



Minnesota Woodlands

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

www.MinnesotaForestry.org

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

- July 15, 2014
- October 14, 2014

Conference Calls
 8 – 9 am

- June 17, 2014
- August 19, 2014
- September 16, 2014
- November 18, 2014
- December 16, 2014

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An Epic Work Completed

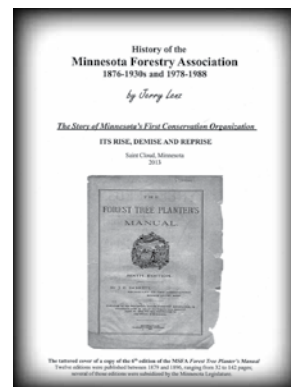
Jerry Lenz, MFA member from St. Cloud, said, "I have always enjoyed both research and writing so documenting the history of MFA was a natural, especially as I approached retirement.

"About ten years ago, at a MFA annual meeting, I distributed a request for any information or documents which could be helpful in compiling a history of our association. Then my wife Mary Lou, and I made some very fruitful visits to the MFA archives in Cloquet, followed by several trips to the University of Minnesota Forestry Library and the Minnesota Historical Society.

Finally, about five years ago, I started writing, but new information continued to emerge. In fact there was so much new material that Mary Lou said, 'If you keep adding new topics, you will never finish the project.'"

Jerry did stop adding topics and did finish the book.

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Jerry and Mary Lou Lenz

Riding the SFIA Roller-Coaster

At the annual MFA meeting on May 16, 2014, I characterized MFA's involvement with the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) – liking it to riding a roller-coaster over the past three years. A recap of what's happened over that period follows.

Beginning with the 2011 legislative session, MFA crafted and had introduced a bill (HF 1121) to reform the SFIA. It was not heard in committee though, because the next day, the Tax Committee Chairs in both Houses introduced their own proposal to repeal the SFIA, which the Legislature did as part of the Omnibus Tax Bill. But, the Governor vetoed the bill. It was during the subsequent special legislative session, that the repeal was "repealed," resurrecting the SFIA.

The commotion over the SFIA may have contributed to the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) beginning an evaluation of the SFIA. On November 19, 2013, the Auditor presented his report to Minnesota's Legislative Audit Subcommittee. The Auditor questioned the level of SFIA payments citing one instance where the annual incentive payment was more than 300% of one enrolled landowner's property taxes. The Auditor made a number of recommendations to address other issues that his office identified as problems. And, the report went further in recommending that if the problems weren't addressed, he recommended repeal of the SFIA.

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Bruce ZumBahlen

Minnesota Forestry
Association

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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 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 the 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.

For our Annual Meeting, MFA secretary Lyle Keller compiled and presented a summary of MFA's significant actions during the past year. Here is his list:

1. Establish a Forester Phone Line by retaining retired DNR forester Dean Makey to answer members' questions at no cost to members.
2. Publication and Distribution of Jerry Lenz' History of the Minnesota Forestry Association – 1876-1930's and 1978-1988.
3. Successful handling of the silent auction by MFA at the National Tree Farm convention held in Minneapolis in July, 2013. The auction was described as "best ever" by the Tree Farm staff. MFA's efforts were led by Board members Dennis Thompson and Bruce ZumBahlen.
4. Launch of the Call Before You Cut program on a statewide basis as a free service for all Minnesota's private woodland owners. MFA's CBYC program is referenced on the national CBYC website.
5. Adoption of a new Perpetual Membership Category to accommodate to accommodate memberships for any estate, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership or similarly structured entity.
6. Securing the financial status of MFA as the best it has been any time in recent history.
7. Creation and sale of MFA branded "No Trespassing" signs.
8. Active participation in the U of M's Woodland Owner Conferences in Bemidji and Rochester.
9. Establishment of a member contact program which is being carried out by administrative assistant Carol Cartie. Carol makes phone contact with members to explore their opinions of MFA and what services they desire. Progress is understandably slow due to the time spent with each member.



Lyle Keller

Epic Work Completed continued from page 1

All MFA members can take pride in the fact that MFA is Minnesota's oldest conservation organization. Also, according to member Al Schacht, in its early days, MFA had a national impact, being among the first to advocate renewing cutover lands that were not suitable for agriculture.

Special for MFA members: The book is priced at \$19.95 but while our first printing of books lasts, MFA members can obtain a copy for \$10 which covers printing and shipping. Simply send your check for \$10 to:

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



The entire Lenz family was on hand at our banquet to celebrate the introduction of Jerry's book.

Member Profile: Steve & Christy Earley and Their Cedar Grove Farm, International Falls, MN

Late summer in the early 1930s, Margaret Earley, Steve Earley's aunt, had a dilemma. For her 4-H calf to show at the Minnesota State Fair, rules required a farm name. Inspiration was an upland cedar stand just north of the farm house, and Cedar Grove Farm was her choice. Margaret is gone but the cedar stand, now over 130 years old, still stands. When Steve's family started selling garden produce and custom Christmas wreaths, the business name was a "no-brainer." After 80 years, Margaret's Cedar Grove Farm name was revived and the fourth generation of the Earley family to earn a wage at Cedar Grove Farm began.

