



## Speaker Biographies

### **Peter Burchill, RPF**

*Program Forester, Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association (NSLFFPA)*

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Peter is a graduate of the UNB Forestry & Environmental Management Program (2001) and is a Registered Professional Forester in Nova Scotia. He worked in Alberta and Coastal BC for 8 years managing silviculture contracts before joining the Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association (NSLFFPA) in 2009. Peter manages NSLFFPA's private woodlot Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification program and private land programming initiatives. He lives in Antigonish with his wife and four children.

### **Peter Bush, PhD**

*Old-Growth Forest Coordinator, NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NRR)*

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Peter Bush is the Provincial Landscape Ecologist and Old-Growth Forest Coordinator in the Forestry Division for the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. Peter holds a Doctorate in Geography from the University of Western Ontario, a Masters in Science in Forestry from Lakehead University and Environmental Geography degree from Laurentian University. Peter is an adjunct professor at Dalhousie and Saint Mary's Universities, and an Honorary Research Associate at the University of New Brunswick, Faculty of Forestry.

### **Jason Chard, Forest Tech**

*Regional Forester, NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NRR)*

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Jason Chard is a Forester with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables who works in the two beautiful counties of Inverness and Victoria. Jason is a graduate of the University of New Brunswick with a BSc in Forestry and Environmental Management, also a graduate of the Maritime Forest Ranger School as a Forest Technician and a graduate of the NSCC Forest Resource Worker program. He worked in the BC forest industry on Vancouver Island, along the mid-coast and Queen Charlotte Islands for 10 years before returning to NS to again work for NRR. His career with NRR started with 5 seasons as Heli-tack Fire crew member, 6 years as a District Forest Technician (dealing with wildlife, parks and wildfires) and the last 7 years as a Crownland / Extension Forester. He Lives near Baddeck with his 7-year-old son and fellow Forester wife.

### **Gareth Davies**

*Academic Chair & Instructor, Maritime College of Forest Technology- Fredericton Campus*

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Gareth Davies is a Forestry Professional with more than 25 years work experience in applied operational forestry. Gareth's professional expertise is centered on applied silviculture; ecological silviculture; forestry operations; and associated forest sampling and assessment. Gareth has been an Instructor at the Maritime College of Forest Technology (MCFT) since 2013. Gareth is also a small farmer and active woodlot owner- living on a homestead-woodlot with his family in Stanley, New Brunswick.

### **Ryan Dickie**

*Extension Forest Professional, Family Forest Network*

Email: [dickie.ffi@gmail.com](mailto:dickie.ffi@gmail.com)

Ryan graduated from the Natural Resources Environmental Technology program at NSCC in 2009. Out of school, he worked for a contractor doing quality control on planting sites, layout and also running saws on both PCT and harvesting sites. In 2012 he went out on his own as a silviculture contractor doing PCT work for private landowners and local mills. During the "off" season for silviculture he also logged with chainsaw and skidder and wrote management plans. Ryan worked at this full time until 2016 and has continued to take on work part-time to this day.

In 2016 Ryan began work as a harvesting and silviculture supervisor for a large mill in Central NS. While his passion is and always will be working with small private landowner, the experience and knowledge he gained in this position was invaluable. He stayed in this role for 2 years and then returned to working with small private landowners again. In 2019, with a baby on the way and much uncertainty in the forest industry, he took a job as a construction foreman that lasted 3 years. While he still did some part-time work through his own business, he always knew he would go back to full time employment in the forest sector. He had a few opportunities over the years is very happy to have waited until his current role came along. Ryan currently resides in Elmsdale with his partner Becca, their son Everett, Polo their dog and Houdini the hamster. Along with his 2 brothers and parents, he stewards approximately 100 hectares of woodland in East Stewiacke.

### **Peter N. Duinker, PhD**

*Professor Emeritus, School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University*

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Peter retired from active duty at Dalhousie University in 2019 and was appointed as Professor Emeritus at that time. He continues working with graduate students who are studying sustainable urban and rural forests in Nova Scotia. He also consults with various clients, including the NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NRR). He worked with an NRR team to revise and renew the province's policy on old-growth forests.

