

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)

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MFA Board Meetings
DNR Cambridge Office
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- July 13, 2021
 - October 12, 2021
- Subject to change
due to COVID-19*

Conference Calls
8 – 9 a.m.

- August 10, 2021
- September 14, 2021

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Barb Spears Wins Buzz Ryan Award

By Karen Harrison, DNR School Forest Coordinator

Minnesota Women's Woodland Network (MNWWN) president Barb Spears' heart for forestry and volunteer work earned her the Buzz Ryan Award by the Minnesota Forestry Employee Association (MFEA).

MFEA is a nonprofit organization made up of past and present employees of the DNR Division of Forestry. Every year, forestry employees choose an individual or organization outside of the DNR who has made a substantial contribution to natural resources management.

Since 2008, Barb has volunteered with the MNWWN. As a founding contributor to this organization, Barb has led the Metro Area local network and currently presides over its board of directors. She has dedicated countless personal hours to advance the MNWWN by growing the network membership, fundraising and offering woodland education through in-person classes.



Barb Spears

Barb worked tirelessly to create a partnership with the Minnesota Forestry Association, an established 501(c)3, to provide MNWWN with fiscal sponsorship, membership support and insurance coverage. This partnership is formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding that is renewed annually and has been in effect since 2020 — an arrangement that hopefully will extend for many years. MNWWN is now better situated to build a community of women woodland owners and create supportive, informal, small group learning opportunities. Without Barb, MNWWN most likely would not be as successful as it is today.

I was lucky enough to work with Barb on two different grant projects for the School Forest Program. The first was a U.S. Forest Service grant to enhance land management at school sites. Barb worked as a contractor to develop unique woodland stewardship plans for urban school forests in the metro area and the school coordinators who use them. Many metro school forests have fewer than 15 acres of land and are more like urban lots. Similar to a typical stewardship plan, Barb's plans for urban sites were easy to understand and included spaces such as school gardens, open school group areas and bodies of water. She included details for schools to understand how they should manage and develop school forests into the future.

Barb also worked as a DNR temporary employee as a School Forest Specialist leading an LCCMR Outdoor Classroom grant. For this project, Barb worked with the Minnesota Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa, DNR foresters and schools across the state to organize, plan and evaluate outdoor classroom improvement projects such as developing trails, removing invasive species and building benches. She also organized and led a number of trainings for teachers, site coordinators and volunteers on pruning, buckthorn removal and tree planting. Finally, she helped teachers, foresters and CCM crews lead student service-learning activities after a project was complete.

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Minnesota Forestry Association

2021 Board of Directors

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

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

From the President

Greetings. For the most part, spring planting season is complete, white tail fawns are finding their legs and song birds are busy feeding their young. As a matter of fact, I just called in a pair of Cardinals to my window, as I drink my morning tea and write this article. The Northern Cardinal song is one of the many recorded on the Minnesota DNR Conservation Volunteer website.

Time for some business. MFA is looking for leadership to serve on the board, especially skills related to interacting electronically with woodland owners. We plan to continue interacting in traditional ways, however, it is also time to move into the future or get left behind. If you have electronic social media skills and are interested in private woodland management, please call MFA at 218-879-5100. Looking forward to getting some advice, or better yet, inviting your skills to the board.

On another note, MFA'S board of directors took action last month to stop sending the Minnesota Woodlands Newsletter to past members who are not current with their membership. There is still time to get caught up if you wish to receive the benefits before the next mailing.

Lastly, I would like to inform you that MFA will not be automatically sending a 2021 Minnesota Forest Resource Directory. There are very few changes on the MFA side of the Directory, so if you would like to receive a fresh copy, just let me know by calling 218-879-5100, and we will get a copy sent to you.

In closing, I would like to remind you about recent stressors on Minnesota trees, especially throughout the northern half of the state. Parts of the state experienced an extreme hard freeze after the spring budding process occurred, killing all the new growth. Also, parts of the state are already experiencing several inches of below normal precipitation for the first half of the year. If you have an opportunity, you may want to consider watering, if it is at all practical.

Your president,

Dave Roerick



Dave Roerick



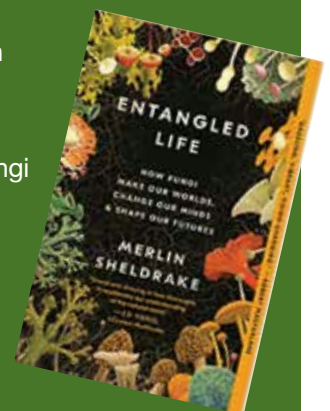
Our Shared Bookshelf

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 "Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds and Shape Our Futures" by Merlin Sheldrake.

