

Minnesota MFA Woodlands

Minnesota Forestry Association

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

www.MinnesotaForestry.org

Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA)
Information@MinnesotaForestry.org
1111 Cloquet Ave.
Suite 7
Cloquet, MN 55720
218-879-5100

MFA Newsletter
Vol. 22 No. 2
April/May 2020
The Minnesota Woodlands newsletter is published by the Minnesota Forestry Association.

MFA Board Meetings
DNR Cambridge Office
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
• April 14, 2020
• July 14, 2020
• October 13, 2020

Conference Calls
8 – 9 a.m.
• May 12, 2020
• June 9, 2020
• August 11, 2020
• September 8, 2020

Editor
Kassandra Tuten
editor@minnesotaforestry.org

Graphic Design
Peg Churchwell
Lady Dog Design
PegChurchwell17@gmail.com

Finnegans Receive Tree Farmer of the Year Award

By *Kassandra Tuten*

Receiving one of the 2019 Minnesota Tree Farmer of the Year Awards was John and Beverly Finnegan, who have owned property in Wadena and Ottertail County for more than three decades. The Finnegans oversee a total of 206 woodland acres.

They purchased their Wadena County farm in 1983, and the Ottertail County farm in 1993. They ran cattle on the land, but not in the woods.

The Finnegans began planting trees on their property annually in 1983. Over the years, they have planted Norway pine and spruce on both farms, and have several three- to five-acre plantations of them. They have also planted fruit-bearing trees and shrubs on both farms.

In 2012, they planted 10,000 spruce on the Ottertail farm, where they also harvested 40 acres of hybrid poplar. They have also had two other timber sales throughout the years, each of about 20 acres.

“We clearcut both and left only the oak trees,” said John of the sales. “The regrowth on them has been great, and the wildlife love them.”

In 2007, their property became a certified Tree Farm, and it has been under a written forest management plan for 20 years.

Over the last five years, the Finnegans’ property has undergone some forest management work, including harvesting of clear hybrid poplar and selective cutting of oak and birch firewood, removal of buckthorn and reforestation of 60 acres.

John said the removal of buckthorn is a project the couple has been working on for about 13 years.

“We figure we are at about 90% control of the buckthorn on our land,” he said.

Continued on page 2



Beverly and John Finnegan.



Beavers and wood ducks enjoy the three ponds that John dug on the property.



Aspen reproduction and wildlife opening. The aspen was harvested in 2004.

Minnesota Forestry
Association

2020 Board of Directors

Dave Roerick, *president*
319 NE 8th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-256-2405
DRoerick@gmail.com

Bill Sayward, *treasurer*
31274 Henselin Rd.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-326-8269
saywardbill@gmail.com

Lyle Keller, *secretary*
28814 Gilbertson Drive
Peterson, MN 55962
507-875-2215/cell 507-272-8883

Stan Grossman,
sergeant-at-arms
3015 S. Highway 169
Grand Rapids, MN. 55744
218-252-8572
iws@wcta.net

For the following Board
members' contact information,
see www.MinnesotaForestry.org
or call MFA at 218-879-5100.

Chad Converse, Motley, MN

Brian Huberty, Hastings, MN

Gina Hugo, Elk River, MN

Beth Kleinke, Duluth, MN

Ryan Rothstein, Waite Park, MN

Mike Vinje, Maple Grove, MN

Larry Westerberg, Hastings, MN

Greg Wuerflein, Cambridge, MN

Ex-Officio Board Members:

Jim Lemmerman, Duluth, MN

John Carlson, St. Paul, MN

Matt Russell, St. Paul, MN

Bruce ZumBahlen,
Cottage Grove, MN

MFA Administrative Offices:
1111 Cloquet Ave. Suite 7
Cloquet, MN 55720
218-879-5100, information@minnesotaforestry.org

Away from home for a time? Please contact the MFA office if you'll be away from home for an extended time and let us know when you'll be back. We'll hold onto the newsletter until you return so you won't miss a single issue!
Information@MinnesotaForestry.org
or call 218-879-5100.

Tree Farmer continued

'Wood, Water, Recreation and Wildlife'

The sign outside the Finnegans' Tree Farm reads "Wood, Water, Recreation and Wildlife," something the Finnegans have modeled their land after.

The Tree Farm is under a multiple use concept, and offers opportunities for hunting, mushroom harvesting, ATV use and walking trails.

According to a previous member profile written by Linda K. Dinkel, the Finnegans have always operated under one unifying philosophy: We don't own the land so much as we own the right to use it and leave it in better shape than when we received it.

