

2023 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**.

WEBSITE: <https://macphailwoods.org/>

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2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

macphail
ecological woods
forestry project



REGISTER ONLINE!

FREE WALKS, TALKS & WORKSHOPS

APRIL

- APR 15 - Owl Prowl #1
- APR 22 - Owl Prowl #2
- APR 29 - Landscaping with Native Plants

MAY

- MAY 6 - Creating and Maintaining Hedgerows
- MAY 13 - Pruning Trees & Shrubs
- MAY 20 - Birds & Breakfast
- MAY 27 - After the Storm - Hurricane Fiona

JUNE

- JUN 3 - Plants of PEI with Kate MacQuarrie
- JUN 10 - State of Nature in the Maritimes - Bob Bancroft

AUGUST

- AUG 13 - Volunteer Afternoon

SEPTEMBER

- TBA - Annual Festival of Forests

OCTOBER

- OCT 15 - Autumn in the Forest

SHARING A LOVE OF NATURE CAMPS

- JUL 3-7 - Young Ecologists Week 1 (Ages 10-12)
- JUL 10-14 - Nature Discovery Week 1 (Ages 6-8)
- JUL 17-21 - Becoming A Naturalist Week 1 (Ages 8-10)
- JUL 24-28 - Bushcraft Ecology Week 1 (Ages 12-14)
- JUL 31-AUG 4 - Young Ecologists Week 2 (Ages 10-12)
- AUG 7-11 - Nature Discovery Week 2 (Ages 6-8)
- AUG 14-18 - Becoming A Naturalist Week 2 (Ages 8-10)
- AUG 21-25 - Bushcraft Ecology Advanced (Ages 14-16)

SCHOOL OF WOODLAND ECOLOGY

- JUN 10 - Backyard Botany I: Native Botany
- JUN 10 - Backyard Botany II: Pruning
- JUN 24 - Plant Identification I: Native Trees
- JUN 24 - Plant Identification II: Shrubs and Beyond
- AUG 5 - Sustainable Trail Design
- SEP 2 - Woodland Ecology I: Forest Stewardship
- SEP 23 - Woodland Ecology II: Forest Assessment
- OCT 7 - Forest Restoration Techniques
- OCT 14 - Introduction of Mapping Your Forest

POST-SECONDARY COURSES

- UPEI Field Course in Ecological Forestry
- Acadia University Field Course

CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING COURSES

SPRING SESSIONS

- APR 1-2 - Chainsaw Safety Levels I & II
- APR 15-16 - Chainsaw Safety Levels I & II
- APR 29-30 - Chainsaw Safety Levels III & IV

FALL SESSIONS

- SEP 9-10 - Chainsaw Safety Levels I & II
- SEP 23-24 - Chainsaw Safety Levels I & II (Women's Only)
- OCT 14-15 - Chainsaw Safety Levels III & IV

MACPHAIL WOODS ECOLOGICAL FORESTRY PROJECT

WHO WE ARE

The Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project is the initiative of the **Environmental Coalition of Prince Edward Island**, a community-based **registered charity**. It combines protection of the natural areas with **wildlife enhancement, forest stewardship, watershed protection, environmental education** and **ecological research**.

PROJECT MANAGER

Gary Schneider

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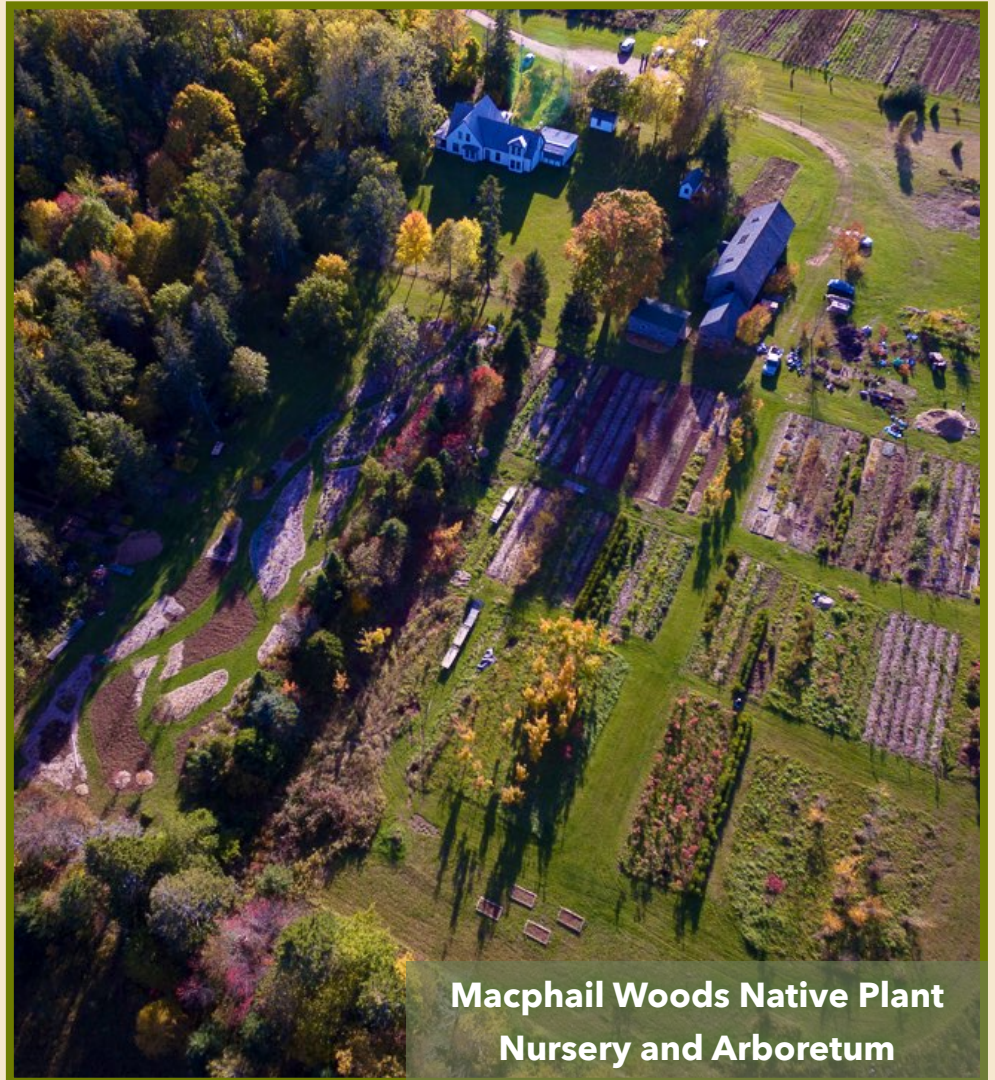
WHAT WE DO

