



# 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.

- October 28, 2009
- January 27, 2010
- April 28, 2010
- July 28, 2010
- October 27, 2010

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## TAXES

### *Green Acres is the Place to be ...*

by Bruce ZumBahlen

No, this isn't about the old Eddie Albert and Eva Gabor T.V. show, but about something more boring – property taxes! But, for those of you who own woodlands as part of your agricultural homestead, this can be important to your pocket book. If you have agricultural land, you may have heard that the Green Acres property tax law provisions were revised this past legislative session following an attempt to reform the law in the previous session.

Here's a little background for those not familiar with Green Acres (GA). GA is part of a 1967 MN agricultural property tax law that aims to help farmers keep their farm. To qualify for GA, one of the following must apply:

- the property is the homestead of the owner (or the owners surviving spouse, child, or sibling) or is farmed in conjunction with homestead property;
- the property has been possessed by the applicant, applicant's spouse, parent, or sibling (or any combination) for at least 7 years prior to application;
- the property is being farmed in conjunction with property within 4 townships or cities (or any combination) from property that has been in possession of the owner, owner's spouse, parent, or sibling (or any combination) for at least 7 years prior to application;
- the property is in possession of a nursery, greenhouse, or an entity owned by a proprietor, partnership, or corporation which also owns the nursery or greenhouse on the property. Currently, GA is being used in 52 counties.

GA defers special assessments and that part of the property taxes on farmed property that has experienced market value increases due to development pressures. Previously, woodlands (formerly class 2b timberlands, now class 2b rural vacant land) contiguous to a farmer's productive agricultural land were, in many instances, being included under GA. In future years, this won't be possible.

The 2008 legislative session revised GA to exclude 2b rural vacant land from receiving GA benefits. However, owners can take steps to receive similar benefits by qualifying the lands under a new Rural Preserve (RP) program passed in the 2009 session.



Bruce ZumBahlen, past president and chair of MFA's Government Affairs Committee.

## Enclosed with this newsletter you'll find ...

- 2009 Board Election material, including information on candidates and a ballot. Please vote!
- A MFA Membership Application. Pass it on to a friend or neighbor!
- A sample copy of *Sawmill & Woodlot Management* magazine. If the content interests you, find subscription information inside.

John O'Reilly  
MFA President



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## MFA Member Profile: The Beaufeaux Family Woodland

What does a Wisconsin DNR forester do on retirement?

If you are Mike Beaufeaux and wife Dianne, you come back to the Beaufeaux family farm in Pine County, Minnesota and turn it into a tree farm.

The Beaufeaux connection to the land dates back more than 100 years when Mike's grandmother and great aunt, with their husbands, settled the area. They purchased and cleared land around a small, 46-acre lake. The great aunt and her husband, Lena and Fred Thayer, established a post office on the east side of the lake. To this day, the lake and surrounding area, including a nearby Native American settlement, are known as Lake Lena.

In 1994, with retirement on the horizon, Mike and Dianne purchased land on the west side of Lake Lena that was once Mike's grandfather's 160 acre farm. "Gramps lost the farm through foreclosure during the Depression," Mike said. In the years since '94, Mike and Dianne have added 140 acres to their property and two of his brothers purchased the 200-acre home farm on the east side of the lake, so all the land around Lake Lena is back in the hands of Beaufeaux family members.

Mike had maintained contact with the farm and his family throughout his working career. The family teamed up to plant conifers around Lake Lena every few years, starting in 1956. The trees now protect the lake's water quality and, according to Mike, have helped dramatically to improve the lake's fishery.

In 1994, the last corn crop was harvested off Gramp's old farm fields. The next spring a combination of red pine, white pine and white spruce were planted. Of 54 acres, 44 were planted to trees and 10 were left as is small, 2- to 3-acre wildlife openings.

Using his forestry expertise, Mike is managing every acre with a purpose. Driving through a 24-year old red pine stand that had been thinned this summer Mike said, "We were shooting for a basal area of 90 but it looks like we hit 100 or 110. That means that we'll be able to thin the stand again in 10 years or so when a younger nearby stand is due to be thinned."

