

Minnesota MFA Woodlands

Minnesota Forestry Association

www.MinnesotaForestry.org

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

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Survey Highlights Importance of Minnesota Family Woodland Owners

By Emma Sass and Brett Butler

Forests provide benefits at local, regional and global scales. Families and individuals own more wooded land than any other group in the U.S., and their decisions about how to manage and care for their land have broad impacts. Understanding these woodland owners in Minnesota, including what they do with their land and why, and what their challenges and needs are, is important to help support healthy forests and vibrant communities now and into the future.

Here, we use “woodland” as a broad term to include woods, woodlots, timberlands and forests — any patch of trees that’s more than one acre in size. Families and individuals who own wooded land — collectively, “family woodland owners,” can be one person, a joint ownership of spouses or other individuals, family partnerships, family LLCs or LLPs, and family trusts or estates. We use “ownerships” to refer to all the owners of a piece of woodland.

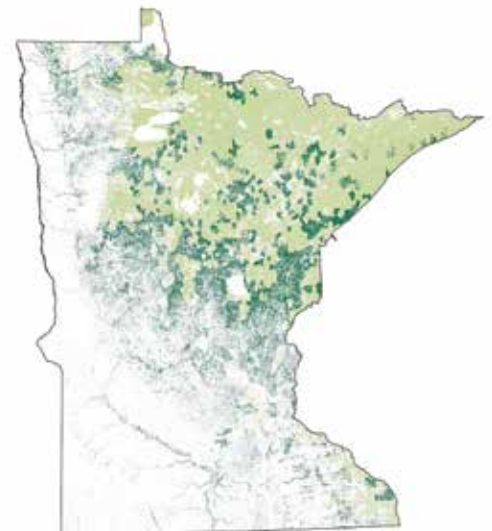
To better understand family woodland owners, the USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program conducts the National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS). The survey asks landowners about who they are, why they own their wooded land, what they have done with it in the past and what they intend to do with it in the future. Below, we present results from 278 randomly selected Minnesota woodland ownerships with 1+ acres who responded to the survey in 2017 and 2018.

Family Woodland Owners Count!

An estimated 5.9 million acres of wooded land in Minnesota are owned by an estimated 200,000 family ownerships. Family ownerships control 33% of Minnesota’s wooded land, more than any other ownership group, including the state or federal government or forest industry.

Size of Holdings Makes a Big Difference

The average wooded land ownership in Minnesota has 29 acres of wooded land. Fifty-one percent of the ownerships have relatively small holdings between 1-9 acres, but 40% of the area of wooded land is owned by ownerships with 100 acres or more. This is important because size of holdings limits what an ownership can do with their land, such as timber harvesting, wildfire protection or control of invasive species, and often impacts what programs they are eligible for.

Continued on page 6

MAP OF WOODLAND OWNERSHIP
IN MINNESOTA.

- Family woodland
- Other woodland
- Non-woodland

Data source: USDA Forest Service.

Minnesota Forestry
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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!
info@minnesotaforestry.org or call 218-879-5100

From the President

Greetings and happy new year. As we start the new year, you should have received your invitation to another year of membership in MFA. If you haven't, please notify me and I will get a membership invite to you. Thank you to those who have returned your membership dues already. You will be receiving your new membership card soon. To those who haven't responded yet, a friendly reminder to get them in before the end of the month to save us another mailing reminder. If we don't hear from you by early February, we will also follow up with an email and/or phone call to check on your status.

As we make changes to our mailing address in our publications, I want to inform you about another change. To reduce the amount of spam coming into our MFA email, we have changed the email address to: info@minnesotaforestry.org, replacing: information@minnesotaforestry.org. Also, please remember our new mailing address is: P.O. Box 6060, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.

One last item to share this month: Have you taken advantage of the opportunity to get a free visit to your woodland from a professional forester? MFA is fortunate to have a grant from the Minnesota DNR to offer you and your friends and neighbors a two hour "Call Before You Cut" visit. The objective of the visit is to give landowners tips about opportunities to have a healthy forest. A simple phone call to MFA at 218-879-5100 will answer any questions and start the process for your no cost, no strings attached, professional forester visit.

Remember, let us know how we can help you have a healthy forest.