When we think of fungi, we likely think of mushrooms, but mushrooms are only fruiting bodies, like apples on a tree. Most fungi live out of sight, yet make up a diverse kingdom of organisms that supports and sustains nearly all living systems.

Sheldrake's book takes readers from yeast to psychedelics, to the fungi that range for miles underground and are the largest organisms on the planet, to those that link plants together in complex networks known as the "Wood Wide Web," to those that infiltrate and manipulate insect bodies.





Have you heard of MNWOW?

By Jennifer Teegarden, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

The Minnesota Woodland Owner Workshop (MNWOW) offers quarterly workshops designed to help woodland owners better understand and actively manage their land. Each month, staff and members from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry (DNR), University of Minnesota Extension (UMN), Minnesota Women's Woodland Network (MNWWN), Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA), Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS) and St. John's University meet to plan future events.

In 2020, MNWOW was known as the Minnesota Woodland Owner Weekend, which included numerous presentations and field tours over multiple days. The weekend was designed to coincide with MFA's and MNWWN's annual membership meetings as a way to reach more woodland owners. COVID-19 forced us to change our plans. Presentations were pre-recorded and made available a week prior to the event, and field trips were canceled. On the day of the event, each presenter was assigned a specific time slot during which participants could ask questions. The planning team was pleasantly surprised that nearly 110 people participated.

We surveyed participants to get feedback on the event. Here are a few things we learned:

1. They really like the pre-recorded presentations, which allowed them to choose and re-watch presentations.
2. They enjoyed being able to submit questions in advance of the event.
3. They liked that the day of the event was focused on asking the presenters questions.
4. They liked the online format.
5. They would prefer to participate in multiple one-hour online events spread throughout the year instead of a single all-day event.

Therefore, starting in January of 2021, we have been hosting workshops every three months featuring three pre-recorded presentations. On the day of the workshop, which occurs from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month, all three presenters participate in one question and answer session that is moderated by planning team members. During the workshop, a team member provides links in the chat to online resources that provide additional content relating to questions being asked. April's MNWOW was a huge success — 89 people attended and the Q&A session lasted 30 minutes longer than planned and could have continued past 8 p.m.

MNOWOW relies heavily on presentations by natural resource professionals and technical resources of partners. This has allowed us to reach more woodland owners than in past years. The online workshops are easier to plan and cheaper for participants. Participants can watch the pre-recorded presentations on their time schedule, before and after the event. Instead of dedicating an entire weekend to learning about woodland stewardship, woodland owners are able to complete projects in their woods.

The \$10 registration fee is used to pay presenters who charge a fee and future field trips/tours. Money left over at the end of the year is split between UMN, MNWWN, MFA, MSHS and St. John's University to cover costs associated with hosting and planning the online workshop.

Upcoming MNWOWs will be listed on MFA's Events webpage at www.minnesotaforestry.org/events.

Creature Feature

By *Kassandra Tuten, Editor*

Sandhill Crane

The Sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*) is among Minnesota's largest bird species, standing about 5 feet tall and having a wingspread of nearly 7 feet. Sandhills (as they're often referred to) are very large, tall birds with a long neck, long legs and broad wings. The bulky body tapers into a slender neck and the short tail is covered by drooping feathers that form a "bustle." The head is small and the bill is straight and longer than the head.

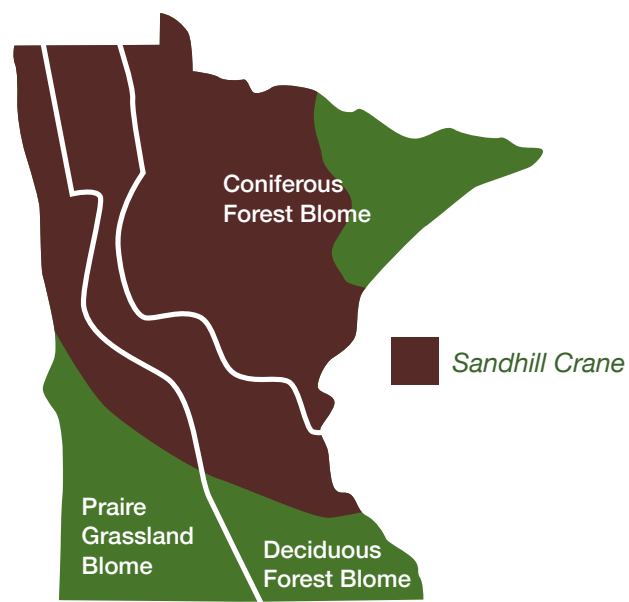
Sandhills are birds of wet meadows and open landscapes. Adults weigh 5 to 8 pounds and are mainly gray, except for a white face and distinctive red crown. The young are gray and rusty brown without the pale cheek or red crown.

