



Minnesota Woodlands

www.MinnesotaForestry.org

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

Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA)

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December/January 2010
The Minnesota Woodlands Newsletter is published by the Minnesota Forestry Association.

MFA Regular Board Meetings

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

- January 26, 2010
- April 27, 2010
- July 27, 2010
- October 26, 2010

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DNR to Charge for Stewardship Plans

Most MFA members have a Stewardship Plan for their land and most of us obtained it for free from either a DNR forester or a professional forester under contract with the DNR. Since 1991 the DNR Division of Forestry has been able to provide this service free to forest landowners and provided over 10,000 plans covering over 1.4 million acres in Minnesota. Unfortunately that is about to change. Beginning December 1st, both new and revised plans provided to landowners will be charged a fee.

Charging for Stewardship Plans has become necessary because of two primary factors: First, budgets have been cut sharply for both DNR and the US Forest Service in the private lands programs. The USFS supplies some of the dollars to the State to help pay for the free plan service. Second, the demand for plans has skyrocketed because of the two new tax plans that benefit private landowners, the Managed Forest Tax law (2c classification) and the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA). Woodland owners must have an up to date Stewardship plan or forest management plan to qualify for either of these money-saving programs. (For more information on the Managed Forest Tax Law or SFIA, see "taxes" on the MFA web site, www.MinnesotaForestry.org.)

Examples of the fees to be charged are as follows:

20 acres*	\$230
40 acres	\$294
80 acres	\$423
120 acres	\$551
160 acres	\$679
260 acres or more	\$1000.00 (the max charge)

*minimum acreage qualifying for a plan

The important thing to remember is that, even with these new charges, a Stewardship Plan is a fantastic deal for us private woodland owners. For \$10 per acre or less, we get a professional assessment of our land with recommendations on how best to achieve our goals. Then, if we choose to enroll in the SFIA, with its current payment of \$8.71 per acre, the cost of our Stewardship Plan is more than recovered in the first year for all but the smallest parcels!

Wishing you
and yours
a Merry
Christmas
and a Happy,
Prosperous
and Safe
New Year!



DNR Forester
Dean Makey with Brainerd-area
woodland owner Maury Schwen.



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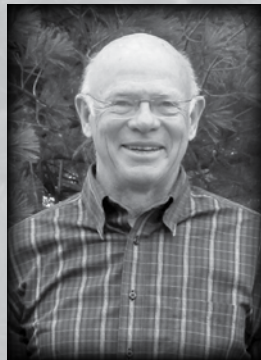
MFA Board Actions

One MFA member included this suggestion with their ballot in the recent election: The MFA newsletter should include a summary of board actions. Good suggestion! Here is the first installment:

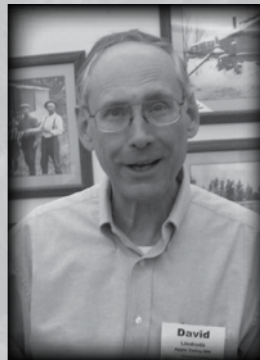
The MFA board meets every month. During January, April, July and October, the meeting is face-to-face at the Cambridge DNR Forestry office. During all other months, the meeting is held via conference call. All MFA members are welcome to sit in on the face to face meetings. See a list of meeting dates and board members elsewhere in this newsletter.

Recent board actions include:

Seating of new members:



Jim Hunder, Plymouth, appointed by the board to serve the remainder of the term of Chad Dayton who had to resign.



David Lindroth, Apple Valley, elected by members



Curt Kreklau, Alexandria, elected by members

A farewell and thank you for their service was extended to **Bob Sonnenberg**, New York Mills, **Jim Chamberlin**, Brainerd and **Chad Dayton**, St. Paul.

Updating committee appointments. The full list of MFA committees is on our web site, www.MinnesotaForestry.org. All MFA members are invited to participate on a committee. Pick out one that interests you and contact the committee chair.