**Andrew Fedora, CFT**

*Project Coordinator, Centre of Forest Innovation, Nova Scotia Community College*

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Andrew Fedora is currently employed with the Nova Scotia Community College's Centre of Forest Innovation. Over the last 25 years, he has worked for private industry, non-profit and government organizations, all within the forestry sector. Andrew has a unique combined expertise in leadership, outreach, education, communications & applied forestry. He lives in Judique with his wife, their two young boys, and a variety of animals on their 37-acre homestead.

**Jennika Hunsinger, RPF**

*Land Trust and Outreach Manager, Medway Community Forest Co-op*

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Jennika started with the Medway Community Forest Co-op in the summer of 2019 to kickstart a baseline biodiversity study, while completing a Master of Forest Conservation degree at the University of Toronto. Originally hailing from Ontario with family roots in Yarmouth, Jennika relocated to NS to attend Dalhousie for her undergraduate studies. She is a Registered Professional Forester and an avid camper, gardener, and traveler. In her current role, she manages outreach and research programs with MCFC and is leading the launch of NSWWT.

**Ron Melchior**

*2022 Eastern Woodland Owner of the Year Award Winner*

Ron Melchior is an Outdoorsman/Pioneer, Homesteader, Remote Exploration Camp Manager and Author of several books. Living off grid since 1980, Ron and his wife Johanna have spent the better part of their lives "unplugged." As part of the back to the land movement that originated in the 70's, they have spent their adult years living the homestead dream. Ron and Johanna spent 20 years in Maine mastering the many facets of homesteading: gardening, food preservation, animal husbandry, and construction, to name a few. The need for money became obvious in those early years, so as a small-business endeavor, Ron added logging, tree farming and milling lumber to his repertoire, which ultimately earned him and his wife awards twice as Outstanding Tree Farmers.

Because Ron possesses an adventurous spirit, he decided to pursue a long-time dream of his, to hike all 2,100+ miles of the Appalachian Trail – so, he spent 5 1/2 months walking. A cross-country bicycle trip years later satisfied his need for mobile adventure. He has survived forest fires and the touch of a bear. Ron and his wife lived 100 miles in the Canadian wilderness on a remote lake for 17 years before moving to Nova Scotia six years ago to build their last homestead. Access was by float plane and they generally only saw other humans twice a year when they came out for resupply. A computer/satellite link served as their connection to the outside world.

Ron and Johanna own roughly 269 acres that is being worked both with chainsaw and clearing saw. The couple wish to leave as their legacy a park like setting complete with walking trails and scenic overlooks of the ocean.

**Dan Nightingale**

*Certified Skills and Safety Trainer (chainsaw and clearing saw training)*

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Dan lives in Grande Greve, Richmond County. He has spent 42 years working in the woods, with extensive experience using chainsaw and clearing saw. For the past 28 years, Dan has worked as a Certified Skills and Safety Trainer delivering chainsaw and clearing saw training to Industry and woodlot owners across Nova Scotia.

**James Steenberg, PhD**

*Senior Research and Planning Forester, NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NRR)*

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James Steenberg is a Senior Research and Planning Forester with NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, where he is responsible for the Department's research on silviculture, climate change, and forest carbon. He has a PhD in environmental science and is an adjunct professor at Dalhousie University's School for Resource and Environmental Studies, where he teaches and recently completed a Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship. He was also a Fulbright scholar at the United States Forest Service. James has 15 years of forestry research experience as a governmental scientist, consultant, and academic researcher focusing on forests.

**Dave Sutherland, RPF**

*Coordinator, Association for Sustainable Forestry*

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David graduated from Dalhousie University with a degree in Biology before heading to UNB for a Forestry degree. From there, he was hired by North Colchester Forest Co-op where he worked for 16 years managing small private woodlands for over 200 landowners. In 2000, he was hired as Coordinator for the Association for Sustainable Forestry, a province-wide silviculture initiative that provides technical and funding assistance to private woodland owners in Nova Scotia. In 2003 David was hired as General Manager of Nova Forest Alliance (Nova Scotia's Model Forest), but returned to the ASF in 2010, where he still works today as Coordinator. He is a Registered Professional Forester and lives in River John with his wife Mary Beth. They have three children and four grandchildren.