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Dave Barker shows Rod Bealing around a private managed forest on southern Vancouver Island. He's pointing at the small trees completely undisturbed by the feller buncher that just headed that way.

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A Rare Opportunity: Single-tree Selection Harvesting on Southern Vancouver Island

When opportunity knocks, we answer. That's why, when Dave Barker invited us to visit a private managed forest on southern Vancouver Island, for the rare opportunity to see single-tree selection harvesting, we yanked on our boots, donned our hard hats, grabbed our cameras and leapt at the chance.

Dave's managed the property since 1979. He knows everything there is to know about it. He says they're ecologically lucky. The Coastal Western Hemlock zone is wetter and cooler than the Coastal Douglas-fir zone. This means, instead of a pure fir forest, they have a significant, healthy Red Cedar understory. With thinning, the forest will evolve, over the next fifty years, into a mixed fir/cedar stand.

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Reforestation Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Your forest is alive. It grows, adapts and changes over time and seasons. With your forest's flexibility comes the need to regularly revisit, evaluate and reassess your plans. The changing season is an ideal time to take stock and plan ahead for the coming year.

With that in mind, we've put together a series of posts about best management practices from our bible, *The Handbook of Best Management Practices for Private Forest Land in British Columbia*. First up: a few words about reforestation.

Reforestation Planning

Prior to harvesting, develop a reforestation strategy. You might:

- Consider the value of reforestation through natural regeneration of residual and suppressed understory trees;
- Improve planting stock and fertilizer to boost survival and yield, and at the same time reduce pest management problems and animal browse;
- Protect seedling against damage from pests (deer, rodents) through tree species choice, tree guards, fencing and repellents;
- Develop an integrated pest management strategy suitable for the size and intensity of your forestry operation.

Also, be sure to:

- Obtain any permits necessary for site preparation and pest management (burning, pesticides, etc.)
- If you plan on planting, make sure to order your seedlings ahead of time. Inspect the ordered seedlings prior to lifting and shipment.

Reforestation BMPs

- Reforest with trees appropriate for the growing site and management objectives.
- If planting, employ good quality seedling stock and ensure good storage and handling.
- Take reasonable steps to protect the reforested areas from damage by fire and pests.
- Employ remedial measures such as fill planting, brushing and other silviculture techniques as necessary.
- If using pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers, follow directions on product labels and relevant regulations.
- Isolate fertilizer from watercourses and where appropriate limit on-site quantities to daily application requirements.
- Monitor planted areas to ensure trees are growing with sufficient density to achieve a stage free of competition from other plants.
- Monitor successfully regenerated areas for forest health.

What do good quality seedlings look like?

- Healthy! Without pale or discoloured foliage. No mould.
- Large, abundant dormant buds.
- Plug and bare-root stock should have a vigorous, fibrous root system.
- Good ratio of roots to shoots.

How to store and handle seedlings?

- Keep plants moist and cool.
- Handle plants carefully (seedling mortality is directly related to rough treatment).
- Avoid desiccation – keep plants safe from heat or high winds.

Out and About with the PFLA

5th Annual Big Leaf Maple Syrup Festival

Thanks to Gary Backlund for the invitation, PFLA enjoyed a sun-filled afternoon of syrup tasting, tapping and demonstrations at the BC Forest Discovery Centre in Duncan, BC for the fifth annual Big Leaf Maple Syrup Festival – February 4th, 2012. Thanks to Steve Titus for teaching us about the delicate art of transforming sap into syrup.

ABCFC Conference and AGM

The Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals hosted their annual conference and AGM – Everything to Everyone: The Art of Forestry – February 22-24, 2012, in downtown Victoria. PFLA participated in the conference trade show, and spent a busy couple of days spreading the word about private managed forestry in British Columbia.

AVICC 63rd Annual Convention

PFLA is excited to attend the 63rd annual convention and general meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC). The event is being held April 13-15, 2012 in Ucluelet, B.C. We look forward to the chance to connect with community members and elected officials at both municipal and provincial levels of government.



Dave Barker, and Malloch Logging feller buncher operator, Bill, take the time to show us around a Madill T2200B.



Dale impresses us with his technique operating a Madill HT2200B. With each press of a button, Dale makes a decision about the size and value of the logs he's processing.

