



# Minnesota Woodlands

MFA: an organization of, by and for Minnesota's private woodland owners and friends.

[www.MinnesotaForestry.org](http://www.MinnesotaForestry.org)

## Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA)

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## MFA Newsletter Vol. 12 No. 2

April/May 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.

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

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## Spring Field Days Notes

**Friday, May 21 & Saturday, May 22, 2010**

**Grand Rapids, Minnesota**

***For Woodland Owners,  
It's THE Event of the Year!***

Spring Field Days starts this year on Friday afternoon with a trip to the Lost 40. This is a parcel of land – actually, more than 40 acres – that was overlooked during the logging era of the early 1900s. You'll see an example of what a forest looks like that that has been untouched by ax or chainsaw.

Friday evening is MFA's Annual Meeting. Join your fellow MFA members at the Sawmill Inn to enjoy a social hour and dinner. The meeting itself is your chance to hear what MFA has been doing and to contribute your two cents worth on what we should do in the future.

Saturday events are all at the Forest History Center. Start with Breakfast at the Cook Shack sponsored by the Minnesota Women's Woodland Network. Then concurrent sessions run all day, both indoors and outdoors. Lunch will include a glimpse of life in a logging camp.

The Saturday evening social hour and banquet will feature Tree Farm Awards and a presentation on the Logging History of Minnesota by History Center director, Ed Nelson.

Find the form enclosed with this newsletter and send in your registration today!



Headquarters this year is at the Sawmill Inn, one of the best motels in Grand Rapids. Bring the family as your kids will enjoy the indoor pool: 800-667-7508. A more economical alternative is the Budget Host Inn, a clean, well-run motel located about 10 minutes from Sawmill Inn: 218-326-3457.



Ed Nelson, with Bud and Mick, will demonstrate horse logging.



Kevin Walli

With the Legislature in session, Kevin Walli, an attorney with the Fryberger Law Firm in St. Paul, is on hand looking out for the interests of Minnesota's private woodland owners. Kevin's past accomplishments on our behalf include his work on the Sustainable Forestry Incentive Act (SFIA) and the 2c property tax classification. If you have questions or comments, email Bruce ZumBahlen, chair of MFA's Government Affairs Committee, at [ZoomerBruce@aol.com](mailto:ZoomerBruce@aol.com).



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## MFA Board Actions

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:

**Adopting a Budget for 2010** presented by Treasurer Dennis Thompson:

<b>Revenue</b>	
Member Dues	\$28,500
Reimbursement for Woodland Advisor work	13,000
Blandin Foundation Grant for Annual Meeting	3,600
Other Revenue	7,000
Subtotal	\$52,100
Proceeds from Invested Funds	18,500
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$70,600</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Contract for Office Work	\$23,000
Office Expense	5,950
Annual Meeting	6,600
Board Expense	850
Newsletter	13,300
Postage	7,450
CPA Audit	1,600
Insurance	2,200
Education/Communication	1,200
Government Relations	7,250
Web Site	1,200
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$70,600</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

The place to ask questions on the budget is at our annual meeting. Use the flyer included with this newsletter to register today!

**Agreed to pursue a Call Before You Cut** system by which MFA would adopt a number of recommendations for members to consider before agreeing to a harvest on their land.

**Reviewed MFA's mission statement:** "MFA works on behalf of family forest owners, through education and advocacy, to promote stewardship of woodlands." Conclusion was to leave the mission statement unchanged but adopt two tag lines for use as appropriate:

***Your Woodland, Your Legacy.***

***An organization of, by and for private woodland owners and friends.***

# Tick-borne Diseases in Minnesota

Spring in Minnesota means ticks! Wood ticks (American dog ticks) are most common from snowmelt until the 4th of July. Deer ticks (now being called blacklegged ticks) are active from early spring until freeze up in November.

The good news is that wood ticks do not transmit disease to humans.

Also, not all deer ticks carry disease. Only about one-third of deer ticks tested by the Minnesota Department of Health have been positive for disease-causing organisms. Deer ticks can carry Lyme disease, human anaplasmosis, and babesiosis, three illnesses which can lead to serious complications. In 2008 there were approximately 1046 confirmed cases of Lyme disease, 278 cases of anaplasmosis, and 29 cases of babesiosis. The risk of exposure to tick-borne diseases was highest in east central and southeastern Minnesota.