Dealing with Conservation Easements. In the mid-1990s, MFA accepted responsibility for monitoring two parcels of land under conservation easements. One is a 35-acre parcel located in the White Bear Lake area and the other is 5-acre parcel near I-694 and Lexington in Arden Hills. In a meeting of MFA's Land Committee at the Lexington site this summer, a question was asked, "Why is this parcel under a conservation

easement since there appears to be no conservation value here?" No one present could answer the question since the parcel is located in a busy urban area, surrounded by development. The top soil had been removed years ago so the trees and plants growing there are sparse.

Coincidentally, the landowners came to the same conclusion and approached MFA requesting that the easement be terminated. The MFA board agreed and set in motion the steps necessary to terminate the easement. Part of the settlement was a \$50,000 payment to MFA. These funds have been put into a separate interest-bearing account to be used for future conservation-related projects. For more details on this complicated situation,

contact Land Committee chair John Saxhaug via email at John_Saxhaug@yahoo.com.

Canceling the 2010 Committee Conclave. For the past two years, MFA has hosted a Committee Conclave during January at the

U of M's Cloquet Forestry Center. The event had been financed in part by a grant of Stewardship Funds obtained through DNR. With tight budgets this year, our request for a grant for the 2010 event was denied.

Planning for 2010 Spring Field Days.

The Forest History Center in Grand Rapids will be the site for MFA's 2010 Spring Field Days Event, to be held Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21. Event chair Dennis Thompson reported that activities will include a guided tour of the Lost 40 on Friday afternoon, multiple educational sessions, both inside and outdoors on Saturday, and a bigger than ever banquet on Saturday evening featuring Tree Farm awards.

For questions or comments about these or any other activities of the MFA board, contact John O'Reilly at President@MinnesotaForestry.org.

Election Results

Thank you to those MFA members who voted in the recent election and submitted comments. Here are the results:

Re-Elected to Two-Year Terms:

Chuck Erickson, Battle Lake	94 votes
Dennis Thompson, Aitkin	100 votes

Elected to new Two-Year Terms:

Curt Kreklau, Alexandria	99 votes
David Lindroth, Apple Valley	99 votes

People who received write-in votes:

Jim Marshall, Grand Rapids
Judy Hunder, Plymouth

Comments submitted by members along with their ballot:

"I notice the closer we get to a mill, the healthier, 'better' the woods. We need more manufacturing for our wood products."

"An outstanding slate of candidates."

"Excellent slate of candidates and newsletter."

"I would like to get Better Forests free again."

Editor's Note: Better Forests is now distributed free of charge to Minnesota Tree Farmers. Look for the Tree Farm logo elsewhere in this newsletter for information on how to become a Tree Farmer.

"Are Board meetings open to everyone?"

Editor's Note: Yes, the quarterly face-to-face meetings are open to all MFA members. See the schedule on page 1 of this newsletter.

"Are Board minutes available on the web site?"

Editor's Note: No.

"Are board minutes available in the newsletter – summary?"

Editor's Note: Yes, thanks to your suggestion, the first installment of "Board Actions" is included in this issue of the newsletter!

"We feel, as a family membership, somehow women have to be made to feel more welcome with this organization for it to have continued growth. Unfortunately, women inherit forest land more often and don't feel the resources to care for the land is female friendly."

Editor's Note: Good points! There is a new woodland related organization that focuses on women's needs, although men are welcome to participate. It is *MN Women's Woodland Network*. Obtain more information by contacting Angie Gupta at AGupta@UMN.edu.

"Kudos to our Board and President John O'Reilly! Keep up the good work!"

Norman Borlaug, MFA Life Member, Dies at 95



The Associated Press, 1970

Norman Borlaug, who helped teach the world to feed itself.

Norman E. Borlaug, the plant scientist who did more than anyone else in the 20th century to teach the world to feed itself and whose work was credited with saving hundreds of millions of lives, died on September 12th. He was 95 and lived in Dallas.

Dr. Borlaug's advances in plant breeding led to spectacular success in increasing food production in Latin America and Asia and brought him international acclaim. In 1970, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

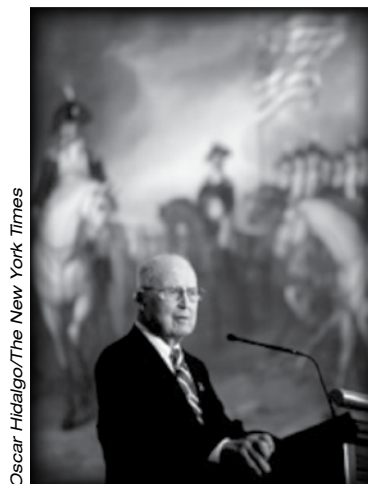
"More than any other single person of this age, he has helped provide bread for a hungry world," the Nobel committee said in presenting him with the Peace Prize.

