



Minnesota Woodlands

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

www.MinnesotaForestry.org

Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA)

Information@
MinnesotaForestry.org
218-326-6486
PO Box 496
Grand Rapids
MN 55744

MFA Newsletter Vol. 14 No. 3

June/July 2012
The Minnesota Woodlands Newsletter is published by the Minnesota Forestry Association.

MFA Board Meetings

Cambridge DNR Office, 10 am – 3 pm

- July 17, 2012
- October 19, 2012

Conference Calls

8 – 9 am

- June 19
- August 21
- September 18
- November 20
- December 18

Editor

Editor@MinnesotaForestry.org

Design/layout

Peg Churchwell
Lady Dog Design
peg@ladydogdesign.com

Spring Field Days 2012

Our Spring Field Days event, held in Grand Rapids on May 18 and 19, was one of the best ever. The Friday afternoon tour included stops at Itasca Greenhouse, where Tom and Cathy Sayward and family produce over 5 million containerized seedlings each year, and at the Minnesota Fire Command Center.

On Friday evening there was an outstanding dinner at the Sawmill Inn, with a silent auction, Tree Farm Awards and an entertaining and informative keynote by Art Norton on the glacial history of Minnesota. Dennis Thompson, Aitkin, organized the silent auction which netted nearly \$500 thanks to some really neat stuff contributed by John Thompson, Duluth; Pat Lanin, Brainerd; Roger Howard, Aitkin; Jim Ravis, Aitkin; Chuck Erickson, Battle Lake; Lyle Keller, Peterson; Peter Bundy, Crosby; Bruce ZumBahlen, Inver Grove Heights; and the Forest History Center as well as a bag of seed corn from Steele County Minnesota Pheasants.

Saturday morning at the Forest History Center, participants had their choice between a walk in the woods with forester Keith Matson, a wildlife walk with Jodie Provost or a small woodland equipment demonstration by Pat Lanin.

Our noon lunch was both fun and delicious. It was served in the replica of a 1900-era logging camp mess hall. The multi-course meal included bones (riplets), sticks & straws (carrots & celery), sow belly (pork), cow (beef), spuds & baggas (potatoes and rutabagas), loggin' berries (prunes which were served with every meal to keep the lumberjacks regular!), and linen lifters (beans). Dessert was pregnant woman pie (made from dried apples that swell up when wetted) washed down with swamp water (tea) or black jack (coffee). Delicious!

During the afternoon, there were presentations on tax incentives, cost-share programs and timber wolves.

Next year Spring Field Days will be May 17 & 18, 2013 at Cabela's in Owatonna. See you there!

You Can Win a Pickaroon!

Go to MFA's website, www.MinnesotaForestry.org, and find the answer to this question among the photos of our 2012 Spring Field Days event: Name the person shown blowing Gabriel's Horn.

Send your answer in an email to: Information@MinnesotaForestry.org. A drawing will be held on Monday, July 9th among those who submitted the correct answer. Good luck!



Top: Thanks to event chair Dave Roerick, Grand Rapids, with help from Dennis Thompson, Aitkin!

Second: Old fashioned logging.

Third: Kyle and Tom Schultz, Sebeka, won a Pat Lanin pickaroon in the drawing held for those who registered before May 1st.

Bottom: Pat Lanin, Brainerd, with a pickaroon.

Minnesota Forestry
Association
2012 Board of Directors

John O'Reilly, president
40361 Grace Lake Road
Hinckley, MN 55037
320-655-3901
President@MinnesotaForestry.org

Chuck Erickson, vice president
34115 County Highway 74
Battle Lake, MN 56515
218-495-3321
Cell: 218-205-9001
CYErick@prtcl.com

Dennis Thompson, treasurer
130 Southgate Drive
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-6565
Treasurer@MinnesotaForestry.org

Lyle Keller, secretary
28814 Gilbertson Drive
Peterson MN 55962
507-875-2215

Bruce ZumBahlen, past president
8203 Innsdale Avenue South
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
651-458-0483
ZoomerBruce@aol.com

Al Schacht
58145 350th Avenue
Zumbro Falls, MN 55991
507-753-3214
Schacht2Schacht@aol.com

Gary Michael
DNR Forestry Program
Coordinator
1810 30th Street NW
Faribault, MN 550211843
507-333-2012
Gary.Michael@state.mn.us

Jim Hunder
15795 25th Court North
Plymouth MN 55447
763-476-6310
JHund@aol.com

David Lindroth
8150 137th Street W.
Apple Valley MN 55124
952-432-7066
DLind22@juno.com