RESTORATION

- Native Plant Landscaping
- Ecological Land Management
- Native Plant Propagation
- Sustainable Forestry

EDUCATION

- Summer Nature Camps
- Free Events and Workshops
- School of Woodland Ecology
- Chainsaw Training
- Schoolground Naturalization
- Post-Secondary Courses



Macphail Woods Native Plant Nursery and Arboretum

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Macphail Woods is a unique charitable non-profit. If you have enjoyed our owl prowls or plant walks, if your children have been inspired by our summer programs or school plantings, or if you just want to help us steward the public forest land, please consider making a donation.

DONATE ONLINE

2023 FREE EVENTS



APRIL

OWL PROWLs

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.

Owl Prowl #1: Saturday April 15th - 7:30pm

Owl Prowl #2: Saturday April 22nd - 7:30pm

MAY

LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Saturday, April 29th - 10am

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.

CREATING AND MAINTAINING HEDGEROWS & WINDBREAKS

Saturday, May 6th - 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.

PRUNING TREES & SHRUBS

Saturday, May 13th - 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.

BIRDS & BREAKFAST WITH DWAYNE OAKLEY & FIEP DE BIE

Saturday, May 20th - 7am (Breakfast) - 8am (Guided Walk)

Come for breakfast, stay for the birds! Join us at 7am to serve a free "early bird" breakfast. Then walk the trails of the Macphail Homestead with Dwaine Oakley and Fiep de Bie, looking at year-round residents and returning migratory birds. A great walk for the whole family. Wear your boots, and bring binoculars if you have them.

2023 FREE EVENTS



MAY

AFTER THE STORM: HURRICANE FIONA

Saturday, May 27th - 10am

Hurricane Fiona was a historically powerful storm which devastated many Island woodlands. Join us for a walk and talk discussing forest resilience, post-storm restoration methods and building stronger ecosystems for the future.

JUNE

PLANTS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND WITH KATE MACQUARRIE

Saturday, June 3rd - 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.

A 50 YEAR PERSPECTIVE: NATURE & THE MARITIMES WITH BOB BANCROFT

Saturday, June 10th - 10 am

Join us for a special walk and talk by Bob Bancroft, the well-known CBC Radio Noon guest. Drawing upon his career as a wildlife biologist and avid nature lover, Bob offers a unique perspective on Maritime ecology over the last half-century.

AUGUST

VOLUNTEER AFTERNOON

Sunday, August 13th - 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.

OCTOBER

AUTUMN IN THE FOREST

Sunday October 15th - 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 10th - 14th

Week 2: August 7th - 11th

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 17th -21st

Week 2: August 14th - 18th

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 3rd - 7th

Week 2: July 31st - August 4th

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 24th - 28th

Ages 14-16 - August 21st - 25th

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 24th - 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 24th - 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.

SCHOOL OF WOODLAND ECOLOGY

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 10th - 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 10th - 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.

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 2nd - 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 23rd - 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.

SCHOOL OF WOODLAND ECOLOGY



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. 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 14th - 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. 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.

FOREST RESTORATION - hands-on skills for restoring woodlands

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

Saturday, October 7th - 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.

SUSTAINABLE TRAIL DESIGN - \$120+HST

Saturday, August 5th - 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.

CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING



If you have any questions,
please contact
Evan Young
evanyoung@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 - \$370 INCLUDING HST

Course One: April 1st - 2nd

Course Two: September 9th - 10th

This course covers the basics of chainsaw operation and safety, with both classroom and hands-on training. Day one is spent on safety and felling; day two is spent on maintenance, limbing and bucking.

CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING LEVEL III & IV - \$370 INCLUDING HST

Course One: April 29th - 30th

Course Two: October 14th - 15th

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 TRAINING LEVEL I & II - \$370 INCLUDING HST

Course One: April 15th - 16th

Course Two: September 23rd - 24th

The goal of these courses is to create a positive learning environment and build confidence. As with all our chainsaw safety courses, we aim to give participants a thorough understanding of safety concepts and foundational skills in saw operation.

CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING: INDUSTRY

This comprehensive three-day course is available for private bookings and focuses on preparing employees to work safely and efficiently. Topics range from chainsaw basics to advanced felling techniques to dealing with storm damage.

CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING: PRIVATE

Gather a group and book your own training! Perfect for community groups and NGO's.

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

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

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/>).



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.