The day the award was announced, Dr. Borlaug, vigorous and slender at 56, was working in a wheat field outside Mexico City when his wife, Margaret, drove up to tell him the news. "Someone's pulling your leg," he replied, according to one of his biographers, Leon Hesser. Assured that it was true, he kept on working, saying he would celebrate later.

Dr. Borlaug earned degrees from the University of Minnesota in 1937 and 1942. The University recognized Dr. Borlaug for his achievements in several ways. In 1959 he was presented with an Outstanding Achievement Award, the University's highest honor for alumni. And Borlaug Hall, the largest building on the St. Paul Campus, was dedicated in his honor in 1985.

Dr. Borlaug honored MFA by purchasing a Life

Membership in 1987 and has received all of our mailings and other material since.



Oscar Hidaigo/The New York Times

Norman E. Borlaug accepted the Congressional Gold Medal in July 2007.

Member Profile: Woodland in God's Country

Living in Cedar Rapids at the time, Lyle and Judy Keller knew they wanted to eventually move back to southeastern Minnesota's bluff country, an area that many call God's Country. Lyle had grown up in Winona and Judy in northeast Iowa. In 1984 they discovered and purchased what Lyle calls "an abused farm" adjacent to the Root River near Peterson, Minnesota, which is about 30 miles southeast of Rochester and 15 miles from the Iowa border.

The 146-acre farm, which consisted of 20 acres of tillable ground, 25 acres of CRP and 101 acres of woodland that had never been logged, became a weekend retreat. Lyle immediately went to work managing and improving the land. In 1986 he obtained a Stewardship Plan that has since been revised twice since. In 1987 the land was designated a Tree Farm.

Lyle did his first major tree planting in 1987. "I planted 1,000 white pine and 800 red pine but, thanks to the drought in 1989 and 90, this became my first crop failure. Today, only about two dozen of those trees have survived. Replanting this area is on my agenda, perhaps for this year."

Lyle, a civil engineer, was employed by a road construction firm based in Cedar Rapids. "During my early years in the road construction business, I traveled all over the country. But this company concentrated on eastern Iowa so, even if I had to be out on the job during the day, I could still make it home at night. It was a good job until the owner's family members began to fill top positions in the company. Some of them made working life miserable so, in 1995, Judy and I decided to retire and move to our farm land."

The home they built is located in a small meadow at the end of a one-thousand foot driveway that rises some 200 feet above the county road below. "Walking down to the mailbox and back up to the house is good exercise, especially in winter," Lyle said. "For plowing, I have an ASV unit (like a Bobcat with rubber tracks). It does a great job except when the driveway is icy. On those occasions, I get the township to bring out a load of crushed limestone. They back up the driveway while slowly dumping the limestone."

The first major logging was done in 1999. "The wooded acres here had never been logged," Lyle said. "We took out 113,000 board-feet, 85% of which was red oak. Logging on hills as steep as mine was a challenge. The trees were taken down with a chain saw and then pulled up the hill with a cable skidder." Now, 10 years later, regeneration has been so complete one cannot see where the trees were removed.

The remaining mature trees include three 20-inch black walnuts. "One of those trees has two logs of veneer and one of lumber. I'll have them harvested when they reach 24 inches. The income from those trees should be enough to pay one month's rent for me at Sunnyside Manor," Lyle said jokingly.



Above: You do not see any pine trees growing in the background because this is the site of Lyle's crop failure, where all but a handful of 1,800 seedlings succumbed to drought.

Below: An ASV is every woodland owner's dream machine.



Lyle works continually to improve his woodland. In fact, he's reduced his activities to an acronym as he talks about his TSI work – timber stand improvement.

