



Minnesota Woodlands

The MFA works on behalf of family forest owners, through education and advocacy, to promote stewardship of woodlands.

www.MinnesotaForestry.org

Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA)

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MFA Regular Board Meetings

DNR Office
Cambridge
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- April 22
- July 22
- October 28

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MFA's New Web Site is at Your Service!

If you have questions about your woodland, the place to start looking for answers is www.MinnesotaForestry.org. There you will find lists of MFA chapters and committees, MFA newsletters, information on Stewardship Plans, plus links to more than three dozen other sites covering topics from seedlings to chainsaws. There are fun things, too, such as photos and introductions to fellow members.



Win Prizes on the New MFA Web Site!

Go to the new site and click on the box in the upper right corner. It will take you to an entry blank where you can fill out your name and contact information. Six lucky winners will be chosen by drawing. The first three are prizes donated by MFA member Chad Dayton:

1st Prize: A Gränsfors Bruks "Wildlife Hatchet"
This is a Swedish-made precision tool!



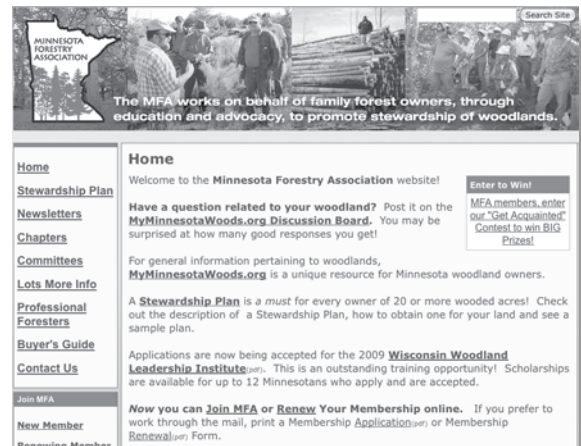
2nd Prize: A Leatherman "Wave"

3rd Prize: A Swiss Army "Forester"

4th to 6th Prizes: A bottle of real maple syrup, compliments of MFA member Priscilla Harvala

This contest is open to MFA members only. Good Luck! One entry per Regular Member. Family, Contributing and Sustaining Members are entitled to two entries.

**Did you know. . .
Your MFA dues are deductible as a charitable contribution!**



MFA's new home page helps you navigate the redesigned web site.



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Mark Your Calendar for MFA's Annual Meeting and Spring Field Days 2009!

This Family Event is set for New York Mills, Minnesota on Friday evening, May 15, and Saturday, May 16. New York Mills is on Highway 10, 90 minutes northwest of St. Cloud.

Friday evening festivities will be held at Mills Creamery, a neat coffee house and café in downtown New York Mills, and will feature:

- Our annual business meeting. Learn what MFA is doing and have a say in our future.
- A social hour with host Bob Sonnenberg and friends tending bar.
- A sumptuous dinner.
- An entertaining program with Master of Confusion, Chuck Erickson, and local story teller, Chris Schuelke.

Saturday is Family Day at Sonnenberg Farms, located just a mile north of New York Mills. The whole family gets admitted for just \$10.00. That's \$10.00 per carload, not per person!

This day will be worth the drive from Winona, Duluth, or International Falls! Events running continuously during the day will include Project Learning Tree fun for kids, a session on growing shitake mushrooms by Jim Chamberlin and family, educational tours of the woods (either afoot or riding on special People Movers), woody plant ID with Mike Reichenbach, and buckthorn control with Ann Oldkowski. Food will be served all day by the local Lutheran Church ladies group, green Jello and all!

A special treat for the first 15 ladies who sign up will be a High Tea Celebration at the Whistle Stop Inn Bed and Breakfast. The cost is \$17.00 per person. To reserve your spot right now, send an e-mail to Information@MinnesotaForestry.org and simply say, "Save me a spot at the High Tea!"

We hope to see you in New York Mills in May! Watch for registration forms on our web site (www.MinnesotaForestry.org) and in the next issue of the newsletter. For questions, contact event chairman Chuck Erickson at CYErik@ptel.com or by phone at (218) 495-3321.