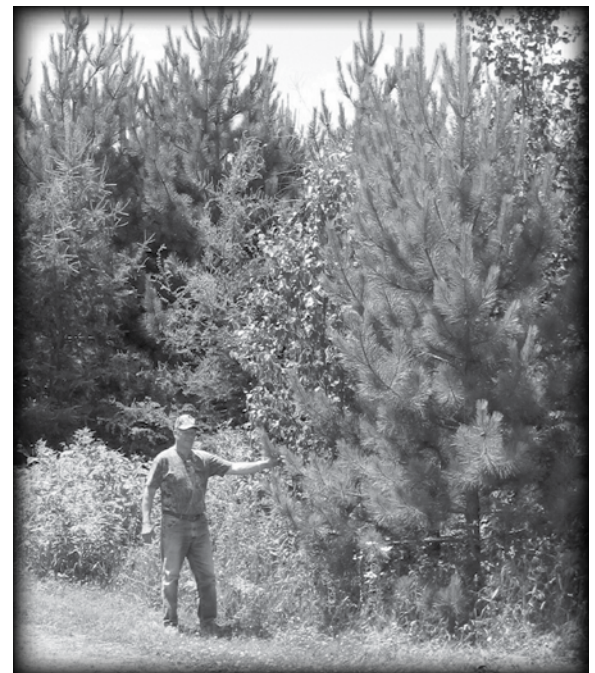
"On this sale," Mike went on, "we got only \$20 per cord because of the way I wanted the loggers to work. I had them clear cut one row and reach two rows over on each side to thin out more trees. They told me that if I'd let them clear cut two rows at a time, they would have paid \$30 per cord, but that would have left too much open space."

Mike's enjoyment of the land is increased



*Above: Mike & Dianne Beaufeaux.*

*Below: Mike Beaufeaux with trees he planted in 1995.*



because of his training in ecology. "I see diversity and mutual coexistence between all the plants and animals of the forest," he said. "My management objective is to mimic natural events that happen in all forest settings, such as disturbances from fire and windstorms which serve to renew the forest growth and maintain diversity."

Mike seems especially proud of his natural stands of oaks and northern hardwoods which each comprise about 30 percent of the woodland. For the oaks, before arranging for a selective thinning, he scarified the soil using his bulldozer to expose the mineral soil and reduce competing vegetation. If he'd waited until after the thinning there would have been too many tops in the way to work effectively. The process helped retard the growth of ironwood, hazel and other brush while young oaks have become established.

In the northern hardwoods, Mike arranged for a commercial selective cut to take out most of the aspen and birch while reducing the remaining trees to a basal area of 90.

So far, 90 acres of oak, hardwood and pine have been selectively thinned, resulting in 1,100 cords of wood. In addition, 1,700 cords of aspen have been harvested. Mike says, "The revenue from the thinnings and aspen harvests has exceeded what we could have gotten by renting out the fields for farm crops."



Deer hunting is a tradition in the Beaufeaux family. The best bucks end up on Mike's wall.

watching are favorite activities. On our tour, Mike pointed out the best places to find red raspberries, black raspberries and blackberries. Mike said, "We make wonderful syrup out of the blackberries. With the raspberries, we pig out on them during their season and then freeze a few packages for pies over the winter."

Mike has also revived his childhood interest in trapping and has taken raccoon, fisher, beaver and coyote while his trail cameras show bear, fox and bobcats are also frequent visitors.

### Deer Hunting Tradition

Deer hunting is a big part of the Beaufeaux family tradition. Mike pointed out one ridge called "The Bench" which was his father's favorite deer hunting spot in back in the 1950s. Mike said, "As a boy, I never dreamed that I'd someday own "The Bench" with its family hunting history."