Steve and Christy are both retired – Steve from the Boise paper mill in International Falls, and Christy from Minnesota Extension Service. They have two teenagers, Eric and Anna, who get an equal share of revenue from Cedar Grove Farm as long as they do equal work.

Christy and the kids make and sell 60 to 70 Christmas wreaths each year. The effort covers two months. Harvesting of balsam fir, spruce, pine, cedar and red-osier dogwood begins after the second hard frost and, if lucky, ends before deer season. A double frost assures the greens remain green for a long time. All the greens are locally harvested from the Farm or a friendly neighbor's woodlot. Wreath making is Christy's specialty, handed down from her mother, a national award winning wreath maker.

Beginning in early July, the family sells produce from the garden such as spinach, sugar snap peas, rhubarb, celery and pumpkins. The gardening is tough work and not as popular with the equal partners during the hot summer. Work begins in April with the starting of seeds inside, even though snow piles remain outside. Garden planting is done by Memorial Day. Several days each week are devoted to weeding, fertilizing and, in dry years, watering the garden.

Cedar Grove Farm covers 100 acres south of the Canadian border. The farm is mostly clay soils with 30 acres of aspen, balsam fir and white spruce and 70 acres of fields. While the first and second generation of Earleys toiled clearing the land of trees so crops could be planted and dairy cows pastured, the subsequent generations have been planting trees in those same fields and pastures.

The woodland has been enrolled in the Tree Farm Program since the 1980s. Steve is active in Tree Farm's Grass Tops program which advocates for better policies and laws that benefit private woodland owners, in Minnesota and across the country.

Steve was recruited for MFA membership in the early 1980's by Mike Latimer. To include Christy and the children, they now have a Family Membership. Recently, Steve served on MFA's Board of Directors in 2012-2013.

Will there be a fifth generation to live and work on Cedar Grove Farm? Only time will tell but one teen already is looking at a career in forestry.



Margaret Earley with her calf and younger siblings.



Anna Earley with a Christmas wreath.



Christy Earley scouting for boughs.



Steve Earley, left, with his brother, Paul, and son, Eric.

MFA's Annual Meeting, Banquet and Spring Field Day

... were held on Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17 at the U of M's Cloquet Forestry Center.

The Friday business meeting was followed by a social hour with an outstanding Silent Auction organized by Kelly Smith and Peggy Meseroll. Dinner by Jim and Jo's Catering was scrumptious. The evening program under the master of ceremonies Chuck Erickson featured a presentation by Linda Nagel, director of the Cloquet Forestry Center on The Vision for the Future: Woodland Owners, Climate Change and Invasive Species. Tree Farm Awards were presented by Tom Witkowski and Jim Berkeland.

The highlight on Friday evening was introduction of *History of the Minnesota Forestry Association* by Jerry Lenz.

Saturday was a full day with an ideal combination of indoor presentations and outdoor demonstrations. Evaluations indicated participants mostly like the dates between fishing opener and Memorial Day, the location at the Forestry Center and the value received for the cost. Of the many good presenters, several were singled out for special compliments including Angie Gupta on EAB and The Ash Management Guide; Mike Reinikainen who conducted a tour of the Forestry Center; Dale Sutherland and Tom Wanner who covered materials and equipment for controlling invasives; Pat Lanin who demonstrated equipment for small woodlands; Lucia Hunt who discussed quarantines; and Angelique Edgerton on ID and early detection of invasives. A complete tabulation of the evaluations is posted on our web site, www.MinnesotaForestry.org.

Thanks go to John Wallin, Pequot Lakes, who took most of the photos on these pages, and co-chairs Mike Reichenbach and Peggy Meseroll for their work in putting together an outstanding event!

See many more photos at www.MinnesotaForestry.org!



Mike Reinikainen conducted a very interesting tour of the Forestry Center.



Al and Sharon Finifrock, Cloquet, MN.



Above: Bob Asproth, Mahtowa, Dennis F. Thompson, Owatonna and Neal Chapman, Roseville.



Left: Reed and Blanche McFarlane, Baudette, MN, won a chainsaw in the drawing for early registrants.

Above: Mary and John Peterson, Delano, MN.



Kyle and Wayne Johnson, Pine City, MN.



Bill Reed, McGregor, MN.



Bill Haugen, Staples, MN.



Lowell Thorner, Roseville, MN.



Dave Vander Vegt, Minneapolis, MN.



DNR's Forrest Boe, left, and Craig Schmid, right, with MFA president John O'Reilly.



Chris & Peg Carlson, Minnetonka, MN.

Tree Farm Awards

Awards were presented to Minnesota's outstanding Tree Farmers and Tree Farm Inspector in conjunction with our MFA Banquet on Friday, May 16.



