestry Association. It has truly been a privilege, over the last 3 years, to work with Patricia Pohrebniuk, the

MFA Executive Director, the MFA Staff (Ken Fosty, Andrea Kraayeveld, Lisa Tack, Andrea Swain, and Michaela Knispel) and their many volunteers, all of which have such dedication and passion for the MFA and its many amazing programs and initiatives. It has also been a great honor to work with the Board of Directors and MFA Executive (Jim Potton, John Dojack, Trevor Stanley, Barry Waito, Glenn Peterson, and Al Mackling), who's' assistance, support, dedication, contribution, and direction during this past years has been invaluable and greatly appreciated. I truly have treasured the experience and was proud to be associated and lead such an incredible organization with such a strong past and such positive future ahead of it.

Executive Director's Report

Patricia Pohrebniuk

This year the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA) celebrated its 90th Anniversary of educating Manitobans about the importance of trees and forests. To acknowledge this important milestone, the MFA unveiled a new logo for the association. The new logo represents our strong "roots" to our past and a bright future ahead as we continue to grow. It is also a celebration of trees and symbolizes the important role trees and forests play in our daily lives, a message we try and deliver each and every day. I would like to thank the staff and board for their participation in the creation of this new logo.

The Manitoba Forestry Association also launched its new website www.thinktrees.org. We are very proud of our new website, as it has proven to be an extremely useful tool for our members, staff, board, teachers and the general public. You may purchase seedlings and potted stock, renew your annual membership or donate to the MFA. It also allows teachers to book a Forest In the Classroom presentation or an outdoor program

at our Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre. The website has loads of information on our programs, as well as, great reference materials and links to our partnering organizations. If you have not had an opportunity to visit the site, please take the time to do so.

2009 brought a few staffing changes to the MFA. Andrea Swain, former Envirothon Coordinator, took over the role of Education Program Manager in April up until the middle of June, when she took maternity leave to prepare for the arrival of her second child. We would like to extend our congratulations to Andrea, her husband Jeff and big-sister Ayla on the safe arrival of Archer Walden Swain Cottes who was born on June 22, 2009. June also brought the arrival of new staff member Lisa Tack who took on the role of Manitoba Envirothon Coordinator. Lisa was formally a MB Envirothon Steering Committee member and chair of the Test Writing Committee. Being very familiar with the program, Lisa was able to dive right into her Envirothon responsibilities. Michaela Knispel, joined the MFA in October, filling the role of Education Program Manager. Michaela, was a former participant of the Manitoba Envirothon and a Senior Park Interpreter with Manitoba Conservation. It has been an absolute delight to have these two individuals join our MFA family.



The new logo represents our strong "roots" to our past and a bright future ahead as we continue to grow. It is also a celebration of trees and symbolizes the important role trees and forests play in our daily lives, a message we try and deliver each and every day.

This year, the MFA was able to open the Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre (SFDC) for the season. After being closed for 2 years, it

was extremely encouraging to see the Centre back up and running. Jessica Foss and Kyle Cameron were the SFDC Interpreters for 2009. With the assistance of site manager Dave Turchyn, these three individuals worked tirelessly to get the Centre up an operational again, by clearing trails, cleaning buildings, and tackling maintenance projects. In addition, the staff were able to develop and deliver three new family programs for July and August 2009! The Centre is looking great and I encourage you to come out and visit this Centre this coming spring!

National Forest Week (NFW) was celebrated in the fall, during the last full week in September. The MFA was kept busy during NFW with the coordination of a number of major tree planting initiatives, as well as, free tree giveaways with the Trees for Tomorrow Program. Approximately 38,000 seedlings were planting during NFW, and 12,000 seedlings were distributed through the Trees for Tomorrow Program (T4T). The MFA is a delivery agent for the T4T program. The goal of the Trees for Tomorrow Program is to plant five million trees over the next five years to help the Province meet its targets of offsetting their greenhouse gas emissions. MFA staff have been assisting landowners in submitting applications, determining site eligibility, coordinating tree planting activities and answering the public's questions about tree planting and tree care.

This is the fifth year we have been planting for Manitoba Lotteries Corporation (MLC). This year MLC planted 22,000 trees in the RM of Lac du Bonnet. These trees will help offset the effects of greenhouse gas emissions associated with their gaming operations.