It's a way of life that has served them and their land well, and has led the couple into a variety of conservation and wildland efforts including legislative involvement to establish the Reinvest in Minnesota program, working with the Knobhill Sportsman's Club to restore 680 acres of wetlands, and serving on the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association board, among others.

Beverly served as secretary of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association for several years, and John served as their first executive director for two, during which time he began the Deer Hides for Habitat program.

In 1995, the couple was named the Outstanding Farmer Sportsman for the State of Minnesota. John also served on the Wadena County Water Planning board for 20 years, and he and Beverly have both been members of the Knob Hill Sportsman's Club since 1983. John served several of those years on the board of directors.

John said their daughter, Julie, and her husband, Todd Griffin, have purchased 80 acres from them. Last year, they planted their first 100 trees on the land. They plan on keeping their parents' tradition alive of planting trees every year, John said.

Proud Members

"We all need to preserve our land for our children, grandchildren and generations to come. We don't own it, we are stewards. We have to leave the land better than when we receive it," wrote Tom Witkowski in his nomination form of the Finnegans when asked why the couple were considered Outstanding Tree Farmers.

"My wife and I are very proud of the tree farm award," said John, who added that it has a place of honor on their wall.

John said that, as a member of MFA, he has utilized the Boots on the Ground Program, and it was a learning experience. "I would recommend it to all forestry owners," he said.

John said he also looks forward to the information he receives from the MFA.

"They helped me with a lot of the decisions I have made on my land," he said. "If you own forest land, you need to be a member of MFA."



White spruce that John planted.



Stem cut reproduction from Blandin hybrid planting in 1995 and harvested 2012.

Partnership Forged

In 2019, the Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA) Board of Directors and the Minnesota Women's Woodland Network (MNWWN) Steering Committee made great strides in solidifying a partnership that has been on the horizon for years. Both organizations are committed to advocacy and education for private woodland owners in Minnesota. Together, with resources from both organizations, we can provide inclusive support for woodland owners more effectively and efficiently.

In one of the first major joint efforts, MFA and MNWWN collaborated on the delivery of an outstanding Annual Meeting and Field Tour held at the Cloquet Forestry Center in early October 2019. This effort furthered relationships that enabled the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a one-year trial partnership. In January 2020, the MOU became official.

The year 2020 will be a busy one for both organizations as we work to develop this partnership and identify opportunities to collaborate. Already underway is the planning for the 2020 Annual Meeting and Field Tour. We are expanding the scope of this event by joining with St. John's University's Avon Hill Conference in order to offer the Minnesota Woodland Owner's Weekend, otherwise known as MN WOW 2020. Catchy huh!? Mark your calendars for Oct. 2 and 3 and watch for more details to come.



Adapted from My Minnesota Woods by Angela Gupta

You're trying to do the right thing and maintain an appropriate social distance for the benefit of all during a time of concern about infectious disease. But are you also feeling stressed, worried and overwhelmed by the news? Here are some ideas.

- **Clear your roads and trails.** Winter always takes a toll and it may not be over yet, but spring has caused the snow to melt in much of Minnesota.
- **Walk the boundary.** It's always good practice to walk your boundary occasionally.
- **Create an iNaturalist project and track your**

property's biodiversity. It's amazing how many things call a forest home and it's easy to track them using the iNaturalist project feature.

- **Report invasives.** As always, if you find evidence of a troublesome invasive species like woody invasives, emerald ash borer or squill (all possibly identifiable this time of year) report it to GLEDN app or EDDMapS.
- **Go for a hike.** Data shows pretty clearly that time spent outdoors in nature can have many health benefits, including reducing stress and increasing cardiovascular health.
- **Observe nature.** Currently, many bird species are migrating to their summer breeding grounds. This is a great time to see some unexpected birds, which you can then track in your iNat project. If you're new to birds, the Merlin Bird app is a great free resource. You can take pictures (if they stay in one place long enough) and it'll help you ID them much like iNaturalist. If you can't get a good snap, it also has a feature that uses visual cues to help you narrow down the choices. You don't need to know bird names. Also cool, it has bird songs, so you can identify birds by sound if you crack open your window.

To read the entire *Woodland Owners Retreating to Your Forest Oasis* article go to www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/2020/03/social-distancing-and-enjoying-nature/.



Photo taken November 15, 1971.