Above: Host Bob Sonnenberg and event chair Chuck Erickson discuss the 100-year-old oak cut from this site. Below: Now this is a wood splitter! See this and other equipment in action.



MFA Member Profile

All in the Family

The Edlund families share a contiguous tree farm in Goodhue County. Jim and his wife, Janet, live in a home with amazing views of forested hills while their son James, wife Marina, and children are nestled further down in the valley. Both families carry on the tradition of restoration and conservation.

Originally, Edlund ancestors farmed the rolling hills. Jim remembers when the forest that now dominates the view from his porch was pasture. Thirty years ago he and other family members planted white and red pine, black walnut, oak, and other species to reforest the hills.

While the forests are beautiful, harvesting is a key goal for the woodland. The family grows three species of ash and recently sold black ash products to Japan. Jim practices some selective harvesting, but admits as the trees get larger and the forest fills in, it's hard "not to fall in love with the trees."

The rolling nature that gives the Edlund property so much character also provides its share of management challenges. The hills and valleys once allowed torrents of rain to cascade down slopes, taking soil along for the ride. This runoff occasionally cut gulleys into hills and filled ditches and streams with sediment.

Tackling the problem head on, the family enlisted a local forester and put their collective ingenuity to work designing a series of earthen dams and piping that would divert runoff and prevent erosion. They also used a bulldozer to reinstate contouring to small streams and ditches so that the water meandered more naturally.

The reward to such land stewardship is evident on a walk through the woods. Grasses are flattened where deer have bedded down. Trees flare slightly at the roots in a stand with natural seep. Warblers flutter between trees, deeply at home. Thanks to the Edlund family, this land will continue to grow and change for years to come.



Three generations of Edlund men live in the rolling hills near Cannon Falls. From left, Jim, James, and little Soren.



The family farm has been stewarded for generations. Though Jim's father worked with axes and horses to clear trees for pasture, he also helped his son and grandson replant pines on the same acres decades later. Here Jim inspects his trails.



Left: Fallen trees and limbs liberally litter the forest floor and serve as habitat. Such dedication to debris helps ensure a healthy food web.

Below: An earthen dam on the Edlund farm helps manage runoff.



In this mailing you'll find a publication comparing Class 2c and SFIA tax programs. For information about the Green Acres program, Stearns County has some comparisons and analysis. Go to <http://www.co.stearns.mn.us/1503.htm>.

Spring's Sugar Rush

Making Maple Syrup

Do you have maples in your woods? If so, there's gold in them 'thar trees! Liquid gold, that is. Sugar maple trees yield a sap that can be boiled into one of the sweetest treats of spring—maple syrup.

So how much actual work does it take to make syrup from sap? Lots, but many hobbyists consider it quality time with nature. They love to tap trees and hang buckets from spials. They collect sap by trudging through deep snow and balancing sloshing pails in each hand. Long evenings cooking sap into syrup can be a social time, with friends gathering around the fire to play cards.

To many hobbyists, maple syrup is a sweet ritual of spring.

Bigger operations, though, mean much more work. Instead of tapping 20 trees, some woodland owners tap thousands. That's a lot of drilling holes, tapping spials, and hanging containers. Some producers use tubes that snake from tree to tree and gravity or pumps to minimize collecting time. Cooking takes place in an evaporator, since the quantities are too big to rely on fires and kettles. Finally, all that maple syrup needs to be bottled, labeled, and sold.

If this spring ritual sounds sweet to you, here are some tips for getting started.

- Tap sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) trees. You can use others in the *Acer* genus, such as boxelder, but this does affect the quality of syrup.
- You need to gather 40 gallons of tree sap to make 1 gallon of maple syrup. Yes, you read that right.
- The basic steps are:
 - Drill a hole in a maple tree.
 - Tap in a spial with a hammer.
 - Hang a bag or bucket on the spile.
 - Wait for the sap run. With cold freezing nights and days above 32° (about mid-March), maple sap starts to flow.
 - Collect sap.
 - Boil sap into syrup.

