

2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



macphail ecological woods forestry project

The **Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project** is an initiative of the **Environmental Coalition of Prince Edward Island**.

It combines protection of natural areas with wildlife enhancement, forest stewardship, watershed protection, environmental education, and ecological research.

Our nature centre, native plant nursery, arboretum, and trails are located in Orwell on the beautiful **Sir Andrew Macphail Homestead**.

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2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

macphail
ecological woods
forestry project

REGISTER ONLINE!

FREE WALKS, TALKS & WORKSHOPS

APRIL

- APR 6 - Owl Prowl #1
- APR 8 - Owl Prowl #2
- APR 10 - Owl Prowl #3
- APR 13 - Owl Prowl #4
- APR 30 - Landscaping with Native Plants

MAY

- MAY 7 - Spring Walk in the Woods
- MAY 14 - Pruning Trees & Shrubs
- MAY 21 - Creating and Maintaining Hedgerows
- MAY 28 - Know your Knots

JUNE

- JUN 4 - Plants of PEI with Kate MacQuarrie

JULY

- JUL 23 - Tracking the Mammals of PEI

AUGUST

- AUG 14 - Volunteer Afternoon

SEPTEMBER

- TBA - 6th Annual Festival of Forests
- SEP 17 - September Stargazing

OCTOBER

- OCT 16 - Autumn in the Forest

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Winter in the Woods

- Bring home the Wabanaki/Acadian Forest this Holiday Season!
- Stay Tuned for more Info!

SHARING A LOVE OF NATURE CAMPS

- JUL 4-8 - Young Ecologists Week 1 (Ages 10-12)
- JUL 11-15 - Nature Discovery Week 1 (Ages 6-8)
- JUL 18-22 - Becoming A Naturalist Week 1 (Ages 8-10)
- JUL 25-29 - Bushcraft Ecology Week 1 (Ages 12-14)
- AUG 1-5 - Young Ecologists Week 2 (Ages 10-12)
- AUG 8-12 - Nature Discovery Week 2 (Ages 6-8)
- AUG 15-19 - Becoming A Naturalist Week 2 (Ages 8-10)
- AUG 22-26 - Bushcraft Ecology Advanced (Ages 14-16)

SCHOOL OF WOODLAND ECOLOGY

- MAY 7 - Wetland and Woodlands
- JUN 11 - Backyard Botany I: Native Botany
- JUN 11 - Backyard Botany II: Pruning
- JUN 25 - Plant Identification I: Native Trees
- JUN 25 - Plant Identification II: Shrubs and Beyond
- JUL 16 - Improving Wildlife Habitat
- AUG 6 - Sustainable Trail Design
- SEP 3 - Woodland Ecology I: Forest Stewardship
- SEP 10-11 - Sustainable Fuelwood Harvesting
- SEP 24 - Woodland Ecology II: Forest Assessment
- OCT 1 - Forest Restoration Techniques
- OCT 15 - Introduction of Mapping Your Forest

CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING COURSES

- APR 9-10 - Chainsaw Safety 1 & 2 - Women Only
- APR 23-24 - Chainsaw Safety 1 & 2
- APR 30 - May 1 - Chainsaw Safety 3 & 4 - Women Only
- May 4-6 - Industry Chainsaw Safety
- May 14-15 - Chainsaw Safety 3 & 4
- SEP 24-25 - Chainsaw Safety 1 & 2
- NOV 5-6 - Chainsaw Safety 1 & 2

POST-SECONDARY COURSES

- JUN 13-17 - UPEI Field Course in Ecological Forestry
- TBA - Acadia University Field Course

2022 FREE EVENTS



APRIL

OWL PROWL

Join us for a talk on owls and then walk the trails learning how to hoot for owls.

Although we offer multiple owl prowls, we ask that you only attend one so that everyone has an opportunity to participate. Please register early as it fills up quickly.

Owl Prowl #1: Wednesday April 6th - 7:30pm

Owl Prowl #2: Friday April 8th - 7:30pm

Owl Prowl #3: Sunday April 10th - 7:30pm

Owl Prowl #4: Saturday April 13th - 7:30pm

MAY

LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Saturday, April 30th - 2pm

Want to spend less time cutting grass and more time enjoying the beautiful plants around your home? This workshop introduces a variety of hardy native plants to attract wildlife and beautify your yard.