Sandhills breed and forage in open prairies, grasslands and wetlands. Outside of the breeding season, they often roost in deeper water of ponds or lakes where they are safe from predators.

Sandhills eat a variety of animals including frogs, small mammals, insects and snakes, as well as small grains including oats and wheat. Because the sandhill is so large, they have few predators as adults. Great-horned owls may prey on a young sandhill.

In central and northern Minnesota, sandhills spend spring through autumn in large open meadows and farm fields. They migrate south for the winter. Sandhill cranes form extremely large flocks — into the tens of thousands — on their wintering grounds and during migration.

Sandhill cranes are a protected species in Minnesota, but it is legal to hunt them in part of northern Minnesota during the sandhill crane hunting season each year.



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

Member Bio: Stanley Musielewicz

I am Stanley Musielewicz. My wife, GERALYN, and I live on Highway 10, right out of Little Falls, on 80 acres, a certified Tree Farm. In 2018, we bought 99 acres of woods near Cushing, just 12 miles away. I wrote a Woodland Stewardship Plan for that land and certified it as a Tree Farm.

We have two adult daughters, two sons-in-law, two grandsons and two granddaughters. This year, my younger grandkids joined me in the deer stand. The older ones hunt with their dad. My grandkids, and the entire family, enjoy my woods.

I retired early from a 33-year career with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS, soil conservation). In March 2010, I started my business, Wolfree Enterprises, and am certified by the DNR to write Woodland Stewardship Plans. I also do timber sales and Tree Farm certifications/inspections.

Even though my business is part-time work for me, I have written about 170 plans on 27,000 acres. Morrison, Todd and Stearns are my primary counties, but I have worked in all of the neighboring counties, and a bit beyond that as well. I still have (or take) plenty of retirement time to fish, hunt and work in my woods.

I joined the Minnesota Forestry Association in 2010 when I started my business. I have attended about five annual meetings and other events.

I love the woods and get a lot of joy and satisfaction out of managing my woods. I spend hundreds of hours every year in my woods, cutting firewood, controlling buckthorn, pruning pine, releasing oaks and enjoying the beauty.

To submit a Member Bio or to nominate a fellow member to highlight, please send your information to Editor@MinnesotaForestry.org.



Our woods, 99 acres by Cushing, is aptly named. It became a tree farm only months after we bought it. I proceeded to name trails and places in our woods, just like businesses in a town or neighbors on a street. This adds a real sense of dimension to our land (woods).

Forest Carbon Markets for Woodland Owners

By Matt Russell, Extension Forestry Specialist

Carbon, carbon, carbon.

Many woodland owners have been hearing more news about opportunities with forest carbon markets. In these markets, landowners are paid for the carbon storage and sequestration that their trees provide. Funds come from corporations and individuals that pay to offset their own carbon dioxide emissions.

Minnesota's forests are rich with carbon. Private woodland owners manage approximately seven million acres of Minnesota forests, making them an important component of the forest carbon marketplace. With all of the talk about carbon, many Minnesota woodland owners are wondering how they can be a part of these markets.

Voluntary Carbon Markets: A Growing Opportunity

The greatest opportunity for Minnesota woodland owners is in the voluntary carbon market system. Voluntary markets are typically managed by private companies, as opposed to

compliance markets which involve government agencies.

Many voluntary markets are designed for smaller property sizes and allow shorter time commitments. These types of forest carbon market programs may be the greatest opportunity for private woodland owners with smaller properties (fewer than 100 acres).

Historically, landowners entered their properties into carbon markets for commitments as long as 100 years. Some new programs are offering shorter commitment time periods, even as short as one year. A number of these newer carbon markets are appealing and targeted to landowners with smaller property sizes.

Voluntary carbon markets continue to evolve. As of now, carbon markets are difficult to access for most private woodland owners in Minnesota. However, carbon markets are expanding and becoming more accessible to private woodland owners.

Barb Spears continued

Barb has also volunteered with many forestry initiatives in her community including tree planting and inventory. She has volunteered with MFA as a board member and leader of the MFA Metro Chapter, served on the St. Paul Tree Advisory Panel, the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee and her neighborhood Hamline-Midway Environmental Group. She worked for the USDA Forest Service, IATP Community Forestry Resource Center, Tree Trust and DNR Ecological and Water Resources Division as the Woody Biomass Project Coordinator in a temporary position as a part of an LCCMR grant.

One conversation with Barb, and you'll agree she has a passion for forestry and woodland management, a dedication to education and a heart for volunteering.

A Landowner's Guide to Timber Sale Contracts

A written timber sale agreement or contract is generally the preferable and safest method of selling timber. A written contract is a legally binding document that protects both the buyer and the landowner from misunderstandings that may develop in the absence of such an agreement.