Deer ticks need to be attached for 24 to 48 hours to transmit Lyme disease bacteria and 12 to 24 hours to transmit human anaplasmosis bacteria. People who develop signs or symptoms of a tick-related illness after spending time in deer tick habitat should see a physician right away, even if they don't remember getting a tick bite. Lyme disease, human anaplasmosis and babesiosis are treatable. Early diagnosis and treatment are important in preventing severe illness.

Not all people bitten by a deer tick will get Lyme disease. Signs and symptoms that can appear from three to 30 days after a deer tick bite include a skin rash with a bull's eye appearance (a red ring with a central clearing), although not everyone gets a rash, and not every rash has a central clear area; fevers and chills; muscle and joint pain; fatigue; and headaches. If a person is not treated early for Lyme disease, the following signs and symptoms may develop weeks, months, or years after the tick bites: multiple rashes; facial paralysis on one side; weakness, numbness, or pain in one or more joints; or chronic arthritis in one or more joints, usually in the knees, which may be swollen and painful. Antibiotics are used to treat Lyme disease, but the disease is easiest to treat when diagnosed during the early stages.

Human anaplasmosis and babesiosis are less common than Lyme disease but can be life-threatening. Signs and symptoms of these two diseases are sudden and severe and can include high fever, muscle aches, chills and shaking, and severe headache. Your doctor can treat for these diseases with antibiotics.

Is it a deer tick? Positive ID of deer ticks is difficult. In general, they are smaller and darker in color than wood ticks and they are active later in the year, after July 4th. Here's a common sense approach:

- Starting in April, treat your pants with repellent to help prevent tick problems. The best repellents for ticks contain the active ingredient permethrin. (DEET does not work nearly as well for ticks.) Read and follow label directions.



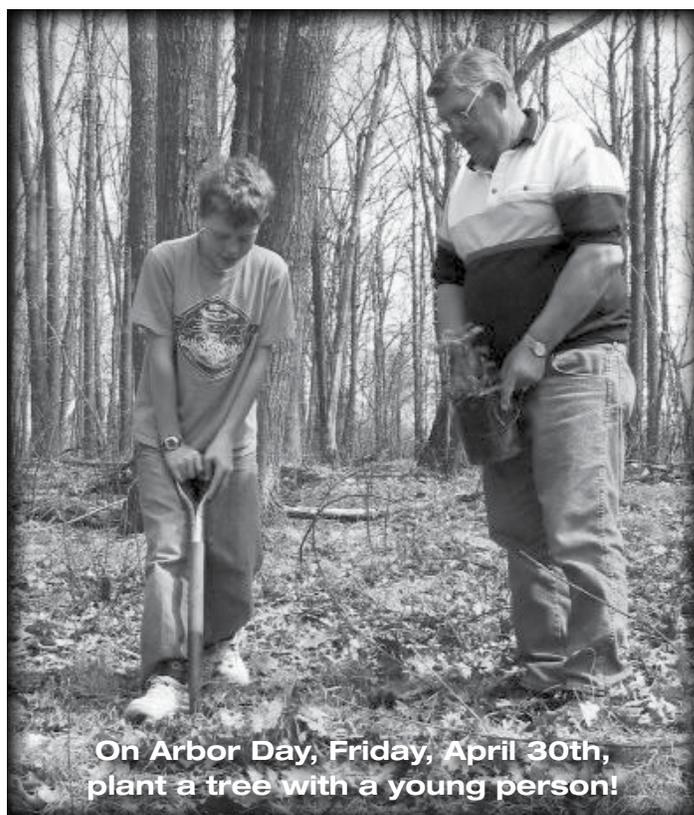
Photo from Iowa State Entomology.

*This female wood tick, shown next to a dime, is larger than deer ticks and has lighter markings.*

- Check for ticks daily after having been out in the field or woods.
- If you have been bitten by a tick, remove the tick and save it in a medicine bottle or other small container filled with rubbing alcohol.
- If, later, you develop any suspicious symptoms, send in the tick you saved for positive ID. With a \$10 lab fee, send to:

Jeffrey Hahn, Extension Professor  
U of M Department of Entomology  
236 Hodson Hall, 1980 Folwell Avenue  
St. Paul MN 55108

For much more information, Google these two U of M Fact Sheets written by Jeff Hahn: *Tick-Borne Diseases in Minnesota* and *Ticks and Their Control*.



**On Arbor Day, Friday, April 30th,  
plant a tree with a young person!**

# Member Profile: Gary Bradford

During his 37-year career in the military, Gary and Janet Bradford would get back to the Bradford family farm for occasional getaways. The farm is located on the Ripple River near Aitkin. In 1976, their accommodations became more luxurious when they built a cabin on their 60-acre portion of the farm.