SPRING WALK IN THE WOODS

Saturday, May 7th - 10am

Come on a guided walk showcasing spring flowers and ferns through the Macphail Woods.

PRUNING TREES & SHRUBS

Saturday, May 14th - 10am

Participants will practice pruning on a variety of plants in the nursery, arboretum and woodlands. Please bring along any of your favourite pruning tools. The workshop will include a slide show and demonstration of proper pruning methods and a discussion of recommended books and tools.

CREATING AND MAINTAINING HEDGEROWS & WINDBREAKS

Saturday, May 21st - 10am

This workshop will look at creating diverse, beautiful and functional hedgerows and windbreaks using a variety of native plants. Participants will learn about which plants are best, spacing, planting and maintenance.

KNOW YOUR KNOTS

Saturday May 28th - 10am

This workshop will instruct participants in how to tie many useful knots with a variety of uses from camping to sailing to climbing. Fun for all ages!

2022 FREE EVENTS



JUNE

PLANTS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND WITH KATE MACQUARRIE

Saturday, June 4th - 10 am

Kate is one of the province's foremost biologists. Her talk and walk will focus on many of the plants, both native and non-native, that you commonly encounter, plus a look at lots of rare trees, shrubs, wildflowers and ferns. You won't want to miss this one.

JULY

TRACKING THE MAMMALS OF PEI

Saturday, July 23rd - 10am

Come on out and learn about the native and introduced mammals found on PEI, as well as a brief look at some of the mammals we've lost. After a short presentation, we'll head off to the woods looking at a variety of animal tracks and signs. A great activity for the whole family!

AUGUST

VOLUNTEER AFTERNOON

Sunday, August 14th - 1-4pm

Come out and help with our work on our Native Plant Arboretum. We'll have lots of tools and compost and mulch, and a variety of native shrubs, wildflowers and ferns to plant. This is already a beautiful area and will continue to improve over the years as we add more plantings of both rare and common species. Come join us anytime between 1pm and 4pm.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER STARGAZING

Saturday September 17th - 7pm

Learn about the night sky and get to know some constellations. This outing will teach some basics of astronomy and then head out into the dark for naked-eye stargazing.

6TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF FORESTS - TBA

OCTOBER

AUTUMN IN THE FOREST

Sunday October 16th - 2pm

A walk along the trails of Macphail Woods, looking at both plants and animals. This is a great outing for people of all ages.

SHARING A LOVE OF NATURE SUMMER CAMPS



REGISTER ONLINE

NATURE DISCOVERY (AGES 6-8) \$200

Week 1: July 11th - 15th

Week 2: August 8th - 12th

The campers will delight in learning to use all their senses to understand the natural world, as well as create crafts, tell stories and play games designed to give them a foundation for further inquiry and exploration.

BECOMING A NATURALIST (AGES 8-10) \$200

Week 1: July 18th - 22nd

Week 2: August 15th - 19th

This camp focuses on encountering and describing the natural world. Through the use of art and other hands-on outdoor activities, they'll expand their understanding of life in the woodlands, waterways, and fields.

YOUNG ECOLOGISTS (AGES 10-12) \$200

Week 1: July 4th - 8th

Week 2: August 1st - 5th

This camp will begin to introduce the campers to the amazing complexity of our native Acadian forests. They will dissect owl pellets, take part in forest restoration planning and plantings and develop their understanding of how we can take positive environmental action.

BUSHCRAFT ECOLOGY \$250 (INCLUDES THURSDAY OVERNIGHT EXCURSION)

Ages 12-14 - July 25th - 29th

Ages 14-16 - August 22nd - 26th

These campers will delight in learning survival skills such as one-match fire making, shelter building, rope making with natural fibres, and tracking animals. Touching on plant and tree identification, campers will learn the edible and medicinal properties of some local plants. Our camp will include cooking over an open fire, natural crafts such as making birch bark baskets, basic whittling and an overnight camp.

SCHOOL OF WOODLAND ECOLOGY

The **School of Woodland Ecology** courses will allow participants to delve deeper into specific topics, developing expertise, skills and confidence.