We are very excited to continue our partnership with Qualico Homes and the "Planting for the Future" Program. The "Planting for the Future" Program is committed to the planting of approximately 100,000 seedlings over a 10 year period and complements their comprehensive environmental stewardship strategy. Qualico is committed to being environmentally friendly and by partnering with the Manitoba Forestry

Association (MFA); Qualico will be able to demonstrate this commitment through this tree planting initiative. In the third year of the program, 10,000 seedlings were planted at Fort White Alive, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Approximately 1,000 of these trees were planted by Qualico employees and members of the general public who were invited to help plant these seedlings as part of a family day activity to help with this initiative. To date, 35,000 seedlings have been planted in Manitoba as part of this initiative.

Congratulations to all of our tree planting partners! These trees will have long lasting impacts as they will help to improve water and air quality, reduce soil erosion, restore wildlife habitat and provide recreational opportunities for many generations.



I would like to thank again the staff, our board of directors and all our volunteers for their hard work and dedication in helping to carry out the programs we undertook in 2009.

The successes of our regular programming are highlighted in the staff reports contained in this document. Please take the time to read through these program reports to better understand the achievements the organization thanks to the efforts of these dedicated employees.

I would like to thank the staff, our board of directors and all our volunteers for their hard work and dedication in helping to carry out the programs we undertook in 2009. Special thanks to our partners, sponsors and members for supporting the MFA and enabling us to continue our commitment to educate students, teachers, landowners and the general public about the importance of trees and forests.

Forest Centres

Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre (SFDC)

Jessica Foss/Michaela Knispel

The Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre opened May 1 and 2, 2009 for the annual 'Day in the Pines' seedling distribution events. Approximately 300 people came to collect their seedlings and trees; many also took the opportunity to explore the Sandilands Centre and hike our trails. Ken Fosty provided a workshop on tree planting and care. We also had several organizations set up booths at the event to provide individuals with information on trees and the forest. Organizations with display booths include the Manitoba Model Forest, Manitoba Trappers Association and Manitoba Conservation with a booth on insects and diseases.

This year two summer students were hired to conduct programs at the Sandilands Centre; Jessica Foss and Kyle Cameron began work May 11. Jessica and Kyle got settled into the Centre quickly learning the trails and programming, they also attended the annual Provincial Interpretive Training Camp hosted by Manitoba Parks, May 25-29.

After being closed for two years, 2009 proved to be a very successful year at the Sandilands Centre. The Centre was open for a total of 53 days with 1456 people walking through the gates. May and June programming was geared towards school groups, offering 14 days of programming for Manitoba students and their teachers. A total of 665 students and 77 teachers and parents from 15 different schools came to the Centre for a hands-on learning experience. Groups took part in such activities as hiking our nature trails, exploring the museum and Tree Planting Car, and taking part in fire tower demonstrations and bannock bakes.

On busy days volunteers came out to assist the interpreters with school programs. A special thanks to all our volunteers that helped make our school programs possible: Bill Baker, Marianne Gopalkrishna, Trevor Stanley, Claude Vogal, Andrea Swain, Andrea Kraayeveld, Patricia Pohrebniuk, and Manitoba Conservation Forestry Staff.

As school programming came to an end, the Centre was opened to the general public for July and August. Posters were put up in the businesses of Hadashville and communities along the trans-Canada highways to help advertise that Sandilands Centre is open to the public after two years of being closed. A total of 414 people stopped in to enjoy the centre, taking a hike along our trails, enjoying a picnic, taking part in an interpretive activity, touring the buildings or viewing our main attraction, the suspension bridge. The Interpreters offered programs for one Day Care group in July, with 69 children and adults participating in programming. We received much positive feedback from the public on the uniqueness of the site.

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Projects

With two full time summer staff we were able to begin many new projects at the Centre. Jessica began to update the school programs making the programs more hands-on, curriculum focused and age appropriate. The school programs now provide a variety of activities for classes to choose from. School programs were completed by Jessica, and Michaela Knispel over the winter, and are now ready for the upcoming season at Sandilands.

Jessica also developed 3 new family programs, including an extensive hands-on detective style program called CSI: Sandilands. Many families took part in these activities, giving them a new reason to make the drive out to Sandilands. However we found that the majority of our regular visitors were adults between the ages of 40-60, and family programs did not reach their needs. New programming to be developed in 2010 will be geared towards the older age group.