With a little hard work and willingness to tolerate spring's slush and mud, you too can coax the gold right out of your trees.



With its distinctive leaves the sugar maple is easy to identify—during the summer and fall, that is. Since tapping starts well before trees leaf out in the spring, you'll need to be able to identify maples by bark and buds instead.

Courtesy of Kentucky Native Plant Society.



St. John's Arboretum

Families can learn how to tap trees at St. John's Arboretum in central Minnesota. Many Minnesota nature centers and other educational institutions hold maple syrup events in March and April.



Photo by Eli Sagor

Drip drip drip. Sap runs are slow at first, but speed up as days warm.



Photo by Eli Sagor

A simple sap evaporator. A fire built in the bottom heats the sap in the kettle.

For serious hobbyists, there are publications and resources available to help you make maple syrup.

- *Homemade Maple Syrup* by Carl Vogt, part of the Minnesota Maple Series, Minnesota Extension Service, available online at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/DD1067.html>.
- Minnesota Maple Producers Association. Web site at <http://www.mnmaple.org/>.

For more information about family events, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has a link to state parks with events, at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/maple_syrup_map.html.

Ticks are found on edges, since the animals they feed upon frequent these spaces.

Spring Means Ticks

Banks of drifting snow may still be wedged up against your woodpile, but sooner or later the days will turn warmer and winter will ebb away. And nothing says spring like that creepy crawly feeling you get after you've been in the woods.

Most people are used to finding the larger wood tick on their bodies and in their clothing. Blacklegged ticks, also called deer ticks, are much less visible since they are about as big as a poppy seed. But their size belies their bite. These tiny creatures can cause serious illness.

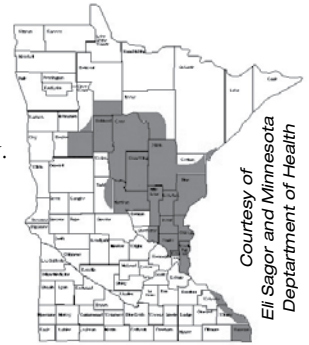
Blacklegged ticks can cause Lyme disease, human anaplasmosis, and babesiosis. More than 1,200 cases of Lyme disease were reported in Minnesota in 2007. About 322 cases of human anaplasmosis were reported, an 83 percent increase from the year before. Babesiosis is less frequent (24 cases in 2007 in Minnesota). All tick-borne diseases are serious and require immediate treatment.

Blacklegged ticks are most common in a swath that blooms from the eastern Minnesota border into central counties including Aitkin and Hubbard, and their range is expanding. They live in hardwood forests and brushy habitats. Ticks become active in about mid-May and continue their feeding ways into July. Earlier and later in the year is still risky, but less so.

How can you best protect yourself from a wood tick or blacklegged tick? Follow these steps.

- Despite their name, prime habitat for wood ticks (and black-legged ticks) is long grass and weeds. Cut the weeds to minimize problems.
- Wear light clothing to better see clinging creatures.
- Keep ticks out by tucking your pant legs into your socks or boots. Tuck shirts into pants.
- Use a repellent containing permethrin. Follow directions.
- As soon as you go indoors, strip and do a tick check. Wash clothes right away.
- Check pets for ticks.

For more information about ticks and your health, visit the Minnesota Department of Health's web site at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/lyme/index.html>.



Lyme disease areas of highest risk.

Courtesy of Eli Sagor and Minnesota Department of Health



Photo by Eli Sagor

So You Want to be a Tree Farmer?

When you think of farms, tractors and soldier-straight rows of corn probably come to mind. Tree farms are a different kind of agricultural enterprise, though. Trees are nurtured as crops and the harvest time is measured in years, not months. Consequently, the “farm” produces lots of ecological benefits while the crop matures (and even beyond).

When Carole Cartwright inherited the century family farm in Chisago County, she knew she was facing a challenge. The farm could no longer be profitable as a dairy operation. But what to do with the land? After much thought and investigation, Carole and her husband David made the decision to convert the farm to high-quality hardwoods. They knew it would free them from the daily chores of the farm and give their grandchildren a crop to harvest (with its 75-year rotation!).