Hunters also consider this area to be God's Country with big whitetail bucks and plentiful turkeys. Lyle said, "We saw the first turkeys here in the mid-1980s. Now while driving, one has to watch as carefully for turkeys as for deer."



Lyle with some of the oak logs harvested in 1999.

Mini-Vacation Idea

Lanesboro is just 10 miles down the road from Lyle's place outside Peterson. Here's an idea for a summer or fall weekend getaway in God's Country:

Make reservations at a **B&B or boutique hotel** through www.Lanesboro.com

Rent bicycles for a scenic trip down one of the paved trails that make the area famous.

Rent a Segway. With a 10-minute driving lesson, you'll be ready to cruise another scenic trail.

Tour local Amish farms, either with a self-guided tour or in a group with a professional guide.

Finally, call Lyle Keller to make arrangements to stop by and **talk woodlands.** Reach him at 507-875-2215.

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



Free Webinars for Woodland Owners!

Now private woodland owners can join the computer age with a series of free webinars from U of M Extension.

A webinar is a live, online presentation in which audience members can participate by sending in questions and comments. These webinars, titled Minnesota Forestry 101, will cover a new woodland-related topic in each session. They will run from noon to 1:30pm on the following dates:

Wednesday, January 20th

Wednesday, February 17th

Wednesday, March 17th

Wednesday, April 21st

Wednesday, May 19th



For more information on content of the webinars, and how to connect, see "Upcoming Classes and Events" on the MFA Home Page, www.MinnesotaForestry.org.

The Man Knows Bud Capping!

Each year, George Anderson keeps track of the number of trees he's bud capped by the number of staples he's used. Last year, he used six boxes of 5,000 for a total of 30,000 staples! With an average of five staples used on each tree, that's 6,000 trees wearing bud caps!

George, 78, lives with his wife Carol on their land in Wrenshall, which is southeast of Duluth. He started his latest round of tree planting seven years ago. "I collected seeds from my white and red pine and sent them to Itasca Greenhouse where they grew the seedlings for two years."

"White pines are the favorite of the deer but they will browse on red pine as well. Twenty years ago, the number of deer in our area was lower and browsing on the seedlings wasn't a problem. Now, without the bud caps, the deer would wipe out my small pines."

Last year George spent three weeks installing bud caps. This year his time was down to two weeks because some of the trees have grown tall enough that the leader is out of the reach of deer. In the spring, George doesn't trust the bud caps to fall off on their own so he spends four or five days removing them.

George says, "A side benefit to bud capping is the opportunity to inspect every tree. This year I found several white pines that showed early signs of blister rust and trimmed the affected branches."

Is it too late to put bud caps on your pines this year? Not according to George. "It is best to do it in September but better late than never!"



Top: George with the fruits of his past labors.

Above: George with a sea of bud-capped white pines.

Right: With experience, George has learned the bud cap stays in place better if one lower branch is included in the cap.

Christmas Gift Ideas

If you want to buy something unique for the woodsman or woodswoman in your family, check the web sites of the two major suppliers of forestry supplies and equipment:

Ben Meadows, Janesville, Wisconsin
www.BenMeadows.com

Forestry Suppliers, Jackson, Mississippi
www.Forestry-Suppliers.com

(Despite their distance from Minnesota, Forestry Suppliers' shipping time in transit is just a few days.)

In their online catalogs, you can find dozens of gift ideas, from clothing such as field vests, to GPS receivers and Leatherman Tools, to flagging tape and tree marking paint.

Federal Dollars for Woodland Owners

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has a new Conservation Stewardship Program. Of two dozen practices included in the program, the one for which all private woodland owners might qualify is as follows: "Forest stand improvement for habitat and soil quality". Other practices listed include:

- Wildlife corridors,
- Restoration and management of rare or declining habitats,
- Recycle 100% of farm lubricants,
- Establish pollinator habitat (planting wildflowers),

- Forest stand improvement, pre-treating vegetation and fuels,
- Forest stand improvement, prescribed burning.

The program consists of a five year contract with payments ranging from \$5 to \$12 per acre per year, or up to \$60 per acre over the five year contract!

For more information, stop in at your local NRCS office.