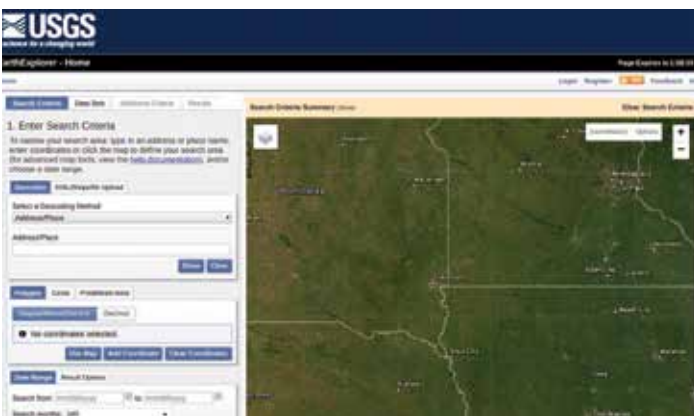
By 1971, farm fields were much longer and larger. There are a few more cabins around the lake, and if you look closely, there are a couple new buildings in the woodland on the north side of Lake Riley. We will be looking at this area more closely in the next issue.

Take some time and “explore Minnesota” by looking at other forests, lakes and cities around the state back to the 1930s. These, for the most part, are the earliest aerial photos statewide.

And now for some extra credit.

EarthExplorer

The U.S. Geological Survey EROS Data Center is located just across the southwestern border of Minnesota, just north of Sioux Falls, S.D. At EROS, they have a mega archive of aerial photographs and satellite imagery. All can be viewed if you search for “USGS EarthExplorer” in your favorite browser. It will look something like this:



EarthExplorer has one of the largest archives of aerial and satellite imagery in the world. You can find the archive online at earthexplorer.usgs.gov/.

Again, find your woodlands of interest by either entering


an address, zooming to it via a map, or plugging in the coordinates. Then, select the “Data” tab to search for aerial imagery.

2. Select Your Data Set(s)

Check the boxes for the data set(s) you want to search. When done selecting data set(s), click the *Additional Criteria* or *Results* buttons below. Click the plus sign next to the category name to show a list of data sets.

Use Data Set Prefilter ([What's This?](#))

Data Set Search:

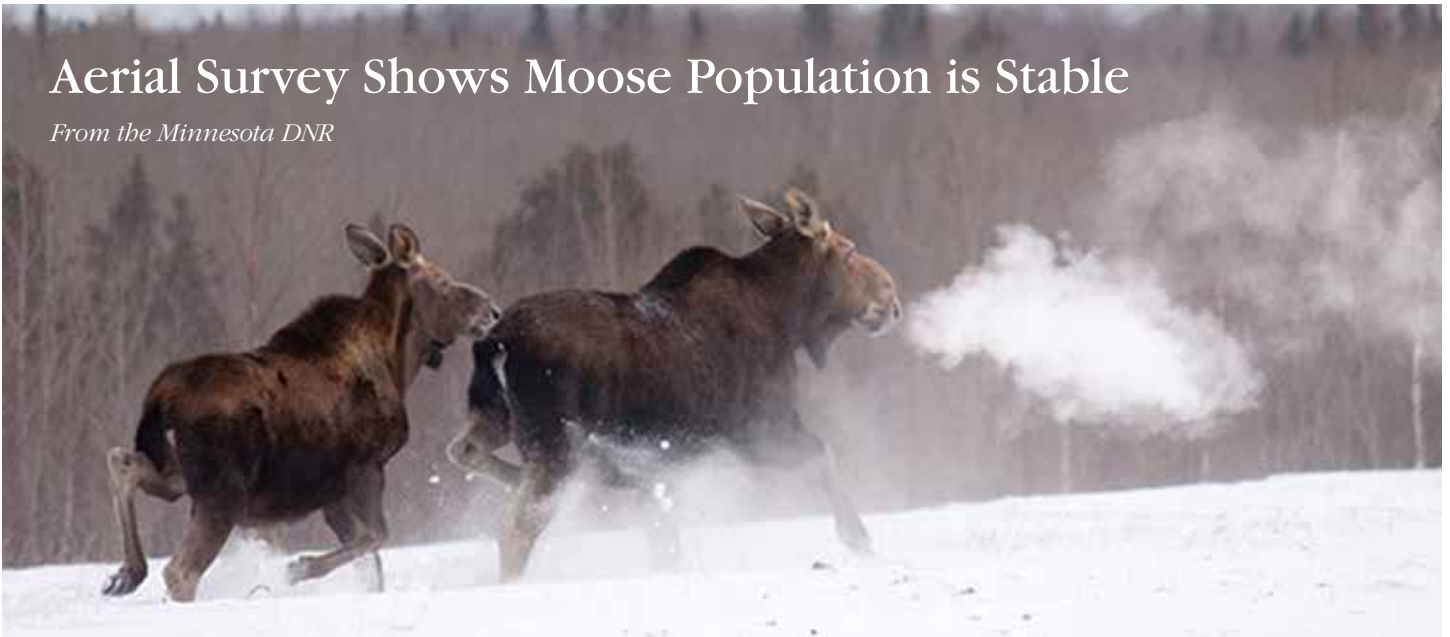
- Aerial Imagery
- AVHRR
- CEOS Legacy
- Commercial Satellites
- Declassified Data
- Digital Elevation
- Digital Line Graphs
- Digital Maps
- EO-1
- Global Fiducials
- HCMM
- ISERV
- Land Cover
- Landsat 
- NASA LPDAAC Collections
- Radar
- Sentinel
- UAS
- Vegetation Monitoring
- ISRO Resourcesat

