



RM OF PINEY FOREST TOURS

The RM of Piney will be hosting three Walking Tours with our knowledgeable tour guide, Bob Austman. Tours will be provided rain or shine, but we ask that you come dressed for the weather. This is an interactive immersive event so be prepared for some light hiking.

Saturday, June 8th, 2024 from 1:00 – 3:30pm **FORESTRY 101 – WISDOM IN THE WOODS**

Don't know a White Poplar from a Black Poplar? Don't know a hardwood from a softwood? Join us and learn about our region's wonderful forest resource. Participants will learn how to properly identify tree species and their life cycle from seedling to maturity and look at how the various species interact in a healthy forest ecosystem. We will visit a publicly owned forest (Crown Land) as well as a private woodlot and compare how they are managed. Everyone will come away with a booklet on tree identification....so you can become your family's tree expert!

Saturday, August 24th, 2024 from 1:00 – 3:30pm **BECOMING FIRESMART**

This tour will examine the role of fire in forest ecology. We will visit several recent burn sites and look at how forests can regenerate. Participants will come away with information about keeping their property in such a way to prevent ignition sources and to minimize risk in the event of a wildfire. We will also learn how to calculate the fire risk on any given day without having to refer to the nearest Fire Weather Hazard sign. We will also look at some equipment used by the Firetak crew when they are called into service. An informative booklet on being Firesmart™ will be made available to all.

Saturday, September 21st, 2024 from 1:00 – 3:30pm **WELCOME TO NATIONAL FOREST WEEK**

Kick off the start of National Forest Week (September 22 -28) with a hike in the woods to enjoy the fall colours. Participants will learn about the many values provided by our forests and learn how humans can benefit from simply being in the forest. Now known as "forest bathing", there are many benefits to our physical and mental health simply by spending time in a forested environment. Participants will come away with a small bundle of seedlings to start their own backyard "Legacy Forest" for future generations to enjoy. A special emphasis will be on the importance of forested habitat to support wildlife populations and biodiversity.

**All participants are to meet at the Piney Community Hall for all three tours.
Participants will need to supply their own transportation to and from each touring site.**

For Ages 12 & Up (only 15 spots available)

Please call Carrie at 204-437-2284 or email: carrie@rmofpiney.mb.ca

(To participate, please RSVP by the prior Monday of each tour)

This is a Free Event!

Our Tour Guide:

Bob Austman has owned a woodlot in the RM of Piney since 1986. He works part time for Tree Canada as a quality control inspector for their planting projects, many of which have been in the RM of Piney. He also worked for the Manitoba Model Forest for 15 years as Education Coordinator and Forest Research Assistant. Their family woodlot is managed for recreational enjoyment, firewood production, hunting and wildlife viewing. He also is a board member on the Woodlot Association of Manitoba and represents Manitoba on the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners.