

## **Atlantic Forestry Review – July 19, 2005**

"Why would you do that for me?" "What's in it for you?" These are questions that frequently come to mind when someone offers to help you and asks nothing in return. When you are given something of value for free, it's easy to be skeptical. Ironically, some people would rather pay for a helpful service or product than receive it without charge.

Many self serving people and organizations do exist. This does not mean that everyone is "out to get you". There are still some good people out there that believe in selflessly doing the right thing for the right reason. To completely dismiss something because it seems "too good to be true" would be unwise at best. I'm not suggesting that you jump head first into every great deal that comes your way. What I do recommend is that you make an attempt to understand what is being offered before you make a decision. If a forestry company offered to buy your woodlot for more than you think it is worth; would you sell the woodlot without question? Let them know that you are not interested (politely or otherwise)? Or would you get the opinion of a third party professional and find out more about the company looking to buy your land?

If an organization claimed that it was representing the interests of woodland owners and asked only to be given a chance to help; would you sign up without question? Would you disregard it as another useless group looking for your time and money? Or would you try to find out more about the organization from credible sources?

The Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners (FNSWO) will be hosting a series of fall meetings in each region of Nova Scotia. During these meetings, we will be electing a new board of directors. Every member of the FNSWO has both the right to vote and the right to run for our board of directors. These meetings will be an excellent opportunity for you to directly find out what the FNSWO has to offer and to voice your concerns. For meeting dates and locations in your area, please contact Andrew Fedora at 902-639-2041.