



Minnesota Woodlands

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

www.MinnesotaForestry.org

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MFA Newsletter
Vol. 16 No. 1
February/March 2014
The Minnesota Woodlands newsletter is published by the Minnesota Forestry Association.

MFA Board Meetings
Cambridge DNR Office, 10 am – 3 pm

- April 15, 2014
- July 15, 2014
- October 14, 2014

Conference Calls
8 – 9 am

- February 18, 2014
- March 18, 2014
- May 13, 2014
- June 17, 2014

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Wow! Women of the Woods

By Barb Spears

What do home and family, legacy, taxes, mushrooms, leadership, chainsaws and “Logger Lingo” have in common? Trees and women! Literally, women talking about trees!

What started as a great idea – bringing women woodland owners together around Sand Lake water-quality issues – has developed into a monthly gathering to learn, share and build relationships among women who care about their natural environment.

It's the fellowship of these women and similar groups throughout the United States that led to the creation of the Minnesota Women's Woodland Network (MN WWN).

The MN WWN was developed because women are important to the future of Minnesota's woodlands and natural resources. Forty-five percent of America's woodlands are owned by individuals older than 65. Because women tend to live longer than men, many inherit land that they may have little involvement, knowledge or interest in managing.

Meanwhile, mothers (and fathers) are concerned about keeping the woodland intact and in the family. Daughters, frequently overlooked for sons in woodland management decisions, are recognizing their attachment to the family woodland and are becoming more engaged. And women, in general, are increasingly becoming woodland owners on their own or in partnership through purchase or inheritance.

As a forester actively involved with woodland owners for a number of years, I find it increasingly evident that women are becoming more active in woodland management and are ever more concerned about the legacy of their woodland. But often they don't know whom to turn to for help or they are uncomfortable with the traditional male-dominated classes and profession.



*“Women are becoming more active in woodland management and are ever more concerned about the legacy of their woodland.”
Barb Spears*



Continued on page 3

What's new with the State Forest Nursery Program?



By Craig VanSickle, DNR Forestry, Badoura Nursery, Akeley, MN

The State Forest Nursery program has been on quite a wild ride since the crash of the stock market in 2008. Sales dropped from 8.2 million seedlings sold in 2008 to a 57-year low of 5.2 million seedlings sold in 2009. A number of factors were attributed to the 37% drop in sales. The collapse of the housing market, reduced harvest levels,

decreased cost-share plantings, and financial uncertainty for public agencies and private landowners all played a role. The State Nursery Program began downsizing to maintain its self-sufficiency, reducing production to a six to eight million level. Badoura became the primary conifer grower at five to six million, and General Andrews the primary hardwood seedling producer at one to two million grown annually.

In the summer of 2011, legislation was passed during a legislative special session to focus the State Forest Nursery Program on producing seedlings for public land planting which restricted future sales to private landowners and Minnesota's SWCD programs. Beginning July 2011, the State Nursery program was stopped from further planting at General Andrews Nursery, and began to liquidate the remaining nursery stock. By spring 2013, General Andrews was permanently closed as a production nursery. In 2011, Badoura Nursery restructured its production to meet public agency seedling needs. The State Forest Nursery program was able to sell pre-2011 established inventory to private landowners and SWCD's. After these seedlings were exhausted, the Nursery Program would not sell seedlings for private lands planting, except for those under permanent easements. This would result in a 40 to 50% reduction of the Nursery Program's annual seedling distribution.

In the 2013 Legislative session, permission to produce and sell for private lands and SWCD's was restored. The State Nursery Program is now rebuilding inventory to provide a source of bare root native tree seedlings for public and private landowners.

Beginning July 1, 2013, Badoura Nursery has undertaken the role as the only State production nursery. This remained necessary due to current low seedling demand and the continued requirement for the program to be fiscally self sufficient. In October 2013, Badoura sowed seedbeds to produce six million conifer/hardwood seedlings for the entire State, absorbing the traditional General Andrews hardwood and conifer transplant needs.

The General Andrews Nursery fields are being repurposed as a site for the Division of Forestry's Tree Improvement Seed Orchard and Seed Production Complex. In the fall of 2012, two improved white spruce orchards were established. In May of 2013, one seed production area was established with an east central Minnesota source of Jack Pine, and another with native prairie crabapple (*Malus ioensis*). Two to three more seed production areas are planned for the near future.

