

# *NSWOOA helps people understand Acadian Forest*

Members of the Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association help people better understand the value and diversity of the province's Acadian Forest.

The job is large and ongoing. The association has to balance the needs of woodlot owners who make their living from the land with those whose main interests are recreational or environmental.

The need for greater knowledge of forests extends beyond landowners to people who make decisions affecting forest use: politicians, administrators, industry representatives and the public.

Association members share a strong belief that the bedrock of forests is ecology – the connected relationships of living organisms and their environments. Priorities set during a planning session nearly 10 years ago continue to guide the association: 1) recognize ecological integrity as the foundation of woodlot wealth, 2) set our own agenda and pursue it vigorously, and 3) avoid negativism.

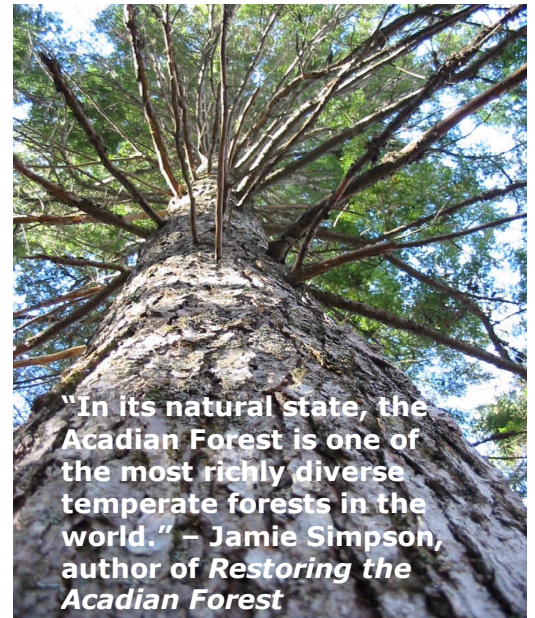
One of the initiatives that brings together all three of these priorities is increasing awareness of the value of the native Acadian Forest. This type of forest is made up of mainly long-lived species – including Red spruce, Hemlock, Yellow birch, Sugar maple, White pine and Red oak – and harvesting single trees or groups of trees is usually favoured over clearcutting.

The association supports ecologically, socially, economically and culturally sustainable forestry. "We're really fighting for everybody to understand all the values of the forest and everything the forest means to a modern society," says the group.

Knowledge is shared at events such as the annual general meeting and a field day. NSWOOA members are often happy to visit other woodlot owners to pass along what they've learned.

The NSWOOA, the oldest woodlot organization in the province, is led by an active volunteer board of directors who attend a variety of meetings and events to advocate for woodlot owners and increase understanding of the full value of our province's forests.

*To learn more about the association, its mission statement, ongoing events and activities or becoming a member, please visit [www.nswooa.ca](http://www.nswooa.ca)*



**"In its natural state, the Acadian Forest is one of the most richly diverse temperate forests in the world." – Jamie Simpson, author of *Restoring the Acadian Forest***

*Some species of the Acadian Forest, such as the Hemlock above, can live to be 400 years or older.*



*NSWOOA members share knowledge of forests at their annual field day, held in 2010 at the Pictou County woodlot of Marlene and Lloyd Langille.*

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**Promoting a healthy Acadian Forest**