David Roerick
319 NE 8th Street
Grand Rapids MN 55744
218-326-3774
DRoerick@gmail.com

Ex-Officio Members
Mike Reichenbach
Regional Extension Educator
U. of MN Extension
179 University Road
Cloquet, MN 55720
218-726-6470
Reich027@UMN.edu

Jim Lemmerman
6316 Nashua Street
Duluth MN 55807
218-624-3847
J.Lemmerman@clearwire.net

Administrative Assistant
Carol Cartie
PO Box 496
Grand Rapids MN 55744
218-326-6486
Information@MinnesotaForestry.org

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 starting at 10 a.m. During all other months, the meeting is held via conference call. Any MFA member is welcome to sit in on the face-to-face meetings and listen in on the conference calls. See a list of board members and meeting dates elsewhere in this newsletter. Contact any board member for further information. For a copy of minutes from any recent meeting, contact Carol Cartie at Information@MinnesotaForestry.org or 218-326-6486.

The following are the most significant actions of the board during the past year. They were presented to the membership at our Annual Meeting on Friday, May 18 in Grand Rapids. By vote, the members present approved the actions.

2012 Budget: Adopted a break-even budget of \$73,954.60 in revenue and expense.

Lobbyist: Agreed to retain Kevin Walli, of the Fryberger Law Firm, to look after our interests during the 2012 legislative session at a fee not to exceed \$7,500. This is the 12th year we have had such a relationship. The first major success in working with Kevin Walli was passage of the Sustainable Forestry Incentive Act (SFIA). He was also instrumental in getting the new 2c tax classification for woodland passed.

Education Fund: Established an MFA Education Fund with the proceeds from the conservation easement that was terminated last year. The funds, currently amounting to just over \$50,000, are invested in a separate Edward Jones account. The board decided that an annual withdrawal can be made in an amount equal to the earnings from the past year, up to a maximum of 5% of the fund balance. The funds will be used to help finance MFA landowner educational efforts.

Call Before You Cut: Rolled out a Call Before You Cut program but made it available to MFA members only.

Complimentary Memberships: We had given out 33 complimentary memberships, mostly to DNR officials. All were informed with the last newsletter that we would be suspending all complimentary memberships and invited them to join on a paying basis.

At the Annual Meeting, one member asked for more **detail on 2011 revenue and expenditures.** Here it is:

2011 Revenues

| Item | Amount | Budget % |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Membership Dues | \$28,247.71 | 40.32% |
| Edward Jones Distribution | \$13,500.00 | 19.27% |
| St. Paul Foundation Distribution | \$8,393.76 | 11.98% |
| Woodland Advisor | \$6,287.15 | 8.97% |
| Grants | \$4,000.00 | 5.71% |
| Donations (MLEP & SFIA) | \$3,371.64 | 4.81% |
| Annual Meeting Registration | \$2,685.00 | 3.83% |
| Interest and Misc. Revenue | \$1,884.96 | 2.69% |
| Gift and Clothing Sales | \$1,684.70 | 2.40% |
| Total | \$70,054.92 | 100% |

2011 Expenses

| Item | Amount | Budget % |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Administration | \$25,040.70 | 34.27% |
| Government Relations | \$12,497.30 | 17.10% |
| Newsletter and Website | \$9,763.92 | 13.36% |
| Annual Meeting | \$8,894.39 | 12.17% |
| Woodland Advisor | \$6,287.15 | 8.60% |
| CPA Audit | \$1,952.28 | 2.67% |
| Postage and Bulk Permit | \$1,948.47 | 2.67% |
| Insurance | \$1,772.86 | 2.43% |
| Bank Charges and Misc. Expenses | \$1,613.64 | 2.21% |
| Phones and Conference Calls | \$1,414.01 | 1.94% |
| Board Expenses | \$1,033.65 | 1.41% |
| Dues and Memberships | \$850.00 | 1.16% |
| Total | \$73,068.37 | 100% |

To comment on anything here, contact any board member.



Bruce ZumBahlen

Final 2012 Legislative Report

By Bruce ZumBahlen, chair, MFA's Government Affairs Committee

As reported in the last issue of the MFA newsletter, the most visible issue this past legislative session to forestry stakeholders was a bill affecting management of the 2.5 million acres of school trust lands managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Originally opposed by the Governor, the bill passed with strong bi-partisan support to create a new 12-member legislative commission to provide oversight of the DNR's management of the trust lands.