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The strategy on the property is to manage for a combination of forestry and recreational use. While fir poles are their focus, they produce close to 40 products – 5 cedar, 2 maple, 2 alder and about 30 fir grades – for 4 different suppliers. All the while, maintaining the wilderness esthetic and conservation values important to the owner.

The silvicultural system they use combines small patch clear-cut and single-tree selection harvesting. We were lucky enough to get a chance to see both operations in action (stay-tuned, small patch clear-cut photos coming soon!).

Not only is single-tree selection harvesting a rare event, but using a feller buncher in the process is particularly unusual. Of course, it's not about the machine; it's about the operator. In this case, it's about Bill.

The success of the operation is due, in large part, to the skill and finesse Bill uses to maneuver the feller buncher through the forest. The machine's gentle tracks cause minimal soil disturbance and have little or no impact

on the forest floor. By following the rules:

- Focus on cutting high value poles
- Protect small cedar and white pine
- Leave big “wildlife trees”
- Select 30% of the range of diameters similar to the original Douglas-fir stand

Bill was able to create good production for his boss, Steve Malloch of Malloch Logging, while leaving minimal damage to the forest behind.

Bill's skill with the feller buncher was matched by Dale's savvy with the harvester processor. At roadside, Dale works his magic with the harvester processor to deliver quality logs from each tree. An impressive display of precision, timing and technique, with each push of a button, Dale makes a decision about the value of the logs he's processing.

We've highlighted Bill and Dale as the stars of the operation, but in truth, the success of the system relied

on the coordinated efforts of an entire crew of workers: hand fallers, landing buckers, skidders, loaders and log haulers. (Grapple yarder and loader highlights coming soon!).

Along with the hum of the diesel engine (use your imagination), you'll notice (or you will now) that the machines Bill and Dale operate are both built by Madill, right here on Vancouver Island. It's true. Sam Madill founded the company in Nanaimo, B.C. in 1911. One hundred years later, Madill machinery is still manufactured on Vancouver Island by Nicholson Manufacturing in Sidney, BC.

Thanks again to Dave Barker for the generous invitation, and to Bill and Dale for showing us around.

You can see more photos of the managed forest, and the single-tree selection operation in progress, on the PFLA Facebook page (www.facebook.com/PFLABC). Check out the PFLA blog for video footage of Bill and Dale in action (<http://pfla.bc.ca/blog>).



Rod Bealing with dedicated helpers, Josh, Chloe and Adrian Bealing, at the Islands Agriculture Show.

PFLA Participates in the First-Ever Islands Agriculture Show

Kudos to the organizers at Cowichan Exhibition Park for another successful event: the first-ever Islands Agriculture Show, held February 3rd and 4th, 2012 in breathtakingly beautiful Cowichan Valley, BC.

We're pleased to announce the show proved yet another excellent opportunity to connect with community members, elected officials and ministry staff as interested and excited about agriculture and tree farming as we are. Along with the friendly buzz of a lively community, Exhibition Park was filled with loads of things to see and do: tractors and

machinery, exhibitions from all areas of the agriculture industry, display booths from federal and provincial ministries, prize draws, over 1,500 visitors, and just enough candy to keep everyone happy.

The Bealing family was on-hand to ensure information about private forestry in BC was doled out with the passion and flair it deserves — pamphlets, fliers, key fobs, magnets and good old-fashioned conversation. Thanks again to the organizers for another lively and engaging event. Visit the PFLA Facebook page for more photos.



PFLA Hometown Meetings

PFLA Hometown Meetings are coming soon to a town near you! The meetings are an invaluable opportunity for PFLA to meet face-to-face with private forest landowners. You can expect an update on PFLA activities, a review of important public policy developments, and the opportunity to discuss relevant market access and advocacy issues.

Most importantly, this is an opportunity for PFLA to listen to your questions, your concerns and your experiences — to gather input, feedback and suggestions that will help guide our future efforts. Detailed information about meeting times and locations, still to come, but for now, mark your calendars with the following dates:

- Victoria March 8, 2012
- Nanaimo March 14, 2012
- Courtenay April 4, 2012
- Vancouver March 28, 2012
- Castlegar March 29, 2012
- Kelowna April 11, 2012

We warmly welcome both PFLA members and non-member managed forest owners. Hope to see you there!

Visit us online. Let us know what you think.

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www.youtube.com/user/PFLABC

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