The Department of Natural Resources has produced and presented to the Legislature a report that addresses: 1) a long-term Nursery Plan Structure, 2) a Tree Improvement Initiative, and 3) a revised Nursery Business Plan. This report addresses the role, needs and recommended support of the State Forest nurseries in assuring a long-term supply of known source native forest seedlings and support state efforts to address the impact of forest ecosystems from climate change and invasive species.



Wow! Women of the Woods continued from page 1

Being on the steering committee for the MN WWN gives me the chance to provide networking opportunities for women woodland owners to learn from and support each other, to foster a learning environment that encourages women to participate in woodland management education, and to connect women with valuable resources and knowledgeable professionals (primarily women) to help them on their journey of caring for their woodland. I also help women recognize the important role they play as woodland owners.

I lead the Metro Area Minnesota Women's Woodland Network, with members who own from fewer than five acres to more than 250 acres. (Personally, I own two trees on a postage-stamp lot in St. Paul.) Members include women in the natural resources profession and women interested in buying woodland.

We've learned about trees and wildflowers; toured a major tree nursery; shared books and resources; and learned how to safely use a chainsaw. And we have gathered at a restaurant to discuss sustainable harvest and timber sales.

The next event for MN WWN will be held in March in conjunction with the Bemidji Family Woodland Conference. See more conference information on page 8 under Upcoming Events.

Barb Spears is an urban forester/SAF Certified Forester in St. Paul. She leads the Metro Area MN WWN and the Minnesota Forestry Association Metro Chapter.

Member Profile: Alan & Sharon Finifrock

Alan and Sharon Finifrock of Carlton, which is just south of Duluth, have a long history of being connected to their land. They currently own or manage seven 40's in two separate parcels in Carlton County. Both parcels are former Finifrock farm land. One is in the Nemadji River Watershed near Moose Lake and the other is in the Kettle River Watershed on Bear Lake, near Barnum. The Nemadji property, which is on the south shore of ancient Lake Nemadji, was acquired by Alan's parents in 1934.

Alan has a deep respect for and interest in learning from natural resource professionals and other woodland owners. In 1997 he completed the Woodland Advisor training program. Alan's interest in caring for the woodland started as a young child, when he recalls standing on the last five-foot diameter white pine stump on his Nemadji property. Alan began planting trees on an old hayfield with his parents in 1951.

Tree planting became an annual event marked by weekends of work and camping on the property. Since 1951, Al and his family have planted more than 30,000 trees on the properties, most by hand. The majority of the plantings were of red pine and white spruce with about 10% white pine in later years. Some were to reforest and create windbreaks around old fields and pasture land.

The Nemadji property was first enrolled as a Tree Farm in 1967. Alan became aware of the Tree Farm program and felt that by joining he would be able to continue his learning. He has the original Tree Farm certificate framed. The Nemadji property was the site of the Woodbury Sawmill, remnants of which can still be found. These include a five-foot depression in the ground, probably a cellar, and a water line used to bring water to the steam-powered mill from the Nemadji Creek. The logs sawn at the mill were mostly white pine. These were cut into dimensional lumber and transported by horse and sleigh to the rail siding at Nemadji for use in building Superior, Wisconsin.