### Not Just Trees and Deer

Mike and Dianne's enjoyment of their land isn't limited to trees and deer. Berry picking and bird

*Property Taxes continued from page 1*

To enroll in RP the owner:

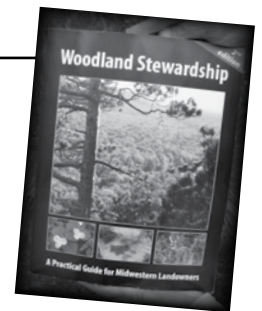
- Has to have at least 10 contiguous acres of 2b vacant land.
- Must obtain a RP conservation management plan written by an approved Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) plan writer.
- Must place and record a covenant on the property's title to keep the land as RP for a minimum 10 year period.
- Apply by May 1, 2011 in order to be considered for assessment year 2011, taxes payable in 2012.

In 2013, all class 2b land will be removed from Green Acres and valued at its market value and payment of deferred taxes will be due.

Since RP is a new program, it will take a little while for BWSR working with the MN Department of Revenue and DNR to provide guidance on implementing the program. Sometime this fall, BWSR will be training Soil and Water Conservation Districts on how to prepare and approve conservation plans that meet the RP law requirements. By then, county assessors should have final details on implementing the new law changes. So, please check with your assessor first.

## Hot Off the Press!

The second edition of *Woodland Stewardship: A Practical Guide for Midwest Landowners* has just been published.



It is very likely you have a copy of the first edition, published 16 years ago, on your bookshelf.

This new edition, written by Melvin Baughman of U of M Extension Service and others, includes new or expanded chapters on:

- Managing important forest types.
- Developing nontimber forest products.
- Managing forests to benefit wildlife.
- Designing and building recreational trails.
- Handling the financial considerations of forest ownership.

Next year, a web-based short course will be available based on the contents of the book. This course should provide a nice review for experienced woodland owners and a great introduction for novices.

Obtain your copy of the new book through the University of Minnesota Extension Service. Go to [www.Shop.Extension.UMN.edu](http://www.Shop.Extension.UMN.edu). In the "Search Extension" box, type "Woodland Stewardship". The cost of the book is \$16 plus tax and shipping.

# What's New in Wood Furnaces?

by Anne Petry

There appears to be a lot that is new.

From all I can gather in searching the web and talking with dealers, the standard outdoor wood furnace is on its way out. The standard unit is the one that burns almost any kind of wood, wet or dry. It burns with a smoldering fire that produces a lot of smoke from a short chimney. Because of the smoke, these units are not practical in the city or any place the smoke might disturb neighbors.

According to the U.S. EPA, a problem with these standard wood furnaces is the quantity of fine particles they emit with the smoke. As a result, EPA has adopted voluntary guidelines to encourage manufacturers to develop units that emit fewer fine particles. EPA has two benchmarks:

- Orange Tag Units which are tested to be 70% cleaner than the standard units.
- White Tag Units which are tested to be 90% cleaner.

These new units circulate the smoke through a very hot chamber that burns most of the fine particles before they go out the chimney.

Besides less smoke, Orange Tag and White Tag units produce much less ash. In fact, Jim Ballenthin, Backus, Minnesota, who has had a Tarm unit for a couple of years, says he gets less than a five-gallon bucketful of ashes in a month's use.

A disadvantage of these Orange and White Tag units is that, to work properly, the temperature of the fire inside has to be at least 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. This high temperature can't be achieved when burning wet wood. Therefore, only seasoned firewood can be used.

Rodney Tollefson from Central Boiler in Greenbush, Minnesota said, "EPA has New Source Performance Standards for indoor wood stoves. When there is a sufficient number of manufacturers who make outdoor units that meet the white tag standards, EPA will likely subject them to the similar regulations." It is also likely these regulations will only apply to units sold after a certain date, that owners will be allowed to continue using all existing units.



Left: This outdoor wood furnace made by Central Boiler meets the latest EPA standards.

Above: Among the features Jim Ballenthin, Backus, loves about his Tarm indoor wood boiler are that it produces almost no smoke and very little ash.

Of the manufacturers that currently offer a furnace that meets the white tag standards, four make units that burn "stick wood" that we might harvest on our land. The others make units that burn corn or wood pellets. For those of us who see trees outside our window, it doesn't make sense to burn corn for heat. And it doesn't make sense to ship our wood off to a factory to be made into pellets and shipped back. No, stick wood units are the only practical ones for us.