While programming was being developed there was always maintenance to be attended to: grass to be cut, trails to be pruned, trees to be removed, and wood to be split. A new coat of paint has helped to brighten up a few places on site including the forest fire hazard sign, fire tower roof, the museum washrooms, and the front gate. Furthermore Jessica began planning updates to the museum displays to ensure that the displays are current and appealing to visitors. The summer students also prepared hundreds upon hundreds of seedling for wedding favor orders. All in all the summer was a busy one.

Operational support and assistance was provided by Pineland Forest Nursery and the Manitoba Conservation Hadashville District Office and Manitoba Conservation – Forestry Branch. Our annual Museum Grant from Manitoba Culture, Heritage, and Tourism helped with the operational costs associated with the museum. Special fundraising efforts for the Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre from the staff at Public Works Canada and Canada Revenue Agency in Winnipeg are also gratefully acknowledged.

Special Events/Activities

The University of Winnipeg used the Centre in August. For two weeks, the SDFC served as home base for students and instructors for their field school before classes in September.

Manitoba Forestry Branch made use of the Centre's facilities this past season as a base of

operations for summer staff training and field work.

The MFA hosted an Appreciation Luncheon for local volunteers on October 7th, 2009. Invited were staff from the Pineland Forest Nursery, the local Conservation Officers, staff from Manitoba Conservation – Forestry Branch, the local Rural Municipal officials, as well as many local contractors.

The Manitoba Forestry Association is indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers and supporters (individual, corporate, and government) providing their time, expertise, and financial resources to see our educational objective can be met. None of these conservation initiatives would be possible without them. Thank-you!

Provincial Forest Discovery Centers

MFA's provincial forest discovery centres are operated by a small dedicated group of volunteers in the surrounding communities and their individual reports can be found in this document. Special thanks to Lynn Huff at the Interlake Forest Centre, Rick Bobby & Dick Walker and their committee at the Duck Mountain Forest Centre, and Avery Ascher and the advisory board at the Atikameg Forest Centre (The Pas). These people and their committees are the folks who keep these facilities operating and you can read about their activities in the following reports.

Atikameg Forest Centre (AFC)

Although the Atikameg Forest Centre discontinued its school and community programming as of June 30, 2008, members of the AFC's advisory board have continued to coordinate the Town of The Pas Gravel Pit Naturalization Project since that time.

Town of The Pas Gravel Pit Naturalization Project

The objective of this project is to naturalize two parcels totaling 1.4 hectares of the area the Town of The Pas uses to excavate fill and gravel for municipal projects. Key partners in the project are the Town of The Pas and Kelsey School Division.

In 2007 the AFC applied for and received \$5,000 from the Shell Environmental Fund for specific project costs such as equipment rental, operator time and specialized materials.

The following activities had been carried out:

- Basic contouring of east and west parcels
- Sourcing and purchasing large 100% compostable kraft paper yard waste bags, and selling these bags to the public to contribute leaves and garden waste to build up the organic base at the site – two local businesses, Tri-Family Health and Berscheid's Meats have been selling bags on the AFC's behalf
- Collecting filled bags at the Town of The Pas landfill, and moving them to the project site
- Several truckloads of soil with a high peat content (in-kind contribution of material) were hauled from Berscheid's Meats to the project site by Morrish Enterprises, another local business (in-kind re operator, equipment and time; AFC paid the fuel costs)

The AFC Board is committed to completing this project in 2010.

Duck Mountain Forest Centre (DMFC)

Rick Bobby, Chairperson

Activity at the Centre for 2009 can be described as about a normal year. Again, visitor activity was slow in early July but improved quite well into August. We hosted a

few school trips in last June prior to school closing.

The 2009 Ducks Unlimited Project Webfoot was again very successful and proved to be an excellent program. Twelve classes made up approximately 220 students that visited the Centre. The report from Kate Reid Thorpe, DU Project Educator follows.

We received approval from Hometown Greenteam for one student for 200 hours for July and August. While it is certainly a great help in the operation of the Centre, we still find it necessary to have a second student. This along with increases in salaries and operating costs (fuel, repairs, etc.) finds the expenses increasing annually.

Our fish and wildlife displays were in place promptly and the Centre again looked very attractive. Excellent comments from visitors and our student employees, Travis Bartel and Chet Hohne, deserve recognition for this and their good work on the trails and main routes for the season.

