

## Provincial Woodlot Field Day Rekindles Outreach in Southeastern NB

Little Shemogue, N.B. (Sept. 17, 2011)—Before the 2011 provincial woodlot field day was over, silviculture manager Lisa Barkley, invigorated by the enthusiasm shown by participants, was thinking ahead to holding more educational events for members of the Southeastern New Brunswick Wood Products Marketing Board (SENB).

The day reminded Barkley that there is a strong interest in private woodlots in New Brunswick’s rural communities.

“At a time when private woodlot owners have had little to celebrate, it was nice to bring together such a diverse group on a perfectly sunny fall day for a walk in the woods, to share ideas, meet with friends, make new ones and maybe learn something new,” she said.

About 150 woodlot owners, industry, business and forestry organizations representatives took part in the day. Smiles were much in evidence as buses returned from a two-hour tour of the woodlot at Thulium Farm, in Little Shemogue, near the Northumberland Strait. At the farm site, they enjoyed a tasty hot lunch prepared by a local senior’s group and visited with exhibitors, including demonstrations of small-scale equipment, such as a woodlot owner designed loader and a portable sawmill. About 30 were intrigued by the potential for biofuels and stayed on to hear a presentation about miscanthus and willow field trials that are underway at the farm.



**Thulium Farm Manager Peggy McDougall, RPF, discusses recent micro-site/multi-species understory planting and the farm’s goal to achieve uneven-aged management also known as plentering.**

“Woodlot Field Days are a great educational and social tool for private woodlot owners that has been lacking for several years in New Brunswick,” Barkley said.

She sees these tours also as a great opportunity to promote and support small business in the area that are associated with the forest industry.

A highlight of the woodlot tour was the demonstration of a state-of-the-art Ponsse Harvester by ACFOR, a local forest management company. With the machine and the educational training and skills of owner Mathieu LeBlanc, the company is able to carry out selection cutting and provide services that are not readily available to woodlot owners.

“Before the day came to a close I started thinking of how important it is to provide these opportunities for woodlot owners and would like to follow up the discussion at Thulium Farm with a tour of various woodlots where selection harvesting has occurred.”

The provincial woodlot day was revived in 2010 after a lapse of several years. Fundy Model Forest and the NB Federation of Woodlot Owners, joined by INFOR Inc., collaborated to put this important outreach event back on the calendar. This year SENB was the regional organizing body, working with the three provincial organizations. Community Forests International, which is based nearby in Sackville, helped out, too, and Thulium Farm, through the efforts of farm manager Peggy McDougall and husband Kevin, hosted the day.

“There was tremendous community spirit exhibited during the planning process and particularly during the day of the tour.” Barkley said, thanking the hosts, organizers, presenters and woodlot owners that made the day such a *success!*

*If you would like to see more photos of the day, visit Fundy Model Forest on Facebook.*