EPA's web site ([www.EPA.gov/woodheaters](http://www.EPA.gov/woodheaters)) lists manufacturers that produce stick wood units that meet the highest, white tag standards. The one Minnesota manufacturer listed is Central Boiler, Greenbush, Minnesota. The local dealer for these units is Classic Outdoor Furnace, Isanti MN, Dave Anderson, 763-444-9000.

Another category is indoor wood boilers. Jim Ballenthin bought a Tarm unit after seeing them at the MFA 2006 Spring Field Day event. These units are equally as efficient as the outdoor white tag units. Minnesota dealers are ICS Energy Solutions, David Spidahl, Pelican Rapids MN, 218-863-1153 and Sun Energy, Jerry Lilyerd, Mora MN, 320-679-0877.

## Want to be a Tree Farmer?

There is no cost to you. Benefits include the well-known Tree Farm sign, a free subscription to Tree Farming for Better Forests (the old Better Forests) and automatic certification of your land under the Tree Farm umbrella. Basic requirements are:

- Own at least 10 acres of woodland.
- Actively manage your land.
- Have an up-to-date Stewardship Plan that includes a timber harvest element.
- Undergo re-inspection every five years to ensure management is ongoing.

If you are interested, contact:

Tom Witkowski, Witkowski Forestry Consulting  
218-232-3948, TomForester@Charter.net



## Deer Ticks are Still Here!

by Anne Petry



*This tiny Deer Tick is shown next to a dime.*

As the weather warms in July, wood ticks disappear. Not so with deer ticks. These pests can be active until freeze-up in November. Of course, it is deer ticks that can transmit lyme disease to both dogs and people. At this time of year, you should be concerned about any tick you find on yourself or your dog.

For dogs, both Frontline and Advantix work very well but have two problems: First, both are expensive. For our 90 pound labs, each monthly dose costs \$13.50. Secondly, both products have to be applied every month. To protect our dogs for the full tick season, we apply Frontline on the first of every month, from April through October. If we are a week or so late, we begin seeing ticks on the dogs.

For people, clothing treated with a repellent containing permethrin is also very effective. Be careful, though. The labels of many products containing DEET and other ingredients claim to repel ticks but they don't. Only products containing permethrin really work for ticks. To be sure a product like the one shown here contains permethrin, read the fine print under "Active Ingredients."

Hunters should treat the legs of their pants with a permethrin-containing product. Follow the label directions which usually specify the pants must be allowed to dry for several hours before being worn.

## The 2010 Woodland Advisor Season is Under Construction.



Over 100 courses will be offered in 2010 by these folks:

I-r, Mike Richenbach, Angie Gupta, Mel Baughman, Gary Wyatt, Dave Wilsey, Julie Miedtke, Eli Sagor, all of U of M Extension, and John Geissler, Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center.



*Repellants containing the active ingredient permethrin are the only ones that really work for deer and wood ticks.*

# Pat Karns on Whitetails

By Anne Petry

“Do you have a match?”, asked Pat Karns as he and I walked across our land.

Pat is a retired big game biologist who studied whitetail deer in his job managing the DNR’s whitetail research facility in Grand Rapids, which is now closed. Both knowledgeable and straight-talking, I love listening to Pat when he gets going on whitetails and other Minnesota big game.

“Whitetail deer and lab rats are the two most thoroughly studied animals on earth,” Pat would say. The funny thing is, I think he’s right!

Pat’s request for a match came as a result of my question, “Pat, if you could do only one thing to improve my land for wildlife, what would it be?” While his answer sounds facetious, it was also 100% serious. My woods were a mix of mature aspen and other hardwoods, a hospitable habitat for squirrels and owls and almost nothing else. If the whole 100 acres were burned, sunlight would again reach the ground allowing a host of plants to grow to support deer, grouse, bear and other wildlife. Woodpeckers would find insects in the standing dead trees and other birds would use the excavated holes for nests.

We didn’t take Pat’s advice literally but we did do the next best things. He recommended creating wildlife openings by clear cutting one-acre parcels and then mowing them every other year to keep brush under control. We still have two of these openings. He also recommended logging 10-acre parcels on a regular schedule. After a few years we have a mosaic of aspens in various stages of development, perfect for both deer and ruffed grouse.