Your president,
Dave Roerick



Dave Roerick



Our Shared Bookshelf

Each issue, we'll be selecting a favorite book to share with our readers to help build community and encourage the sharing of resources. If you'd like to submit a recommendation for Our Shared Bookshelf, please email Editor@MinnesotaForestry.org. We look forward to hearing about what everyone is reading and enjoying!

This edition, we're highlighting "Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife With Native Plants, Updated and Expanded" by Douglas W. Tallamy.

Called "a fascinating study of the trees, shrubs, and vines that feed the insects, birds and other animals in the suburban garden" by The New York Times, "Bringing Nature Home" reveals the unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife.

Tallamy is professor and chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware. Among his research interests is to understand how insects interact with plants and how these interactions determine the diversity of animal communities.

Thank you, Barb Spears, for the recommendation!



2021 Forestry Webinar Series Is Announced

The University of Minnesota Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative (SFEC) has announced its 2021 webinar series. Each session includes a 45-minute presentation and live questions and answers. Currently, there is one way to participate: Watch live from your computer for a small fee.



SFEC & UMN EXTENSION

2021 FORESTRY WEBINAR SERIES

Monthly presentations for natural resource managers, landowners and educators.

Full details at: <https://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2021-forestry-webinar-series>.

Ash Management and Plant Materials: Two Policy Updates from MN DNR-Forestry

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 9-10 a.m.

Paul Dubuque and Mike Reinikainen, MN DNR - Forestry

Biological Control of Leafy Spurge and Spotted Knapweed in Minnesota

Tuesday, March 16, 9-10 a.m.

Monika Chandler, MN Department of Agriculture, and
Sascha Lodge, MN DNR

Foresters and Ecologists

Tuesday, April 20, 9-10 a.m.

John Almendinger and Klaus Puettmann

From Data to Dialogue: Effective Climate Change Communication

Tuesday, May 18, 9-10 a.m.

Heidi Roop, UMN Department of Soil, Water, and Climate

Alternative Revenue Sources from Forest Land: Carbon Credits and Spruce Tops

Tuesday, June 15, 9-10 a.m.

Jonathan Shears, Family Forest Carbon Program, and
Greg Bernu, Carlton County Land Commissioner

Site-Level Forest Management Guideline Monitoring and Implementation Overview: 2014-2018

Tuesday, July 20, 9-10 a.m.

David C. Wilson, MN DNR - Forestry

Invasion Potential of Mountain Pine Beetle to Forests of the Lake States

Tuesday, Aug. 17, 9-10 a.m.

Brian Aukema, UMN Department of Entomology

An Update on Wolf Research: Biology, Populations and Federal Delisting

Tuesday, Sept. 21, 9-10 a.m.

Joseph Bump, UMN Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and
Conservation Biology

Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Outreach: Potential Implications for Natural Resource Management

Tuesday, Oct. 19, 9-10 a.m.

Marc Schwabenlander, MN Center for Prion Research and
Outreach

Minnesota Mixedwoods: Restoring Long-Lived Conifers in Aspen Dominated Forests

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 9-10 a.m.

Sawyer Scherer, UPM Blandin

It's Not Easy Being Green: Trees in a Changing Environment

Tuesday, Dec. 21, 9-10 a.m.

Eric North, UMN Urban & Community Forestry



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.

Woodland Habitat Restoration Webinars

By Barb Spears, President, MN Women's Woodland Network

Minnesota Women's Woodland Network (MNWWN) worked with the Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS) last fall to bring woodland owners the Habitat Restoration Series webinars. These resources are still available for a fee of only \$8 per one-hour webinar. Proceeds are shared between MNWWN and MSHS. Now is a great time to watch these webinars to get you ready for spring! Webinar topics and links are:

Buckthorn Control Made Easy: <https://mshs.z2systems.com/np/clients/mshs/product.jsp?product=88&>

Garlic Mustard – Get Rid of It!: <https://mshs.z2systems.com/np/clients/mshs/product.jsp?product=86&>

Oriental Bittersweet Control: <https://mshs.z2systems.com/np/clients/mshs/product.jsp?product=87&>

Be on the lookout for future webinars to attend live so you can ask questions directly of the natural resource professionals. Contact info@mnwwn.org for more information.



A 51-year-old oriental bittersweet vine. A vine this large can pull down and kill 100-year-old oak trees. Photo by Anne Morse.