Cedar Creek Tour – Bethel, Minnesota

On a very cold, sleety Friday, October 23, twenty-two hardy landowners participated in a unique opportunity to visit the University of Minnesota’s Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve near Bethel to learn about the latest research on how climate change may affect our natural resources. This tour was sponsored by the MFA Metro Chapter with support by the East Central Landscape Committee and Onanegozie RC&D with funding provided by the MN DNR Stewardship Program.

The afternoon included indoor presentations and outdoor tours of the oak savanna and biodiversity (first in the world!) field experiments. Due to the sensitive nature of much of the research being conducted, most of the 5,400 acres is closed to the public; however, the Fish Lake Nature Trails are open for hiking, skiing, and canoeing. Public tours are offered per the schedule listed on their website <http://www.cedarcreek.umn.edu/>.



One of the tour stops was this oak savanna featuring widely scattered oak trees with prairie grasses growing between them.

Field Day at John & Mary Peterson’s



Hosts Mary & John Peterson

The weather on Wednesday evening, October 21st was typical of the rest of the month – cool and rainy. But the rain didn’t dampen the enthusiasm of the three dozen people who participated in a field day at John and Mary Peterson’s land.

The Petersons live on 50 acres of the original family farm located on Highway 12 near Delano.

John’s sister, Jean Peterson and her husband Al have 65 acres next door. And mom, Lorraine Peterson, lives on 80 acres nearby.

The tour was organized and led by the folks at the DNR Forestry Office in Cambridge including Art Widerstrom, Greg Wuerflein, Allan Olson and Beth Jones.

The event started with John Peterson’s rendition of the history of the family farm, going back to 1899. The tour included stops at a patch of buckthorn where John related his intensive battle with this invasive last winter when he cut and stump-treated hundreds of patches. Other stops included a hundred-year-old burr oak and black walnuts that were planted by John’s father.

The group then moved to the VFW Club in Delano for a meal and a presentation on Tree Farm by Tom Witkowski.



Saw logs ready to go.



Above: DNR Forester Art Widerstrom discussing a burr oak tree

Left: Jean Peterson was dressed for the event.



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

December

Thursday, December 17, 5:00pm

- Waniigiganan / Adaawaagan: trapping and fur handling (Cloquet)



January

Tuesday, January 19, 7:00pm

- WA Quail Habitat Management Meeting (Caledonia)

Thursday, January 21

- 5:00pm Dadibaajimo: storytelling (Cloquet)
- 6:00pm WA Carbon Credits (Houston)

Saturday, January 23, 9:00am

- Nuts & Bolts of Timber Sales (Duluth)

Tuesday, January 26

- 6:00pm - WA Small Woodland Management (Andover)
- 6:30pm - What's Bugging Your Trees? (Grand Rapids)

February

Tuesday, February 9, 2:00pm

- Carbon Credit Payments on Wooded Property (Alexandria)

Thursday, February 11, 6:00pm

- Climate Change and the Minnesota Woods (Preston)

Tuesday, February 16

- 2:00pm - Carbon Credit Payments for Wooded Property (Cloquet)
- 6:30pm - Managing your woods for grouse with Mike Larson-DNR-Wildlife (Grand Rapids)

Saturday, February 20

- 9:00am - Winter Tree Identification (Duluth)
- 12:30pm - How Trees Grow & Top Ten Insect & Disease Problems of the Southern Boreal Forest (Duluth)

Sawyer crew bucking up a red pine into logs and "swamper" limbing the fallen tree, circa 1890. This is a hint of the interesting exhibits you will see at the Forest History Center, Grand Rapids during MFA's Spring Field Days.

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 is the best online source of woodland information. Here's what's new this month.

MyMinnesotaWoods.org

Your source for woodland stewardship advice

- MyMinnesotaWoods has a new look!
- Revised "Property Tax Relief for Forest Landowners" now addresses Rural Preserves
- New video: The Janes Family - Woodland stewardship and property tax
- Northern Minnesota phenology report
- New Minnesota Tree Farm website
- Win a copy of Woodland Stewardship, 2nd edition

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



Thank You to Our Supporting Members!

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Duluth

Sustainable Forestry, LLC
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