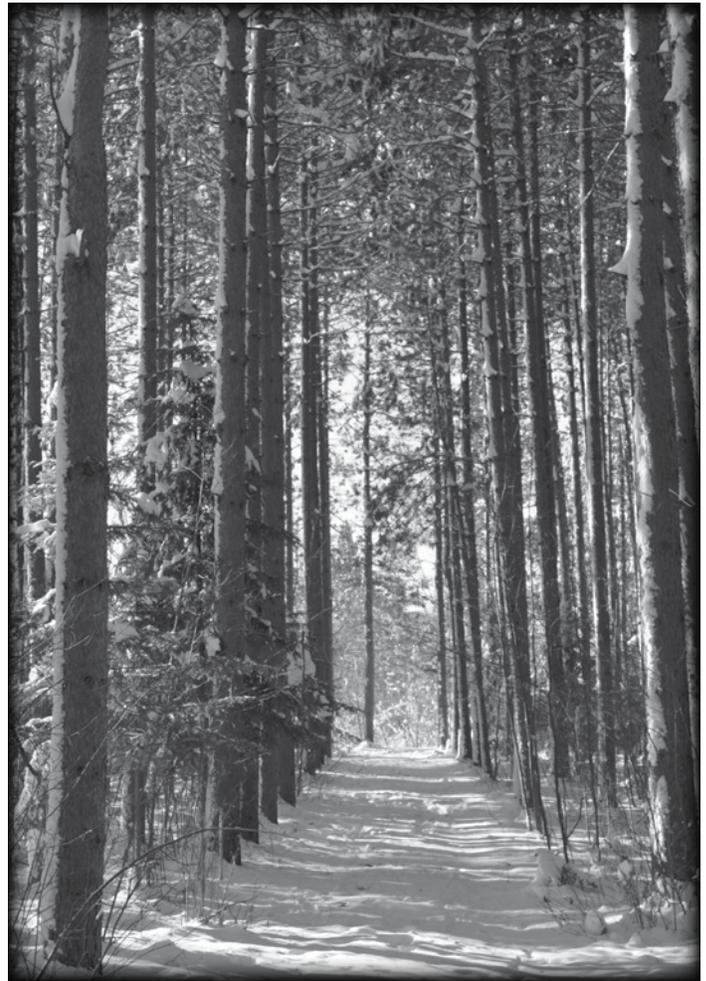
Some of the pines planted in 1951 and 1964 are ready for harvest. Chris Boor from Bell Timber visited Alan's property on December 10, 2013 to discuss a timber sale. While no contract has been signed yet, Al dreams of doing the logging himself with a John Deere tractor and a Farmi Winch. Doing the harvesting himself will require hard work which will bring back memories, help keep him connected to the land, and increase the profit of the sale.



Tree Farming for Alan has been a lifelong avocation that has brought many insights, rewards, and rekindled many good memories.

Left: Tree Farm certificate - April, 1967.

Right: Chris Boor, Bell Pole, left, and Alan Finifrock.



Above: Red pines ready for harvest.





Meet a Tree **Northern White Cedar**



By Dennis J. Thompson

Northern white cedar, also called eastern white cedar, arborvitae, and swamp cedar, is a medium-sized tree that grows on a wide variety of organic and mineral soils. It is usually dominant in rich swamps (forested rich fens) that have a strong flow of moderately mineral-rich groundwater. It does not grow well on extremely wet or extremely dry sites. White cedar is most often found growing in mixed stands; however, it is also found in pure stands. The range of white cedar extends through the southern part of the eastern half of Canada and the adjacent northern part of the United States. At maturity, white cedar is typically 40 to 50 feet tall and 12 to 24 inches in diameter. A record tree in Michigan measures 69 inches in diameter, 113 feet in height. In

swamps and on other lowland sites, white cedar can live to 400 years or more.

In northeastern Minnesota, flower buds formed in the fall begin to expand the following spring from about the middle of April to early May. Pollen is dispersed from late April to early June with cones ripening in August and September. Under normal conditions, cones have been found on white cedar trees as young as six years old; however, seed production in large quantities will not begin until the tree is about 30 years old. The best seed production comes after the tree is 75 years old. Good seed crops occur every two to five years. Seeds do not remain viable on the forest floor for longer than a year and cannot be counted on for natural regeneration. Mortality of seedlings during their early years is extremely high due to drought, deer browse, and rodents.

The northern white cedar is extremely valuable for wildlife, particularly for deeryards during severe winters. The tree is highly preferred by deer for both shelter and browse. In fact, winter browsing by deer can severely damage seedling and sapling sized cedar to the point where natural regeneration after timber harvesting becomes extremely difficult, especially in deeryards. And in some areas, damage from snowshoe hares can be as bad as or worse than damage from deer. Flooding from road construction has also killed or reduced the growth of white cedar on thousands of acres in northern Minnesota. Natural gas and petroleum pipelines will probably have similar effects unless cross drainage is provided.

The primary commercial use of white cedar is for rustic fencing and posts. Other important products include cabin logs, lumber, poles, and shingles. Smaller amounts are used for paneling, piling, lagging, pails, potato barrels, tubs, ties, boats (especially canoes), tanks, and woodenware. Recently, white cedar has been used for making kraft pulp and it appears excellent for particleboard. "Cedar leaf oil" is distilled from boughs and used in medicines and perfumes. Boughs are also used in floral arrangements.

Did you know? - The name arborvitae or "tree of life" dates back to the 16th century when the French explorer Cartier learned from Native Americans how to use the tree's foliage to treat scurvy!