Here's a little background. The bill's purpose is to increase revenue from school trust lands. Minnesota's constitution allows the DNR to recover its management expenses such as reforestation and road maintenance to ensure those lands are managed in a sustainable manner. After recovering those costs, net revenue is deposited in the School Trust Fund. The Fund invests the money in bonds, stocks, etc. and the income from those investments is used as part of the school aid formula to help fund Minnesota's public schools.

The new legislative commission is authorized to hire a director with staff as part of that oversight. MFA signed onto a letter with other conservation groups such as the MN Deer Hunters Association and the Audubon Council in opposition to that bill. From our viewpoint, the bill will only increase the cost of managing the lands by creating another layer of bureaucracy with no assurance that the lands could produce

more revenue since they are predominately wetlands in the northern part of the state.

In other news, as part of the Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Policy Bill, the Minnesota Forest Resources Council is charged to study the status of private forest land management and incentives and report to the legislature with recommended policies to promote healthy and robust forests. The report is due by January 15, 2013. However, it is an unfunded mandate and the Council may be looking to other organizations for help in funding the study.

No doubt, this study would take a hard look at the SFIA and the 2c Managed Forest property classification as well as other issues. According to the MN Dept. of Revenue, 2,527 landowners are currently enrolled in the SFIA covering 775,444 acres. Another 182,569 acres are classified under the 2c Managed Forest classification in 64 counties.

On a more promising note, final passage of the bonding bill included \$2.5 million for state land reforestation and stand improvement. Without these monies, the DNR would have faced a difficult time in carrying out its management responsibilities as well as threatening to close its one remaining tree nursery. By law passed in the 2011 legislative session, future production at the Badoura nursery is restricted to sell tree seedlings only to public agencies, the DNR being the primary customer.

Count Our Blessings ... Our Woodland is in Minnesota, Not Wisconsin

By John O'Reilly

Sitting in on a recent meeting of the Northwestern Wisconsin Chapter of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, I was shocked to hear how the Wisconsin tax system abuses woodland owners.

In 1995 average taxes on agricultural land were a little over \$15 per acre and taxes on woodland were \$7.78. By 2010, things had changed. Taxes on ag land were down to an average of \$3.38 per acre while taxes on woodland were up to \$32.61! That means the average tax bill for a 40-acre woodlot is over \$1,300!

Property taxes are the product of the value of the land times the mil rate. In most of Wisconsin, the mil rate is 18 to 20, meaning taxes are \$18 to \$20 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Thus, the higher the assessed value, the higher the tax.

The big change in ag land taxes came about as a result of lobbying by ag-related interests. They got the state to adopt a formula for ag land that results in assessed values of \$100 to \$300 per acre, despite the fact that good ag land is selling

in the \$4,000 range today. On the other hand, woodland in their "Productive Forest" category is assessed at 100% of its fair market value.

There are provisions in the Wisconsin tax law that encourage woodland owners to abuse their land. For example, one fellow put a fence around his 40-acre woodlot and let cattle graze in it. His taxes went down from over \$1,300 to under \$100. Another fellow planted seedlings in a farm field that was only marginally productive. When he got his tax bill, and saw the taxes had increased from under \$4 per acre to over \$30, he plowed up the seedlings!

Case Study

Those woodland owners who take the time to study the complicated property tax rules have options to save money. The speaker at this event, Richard Wedepohl, listed the options for his southwest Wisconsin 50-acre woodlot which has a fair market value of \$2,900 per acre:

Continued on page 8

Member Profile: The Crockers

For Joe Crocker, 73, of Isanti, harvesting 35 cords of pine last winter was a highlight in an adventure. It began in the late 1970s when Joe and wife, Jean, mentioned in conversation that, "We should buy some land." A short time later, a friend told Joe about 70 acres for sale near Isanti and the adventure began.

Joe and Jean had the land but no plan until a few years later when they said, "Maybe we should plant some trees." Five years after that, 20,000 mostly red pines were in the ground. Those that the pocket gophers didn't get are now ready for a second thinning, which Joe started this past winter.

For Joe, thinning his pines is a meticulous, one-tree-at-a-time process. He starts by selecting the individual trees to be taken, leaving the best ones to grow further. Almost all the trees he cuts get hung up on nearby trees so out comes the chain and come-along.

Once on the ground, limbs are removed and the trunk is skidded with his 35-horse John Deere tractor to a mini-landing, where it is cut into 100-inch lengths and sorted into three piles by size. The pile with the largest diameter wood will go for saw logs. The other two piles will go to a local log furniture maker whose business is so good he can't get enough wood. He particularly likes the small diameter wood, down to 1½ inches, for his furniture.