Visitors were mainly tourists from far and wide and it is interesting to check the visitor book. We did entertain a few large groups from the Valley area as well. The people movers are an excellent way to handle groups.



The 2009 Ducks Unlimited Project Webfoot was again very successful and proved to be an excellent program. Twelve classes made up approximately 220 students that visited the Centre.

A new door was installed on the Frank Marvin Centre. Painting of the old bunkhouse was completed. Main routes and hiking trails were in excellent condition for the summer.

Further painting and general maintenance, as usual, are in the plans for the summer of 2010. The planning of a new brochure is in progress. We will again have a booth at the Rotary Market Fest Trade Show in April.

Main routes were groomed in late January for cross-country skiing and many people are enjoying the beauty of skiing the boreal forest. Thanks to Manitoba Conservation.

Our thanks go out to Ducks Unlimited and Kate Reid Thorpe for Project Webfoot. Thanks to Rick Wowchuk for the help with our fish and critters. Also, thanks to all the contributors through the LP Overweight Fund and our cash membership donors.

Report from Kate Reid-Thorpe

This (email) is to let you know that the 2009 Ducks Unlimited Project Webfoot field trips at the Duck Mountain Forest Centre have been successfully completed. Approx. 220 students (12 classes) explored the forests and wetlands of the Beaver Island Trail May 25-28, 2009. As usual, the "critter dipping" was the highlight of the trip for many of the students. Despite the ice being off the ponds for less than 2 weeks, we still found many interesting invertebrates ranging from damselfly larvae to giant water beetles.

A huge "thank you" to Dick Walker and his crew from Spruce Products who constructed an excellent new dipping station for us. This new location worked really well and was greatly enjoyed by both the students and staff of our visiting schools.

Many thanks to Donna Kopecky and Paul Frank of LP Corp and Garry Wowchuk from Spruce Products who were my co-leaders. Their enthusiastic and knowledgeable presentations were enjoyed by everyone in their groups.

A "tip of the hat" to everyone involved for your dedication to conservation education.

Interlake Forest Centre (IFC)

Lynn Hoff, Manager

The following activities were undertaken by the Interlake Forest Centre in 2009:

- In January, letters were written to local high schools and elementary schools to introduce IFC activities (re: pictures, stories, poems).
- May 9th, a walking tour was conducted to the Quarry.
- May 17th, a trail was marked to the Quarry for use by "Cavers".
- June 14th, 25th Anniversary celebrations were held with attendance by MFA and dignitaries.
- August 16th, A wedding was held at the Forest Centre.
- January 1, 2010, a bonfire and ski-doo party was held by locals in the area.

Education Programs

Michaela Knispel, Education Program Manager

Forests In The Classroom

One of the major educational initiatives of the Manitoba Forestry Association is the Forests in the Classroom programs presented to students in schools throughout Manitoba. These programs have been an integral part of the Association's conservation education and forest awareness efforts for close to 90 years and allow us to connect directly with the future users and managers of our forests.

Once again we received funding from the RBC Foundation, this allowed us to offer our

programming free of charge. Many schools took advantage of the opportunity, a total of 87 schools were visited, with 218 presentations for 9890 students. This is a significant increase in program delivery from last year. This year we had two individuals delivering the in-school programs; Bill Baker delivered programs in the western portion of the province and Renee Olafson-Dyck delivered programs in the Southeast and Winnipeg area.

Lisa Tack was contracted to develop new in-school programs for Kindergarten to Grade 4 students. The focus of the new school programs is to increase the hands-on component of the programs, and to ensure that the programs are relevant to the current Manitoba curricula, integrating components of the science, social science, and language arts curricula. Each program is complete with a bin containing an assortment of materials used in the delivery of the program, including materials for games, demonstrations, experiments and writing and drawing activities.

In addition to the new programs a teaching aid, known as 'Bruce the Spruce' was developed to accompany the Kindergarten – Grade 4 presentations. Bruce the Spruce is a 5 foot model of a White Spruce tree, which helps to teach students about a variety of topics, including:

- different parts of a tree and their functions,
- what trees require to grow,
- insects and diseases affecting trees,
- habitat provided by trees,
- uses of trees and products that come from trees.