One of the studies Pat conducted in Grand Rapids was intended to find a way to teach white tail deer about electric fences. Because their thick coat insulates deer from electric fence shocks, Pat wanted to find a way to get the deer to touch the fence with their nose. Metal tags were hung at intervals on an electric fence with a different attractant applied to each tag. Some of the attractants were commercial “doe in heat” scents and others were common household items.

Pat said, “It was amazing. We plotted the results on graphs and most of the attractants came out about the same: they all worked but not very well. But the results for one material went off the chart, being many times more attractive than any of the others. It was ordinary, store-bought peanut butter. There was absolutely no reason deer should be attracted to this stuff, since they had never encountered peanuts or peanut butter, but it worked. After looking at the results, I remembered what I was eating the time the biggest buck I’d ever seen in the woods walked under my stand: a peanut butter sandwich.”

In another study, conducted back in the 1970s when



Left: Peanut Butter, the BEST deer attractant!

snowmobiles were becoming popular, Pat wanted to find out what effect snowmobiles coming down a trail had on deer. Several deer were hooked up to heart monitors and snowmobiles were run by them. There was almost no response from the deer. Then two cross-

country skiers came down the trail and the deer heart rates skyrocketed. For hunters, the moral to this story is to drive, don’t walk, to your deer stand!

Avid deer hunters plant food plots to attract their prey. The deer hunting magazines are filled with ads for seed mixes that are “guaranteed to drive the deer wild.” All are priced at ten times what normal seed costs in the feed store. Pat’s advice is, “Forget all that stuff. Instead, plant ordinary rye (the crop, not the grass) in late August or early September. Deer are grazers and they like rye because it is the last thing green in the fall and the first thing green in the spring. Not only that, rye is cheap to buy and easy to plant.”

Pat is opposed to feeding deer, as are most professional biologists. He considers whitetail deer to be wild animals that should be left alone to be wild. For those who do feed

deer, he recommended using a feed that is specially blended for deer, containing alfalfa pellets and other ingredients in addition to corn. "Deer that eat nothing but corn over the winter look pretty ratty by spring," he said.

Pat shares others' concerns over the exploding density of the deer herd. "When we lived in the northern part of the Michigan's lower peninsula, there were nearly 100 deer per square mile. With that density, the deer eat absolutely everything growing on the forest floor, including every kind of tree seedling. That density also promotes transmission of disease. Deer in that area did not have chronic wasting disease but many did have tuberculosis, a disease that is nearly as devastating."

Pat's solution to deer over-population is simple and controversial: "Market hunting. If hunters could legally sell the deer they harvest, concerns for over population would end in a season or two."

So deer hunters, as you head into the woods this season, take some of Pat's advice and bring along a peanut butter sandwich as you drive out to your stand set up near a field of rye!



## What is a 3-acre Patch of White Pine Worth?

Greg Nolan and Marcia Rapatz have been calculating answers to that question since they bought their property some 30 years ago. Located in Bowerville near Long Prairie, the property included a 3-acre patch of white pine. The patch contained 300 pole-sized white pine trees that were estimated in a 1979 DNR Timber Plan to contain 20,000 board feet.

"We figured if we were to cut three problem trees each year, our family would have white pines for at least 100 years," said Greg. "As we have cut the problem trees, seedlings of various species have sprouted in the bare space while surrounding big trees have grown faster with less crowding. Today, our standing timber volume is estimated at 65,000 board feet. This means that even as we've cut our three trees per year, we've still gotten a production rate of about 500 board feet per acre per year."

If big white pine is worth 12 to 20 cents per board foot on the stump, the value of the white pines on Greg and Marcia's patch is growing at the rate of \$100 per acre per year.

Then there is the value of the trees that are removed each year.

This past year, Greg had a job to put 1,200 square feet of white pine siding on a house. He was able to get all of the lumber needed from just one problem tree that he cut from the 3-acre patch. Greg said, "The tree scaled at over 1,000 board feet. We had the tree sawed into  $\frac{3}{4}$ " boards with a bandsaw and got 1,500 square feet, more than enough for both the siding and the trim."