REGISTER ONLINE

PLANT IDENTIFICATION - a core skill in the forest or around the yard

Learning how to recognize our native Island plants is a core skill which can enrich many outdoor pursuits. These courses will not only teach you how to identify native flora but also provide contextual knowledge about the adaptations, habitats, and natural history of the native species of Prince Edward Island.

I - NATIVE TREES - \$60+HST

Saturday June 25th - 9am - 1pm

The course provides outdoor hands-on experience looking at leaves, buds, branches, bark, and the basic patterns of native tree identification. We'll also walk the Macphail Woods grounds to look at specimens of all the native species of trees as well as some of the preferred habitats of these beautiful plants.

II - SHRUBS AND BEYOND - \$60+HST

Saturday June 25th - 1pm - 5pm

Shrubs provide habitat and food for wildlife as well as a staggering number of ecological benefits from nitrogen fixation to shoreline protection. This four-hour course will take us into the Macphail Woods Arboretum which showcases many of the native shrubs you can find across the province. We will also introduce participants to a number of ferns and wildflowers.

BACKYARD BOTANIST - developing expertise in pruning, planting, and all things botanical

Plants are amazing organisms. Every year more scientific discoveries shed light on the fascinating lives of plants from tiny algae to ancient trees. A basic knowledge of botany can help with many outdoor activities, including pruning, planting, forest restoration, and harvesting, while enriching forest hikes and seaside walks.

I - NATIVE BOTANY - \$60+HST

Saturday June 11th - 9am - 1pm

Participants in this half-day course will learn about the types of plants that can be found on PEI, from liverworts and mosses to trees and ferns. Using our native plant nursery and arboretum as well as forest trails, we will have hands-on examples that demonstrate how plants grow, how roots systems connect, strategies for survival, propagation, and more.

II - PRUNING - \$60+HST

Saturday June 11th - 1pm - 5pm

This course will focus on learning hands-on skills that you can take home to your yard or forest to help ensure the vigour and beauty of your trees and shrubs. Over the four hours, participants will learn proper pruning techniques to help maintain healthy, attractive, and safe trees, and to add value to trees in your forest.

SCHOOL OF WOODLAND ECOLOGY



WOODLAND ECOLOGY - understanding techniques for creating healthy sustainable forests

Understanding techniques for creating healthy sustainable forests. Whether it is one acre or one hundred acres, owning a woodlot can be a joyful but daunting task. Creating trails, restoring biodiversity, and learning how to harvest responsibly all require a variety of skills, everything from plant identification to proper pruning to habitat improvement. Being able to safely and responsibly work in your own forest is extremely rewarding and will provide benefits for generations to come.

I - INTRODUCTION TO FOREST STEWARDSHIP - \$120+HST

Saturday September 3rd - 9am - 4pm

Our Woodland Ecology course helps landowners gain the knowledge and skills they need to enjoy, improve, and manage their own forest whether it be through creating better access, harvesting wood, or creating a refuge for local wildlife. Over the one-day course participants will gain hands-on experience in pruning, plant identification, habitat improvement, harvesting, forest management, and more.

II - FOREST ASSESSMENT - \$120+HST

Saturday September 24th - 9am - 4pm

When trying to manage a forest, being informed about the specific composition of species, soils, water, and light is a must. This day-long course will give you practical experience assessing a variety of forest types, continuing to develop the skills introduced in Course one.

FOREST RESTORATION - hands-on skills for restoring woodlands

I - FOREST RESTORATION TECHNIQUES AND SKILLS - \$120+HST

Saturday, October 1st - 9am-4pm

This one-day course will provide participants with a variety of strategies and skills needed to improve the ecological and economic value of their forest.

The morning will introduce participants to common forest stand types found across the Island and the practices most effective in creating ecologically complex, long-lived, high-value forests. We will discuss when to use patch cuts, prune and release, thin, selectively harvest, and plant. In the afternoon we will head out to the woods and participants will help with a planting, practice pruning, and take part in a series of forest enhancement demonstrations.