In-school programs for grades 5-8 began at the end of 2009; the programs are currently under development and progressing well. Linda McPherson has developed 'Molly Maple' to accompany the grade 5-8 programs; this 6 foot model of a Manitoba Maple will help teach students about non-timber forest products and the cellular structure of trees.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an environmental education program designed for teachers and environmental educators working with students in kindergarten through grade 12. PLT uses the forest as a "window" into the natural world, helping young people gain an awareness and knowledge of the world around them. Unfortunately in 2009, no PLT Workshops were delivered.

NATIONAL FOREST WEEK

In an effort to more effectively showcase National Forest Week (NFW) activities and events, the Canadian Forestry Association (CFA) now celebrates NFW during the last week of September. National Forest Week encourages all Canadians to learn more about their forest heritage and support greater recognition of this valuable resource and as a part of NFW, Maple Leaf Day is observed the last Wednesday in September. On Maple Leaf Day, Canadians are asked to reflect on the link between their lives and the maple leaf – a symbol of Canadians' historical, economic, and environmental link to trees.

In recognition of National Forest Week, the Manitoba Forestry Association presented white spruce seedlings (Manitoba's provincial tree) grown locally at the Pineland Forest Nursery near Hadashville, Manitoba to the members of the Manitoba Legislature on September 20, 2009.

In addition the Manitoba Forestry Association and Manitoba Conservation in conjunction with the Trees for Tomorrow program, assisted in handing out 12,000 white spruce seedlings to interested individuals throughout southern Manitoba.

In recognition of National Forest Week, the Manitoba Forestry Association presented white spruce seedlings (Manitoba's



**provincial tree) grown locally
at the Pineland Forest Nursery
near Hadashville, Manitoba to
the members of the Manitoba
Legislature on September 20,
2009.**

MFA helped to distribute NFW posters produced by the Canadian Forestry Association during National Forest Week.

COMMEMORATIVE TREE PLANTING/BATESVILLE PLANTING

Throughout the year, the MFA receives many inquiries about having a tree planted in memory of a family member or friend, to celebrate a special event such as an anniversary or birthday, a unique gift, or to recognize a particular accomplishment such as a promotion or graduation. For a \$25 donation to the association, a seedling is planted at the Centre, and the name for whom the tree is being planted and the year are added to the Commemorative Trees plaque located in the Museum.

In addition to the Commemorative Tree Planting Program, the MFA also undertakes planting projects sponsored by various organizations. One of the annual plantings which takes place at the Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre is the Batesville Canada Living Memorial Program through the Canadian Forestry Association's Corporate Partners Program.

Over six hundred white spruce seedlings were planted as part of our Commemorative Tree Planting Program and the Canadian Forestry Association's Corporate Partners Program/Batesville Canada Living Memorial Program.

New Initiatives

The MFA continues to conduct regular meetings with our Education Committee. The Committee was established in 2008 to help

guide our education programming, providing advice to MFA staff in regards to:

- Current issues and trends in the fields of forestry and environmental education.
- Guidance and advice about program development and delivery.
- New policies, funding programs, or changes to industry or governments (at all levels) that would affect our programs.
- Review of the MFA's education plan and programs on a regular basis to ensure that the programs reflect current trends, best management practices, and research.
- Conduct program reviews and evaluations on an annual basis.
- Build on partnerships with other organizations.

The Committee met 5 times in 2009 and worked on variety of projects including the finalizing and piloting of in-school programs for Kindergarten to grade 4 students, development of grade 5-8 in-school programs, development of new school programs for Sandilands Centre for students Kindergarten to grade 7, planning of 'Forest in a Box' a resource for teachers and their students.

The MFA continues to conduct regular meetings with our Education Committee. The Committee was established in 2008 to help guide our education programming and provide advice to MFA staff.



Manitoba Envirothon

Lisa Tack, Coordinator

For the past thirteen years the Manitoba Forestry Association, along with its partners and funders, has been the proud host of the Manitoba Envirothon. In 2009 thirty-five teams competed in the International Peace Garden for the chance to represent Manitoba at the 2009 Canon Envirothon in Asheville, North Carolina.

The theme for 2009 of *biodiversity in a changing world* gave the students an opportunity to explore how our activities affect the biodiversity of natural environments. To help the students explore this issue we held two spring workshops – one at Oak Hammock Marsh north of Winnipeg and one at University College of the North in The Pas. In addition to the hands-on equipment training in soils & land-use, aquatics, forestry, and wildlife, teams heard presentations about biodiversity. Students also learned about GPS and GIS-a topic that was introduced last year at the Envirothon Workshop.