Select “Aerial Imagery” at the top to explore the archive of aerial imagery, which is much more extensive than MHAPO. Save the rest of the list for later. There may be some aerial photos or satellite images that cover larger areas of your woodlands that help portray the “Bigger Picture” of how your woodlands fit into the local forests.

For example, there are aerial and space photographs from the NASA space program as well as from the now declassified Corona and Hexagon programs run by the National Reconnaissance Office. These aerial and space photographs are quite interesting but may not have the detail you likely need for your woodlands. However, they, and the satellite imagery, depict our forests and forest change over time quite effectively.

Aerial Survey Shows Moose Population is Stable

From the Minnesota DNR



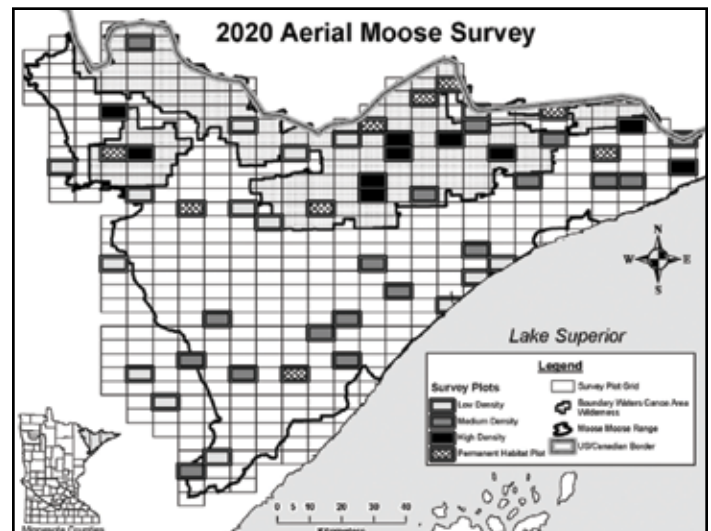
For the ninth year in a row, Minnesota's moose population remains relatively stable, but reproductive success — one of the factors that has the greatest impact on moose survival over time — remains low.

This winter, the DNR estimated the moose population to be 3,150 animals — between a range of 2,400 and 4,320. Due to the variance in this type of annual population estimate, this year's estimate does not suggest a decline from last year's estimate of 4,180 moose. The survey provides an estimate rather than documenting the precise number of moose because biologists cannot see or count every moose across the 6,000-square-mile survey area. They survey a portion of the moose range every year to generate the estimate.

While the recent population stability is good news, DNR researchers point out that Minnesota moose remain at risk over the long term. The moose population has declined from an estimated 8,840 animals in 2006.

Low reproductive success and continued deaths from brainworm and other diseases make it difficult for Minnesota's moose population to recover.

Both the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the 1854 Treaty Authority contributed funding and personnel for the annual survey. The survey is available on the DNR's moose management page.



Moose survey area and 52 sample plots flown in the 2020 aerial moose survey.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

For MFA members, the two best online sources of woodland information are the MFA website at minnesotaforestry.org, and the University of Minnesota Extension Forestry website at myminnesotawoods.umn.edu.

Call Before You Cut

Thinking of harvesting timber from your land?
You will be sent a packet of information
with no cost or obligation to you.

218-879-5100



Meet a Tree **Sugar Maple**

By *Kassandra Tuten*

Sugar maple, *Acer saccharum*, is a Midwest native tree loved for its exceptional fall color ranging from brilliant yellow to burnt-orange.

Sugar maple is characteristic of mesic deciduous forests with moist, well to moderately well drained, fertile soils from sand to clay textures. Trees associated with sugar maple include beech, yellow birch, basswood, red maple, hemlock, northern red and white oaks, white ash, black cherry, American elm, black walnut and bitternut hickory.

Sugar maple is highly shade-tolerant, and is very slow growing, especially in shaded understory. Sugar maple is also long-lived, between 200 and 400 years.

