



AGROFORESTRY & WOODLOT
EXTENSION SOCIETY

WIZARDS OF
AWES



Agroforestry Specialist, Winston Gamache, leads AWES' greenhouse propagation, planting a variety of species this spring, including 1200 hybrid poplar and 400 willow cuttings. Stock salvaged from previous planting seasons has a home too, including saskatoons, dogwood and lilacs. This internal propagation is a promising avenue for AWES to provide affordable trees and shrubs to communities throughout Alberta. The future is leafy.

Lions, and tigers, and trees! Oh, my!

The AWES spring planting season saw success with a **total of 340,740 seedlings in the ground**. We planted sites of 100 stems up to 170,000 stems. However, we did not do it all by ourselves; the local municipalities of Parkland, Sturgeon, Grande Prairie and Bonnyville partnered with us by providing planters, funding and coordination on several projects. Implementing contractors also ensured our larger scale projects happened on time and on budget.

60% of our total planting projects involved the 2 Billion Trees Program (2BT). The program provides funding for half of every project they partner on. We are excited to continue offering this financial aid to landowners.

The fall plant is just around the corner and AWES has already allocated 90% of our 175,000 seedlings; Alberta is excited about trees and so is Manitoba!

Manitoba's East Interlake Watershed District has reserved 19% of the Fall stock and hope to increase this quantity in the coming years.



Extension Events

Panels & Workshops

This spring we did more than just plant trees; we connected with the community. We spoke at events like Stony Plain Horticultural Society's "The Real Dirt on Plants, Pests and Soils" and Rocky View County's "Trees & People: Shelterbelts, Ecobuffers, and Supporting Natives Species."

The Pleasure Island Fish Pond, in the Camrose region, and the Entwistle Campground, in Parkland County, hosted two of this year's planting workshops. Don't worry if you missed these because we have more to come! Look for us at our Riparian Workshop on September 28th at the Ellis Nature Centre.



Credit: Ellis Nature Centre. [Photograph]. <https://ellisnaturecentre.ca/visit/>

The Veterans

Meet AWES' senior staff: Megan McFall and Tomas Sokolon.

Megan exhibits over a decade's experience in the delivery of environmental programs, aquatic habitat assessments, regulatory applications and environmental education. She has had extensive practice in stewardship programs, non-profit organizations, municipal government and environmental consulting.

Tomas has a background in silviculture and has supervised the planting of over 6,000,000 seedlings across 6 provinces. He has managed restoration projects for forestry, oil & gas, mining, and non-productive agricultural sites.



Megan McFall
Executive Director,
P. Biol, QAES



Tomas Sokolon
Program Director,
P. Biol

THE TEAM

Destiny and Winston manage stakeholder inquiries and work with land managers interested in developing restoration projects. They also develop and deliver community outreach programs. Both have a background in environmental sciences, with Destiny specializing in public outreach and Winston specializing in horticulture.



Destiny Gauthier
Environmental Program
Coordinator, BSc., BIT



Winston Gamache
Agroforestry Specialist, BSc.

For spring and fall planting we hired three staff, who provided critical support to our planting operations, workshops and administration. All three have a background in environmental sciences, with Teresa and Sandy specializing in technical work and Dave specializing in communications.



Teresa Kozakewich
Agroforestry Technician, FTT, RSE



Sandy Klassen
Environmental Program
Technician, BSc.



Dave Konrad
Communications & Extension
Coordinator, BSc.



Being the Change

AWES exists to share with others the value of trees using nature-based solutions to promote conservation of healthy and productive landscapes.

We envision a world where forestry and agroforestry based solutions, products, and services are increasingly used to enhance the social, economic and environmental values for private and public lands.



Grande Prairie County, AB

The Wizards You're Looking For

Education

Our planting and design expertise come from our team of environmental professionals. We are excited to collaborate if you or your organization want to learn about: woodlot management planning, riparian restoration, shelterbelts, ecobuffers, alley cropping, silvopasture, food forests or enhancing habitat for wildlife. Workshops, webinars and other extension events are tailored for each audience, so children and adults alike can learn about strategic environmental management.

Planting

AWES offers decades of tree-planting experience to both old and new landowners. If you want trees on your property but do not know where to start, we are here to help you navigate the process, from funding to design and, finally, implementation.

If you have a need for any of our services, have any questions, or have a new idea for collaboration, get in touch at info@awes-ab.ca!

New Board Members

New board members will be elected at AWES' upcoming Annual General Meeting, this October. If you or someone you know is interested in running, please contact Megan McFall at admin@awes-ab.ca.



Parkland County, AB



Entwistle, AB

Join the Team

Membership

To serve the public well we need to ensure we are capturing the public voice; this is where the AWES membership comes in. Our membership includes a team with diverse backgrounds from government, industry and non-profits, thereby giving AWES long term, strategic direction to help us promote sustainable forest management practices on privately owned lands.

Becoming a member gives you:

- A say and a vote in this strategic planning at our annual general meeting
- Preferential access to our services and workshops
- The best prices on our trees

The 2024 memberships are closed; however, we will be accepting 2025 memberships during our Annual General Meeting in October.

For more info, email info@awes-ab.ca!