Photo by Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Archive



Photo by Becca MacDonald, Sault College

John Rolle Recognized

John Rolle, a logger from Chisholm and a MFA member, was recognized by the Forest Resources Association's (FRA) Lake States Region and Stihl Incorporated as the 2013 Regional Outstanding Logger at FRA's October 30th awards ceremony in Duluth. John was named Minnesota Logger of the Year in April of this year by the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program Implementation Committee.

With this latest award under his belt, he now advances as a nominee for FRA's National Outstanding Logger recognition. FRA, a non-profit trade association, represents independent logging contractors, wood consumers, wood dealers and businesses that support the sustainable harvest and delivery of forest products from the woods to mills.

A news release from FRA describes what the nominees are judged on: safety as a major part of their business practices and programs, how much they are involved in community and industry activities, their professionalism, business management and forest management practices.

Ray Higgins with the MN Timber Producers Association had this to say about John. "John focuses on what is best for the landowner and the health of the forest. In addition, he works quietly behind the scenes with land managers and other stakeholders on issues to help all loggers. John exemplifies the best of Minnesota's logging community."

Congratulations, John!



Mary & John Rolle



Forester Dean Makey

Forester Phone Line Update

The first people to ask questions through our Forester Phone Line received great information.

John Finnegan, Wadena, asked about possible contractors in his area to do chipping. The answer listed four contractors who have chipping equipment and with whom forester Dean Makey has had some personal experience.

Then, Ken Nelson, whose land is in Kanabec County, has a bid for harvesting sawtimber on his land and wondered if it is a fair price. Forester Dean Makey provided a long answer including comparing Nelson's bid to the DNR's Public Stumpage Price Review and then listing factors that could affect the price.

Nelson has some 15-inch trees and was also wondering how much volume each tree would produce. Here is Dean Makey's comment: I double checked my volume tables and found a 15-inch diameter tree should yield about 0.35 cord. So, three trees would make a cord.

An average stand of trees in central Minnesota yields about 25 cords per acre. So, you would have about 75 trees per acre to produce the 25 cords. If you harvested one-third of the trees, you would be removing about 25 trees per acre or about nine cords per acre. Finally, to produce 400 cords of wood, you would need to harvest nine cords per acre over about 45 acres.

If you have a question about your woodland, try MFA's Forester Phone Line!

It is a FREE service for MFA members. Call 218-326-6486.

MFA's *Forester Phone Line*
A free service for MFA members only!
Call for an appointment with the forester:
218-326-6486



Register for our Annual Meeting/Spring Field Day before May 1 and have a chance to win a Stihl Chainsaw! See the flyer enclosed.

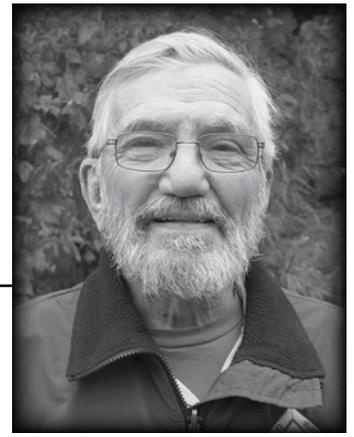
Creature Feature



by Neal W. Chapman, Chair, MFA Education Committee

Birds in the Woods – Plan now for the Coming Year

As woodland owners, we have a unique opportunity to become acquainted with the diverse community of birds using our woods—and also to encourage that community to grow through stewardship of the land. Once we get to know the types of birds that can live in the area, and what they need to thrive, we can plan the care of our woods with birds in mind. If our woods provide what a given bird needs – food, water, shelter and space – chances are the bird will come.



Neal Chapman

Attracting birds with healthy habitat. The health of any bird community depends on the availability of quality, safe habitat they need to nest, forage and breed. Intact forests are one of the most important assets for birds and many bird populations are struggling due to the fragmentation and degradation of America’s forests. As woodland owners, we have the ability to give these beautiful and lively creatures what they most need—a healthy place to live and breed.

Working toward a healthy, bird-friendly forest means supporting all levels of woodland growth—herbaceous, shrub, sub-canopy and canopy. Birds rely on every part of the forest for important resources. And because different birds rely on different parts of the woods, and at different times of the year, ensuring the health of all layers of the forest will help draw a diverse community of birds.