The Cartwrights turned the farm into an experiment station of sorts, planting different trees to see which grew best. American chestnut turned out to be a standout. In the past four years they have planted more than 25,000 seedlings, including 15 species of hardwood and eight types of conifers.

To certify your woods as a family forest like the Cartwrights, you have to agree to certain principles. You must maintain natural forest buffers and practice other conservation techniques. You must be willing to practice land stewardship and harvest trees for useful products. You must commit to conserving soil, air and water quality; wildlife habitat; and aesthetics.

The payback is a sustainable resource for America’s future. (And maybe chestnuts to roast at Christmas!)

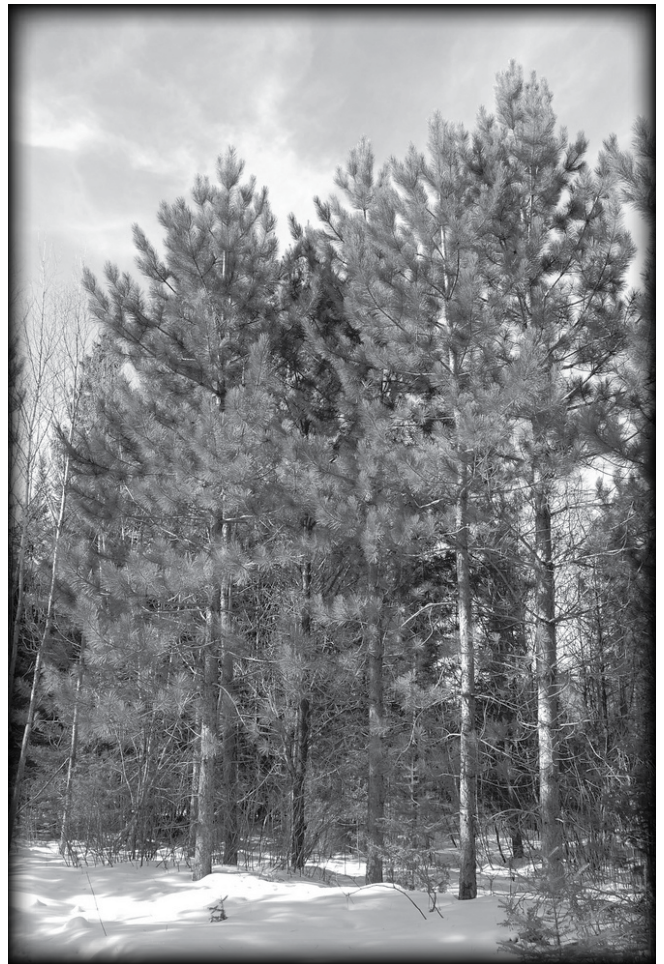


Photo by Eil Sagor

A certified family forest, or tree farm, can take the form of a pine plantation, oak woodland, hybrid poplar planting, or other woodland coertype. All tree farms grow trees as their primary crop.



Did you know? The American Tree Farm System is now formally recognized and endorsed as an internationally credible sustainable forest management certification system. Here David and Carole Cartwright and their tree farm, certified in 2004.



The Edlund property also is a certified family forest. From left, Marina Edlund, holding Soren, and Kaityln and James Edlund.

For more information about the Tree Farm System, go to <http://www.treefarmssystem.org/>.



Tim Velner of Duluth got "pumped up" pretending to be xylem.

Five-Event Weekend Committee Conclave Report

On a bright sunny weekend in January, 60 forestry enthusiasts gathered at the Cloquet Forestry Center. The weekend workshops included sessions in learning how to use GPS and strategies for teaching kids about forestry. These workshops were interspersed with MFA chapter meetings and the annual committee conclave. Friday night was celebrated with a lumberjack dinner!



Above: Participants in the GPS mapping class found their way around the Cloquet Forestry Center. Or were they just playing follow the leader?



John Geissler of Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center taught a class on mapping land with GPS. Here he helps Pat Lanin of Brainerd decipher coordinates.