Photo by Craig Blacklock

Register for the Annual St. Croix Forestry Conference

The annual St. Croix Forestry Conference will be 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 12. The conference will be held virtually and is designed for local, state, federal and private foresters, land managers and other natural resources professionals, and landowners interested in maintaining a healthy forested watershed. CFE credits are available. The cost is \$40.

Expert speakers for the conference are from state, academic, private and nonprofit organizations. Presentations this year include:

- Climate Change and Ecosystems
- Forest Pollinators
- Impacts of EAB on Wildlife
- Jumping Worms in Minnesota: What to Know About These Emerging Species

And much more!

Learn more and register at <https://www.stcroixriverassociation.org/event/2021-st-croix-forestry-conference/>

If you are interested in moderating, displaying a booth or sponsoring, contact Nikki Henger at nicholeh@scramail.com or 715-483-7053.

Best Ways to Preserve Nature While Hiking

Hiking is one of the best ways to rejuvenate your body and your mind. Hiking has been proven to lower stress levels, help alleviate anxiety, and it's a great cardio workout, too.

Every year, more than 30 million people get outdoors to hike in an effort to stay healthy and happy. There are thousands of miles of hiking trails spread across national parks and there are lots of local trails so most people can easily find a great place to hike. But, when millions of people are hiking on those trails every year, over time, they can cause a lot of damage to those trails and the natural world. When you're hiking, you should do these things to protect the natural world:

Skip the Single Use Plastic

Single use plastic bottles are killing the planet, and animals, too. When you're hiking, you need to bring water, and a lot of it, but you shouldn't carry that water in a single use plastic bottle. Buy yourself a BPA-free high-quality plastic reusable water bottle that you can bring with you on every hike. In the long run it will save you money and it will protect the natural world around you.

Respect the Animals

Animals live in nature, and they're not there just for your photo ops. If you come across animals when you're hiking please leave them alone. Don't try to share your food with them. Your food can make them sick or kill them. Don't try to approach them or pet them. Don't try to get them to come over to you so you can get a selfie. Take some photos of them if you want, but from a distance. Let them live peacefully in their natural habitats.

Be Careful Where You Step

The hiking trails were created to make it easier for hikers to get through the natural world but also to protect nature. If you are walking on the trail then you won't be stepping on grass and plants along the trail, killing the roots of those plants. You won't widen the trail or contribute to the erosion of the soil. Stay on the trail always when you're hiking and bring a trail map with you so that you won't stray from the trail or get lost.

Clean Those Boots

How many hikes has it been since you cleaned your boots? Your boots can pick up insects, dirt, bacteria and seeds from one trail and deposit them on another trail. That introduces new bacteria, insects and seeds to the trail which can upset the delicate ecological balance that keeps the area healthy. Hose off your boots and scrub them before you hike on a new trail to make sure you're not transferring anything that could be harmful.

Don't Trash the Place

It should go without saying that you shouldn't litter when you're hiking but you might be surprised at how many hikers do litter and throw their trash all over the natural world. After you have had your snack on the trail, pack up all of your trash and take it with you. Don't litter.

This article was provided by www.personalinjury-law.com, an organization dedicated to providing the public with information about personal injury and safety information. Nothing in this article should be construed as legal advice, and it is intended for informational use only.

Camp 8 Podcast Highlights Minnesota Voices



Listen to the Camp 8 podcast, a biweekly podcast hosted by Eli Sagor and Kyle Gill of the Cloquet Forestry

Center. Episodes highlight voices from the Minnesota woods including those of foresters, wildlife managers, researchers, landowners and others. The podcast launched in Spring 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, as a way to keep people connected during a time when many felt isolated.

To subscribe, look for Camp 8 on Apple Podcasts, Stitcher and Spotify or search for ForestEd wherever you get podcasts. Camp 8 is produced by the University of Minnesota Cloquet Forestry Center, CFANS and Extension.

Learn more about the podcast and listen to episodes online at <https://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/forested-podcast>.

Call Before You Cut

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

218-879-5100

Survey Highlights continued

Because of the increased management options, program involvement and other dynamics of larger ownerships, all following results are for family woodland owners with 10 or more acres.

Beauty, Wildlife and Nature Are What Matter

The most commonly cited reasons for owning woodland in Minnesota are related to the beauty, wildlife, nature and privacy. Hunting, other recreation and the goal of passing land onto future generations is also important to many owners. Financial objectives, such as land investment and timber production, are important to some owners, but they are not as common as other objectives.