Working four to five hours per day, Joe says, "I was amazed at how much I was able to get done thanks to our great weather this past winter. Two more winters like this one and the second thinning will be completed. I'll then do a third thinning in eight to 10 years and the best trees remaining will be left for future generations to enjoy."

Joe spent the bulk of his career selling overhead hoists and cranes. Some were big units used in huge industrial plants. Others were smaller, used in auto repair shops. "I started out as an employee and then, in the late 1980s, had a chance to buy the company. I was very fortunate that, for the next few

years, the American economy was doing very well. By 1998, two of my employees bought the company from me and Jean and I made plans to move from the Twin Cities to our Isanti County land."

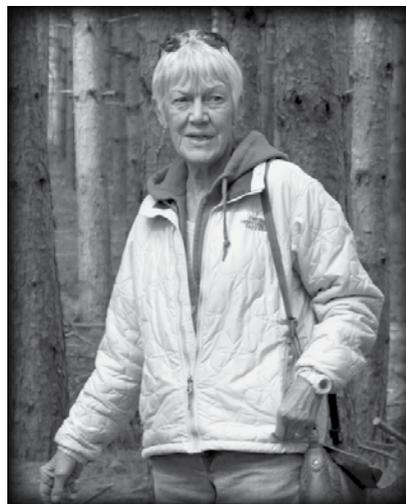
The first year and a half on their land was spent living in a garage as they built their new home. The home is a 40-foot square, two-story, energy efficiency building. The roof is timber frame made from second growth white pine. The walls are 10 inches of concrete. Facing south, the solar gain in winter is so strong that a small wood stove is all that is needed for heat.

The entire second floor of the house is used for Jean's studio. There she does various kinds of artwork including painting with water colors and making decorative windows with stained glass.

The Crockers have four grown children and 10 grandchildren who live in Minnetonka, Brainerd, Seattle and Wakefield, Rhode Island. "We had the whole family here on one occasion," Jean said, "and it was pretty crowded. More recently, we've had one or two of our children and their families at a time."

Joe and Jean are serious about energy efficiency. They tried heating with solar panels on the roof but that didn't work. Now they have one large panel that supplies their hot water and an array of solar panels installed out in the yard that supply up to one-third of their electricity. In addition, Joe built a root cellar using 120 old truck tires and concrete where they store potatoes, carrots and other vegetables over the winter. They have a 500-gallon waste water treatment plant that does such a good job, no mound system is needed. Then, Joe recently installed a geothermal system that will heat the house.

That casual conversation of some 40 years ago, when they decided they should look for some land, has resulted in a very happy retirement for Joe and Jean.



Left: Joe Crocker examines the crown of one of his pines.

Above: Jean Crocker



A local log furniture maker will buy both piles of logs but actually likes the smaller ones on the right best.

Creature Feature



By Judy Provost

Moose - Twig Eater

The moose is Minnesota's largest wild animal and the largest deer in the world, averaging 950 to 1,000 pounds and sometimes exceeding 1,200 pounds. Its antlers alone can weigh up to 40 pounds. A highlight of my career was registering a moose harvested by famed Minnesota wildlife artist, Les Kouba and his hunting party in October 1993 in northwest Minnesota. The "monarch's" antlers measured over five feet wide.

Moose are a creature adapted to cold, snowy climates and on the southern edge of their range in Minnesota. Historically, they've occupied the northwest and northeast portions of our state. During the last two decades, northwest moose have declined from an estimated 4,000 in the mid-1980s to fewer than 100 moose. (It's hard to believe that our family once awoke to three moose sleeping in our backyard in the northwest and counted 17 moose in one hayfield!) Similarly, the northeast population has declined from an estimated 7,900 moose in 2005 to the current estimate of 4,200.

Warming temperatures have been implicated in these declines. The combined stress of expending energy to stay cool, living with parasites such as brainworm (which negatively affects moose but not deer) and ticks, and perhaps other unknown factors appear to be taking a toll. Predation is not implicated as a factor in the declines.

Moose means "twig eater" in Algonquin, reflecting well its main food source, browse. Thus moose habitat in Minnesota includes young forests created by logging, fire and windstorms; older forests with gaps of regenerating forest; wetlands; muskeg; marsh; riparian areas; and brushlands with abundant deciduous browse, such as willow. Adequate winter and summer thermal cover, such as forest cover and water, is very important as they are sensitive to high temperatures.