Maintain a consistent, unbroken, multi-story habitat that birds can rely on. When cutting trees, practice single-tree removal or limit sections of tree removal to 1.25 acres at most. Retaining clusters of over-story trees will help provide continuous habitat for birds. Increase the area of unbroken forest in the woods by eliminating unused roads and other openings that break up the canopy and diminish habitat value for forest-dwelling birds. Also, plant groundcover, bushes and understory trees so birds that frequent the lower forest will have plenty of cover.

Plan management activities by season. Forest management activities will impact birds, but we can minimize that impact by trimming and cutting trees outside of the breeding season, which typically runs from early spring to late summer. By giving breeding birds a chance to hatch, rear and fledge their young, we give them a better chance for breeding success and encourage them to consider our woods a safe place to live.

Leave deadwood and brush piles. In a natural forest, nobody is out clearing the old trees and shrubs. Because of this, many birds have grown to rely on deadwood. An average of 40 species in a given forest use dead trees and logs for perches and cover, as well as an important source of bugs and other critters that birds like to eat. So if possible, let it lie.

Plant food trees. Berry, seed and nut trees are very important for birds. Native plant species like serviceberry, black cherry, beech and oak are particularly bird-friendly because they provide fruit and seeds, support bug, spider and insect communities, and create safe spaces for birds to hide from predators. Fruit and nut trees will thrive with some care, and the healthier they are, the more resources they provide for wildlife.

“Build it and they will come.”



Warm days in February and March are perfect for hunting for shed antlers. Laurel and Ron Wittenberg, Lakeville, found a matched set while snowshoeing on a Sunday afternoon.

Membership Application

For New and Renewing Members

Name _____

Name _____
(second person for Family membership)

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please make any address changes above

Membership Categories

Renewing members, your membership will be extended by 12 or 36 months as you choose.

Category	One Year	3 years
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120
Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 - \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 - \$3,000
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> One-time payment of \$1,000**	
Perpetual*	<input type="checkbox"/> One-time payment of \$3,000**	

*Perpetual Membership is for any estate, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership or similarly structured entity. A Perpetual Membership is entitled to one vote. Call MFA for more information.

**80% of dues from Life and Perpetual Memberships go into MFA's Endowment Fund.

Mail this application with your check to:

Minnesota Forestry Association
P.O. Box 496, Grand Rapids MN 55744

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



Thinking of harvesting timber from your land?

Call Before You Cut

You will be sent a packet of information with no cost or obligation to you.

218-326-6486

Upcoming Events

Find more events, and more information on these events, at the MFA website, www.MinnesotaForestry.org or by calling MFA at 218-326-6486.

February

Friday, February 21, 2014

12:30 - 7:00 p.m. **Annual Landowner Meeting** (DNR Office, 800 Oak Savanna Lane, Cambridge MN)

This event will focus on timber sales and feature 10 experts on various aspects of the subject. There is no registration fee but you are asked to bring a dish to share in the potluck dinner. For the complete agenda see our website at www.MinnesotaForestry.org. To reserve a place, call 763-689-7101, Ext. 222.

March/April

Friday & Saturday, March 14 & 15, 2014 (Bemidji)

Friday & Saturday, April 25 & 26, 2014 (Rochester)
Minnesota Family Woodlands Conferences
If you like trees and woods, you won't want to miss these Conferences planned for family woodland owners.

Here's what to expect at the Bemidji event (a similar agenda will be followed in Rochester.):

Friday, March 14: Optional half-day and day-long workshops: A mill and forest tour; a workshop on monitoring your woods; a gathering just for women woodland owners; and a Forest Pest First Detector workshop.

Saturday, March 15: The main event.
A full day of presentations and discussions on family woodlands topics. We'll have 20 local experts, plus information booths and vendors, on hand to present and answer your questions.

For a complete list of speakers, topics, and presentation times, visit <http://z.umn.edu/MFWC>. That site also includes an online registration form or a flyer that you can print and mail in if you prefer. For a 10% discount on the registration fee for the main event, enter **MFAmember** in the discount code box.

Questions? Contact Eli Sagor at 612-624-6948 or esagor@umn.edu. We hope to see you there!

May

Friday, May 16, 2014

4pm - 9pm - **MFA's Annual Meeting, Banquet and Tree Farm Awards** (U of M Cloquet Forestry Center).

Saturday, May 17, 2014

8am - 3:30pm - **MFA's Spring Field Day** (U of M Cloquet Forestry Center)

For details, see the flyer enclosed with this newsletter. Enter before May 1st and be entered into a drawing for a Stihl chainsaw!