No two timber sale contracts are alike. Learn more and download the "Landowner's Guide to Timber Sale Contracts" at <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/pb1607.pdf>.



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.

MFA's Forester Phone Line

A free service for MFA members only!

Call for an appointment with
the forester: **218-879-5100**



Meet a Tree

Norway Spruce

By Cassandra Tuten, Editor

The Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) is a medium-sized conifer. It is a large, pyramidal tree with long, cylindrical cones that hang like ornaments from the weeping branches. This sun-loving 40 to 60 foot high tree is often used for windbreaks, screens or hedges in large-scale landscapes. It is native to northern and central Europe and is the dominant tree species in the Black Forest area of Germany.

The bark of a young tree is thin and thickens into gray-brown flaky scales with maturity. It has four-sided needles that are about one-inch long. The needles are smooth and stiff with a pointed tip.

It has small flowers on male and female trees. Male flowers are pinkish-red and clustered along the stems. The female flowers are reddish-pink and upright. Once pollinated, the flowers turn green and hang downward as cones ripen. Cones are cylindrical, 4 to 6 inches long and purplish-green, changing to light brown as they ripen. They are the largest cones of all spruces.

Norway spruce prefer to be grown in average, acidic, well-drained soils in full sun. They perform well in

rich sandy soils, though established plants have some tolerance for dryish soils. The very shallow, spreading root system benefits from a 3 to 4 inch layer of organic mulch to moderate soil temperature and conserve moisture. Like most spruce trees, the Norway spruce prefers a cooler climate.

Norway spruce are used for habitat by birds, moths and some small mammals. The Norway spruce is used in forestry for (softwood) timber, wood for furniture and instruments and paper production. It has also traditionally been used as a source of medicine.

Diseases to watch for are cytospora canker, wood decay, needle cast and rust. Insect pests to watch for include aphids, bagworms, budworms and borers. Red spider mites can also be troublesome.

Did you know? Norway spruce was one of the earliest trees used for reforestation in North America.

Photos by Eli Sagor and the University of Minnesota Urban Forestry Outreach and Research.



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

9-10 a.m. Tuesday, June 15

Hear from the American Forest Foundation's Jonathan Shears on the new Family Forest Carbon Program developed in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. Then, hear how a Northern Minnesota county land department has managed sales of spruce tops for use in holiday and seasonal decorations. Carlton County Land Commissioner Greg Bernu will share his experience and lessons learned. Learn more and register at <https://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2021-webinar-june>.

Webinar: Eco-Friendly Yard

6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 15

This virtual class will provide the information you need to make your landscape not only environmentally positive but also beautiful and useful to your family. Learn more and register at <https://mshs.z2systems.com/np/clients/mshs/event.jsp?event=394>.

Webinar: Site-Level Forest Management Guideline Monitoring and Implementation Overview: 2014-18

9-10 a.m. Tuesday, July 20

David Wilson will provide an overview of the Guideline Monitoring Program, monitoring methods and observed implementation levels for watersheds and ownerships across Minnesota. Learn more and register at <https://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2021-webinar-july>.

MN Woodland Owner Webinar: AgroForestry

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

This is a quarterly webinar to learn and discuss a variety of forest management topics in the coming year. Learn more at <https://www.minnesotaforestry.org/events/mn-webinars>.

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

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

Mountain pine beetle, an insect that has killed tens of millions of acres of mature pines in the western U.S. and Canada, has been expanding its range eastward. Brian Aukema, professor, UMN Department of Entomology, will present highlights of recent research that sheds light on how the threat of mountain pine beetle may be facilitated or impeded by our native insects and trees. Learn more and register at <https://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2021-webinar-august>.



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Change Service Requested

Former MN State Forester Passed Away



Gerald "Jerry" Rose of Grand Rapids, Michigan, passed away on April 27.

Jerry was director of the DNR's Division of Forestry from 1987 to 2000 during a particularly challenging and litigious era. During that period, Minnesota's forest industries invested over \$2 billion in new and expanded manufacturing plants; the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) on Minnesota Timber Harvesting was completed at a cost of \$1 million; and the Sustainable Forest Resource Act was enacted that resulted in the creation of the Minnesota Forest Resource Council.

Jerry, a long-time MFA member, moved to Michigan following his retirement, but kept an active interest in MFA affairs and particularly enjoyed reading the MFA newsletter.

He leaves behind Donna, his wife of nearly 60 years, sons Gerald Jr. (Lisa) and Andrew (Terri), seven grandchildren and seven siblings. His family has suggested planting a tree in his memory or contributing to the Escanaba High School Class of '59 Scholarship Fund, 500 S. Lincoln, Escanaba, MI.