A carefully controlled, once-in-a-life-time hunt for bulls-only allows hunters a chance to harvest moose in northeastern Minnesota. Last fall, 74 moose were harvested. Northwestern Minnesota has been closed to moose hunting since 1996.

A moose research and management plan was recently completed by the DNR in response to concern about the decline in the northeast population. The plan recommends harvest closure if harvest success rates and bull:cow ratios fall below certain levels, research, pre-fawn deer populations below ten deer/square mile and no recreational deer feeding in the primary moose range, and quality moose habitat.



Photos: Erika Butler, MN DNR

Research projects have begun or are planned to address the northeast population decline. The DNR is leading research to determine causes of death in adult moose and survival, cause-specific mortality, and recruitment of moose calves. A study of habitat requirements is being led by the Natural Resources Research Institute. These studies will include capture of adult moose and calves, fitting them with GPS collars, and data collection. Results will inform management strategies and actions to better ensure long-term persistence of moose in Minnesota.

To encourage continued existence of this northern wilderness symbol, support moose plan recommendations and consider life style changes and support policy that affect factors contributing to warming temperatures.

Cool Moose Facts: A moose can store more than 100 pounds of food in its stomach. Moose can run 35 mph and easily swim 10 miles without stopping. An adult moose weighs as much as four or five full-grown white-tailed deer.

Tree Farm Awards



Minnesota's state Tree Farmers of the Year are Frank and Mickey Smith, Emily MN, shown here receiving their plaque and Stihl chainsaw from Jim Berkeland. Berkeland is a forester with UPM Blandin in Grand Rapids and the chair of the Minnesota Tree Farm Committee.

Other regional winners are Rod and Jill Wulff, Roseau MN; Bill and Bernie Gothard, Grand Rapids MN; and Steve and Debbie Morgan, Faribault MN.



Tree Farm Inspector of the Year is Gary Anderson, Outting, shown here with Jim Berkeland. A retired DNR forester, Anderson currently does consulting with private woodland owners. Anderson has worked with Frank and Mickey Smith for over 30 years. He said, "Frank Smith is the most consistently active private woodland owner I have had the pleasure of working with."

A Tree Farmer Goes to Washington

By Steve Earley

This spring I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D. C. (DC) for the 4th annual Tree Farm Fly-In. I was joined by more than 60 other family forest owners from 25 states. I continue to be truly in awe of our democracy. The monuments and museums in Washington are amazing but they are dwarfed by our approach to government that enables the easy access to our Congressional staff that I experienced.

We tree farmers felt our time was well spent. Face-to-face visits with our Congressional delegation really do have an impact. Just a couple weeks ago the Senate Agriculture Committee passed the Farm Bill which gives family forest owners full access to conservation programs and fixes the current problem with the Biobased Markets Program by including wood from America's forests..

In 2012, an important effort is to fix the estate tax to keep family forests in the family. If Congress doesn't act by the end of this year, the estate tax will impact many more forest owners who are working to keep their forests in their family. Currently, the estate tax exemption level protects most forest owners from the tax—there's a \$5 million exemption level, and estates valued above that are taxed at 35 percent. We hope to at least maintain these levels.

For more information about estate tax, the Farm Bill, and other issues Tree Farm is working on in Washington, as the voice of family forest owners, please visit www.familyforestaction.org or contact Melissa Moeller, public affairs manager, at mmoeller@forestfoundation.org.

Steve Earley is a MFA Member and Tree Farmer from International Falls, MN.





Meet a Tree **Red Pine**

Red pine, also called Norway pine, is one of the most extensively planted species in the northern United States and Canada. Natural stands of red pine grow best on sandy soils low in fertility and in regions with cool to warm summers, cold winters, and low to moderate precipitation. Red pine is a tall, slender tree with a smooth, straight stem that grows well in pure stands but more often is found with jack pine, white pine, or both. Michigan is home to some of the largest living red pine with some over 140 feet tall and 38 inches in diameter. The oldest tree age recorded in Minnesota is 307 years although a tree estimated to be 400 years old was measured in the Chippewa National Forest.

Red pine flowers between April and June. Cones first become visible in late May or early June with pollination occurring during the same time. Seedfall begins at the time cones ripen and continues throughout the winter and into the next summer. Trees as young as 12 years old are capable of producing viable seed; however, the best years for seed production are from age 50 to 150. Good seed crops occur every three to seven years with bumper crops every 10 to 12 years.