The fruit of sugar maple consists of two slightly connected wings (samaras), each containing one seed, that is easily carried by the wind. Seed production is prolific at two to five year intervals, and seeds germinate at relatively low temperatures under the snow cover. More than 150,000 seedlings per acre commonly occur on the forest floor of favorable sites, but mortality is high in deep shade. Sprouting occurs on cut stumps but decreases with stump size and age.

The wood of the sugar maple is hard and strong, light brown with thin lighter colored sapwood. Uses of sugar maple include flooring, furniture, shoes lasts, veneer, plywood, tool handles, turned

woodenware, cutting blocks and musical instruments. Sugar maple is also important for ornamental plantings because in the summer, its lustrous foliage provides excellent shade, making it a great choice for parks, golf courses and home landscapes where its roots can spread.

Sugar maple trees are also the principal source of maple sugar, with trees being tapped for sap in early spring. In 2019, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, the nation's maple syrup production totaled 4.24 million gallons, an increase of 1% from the previous year.

Did you know? Black maple, *Acer nigrum*, once considered a separate species, is now often treated as a subspecies of sugar maple.



Top left: Three- to five-pointed leaves are opposite on stems.

Top right: Bark on older trees is darker gray with irregular scales.

Bottom left: Male flowers are long, thread-like stalks.

Bottom right: Seeds are connected by samaras and are easily carried by the winds.

Photos from DNR website.

Upcoming Events

Find more events, and more information on these events, at the MFA website, www.MinnesotaForestry.org, or by calling MFA at 218-879-5100.

Webinar: Emerald Ash Borer Management Tuesday, April 7, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Learn a broad overview of ash management efforts on state forest land, ash management guidelines for private woodland owners, example management plans from a city forester and gain an overview of DNR Community Forestry's Grant Programs with examples of what makes a successful proposal. Learn more online at www.eventbrite.com/e/emerald-ash-borer-management-webinar-tickets-93520778165

Webinar: Silvopasture: A Global and Historical Perspective Tuesday, April 14, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Take a tour of silvopasture around the planet. Learn about research on the utility of silvopastoral systems for agricultural production and their implication for contributing to an economically and environmentally resilient agriculture. Register online at sfamn.z2systems.com/np/clients/sfamn/eventRegistration.jsp?event=1036

Webinar: Silvopasture in the Midwest Thursday, April 16, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Learn the history and use of silvopasture as a practice throughout the Midwest. You'll find a refresher on silvopasture as a practice and its concepts, highlights of research from silvopastoral systems in the region, and a tour of farms and farm systems that utilize the practice. Register online at sfamn.z2systems.com/np/clients/sfamn/eventRegistration.jsp?event=1037

Webinar: Silvopasture in Minnesota Tuesday, April 21, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

This webinar is focused on producer experiences using silvopasture in their operations. From beef to goats and from Northern to Southern Minnesota you will tour a diversity of operations, climates and landscapes. This webinar is an on-the-ground tour of working farms. Register online at sfamn.z2systems.com/track//servlet/DisplayLink?orgId=sfamn&emailId=d8e7c52190a9d448af9da1145583ecacdm312527d8e&&linkId=34640&targetUrl=https://sfamn.z2systems.com/np/clients/sfamn/eventRegistration.jsp?event=1038

Webinar: Herbicide Use in Forestry Tuesday, April 21, 12-1 p.m.

Learn the basics of herbicide use in forestry with the emphasis on conifer management. The discussion will include label interpretation and products labeled for forestry use, modes of action, site prep and release applications, and invasive species considerations. Learn more and register online at sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2020-webinar-apr

Webinar: Operationalizing Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change in Minnesota Tuesday, May 19, 12-1 p.m.

The Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change project was designed to translate three common adaptation strategies into on-the-ground operational-scale research through a network of replicated sites testing ecosystem-specific climate change treatments across this gradient of adaptive approaches. Initial results from this study, along with on-going research and management questions, will be presented. Learn more and register online at sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2020-webinar-may



Minnesota Forestry Association

1111 Cloquet Ave. Suite 7
Cloquet, MN 55720

www.MinnesotaForestry.org

Change Service Requested

Friends,

During this difficult time of social distancing, let's get to know each other a little better. To do that, I challenge you to share with us the joy you experience as a private woodland owner—through photographs, feature ideas, letters to the editor, or other means. Whatever joy you receive from your role as a private woodland owner, we want to hear it. Spread the joy and passion for the woodlands by emailing me at Editor@MinnesotaForestry.org or calling me at 229-343-0607. Stay safe and well.

Sincerely,

Kassandra Tuten, Editor

Save the Date:
MFA Annual Meeting
Oct. 2-3, 2020
St. John's University

More details to follow as the agenda gets firmed up in the coming year.