The Manitoba Envirothon took place in the International Peace Garden from May 21-23, 2009. The teams were housed and fed at the Music Camp. After an evening of creative, ice-breaking team introductions the students went to sleep in preparation for a full-day of challenging questions on the field test. The field test took place in two locations in the Peace Garden: one trail was set-up near the formal garden and the second trail was set-up near a hiking trail. Given the large number of teams participating again this year we decided to try having less stops on each trail but two teams per stop. This format was the same as last year but there were still a few concerns about overhearing answers and seeing the test papers of the other team.

Following the field test teams were given an opportunity to hear a presentation from Chuck

2009 Manitoba Envirothon Participating Teams

Baker School, MacGregor
College Jeanne -Sauve- Team #1, Winnipeg
College Jeanne -Sauve- Team #2, Winnipeg
Cormorant Lake School, Cormorant
Ecole Secondaire Kelvin High School, Winnipeg
Fairholme Colony School, Portage La Prairie
Fort Richmond Collegiate Team, Winnipeg
Gimli High School - Team #1 (East Interlake), Gimli
Gimli High School-Team #2, Gimli
Grant Park High School- Team #1, Winnipeg
Grant Park High School- Team #2, Winnipeg
Grant Park High School- Team #3, Winnipeg
Helen Betty Osborne, Norway House
J.H. Bruns Collegiate-Team #1, Winnipeg
J.H. Bruns Collegiate-Team #2, Winnipeg
Lord Selkirk School- Team #1, Selkirk
Lord Selkirk School- Team #2, Selkirk
Maple Grove Colony School-Team #1, Lauder
Maple Grove Colony School – Team #2 -
Sprucedale Team, Lauder
Morden Collegiate, Morden
Nellie McClung Collegiate, Manitou
North West Soil Management Association -
Team #1, Swan River
Pembina Valley Conservation District - Team #1, Manitou
Pinawa Secondary School, Pinawa
R.D. Parker Collegiate - Junior Team, Thompson
R.D. Parker Collegiate - Senior Team, Thompson
Shaftesbury High School-Team #1, Winnipeg
Shaftesbury High School-Team #2, Winnipeg
Springfield Collegiate Institute, Oakbank
St. Boniface Diocesan High School, Winnipeg
Steinbach Regional Secondary School, Steinbach
Swan Valley Regional Secondary School-Team #2,
Swan River
Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District- Team #3,
Swan River
Vincent Massey Collegiate, Winnipeg
Westwood Collegiate, Winnipeg

Lura who can be considered an expert of the Turtle Mountain area. After the presentation, teams held an energetic trading session before heading to bed for another night's sleep. The following day teams prepared and delivered their oral presentations which focused on developing a biodiversity strategy for the International Peace Garden. This year, students summarized the top five points of their biodiversity strategy. These points were summarized and given to Doug Hevenor (CEO of the Garden).

After the scores from the field test and oral competition were tallied the winning team was Northwest Soil Management Association from Swan Valley. This is also the second year that the Steering Committee has conducted an additional training session for the winning team to help them prepare for the Canon Envirothon. This winning team mentorship focused on in-depth hands-on training and a mock oral presentation.

The weather was sunny and warm throughout the event which further enhanced the warm hospitality we received from the staff at the International Peace Garden.

The 2010 Envirothon theme is "protection of ground water". The Steering Committee has chosen Brandon as the location for the 2010 event. The Manitoba Envirothon has been to Brandon three times in the past so we look forward to returning to this beautiful and scenic location.

We have said it before and we will say it again- the success of the Envirothon program is largely due to the commitment, passion, and endless energy of our numerous volunteers, partner organizations, and funders. We look forward to continuing and strengthening our relationships with these partners in environmental education.

Thank you to the 2009 Manitoba Envirothon Funding Partners!

Envirothon Host

Manitoba Forestry Association

Legacy Partners

Manitoba Hydro

Fisheries Enhancement Fund

Sustaining Partners

Manitoba Water Stewardship

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines

Manitoba Conservation

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

Mackenzie Seeds

Jiffy Canada Incorporated

Manitoba Model Forest

Friends of the Envirothon

Jim and Myrna Potton

Seedling Sales Program

Andrea Kraayeveld

Since 2000, the MFA has delivered a very successful seedling sales program providing the much needed fundraising dollars to support a number of MFA initiatives and educational programs. Over 99,000 seedlings and over 720 potted trees were sold in 2009 to landowners throughout Manitoba.