They Love Their Land

Most family woodland owners in Minnesota have a deep love of their land. The vast majority of owners, 90%, agree or strongly agree with the statement “I want my wooded land to stay wooded.” Seventy-seven percent of owners agree or strongly agree that they have a strong emotional tie to their wooded land, and 87% say they know their wooded land well.

Management

In the past five years, about half (52%) of family woodland owners have cut or removed trees for personal use, and

one in nine (11%) have cut trees for sale. Around one in four (25%) have improved wildlife habitat, and 17% have reduced invasive plants. Thirteen percent have a written management plan and 10% have received woodland management advice in the past five years.

Ownerships Are Older

The average age of primary decision makers for family-owned woodland in Minnesota is 66 years. Nineteen percent of acres are owned by people who plan to transfer some or all of their wooded land in the next five years, and a majority of ownerships (72%) are worried about keeping the land intact for future generations. Eighty-four percent of primary decision makers are male.

Conclusions

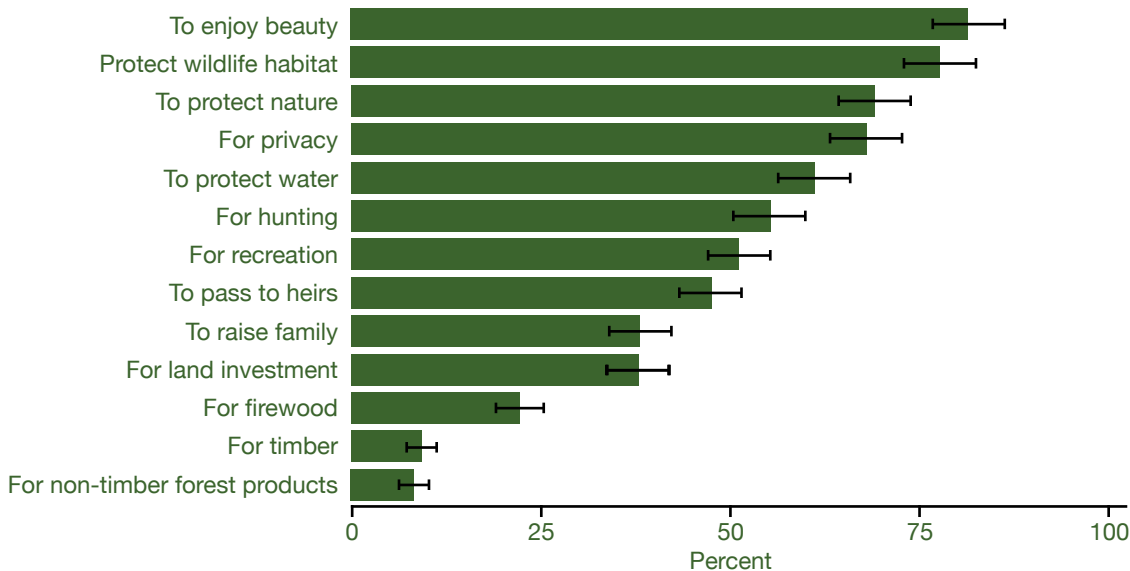
Woodland conservation and management depend on the people who own it — in Minnesota, many of these acres are held by individuals and families. Owners care about and manage their wooded land, but often the traditional forms of engagement, such as having a management plan or working with a professional, are not widely used. Understanding the threats to the land — including the loss of forest through development, parcelization, invasive plants, disease and insects, and other issues — is critical for conservation efforts. Using a

Key Highlights:
• Families and individuals own 33% of Minnesota’s wooded land
• Most own their wooded land for beauty, wildlife, nature and privacy
• 90% of family woodland owners want their wooded land to stay wooded
• Half have cut trees for their own use, and one in nine have cut trees for sale in the past five years
• Fewer than one in six have a management plan or have received advice about their wooded land in the past five years

common language and designing policies and programs that meet the needs of landowners and professionals will have a major impact on the current and future owners and the vital lands that they own.

For more results, visit the USDA Forest Service’s National Woodland Owner Survey website at www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos. To learn more about the services and resources available to woodland owners, contact your local forestry agency or association.