Red pine is managed primarily for wood production. From lumber, poles, and cabin logs to pulpwood and fuelwood, the lightweight, close-grained wood from red pine has many uses. Even when wood production is the main goal, red pine forests often are managed throughout their rotation for other uses such as recreation and wildlife habitat. Red pine stands are popular places for hiking, camping, and other recreational activities, especially when the trees are large and located near a lake or stream. Although red pine stands generally are considered poor habitat for game birds and animals, they provide cover, nesting sites, and some food for many species of birds and animals.

Theories on the name Norway pine

The nickname 'Norway' was given to this tree from the early Scandinavian settlers in Minnesota. It reminded them of a tree back in their home country. Others believe the 'Norway' moniker comes from the town of Norway, Maine, where the species was heavily harvested and milled. People would request 'Norway' pine lumber meaning the wood milled in the town of Norway.

Did you know – of course, everybody knows that red pine is Minnesota's state tree!!



Retired DNR forester Bob Ludwig, Duxbury, is shown with a red pine he planted as a seedling in 1953.



Leaves of Three, Let it Be

It is absolutely true that poison ivy ALWAYS comes in "leaves of three". But so do many other common plants so, to be safe, don't touch any plant with three leaves unless you are sure it is not poison ivy. Here are two tips to help identify this plant:

- Poison ivy has one terminal leaf and a pair of leaves further down the stem that are always exactly opposite each other.
- Poison ivy leaves usually have serrated teeth but the teeth are never regular and are never around the entire leaf. In this photo, notice how the serrations are different on one side of each leaf than the other.

| | Tax Classification | Tax |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Option #1 | Productive Forest (Assessed at 100% of fair market Value.) | \$1,980 |
| Option #2 | Ag Forest, woodland directly connected to ag land (Assessed at 50% of fair market value.) | \$990 |
| Option #3 | Managed Forest Law. (Similar to our SFIA but with many more rules and restrictions.) | \$418 |
| Option #4 | Managed Forest Law AND open to all public hunting and other uses | \$83 |
| Option #5 | Pasture (Fence it and let cows graze.) | \$69 |

Option #4, the Wisconsin Managed Forest Law (MFL), results in substantial tax savings but comes with strings attached:

- Must have a stewardship plan which costs \$1,000 for 50 acres.
- Any harvest recommended in the plan is required, not voluntary.
- When a harvest is carried out, there is a 5% Yield Tax.
- Leasing for hunting has become lucrative, especially in southwest Wisconsin. The lease for this 50-acre parcel would be about \$1,500 per year but leasing is forbidden under the MFL.
- Can't subdivide land that is enrolled in MFL.
- The penalty for withdrawing from MFL is substantial, sometimes higher than the value of the land!!

What Mr. Wedepohl actually did was take advantage of a provision in the law which enabled him to qualify for the Ag Forest classification. Under this classification, his taxes went down from \$1,980 to \$990. This is still more than double what they would be under the MFL but he also has none of the MFL restrictions. He can lease his land for hunting; he can subdivide it if he chooses; he can harvest timber as he wishes; and there is no penalty for withdrawal.

Yes, we Minnesota woodland owners should count our blessings! Our property taxes are in the \$10 range, instead of \$30 in Wisconsin. We can choose between SFIA, which pays \$7 per acre per year, or the 2c tax classification that lowers the tax rate to 0.65% of assessed value. Both of these programs are due in large part to the MFA Government Affairs Committee, under chairman Bruce ZumBahlen, and the lobbyist with whom MFA has worked for more than 10 years, Kevin Walli of the Fryberger law firm.

For MFA members, the two best online sources of woodland information are the MFA website, www.MinnesotaForestry.org and www.MyMinnesotaWoods.UMN.edu.



Here's what's new at MyMinnesotaWoods:

- Announcing Minnesota's 2012 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year
- Webinar update: See Forest Health recording, and tune in for Property Taxes
- Some options for expiring CRP acres
- Meet a Minnesota Logger
- Poem of the month
- News, events, 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.



Interested in Promoting Wildlife?

The Wisconsin Coverts Project is a wildlife program for private woodland owners and Minnesotans are invited. This year, each of two workshops will consist of three days of indoor sessions and outdoor experiences for those who want to enhance their woodland for wildlife. The workshops will be held August 9 - 12 and repeated on August 23 - 26 at the University of Wisconsin's Kemp Natural Resource Station in Woodruff, Wisconsin. There is no registration fee, no charge for housing and no charge for food!

For more information, find a brochure and application at www.MinnesotaForestry.org. There is still room in each of the two sessions but applications must be received by **June 20th!**