A special thanks to Pineland Forest Nursery for their help in this undertaking.

In 2007, the MFA started to specialize in providing packaged seedlings for wedding favours and give-a-ways for special events. MFA advertized in the Wedding Bells magazine

in 2007, since it has been so successful we continued the ad for 2009. This ad easily paid for itself and brought in more fundraising dollars. There was an additional 22,120 seedlings sold for 93 weddings, 22 special functions, and 30 schools above the 99,000 sold in our regular seedling sales. There were sales of 439 seedlings to be planted at Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre on behalf of guests at 5 different events in 2009. These events included a birthday party, 3 weddings, and an anniversary. There were two notable special events in which our new packaged seedlings were purchased for: Dauphin Plains Credit Union, by the Pembina Valley and Turtle Mountain Conservation Districts, the Grand Opening of the new Hydro Building at 360 Portage Avenue and also for a gala dinner at the Manitoba Museum.



1244 Woodlot management plans have been completed and 101,996 forested acres have been placed into management since the program began in 1992.

In 2009, Woodlot Program Staff were involved in the following:

- 57 woodlot management plans and 36 follow-up visits were completed. Of these plans, 12 were conducted in the Swan River Valley.
- 1244 Woodlot management plans have been completed and 101,996 forested acres have been placed into management since the program began in 1992.
- Management plan locations are spread out across 57 municipalities.
- To date, nearly 4.5 million conifers, deciduous trees and berry producing shrubs have been planted by landowners.

Woodlot Program

Ken Fosty

The Manitoba Forestry Association - Woodlot Program continues to deliver services to the Southeast, Eastern, Interlake, Red River Valley and Swan Valley/Parkland regions of the province.

2009/10 Woodlot Management Plan Summary

Woodlot management objectives vary between landowners as they manage their woodlots for economic and environmental benefits. Small scale harvesting of larch as fuelwood has ramped up as the eastern larch beetle continues to kill many stands of larch in southeast Manitoba. Woodlot program staff continue to be busy assessing woodlots for timber volume and quality. Follow up visits are becoming more common as many landowners have completed their initial woodlot management plans and are now ready to progress to other levels of interest.

Public Education/Extension

The MFA delivers a number of educational and extension activities as part of the Woodlot Program. This component includes a variety of activities such as woodlot education seminars, skills development seminars, bus tours, workshops and field days, as well as programming with the Woodlot Association of Manitoba and the Manitoba Christmas Tree Growers Association and other groups and agencies supportive of woodlot management. New to 2010 is the promotion of the Trees for Tomorrow (T4T) program. Woodlot program staff have been actively promoting this tree planting program in order to reduce the impacts of climate change. 955 landowners attended Ken's "Let's Get planting/T4T" seminars across Manitoba. These seminars directly resulted in 65 landowners planting 1280 acres of land with 820,000 seedlings. Ken has already scheduled 16 additional seminars for 2010/11.



**955 landowners attended
Ken's "Let's Get planting/T4T"
seminars across Manitoba.
These seminars directly
resulted in 65 landowners
planting 1280 acres of land
with 820,000 seedlings**

Over 1800 landowners participated in the many field days, bus tours and evening seminars that were organized in 2009. The Woodlot Program partnered with many organizations to deliver these events, including; Manitoba Conservation – Forestry Branch, Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, Woodlot Association of Manitoba, Manitoba Christmas Tree Growers Association, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Manitoba Model Forest, South Interlake School Division, Conservation Districts, Forentec, Communities in Bloom, Woodmizer Canada, Spruce Products Ltd., Louisiana Pacific and First Nations.



**1800 landowners participated
in the many field days, bus
tours and evening seminars
that were organized in 2009.**

The Manitoba Forestry Association-Woodlot Program continues to promote sustainable woodlot management opportunities available to landowners across Manitoba. Through newsletters, field days, bus tours, seminars and general word of mouth, the program continues to help rural Manitobans manage their woodlots for economic, environmental and social benefits.

Special thanks to the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund and Manitoba Conservation-Forestry Branch for ongoing support and financial assistance.