*Janet and Gary Bradford on the deck of their new home with their getaway cabin, built in 1976, in the background.*

When Gary retired in 1996, he and Janet built a new home on the land they have enjoyed every day since. They call their place Bradford's Ripple River Acres.

For the Bradfords, retirement hasn't been a time for sitting around. They are very active in their church and in the Gideons, the people who distribute free bibles to hotels and similar places. Gary also visits prisoners in the county jail every Monday.

Gary's interest in trees and his woodland evolved over the years. He said, "When I was growing up, trees were shade for the cattle." Now he is very involved in managing his forest and using wood it produces for all sorts of projects.

## Northwoods Forestry Coop is Born

In 2001, Gary and a small group of woodland owners came up with the idea of forming a coop. Gary said the initial group included several key people. "Glenn Elvecrog is a money guy and became treasurer. Herb Wall understood trees and the woodland. Ed Slettom had spent years developing coops. Jim Chamberlin and Dave Jablonic were also involved. For me, the main thing I learned in the military was about managing people so they made me president. I served in that capacity until this year when we elected Pat Lanin to replace me."



*The coop's Peterson Sawmill in action.*

## "We Need a Sawmill"

By 2003 the coop members decided they needed a sawmill they could share between the members. A special organization was formed, Northwoods

Forestry Enterprises, and a Peterson Sawmill was purchased ([www.PetersonSawmills.com](http://www.PetersonSawmills.com)). "We raised the money by selling informal shares to interested people at \$1,000 each. Three of us bought two shares while others purchased one. In all, we raised \$12,000, enough to buy the mill."

In the years since, over 400 hours have been put on the mill by the owners. Lumber cut with the mill has been used to build all manner of things, including a horse barn and a machine shed. With further processing at Nemadji Wood Processing in Sandstone, [www.NemadjiWood.com](http://www.NemadjiWood.com), members have made flooring and paneling. Besides saving money on lumber, the members enjoy the special satisfaction that comes from using trees off their own land.

In the sawmill enterprise, Gary plays the key role of custodian of the saw. He trains new people on how to safely use the equipment, makes sure it is kept in good working order and goes out on trouble calls whenever a user runs into difficulty. "Besides a custodian," Gary said, "the other key role is a board like ours that is supportive of the operation."

## Field Days

The coop holds a field day each year, usually in September. Besides the 35 coop members, these events are attended by as many as 100 local woodland enthusiasts.



*Bob Krause, Long Prairie, talking about the tree he is about to fell at the coop's 2009 Field Day.*

In addition, coop members get together twice a year for fun days. For these events, one member plans a project on his land. He then informs other members so they know what kind of equipment to bring. Gary said, "Our host usually has coffee and donuts waiting for us when we arrive. We then go out to work on the project, which usually takes us two to three hours. After that, we come back for lunch and conversation."



*Pat Lanin, the newly-elected president of Northwoods Forestry Coop.*

For More Information on Northwoods Forestry Coop, contact new coop president Pat Lanin at [PELanin@Brainerd.net](mailto:PELanin@Brainerd.net) or 218-764-3315. For more information on Forestry Enterprises sawmill, contact Gary Bradford at [JanBrad41@Yahoo.com](mailto:JanBrad41@Yahoo.com).

# Minnesota's Landscape Committees – Unique In The Nation

What we do on our land can have a far-ranging impact. For example, if we plant trees in an area that is susceptible to erosion, we help improve water quality in our local stream, and the river into which it feeds.

The 1995 Minnesota Sustainable Forest Resources Act laid the foundation for large-scale forest management by establishing the Landscape Program. The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) oversees the Landscape Program to support a broader perspective and approach to sustainable forest management.

Regional, citizen-based landscape committees were formed to provide an open public forum for diverse interests to cooperatively promote forest sustainability. The six committees, and the area of the state with which they are concerned, are:

Northern	West Central
North Central	East Central
Northeast	Southeast

By 2005, plans for the broad landscape were completed in all six regions. (You can examine the plan for your region at [www.frc.state.mn.us](http://www.frc.state.mn.us).) Now emphasis has shifted to plan implementation. The six committees meet on a regular basis to guide and coordinate the implementation of the landscape plans.

**Minnesota's Landscape Program has been recognized nationally as a model for "integrating diverse interests across multiple ownerships for sustainable forest landscapes and desired long-term outcomes,"** according to Dr. John Fedkiw, a senior policy adviser for the USDA.