Emma Sass is a research fellow with the Family Forest Research Center and University of Massachusetts Amherst. Brett Butler is a research forester with the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station and Family Forest Research Center.



REASONS FOR OWNING WOODED LAND
Percent of Minnesota wooded land ownerships who rate each objective as important or very important. Error bars represent 68% confidence interval.
Data source: USDA Forest Service, National Woodland Owner Survey.



Meet a Tree

Eastern Red Cedar

By Cassandra Tuten and Ryan Heiderman

Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) is a cold-hardy, adaptable evergreen. The range of eastern red cedar includes dry, gravelly soil and rocky ledges in the southern half of the state. It is most abundant on river bluffs in southeastern Minnesota, where few other trees are found, and has been known to invade abandoned, fire-protected fields. Eastern red cedar is shade intolerant and drought resistant.

Eastern red cedar is a relatively large tree, and at maturity can reach 40-50 feet in height and 8-20 feet in width. The bark of eastern red cedar is thin, reddish-brown, peeling off in long, vertical shred-like strips. Female plants produce berry-like cones that, if pollinated, ripen to a blue-gray color. The blue-green berry-like fruit is a favorite for many birds and wildlife. Much of the reproduction occurs from seeds falling to the ground, although several bird species such as cedar waxwings, robins, starlings and mockingbirds have been observed removing cones from the trees as well as from the snow-covered ground. Other small mammals, quail, grouse, pheasant and turkey have been reported to consume the seed.

Eastern red cedar grows best in full sun with well-drained soil. Once established, it's tolerant of dry, windy conditions. It's also adaptable to high pH (alkaline) soils. Prune in early spring. Because they are salt-tolerant, eastern red cedar can be planted near roads, driveways and sidewalks.

The wood of eastern red cedar is red, fine-grained, soft-textured, fragrant and very durable. Uses include interior woodwork, chests, closets, lead pencils, posts and poles. Eastern red cedar is the alternate host of cedar apple rust, so it is not favorable to plant in or near orchards or anywhere in regions devoted to commercial apple production.

Did you know?

Minnesota's Big Tree Champion eastern red cedar is over 109 inches in circumference and 57 feet tall and is found in Faribault County.

Photos by MN Department of Natural Resources.



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: Ash Management Guidelines: A Policy Update from MN DNR-Forestry

9-10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16

Speaker: Paul Dubuque and Mike Reinikainen, MN DNR-Forestry

Cost: \$35 for non-members and \$20 for members for the entire series

The threat posed to Minnesota's vast ash-dominated wet forest systems by emerald ash borer requires a coordinated response. Learn about newly released statewide ash management guidelines and Operational Order 124, Plant Material and Assisted Migration Standards for Native Plant Communities. Learn more and register at <https://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2021-webinar-february>.

Webinar: Biological Control of Leafy Spurge and Spotted Knapweed in Minnesota

9-10 a.m. Tuesday, March 16

Speaker: Monika Chandler, MN Department of Agriculture, and Sascha Lodge, MN DNR

Cost: \$35 for non-members and \$20 for members for the entire series

Monika Chandler will discuss how biological control agents are developed including host-specificity testing to reduce the risk of damage to non-target plants. She will describe how the biocontrol program works for public and private landowners. Sascha Lodge continues to build forestry's weed biocontrol program and will discuss the current status and future plans. Learn more and register at <https://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2021-webinar-march>.

Minnesota Woodland Owner Workshop: Tree Planting

6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 20

Cost: \$10

Join several speakers who will discuss which trees to plant, considerations for protecting trees and more. Learn more and register at <https://extension.umn.edu/event/minnesota-woodland-owner-workshop-tree-planting>.



Minnesota Forestry Association

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Change Service Requested

Friends,

I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for supporting the Minnesota Forestry Association. I hope all of you and your loved ones are doing well in this new year. The MFA is a family, albeit some of us have never met in person.

At the start of this new year, 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. This could mean images of what makes you happiest on your woodlands, or story suggestions for potential features. Maybe it's a poem you wrote about a sunset you experienced during a walk in your woods, or maybe it's a simple kudos for a job well-done to a fellow member. Maybe it's a suggestion for a member profile!

Whatever joy you receive from your role as a private woodland owner, or whatever news you want to share, 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. Let's make 2021 special!

Happy New Year everyone!
Kassandra Tuten