"Our bid for that job was \$4,750 so, in my book, that one tree from our land produced \$4,750 in economic activity."

Are you surprised that white pine is used for siding? You shouldn't be according to Greg. "There are tobacco sheds in southwest Wisconsin that are over 100 years old. The white pine siding on these buildings is in such good shape, it is being salvaged and resold as the buildings are torn down."

"One reason the siding on those tobacco sheds has lasted so long is that it was installed vertically so the water runs with the grain. Another reason is the pine must have grown in shaded conditions because the growth rings are close together. In pine grown today, I like to see at least eight rings to the inch."

Greg and Marcia operate Snowy Pines Reforestation. Their services range from tree planting to installation of wood flooring and siding. See their web site at [www.REA-ALP.com](http://www.REA-ALP.com).



*Greg Nolan taking down one of his problem white pines. This tree had a broken top but contained enough wood for the 1,200 square feet of siding needed for one of Greg's siding jobs.*

*The finished product. "This siding can last over 100 years and is just as attractive as cedar in my opinion," says Greg Nolan.*

## Upcoming Events For more information on these or other events, go to [www.MinnesotaForestry.org](http://www.MinnesotaForestry.org).

### October

#### Thursday, October 15, 5:00pm

- Waawaashkeshiwi / Baanizhaawe: processing venison (Cloquet)

#### Friday, October 16, 8:00am

- Community Emerald Ash Borer Preparations (Lamberton)

#### Thursday, October 22, 6:00pm

- Timber Harvesting & Selling (Rochester)

#### Friday, October 23, 1:00pm

- Tour of Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve (Bethel)

#### Saturday, October 24, 9:00am

- 9:00 am, How to Use a GPS Receiver (Cloquet)
- 12:30 pm, Landview for Loggers, Foresters, and Landowner (Cloquet)

#### Tuesday, October 27, 6:30pm

- Small Woodland Owners Management (Grand Rapids)

#### Wednesday, October 28, 8:00am

- Community Emerald Ash Borer Preparations (Morris)

#### Friday, October 30, 1:00pm

- Field Trip to See A Cut to Length Harvester (Grand Rapids)

### November

#### Thursday, November 19, 5:00pm

- Abwewasigan: fish smoking (Cloquet)

### December

#### Tuesday, December 1, 6:00pm

- Tax Relief and Incentive Payments for Woodland Owners (Grand Rapids)

#### Wednesday, December 2, 8:00am

- Community Emerald Ash Borer Preparations (Crookston)

#### Friday, December 4, 2:00pm

- Carbon Credit Payments on Wooded Property (Alexandria)

#### Monday, December 7, 2:00pm

- Carbon Credit Payments for Wooded Property (Cloquet)

#### Thursday, December 10, 1:00pm

- Invasive Species & Forest Health & Disease: Control & Management (Park Rapids)

#### Thursday, December 17, 5:00pm

- Wanii'iganan / Adaawaagan: trapping and fur handling (Cloquet)

Plan now to attend MFA's Spring Field Days and Tree Farm Awards **Friday & Saturday, May 21 & 22, 2010** at the Forest History Center in Grand Rapids. Events include a Friday afternoon guided tour of The Lost 40 where you can see what a forest looks like that has never been touched by ax or saw. On Saturday there will be a series of educational sessions, inside and outdoors. Saturday evening will feature a banquet, silent auction, Tree Farm Awards and entertaining presentation on the History of Minnesota Logging.

For MFA members, [www.MyMinnesotaWoods.org](http://www.MyMinnesotaWoods.org) is the best online source of woodland information. Here's what's new this month.

**MyMinnesotaWoods.org**

Your source for woodland stewardship advice

- Video: EAB and your Woodland
- New Itasca County Woodland Committee website
- John Latimer's Northern Minnesota phenology report
- Meet a Minnesota Logger AND an MFA member
- North Central Forest Management Guides: Aspen
- Minnesota moose population status: How you can help

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](http://MyMinnesotaWoods.org)



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