SCHOOL OF WOODLAND ECOLOGY



SUSTAINABLE HARVESTING - harvesting to improve forest health

Burning wood can be a carbon neutral means of heating your house and one of the best ways to make use of and enjoy your forest. It is a wonderful family activity and fantastic exercise.

I - SUSTAINABLE FUELWOOD HARVESTING - \$240+HST

Saturday & Sunday, September 10th and 11th - 9am-4pm

This course will introduce participants to the benefits and challenges of burning fuelwood and explore the whole process of assessment, harvesting, processing, and drying fuelwood.

Day One will combine classroom and outdoor learning. In class we will discuss strategies for assessing forest capacity, ways of using fuelwood harvesting to improve forest health, the benefits of burning both hard and softwood, how to create a safe work site, small-scale harvesting equipment and finally, low-impact extraction practices. After lunch we will head outside and visit a number of forest sites where we will combine demonstration with discussion.

Day Two will take place outside. Participants will get the chance to help harvest fuelwood, putting into practice what they learned on Day One. They will get a chance to see a grapple-loader, portable winch, and Maasdam winch in action. After lunch, participants will help process the firewood using a processor and hydraulic splitter, and learn to safely split wood with an axe. The final part of the course will be learning about a variety of options for stacking and drying firewood.

MAPPING YOUR FOREST - ecological planning through modern tech

When assessing an ecosystem there is a lot to take in and record, all while not getting lost. While a good compass and a notebook can cover the basics, there are a number of modern innovations, apps and programs that can speed up data collection, make navigation simple and create easily-shareable results.

I - INTRODUCTION TO MAPPING AND USEFUL DATA COLLECTION - \$120+HST

Saturday, October 15th - 9am-4pm

This one-day course will get participants outside collecting data using a variety of methods, apps and tools as well as introducing the basics of Quantum GIS, a free mapping program. Half of the day will be spent in the field studying the surrounding forests and fields while the rest will involve an indoor classroom session learning the uses of GIS mapping through interpreting the collected data.

Students are encouraged to bring their own laptop, smartphone and/or tablet.

SCHOOL OF WOODLAND ECOLOGY

WETLANDS & WOODLANDS - \$120+HST

Saturday, May 7 - 9am-4pm

Wetlands can be both a blessing and a challenge to forest owners. They play a variety of ecological roles in the landscape, such as providing critical habitat for a wide variety of both flora and fauna. This four-hour course will look at identifying various types of wetlands that occur in forests, including springs, vernal pools, marshes, bogs, streams, rivers, and ponds. We will also go over the provincial rules on riparian zones – what you can and can not do legally. Participants will learn why these wetlands are important for wildlife, what types of plants could occupy these sites, and how to ensure that forest practices do not have a negative effect on these areas.

SUSTAINABLE TRAIL DESIGN - \$120+HST

Saturday, August 6th - 9am-4pm

Proper access in a woodland can make the difference between an enjoyable outing and a forest that rarely gets visited. The more you get in to your woodland, the more appreciative you will become of all it has to offer. This four-hour course will cover the basics of trail construction. The first two hours will go over laying out and mapping a trail, including the pitfalls to avoid. The second part will take participants through the hands-on steps of creating a trail. This will include providing how to ensure good footing, proper pruning, and planting native species to make the trail more interesting. We will also take a look at woodland roads and how to make them so that they provide access but don't degrade your forest.

WILDLIFE HABITAT - hands-on skills for restoring woodlands

One of the greatest joys of owning a forest is being able to watch wildlife go about their daily lives. Listening for the return of migratory birds each spring, watching squirrels gather mushrooms in the fall or checking vernal pools for tadpoles are all exciting moments that teach us about the complexity of our native Acadian forest. But of course, we can always get better at both seeing wildlife and making our forestland more hospitable for them.

I - IMPROVING WILDLIFE HABITAT IN YOUR FOREST - \$120+HST

Saturday, July 16 - 9am-4pm

This one-day course is divided into two parts. The first half will be focused on helping landowners learn to observe wildlife. The second half will be spent learning about how to improve wildlife habitat and attract new species to your forest.

The course will begin in the morning with a brief natural history of our native fauna, a review of seasonal patterns and an introduction to the key ecological structures found in a healthy forest. After a short break we will head outside to learn about landscape tracking, birdwatching and general tips for better wildlife observation.