## How can YOU get involved?

- It is not too late! Join one of the six regional committees. You will particularly enjoy working with and getting to know some of the more active private woodland owners in your area (see contact information below).
- Look up your region's landscape plan (see the web site below).
- Plan the management of your private woodland to compliment your region's landscape plan.
- Implement the MFRC site level guidelines or best management practices on your property.
- Volunteer to work on a specific project with your regional landscape committee.
- Encourage your township, city, and county to integrate sustainable forest management concepts into their local land use plans.
- Advocate forests as viable long-term land uses and discourage the parcelization and fragmentation of private forestland.

For more information see [www.frc.state.mn.us](http://www.frc.state.mn.us) or call Lindberg Ekola, Landscape Program Manager at 320-256-8300. Also see the enclosed brochure, *Managing Your Forest in a Big Picture Contest*.



*Chuck Erickson, private landowner from Battle Lake, has been active on the West Central Regional Landscape Committee since 2005.*



## Meet a Tree

### The Butternut

*By Dennis Thompson*

Butternut is a short-lived, small to medium sized tree that seldom reaches the age of 75.

Also called white walnut or oilnut, butternut grows rapidly on well-drained soils along hillsides and stream banks. It is more valued for its nuts than for lumber, although the soft, coarse-grained wood works, stains, and finishes well. The sweet nuts are prized as a food by man and animals.

Forest stands seldom contain more than an occasional butternut tree, although in local areas it may be abundant.

Butternuts flower from April to June and good seed crops can be expected every 2 to 3 years. The fruit is an oblong-ovoid pointed nut that matures in September and October. The average butternut tree is generally 40 to 60 feet in height and 12 to 24 inches in diameter. Although young trees may withstand competition from the side, butternut does not survive under shade from above.

The most serious disease of butternut is butternut canker. Symptoms of the disease include dying branches and stems. Initially, cankers develop on branches in the lower crown and diseased trees usually die within several years.



# Pocket Gophers!

By Anne Petry

"I've actually seen one of my newly-planted seedlings disappear before my eyes as a pocket gopher pulled it down into its tunnel," exclaimed a frustrated neighbor. Actually, there is probably nothing more tasty to a hungry pocket gopher than succulent seedlings. And, if the seedlings were planted by machine, making digging from one to another easy, so much the better!

Our land includes several small fields where families tried to grow crops in the 1940s and 50s. When we purchased the land, the fields had been neglected for years. The pocket gopher mounds were so numerous one could almost walk across any of the fields by stepping from one mound to another without ever having to step on flat ground.

Through trial and error, we were finally able to eliminate the gophers. Happily, we've now been gopher-free for at least 10 years. Here's the approach that worked for us:

**Work in the spring**, when the soil is moist and digging or probing is easy.

**Use a good probe.** At first we used an old broom stick sharpened at one end. Then, we had a probe made out of one inch stock at our local welding shop. It was well worth the investment.

**Concern yourself ONLY with** the new mounds. Forget about mounds that are clearly old, such as those with grass growing out of the top. Go after mounds that were made this spring or last winter, under the snow.

Probe until you find a tunnel. The book says the mounds are kidney-shaped and that the tunnel can be found right under the indent in the kidney. Well, pocket gophers must not have read the book because I was seldom able to find the tunnel where it was supposed to be. But, when working in moist soil with a good probe, making a half dozen or more holes to find the tunnel



is no problem. If you've never used a probe to find a gopher tunnel, you'll find it is easy to feel when you hit one.

**Drop a half teaspoonful of bait into the tunnel.**

**Plug the probe hole with wadded newspaper** and then cover with dirt. There are two key points here. First, the tunnel has to be darkened. If sunlight is allowed into the tunnel, the gopher will push dirt ahead of itself to block the source of sunlight. That dirt will cover your bait.

The wad of newspaper is also important to prevent dirt from falling onto your bait as you cover the probe hole.

**Knock down the mound** so that, when you check back, you'll be able to identify any new mounds.

**Check back every week or two** through the spring and treat any new mounds.

The hardest part: **finding the right bait.** Just because a product mentions gophers on the label doesn't mean it actually works for them. To get a product registered with EPA, a pesticide manufacturer has to submit tons of data to show the product is safe for humans, pets, wildlife and the environment when used as directed. What they do not have to show is that the product actually works against the pests listed on the label.