Right: Two Finnish ladies, Roxie Knuttila of Grand Rapids and Judy Krish of Ely, participated with 20 others in the Wonders of Woodland session taught by Terry Helbig and Laura Duffy (Minnesota DNR), along with Nate Meyer (Minnesota Extension Service).



Jim Hunder of Plymouth shares a laugh with other participants at the MFA Committee Conclave.

Brainerd Lakes MFA Chapter Meeting

By John O'Reilly

At the December meeting of the Brainerd Lakes chapter of MFA, members launched a new effort to keep forests healthy for decades to come. A new scholarship was established to help educate future foresters and natural resource managers. The deserving student will be chosen from the Natural Science Program at Central Lakes Community College. By supporting the education of professionals, Brainerd chapter members are helping to protect and enhance forest biological diversity and productivity for future generations.

Brainerd Lakes chapter members include kneeling, from left, Erik Eggen (Baxter), Lucas Wandrie (student), Dr. Bill Faber (Central Lakes Community College), John Wallin (Nisswa), Jim Chamberlin (Baxter), Anne Oldakowski (Wadena). Standing, from left, Ken Quass (Pine River), Dick Bengé (Motley), Dean Makey (Brainerd DNR), Jim Ballenthin (Backus), Tom Schultz (Sebeka), Dennis Grieser (Brainerd), and Mary Jane Rutz (Brainerd).



Newly elected officers of the Brainerd Lakes chapter include (from lower left-hand corner, counterclockwise) John Wallin, President; Jim Ballenthin, Vice President, Dean Makey, Secretary-Treasurer; and Jim Chamberlin, past President.



Upcoming Events For more information on these or other events, go to www.MinnesotaForestry.org.

February

Wednesday, February 11

- Natural Models for Ecological Silviculture (Grand Rapids)

Friday, February 13 – Sunday, February 15

- Great Backyard Bird Count (any location)

Wednesday, February 18

- Biomass Field Day (Roosevelt)

Thursday, February 19

- Birds in Flights: The Art and Science of How Birds Fly (Grand Rapids)

Friday, February 20

- Financial Aspects of Woodland Ownership (Duluth)

Saturday, February 21

- A Brief Introduction to Using a GPS Receiver (Cloquet)
- Using Landview for Loggers, Foresters, and Landowners (Cloquet)

Wednesday, February 25

- Forest Values and Carbon Markets (Cloquet)

Thursday, February 26

- Forest Values and Carbon Markets (Cloquet)

March

Tuesday, March 10

- Intergenerational Land Transfer (Rochester)

Thursday, March 12

- Intergenerational Land Transfer (Cloquet)

Thursday, March 19

- Biomass Field Day (Morris)

Friday, March 27

- How and What to Plant in your Forest

Saturday, March 28

- How to Mark a Stand for Harvest (Duluth)
- Forest Management Field Tour—Grouse Management Area and Tapping into Maple Resources (Duluth)

Tuesday, March 31

- Intergenerational Land Transfer (Rochester)

April

Thursday, April 2

- Growing and Tending Your Forest (Bemidji)

Tuesday, April 7

- Intergenerational Land Transfer (Cloquet)



Want to get in on the chapter fun? There's probably a local MFA chapter operating in your neck of the woods. Go to www.MinnesotaForestry.org for more information. Here Jack and Jill get ready to demonstrate horse logging to area students and volunteers from the Headwaters MFA chapter.

For MFA members, www.MyMinnesotaWoods.org is the best online source of woodland information. Here's what's new this month.



- Landowner, forester & logger partner for needed red pine thinning (Video)
- Forest Values and Carbon Credits: Opportunities for Minnesota
- Meet a Minnesota logger: Haley Logging Co.
- Nontimber forest products: Winter Woods
- Featured link: New MFA website
- Plus a Poem of the month, Photo of the month, News stories and Upcoming events

Have a question about your woodland? Post it on the Discussion Board. You may be surprised at how many good responses you get!

For the live version, with much more info on each topic, visit MyMinnesotaWoods.org

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