Bob and Nancy Ferche, shown here with their family, are the Minnesota State Tree Farmers of the Year. They have 2,000 acres near St. Stephen, Minnesota which is north of Little Falls in Morrison County.



Jim Berkeland, chair of the State Tree Farm Committee presents a plaque to the Northern Region winners, Jim and Kathy Miggins, International Falls, MN.



Jim Berkeland with Tim Gossman who, with his wife Susan, have a tree farm near Chatfield and are the Southern Region winners.



Jim Berkeland, left, and Tom Wittkowski, right, have fun with Bob Perleberg, Pierz, MN and State Tree Farm Inspector of the Year.

Riding the SFIA Roller-Coaster continued from page 1

The Auditor's evaluation was a fair assessment of the program. Frankly, the issues he raised were not a surprise to MFA's Government Relations Committee. In fact, many of the issues that he identified were some of the very same ones MFA had attempted to address with HF 1121 in the 2011 legislative session.

Late December 2013, Senator Saxhaug and Representative Dill requested the MN Dept. of Revenue (DOR), the MN Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) and the MN Forest Resources Council (MFRC) convene a SFIA stakeholders group to study the OLA's recommendations and come forth with proposals to improve the SFIA. Under the MFRC's leadership, that stakeholder group has been formed and has had its initial meeting. MFA is represented on that group along with representatives from the following interests: conservation, outdoor sports, recreational, county assessors, large forest ownerships and forest industry as well as staff from the DOR and the DNR.

Fast forward to this Spring. A surprise! Representative Hansen

introduced HF 2782 to repeal the SFIA. With only a two-day notice before it was heard in the House Property and Local Tax Division, MFA testified against its repeal along with others. The bill was laid over for consideration in the House Omnibus Tax Bill.

What emerged in the Tax Bill (HF 3167) was only a repeal of several definitions used in the previous methods for calculating the annual SFIA payments that are now obsolete since the annual payment is now set in statute at \$7.00 per acre. Interestingly, those definitions are the same ones that MFA has recommended to repeal. Ultimately, the Omnibus Tax Bill was passed without repealing even those definitions. Senator Skoe, Senate Tax Chair, stated that he would like the stakeholder group to work over the summer and fall and propose amendments to the SFIA for the next legislative session rather than take them up this session.

Stay tuned. Future issues of this newsletter will report on the stakeholder group's progress.

Rochester Family Woodlands Conference

About eighty Minnesota family woodland owners converged in Rochester in April for a follow-on to the conference held in Bemidji in March.

Friday events included a workshop on Phenology and an outdoor excursion to the Lost Creek Hiking Trail near Chatfield. Saturday was filled with a series of concurrent presentations that focused on woodland management, invasive species and agroforestry. Highlights included live snakes in one wildlife presentation, and using goats to control buckthorn and other woody invasives.



Matt Russell and Eli Sagor.



MFA's Guess the Number of Nuts contest, with a Logrite Pickaroon as the prize, was won by Mary Jane Stearns. The jar contained 359 nuts.



Above: Friday's events included an excursion to the Lost Creek Hiking Trail near Chatfield.



Left: Valiree Green displayed her handmade bowls.

Forester Phone Line Update

Retired DNR forester Dean Makey, who manages our Forester Phone Line, is receiving an increasing number of calls from MFA members. Here are the topics of a few recent calls:

- A member's management plan ... should it be updated and, if so, who might do it.
- Questions about planting tamarack seedlings.
- Who are loggers that have chipping equipment and might be willing to chip a member's slash piles.
- Long-term management a member is doing estate planning and wanted to discuss the possibility of setting up a trust under which their land would be managed for two or three decades while the potential heir, a grandson, is growing up, completing his education and establishing his family and home.

Do you have an idea or a question? Call our Forester Phone Line at 218-326-6486.

A free service for MFA members only.



Forester Dean Makey

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

1-2014

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.

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

- 9:00-10:00a.m. – What's new in green building standards (Online)
- For more information and to register for this webinar, go to <http://z.umn.edu/2014webinars>.

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

(Meadowlands MN – west of Duluth)

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

(Waskish MN – east of Upper Red Lake)

- 8:00a.m. – 3:30p.m. – White Cedar Plant Community Restoration Workshop
- For more information and to register for this workshop, go to www.bwsr.state.mn.us/training/.

Friday, July 11, 2014

(Rogers MN) 9:30a.m. – 4:30p.m.

Friday, October 24, 2014

(Bloomington MN) 10:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

- Intergenerational Land Transfer Family Workshop
- See details and registration at <http://z.umn.edu/landtransfer>

Save the Date!

Friday & Saturday, May 15 & 16, 2015
(Grand Rapids MN)

- MFA's Annual Meeting and Spring Field Day will be held at the Sawmill Inn in Grand Rapids in conjunction with the U of M's Minnesota Family Woodlands Conference.

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

MFA's Forester Phone Line

A free service for MFA members only!
Call for an appointment with the forester:
218-326-6486