To find the right product, examine the labels of products that mention gophers on the label. Under "Active Ingredient" look for either strychnine or zinc phosphide. Both of these active ingredients could be toxic if misused but are safe when used according to label directions. As with any pesticide, **READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS!**

I hope this system works as well for you as it did for us and that you too can enjoy years of pocket gopher-free fields!



# Cambridge Landowners Meeting

Greg Wuerflein and others at the DNR Forstry Office in Cambridge organized an annual meeting of private woodland owners. This year's event was held on Thursday, February 25th.



Above: The Nick, Sarah and baby Scion Foltz-Jordan family attending the conference.



Left: Robert and Russell Rippberger during their Tree Farm and wildlife land improvement presentation.

Lower left: Bob Sonnenberg – Minnesota Tree Farmer of the Year.

Below: Russell Rippberger answers questions during a break in front of Firewise display.

## How Satisfying!

As you are planting seedlings this spring, think about what it will be like to stand under the mature trees years from now. Pine County resident Bob Ludwig planted this red pine as a seedling in 1953.



Left: MC Greg Wuerflein



Below right: Barry and Heidi (Gerdin) Seals, Isanti Co. landowners, on break.



Wood products display.



Michelle Martin gives a presentation on Native Plant Communities & Trees & Plants found in them.



# Upcoming Events

For more information on these or other events, go to [www.MinnesotaForestry.org](http://www.MinnesotaForestry.org) or call MFA at 218-326-6486

## April

### Saturday, April 10

- 1 pm – 4 pm Maple Syrup Festival! (St. John's University, Collegeville MN)

### Friday, April 16

- 1 pm Bird Conservation: How Landowners Can Help Minnesota's Birst (St. Louis Park)
- 3 pm Tree Planting – Julie Miedtke, U of M Extension and Andy Arens, Itasca SWCD (Grand Rapids)

### Tuesday, April 20

- 12 noon – 1:30 pm Minnesota woodlands and climate change. (Online) For content and registration details, see "Upcoming Classes and Events" on [www.MinnesotaForestry.org](http://www.MinnesotaForestry.org).
- 6:30 – 8 pm Minnesota Woodlands and Climate Change (St. John's University, Collegeville)

### Thursday, April 22

- 12:30 – 5:30 pm Growing, Tending, Measuring & Reading Your Forest (Brainerd)

### Saturday, April 24

- How to Use a GPS Receiver & Landview for Loggers, Foresters & Landowners (Grand Rapids)

## May

### Thursday, May 6

- 1 – 4 pm Growing & Tending Your Forest (Brainerd)
- 1 – 4 pm Made in the Shade. Wild Edibles with Dave Wilsey, Extension. (Grand Rapids)

### Friday, May 7

- 1 – 4 pm Walk in the Woods (Wright County)

### Wednesday, May 19

- 12 noon – 1:30 pm Minnesota NonTimber Forest Products (Online) For content and registration details, see "Upcoming Classes and Events" on [www.MinnesotaForestry.org](http://www.MinnesotaForestry.org)

### Friday & Saturday, May 21 & 22 MFA's Spring Field Days & Tree Farm Awards

- See flyer enclosed!

*Lumberjacks eating in mess hall at Scott and Graf Lumber Company. This is a hint of the interesting exhibits you will see at the Forest History Center, Grand Rapids during MFA's Spring Field Days.*

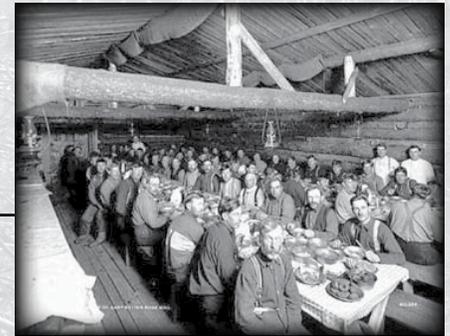
## June

### Friday, June 4

- 1 – 5 pm Tree & Shrub ID (Alexandria)

### Saturday, June 5

- 10 am – 2 pm Woodland Field Day (WI border east of Hinckley)



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.



- Oak wilt risk status: High! Get the details.
- Northern Minnesota phenology report
- Find a forester! New map & list of approved MN Stewardship Plan writers
- Webinars: Minnesota Woodlands & Climate Change, April 20. Recordings now available on Carbon credits, Property tax & incentive programs, and 5 things every woodland owner needs to know.
- Upcoming events, Poem of the month, News links, Woodland Stewardship book winner, and more.

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)

## Thank You to Our Supporting Members!

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*Photo background by Eli Sagor (Flickr: esagor).*