After lunch we will return to the classroom to discuss the importance of dead standing trees, having food throughout the seasons, vernal pools and more. We will conclude with a discussion on how to restore habitat through the use of brush piles, bird boxes, plantings and forest restoration. The final part of the day will be spent exploring a variety of stands to discuss possible interventions and improvements that could be made.

CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING



REGISTER ONLINE

If you have any questions,
please contact
Alena MacLean

alenamaclean@macphailwoods.org

CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING

using a saw safely, thoughtfully, and with confidence

Chainsaw pants and/or chaps, and chainsaw boots and/or steel toes are required to attend the course. We will provide helmets and chainsaws for attendees to use.

LEVEL I & II is a prerequisite for LEVEL III & IV

CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING LEVEL I & II - \$320 +HST

Course One: April 23rd-24th

Course Two: September 24th-25th

Course Three: November 5th-6th

This course covers the basics of chainsaw operation and safety, with both classroom and hands-on training. We aim to build confidence and skills, while also giving participants a deep understanding of wood fibre and the mechanics of felling a tree. Day one is spent on safety and felling; day two is spent on maintenance, limbing and bucking.

CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING LEVEL III & IV - \$320 +HST

Course One: April 30th-May 1st

Course Two: Fall 2022 To be Determined

This course covers more advanced chainsaw techniques. Building on the concepts of Level I & II, we deal with more dangerous trees, storm damage, and sharpening. This course is designed to finely tune your skills to tackle more complex situations in the woods.

WOMEN'S ONLY CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING LEVEL I & II - \$320 +HST

Course One: April 9th-10th

See above.

WOMEN'S ONLY CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING LEVEL III & IV - \$320+HST

Course One: April 30th-May 1st

See above.

CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING: INDUSTRY - \$480 +HST

Three-Day Session: Wednesday, May 4th through Friday, May 6th

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION



FIELD COURSE: ECOLOGICAL FORESTRY

Since 2009, we've offered our hands-on credit course with UPEI on Ecological Forestry. In recent years we've been able to expand to Acadia University in Nova Scotia as well.

Our course is designed on principles of experiential learning. This week-long intensive course challenges students to combine theoretical learning with practical experience planting native species, pruning for tree health, as well as creating and enacting a small-scale ecological forestry management plan.

UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

June 13th-17th

In its twelfth year, this popular course often fills up so register early to avoid disappointment.

Register through the UPEI registrar's office (www.upei.ca/registrar).

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

Date To Be Determined

This is the fourth year we'll be offering our ecological forestry course at Acadia University.

Register through Acadia's registrar's office (<https://registrar.acadiau.ca/>).



6TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF FORESTS



FIFTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF FORESTS

Sunday, September date here

Text

WINTER AT MACPHAIL WOODS



JOIN US FOR SOME HOLIDAY CRAFTS AND CHEER!

November 19th

November 26th

December 3rd

We will be creating Christmas wreaths , Centre pieces , Door arrangements and Yard decorations. Displays may be ordered on November 19 for November 26th pick up. We hope to have these items available for a viewing on our website before October 2022.

Red osier dogwood branches along with evergreen foliage, pine cones and Christmas logs will be available for purchase for you to create your own Christmas masterpiece. Come out for a Hot beverage, a tractor ride and Christmas cheer. Feel free to walk the grounds.

GET INVOLVED!



VOLUNTEERING

We are a busy group with lots to do and we always love having help!

Volunteering with Macphail Woods can be fun for the whole family whether by helping us with public plantings, seed collection, or fundraising. We also are always looking for wonderful photography of local flora and fauna as well as help on our website.

Contact Gary Schneider (macphailwoods@gmail.com) to find out how you can get involved!



DONATE NOW!

In an effort to improve the health of our public forests and create a model for environmental stewardship, Macphail Woods launched the Restore an Acre initiative in 2014.

Each donation of \$200 will help carry out restoration work on one acre of over 2,000 acres of land we steward for the Provincial Government.

With generous help from across Canada, we've been able to plant thousands of native plants, improve wildlife habitat, and create food sources across more than 100 acres.