

Spring 2023

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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MFA Newsletter
Vol. 25 No. 2
Spring 2023
The Minnesota
Woodlands newsletter
is published by the
Minnesota Forestry
Association.

MFA Board Meetings
Conference Calls
8 – 9 a.m.

- May 9, 2023
- June 13, 2023
- July 11, 2023
- August 8, 2023
- September 11, 2023
- October 10, 2023

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Dear Woodland Owners of Minnesota

As the new 2023 President of the Minnesota Forestry Association, I wanted to first thank our previous president, Dave Roerick, for his many years of service. Dave has stepped down to take the role of VP/Past President. I also want to thank our board, affiliate members and support staff who continue to contribute their time and expertise to support the mission of the Minnesota Forestry Association.

I also want to thank our outgoing editor, Kassandra Tuten, who has been editing and publishing our newsletter for six years while she was moving from Grand Rapids, MN, to Moscow, ID, and finally to Madison, WI. This will be her last newsletter as we transfer the editor role to Kathleen Preece with the next summer issue. Kathleen runs the Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership (<https://www.mnforestpartnership.com/>) and sits on the Minnesota Forest Resources Council.

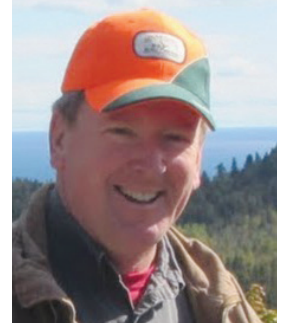
Most of our membership dues go to the creation, publication and mailing of this newsletter. The immediate objective for the transition to a new editor is to promote more collaborative, unified, in-depth communications about major forestry issues through this printed seasonal periodical with Kathleen and her connections. I use the term “periodical” because we need to rethink what we publish, print and mail in the future. The speed of print publishing and the speed of delivery by the U.S. Postal Service is a slow and expensive process, so many forestry events and news never make it into our newsletter in time.

So, in the near future, we will start an email “news brief” to deliver short, newsworthy forestry highlights with links to the source websites where you can dive deeper for more information. Hopefully, these can be delivered as needed instead of filling up your email with weekly or monthly spam. However, MFA needs volunteers with experience to step up and administer this email news brief program. Contact your president if you wish to help out.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to highlight some of the current forestry issues that are impacting our state's woodlands.

The most critical issue facing our forests is the impact of climate change. As temperatures and weather patterns shift, our forests are increasingly vulnerable to wildfires, pests and disease. To help mitigate the effects of climate change on our woodlands, it is essential that we prioritize sustainable forestry practices, such as harvesting and replanting, to ensure that our forests remain healthy and resilient. Why? To store more carbon.

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*Brian Huberty,
MFA president*

Save the date for the MFA Annual Meeting

Friday & Saturday, September 15 & 16, 2023 » Grand Rapids

Minnesota Forestry Association

2023 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.

John Bathke, Two Harbors, MN
Lyle Keller, Peterson, MN
Ryan Rothstein, Waite Park, MN
Greg Wuerflein, Cambridge, MN

Ex-Officio Board Members:
Jim Lemmerman, Duluth, MN
John Carlson, St. Paul, MN
Bruce ZumBahlen, Cottage Grove, MN

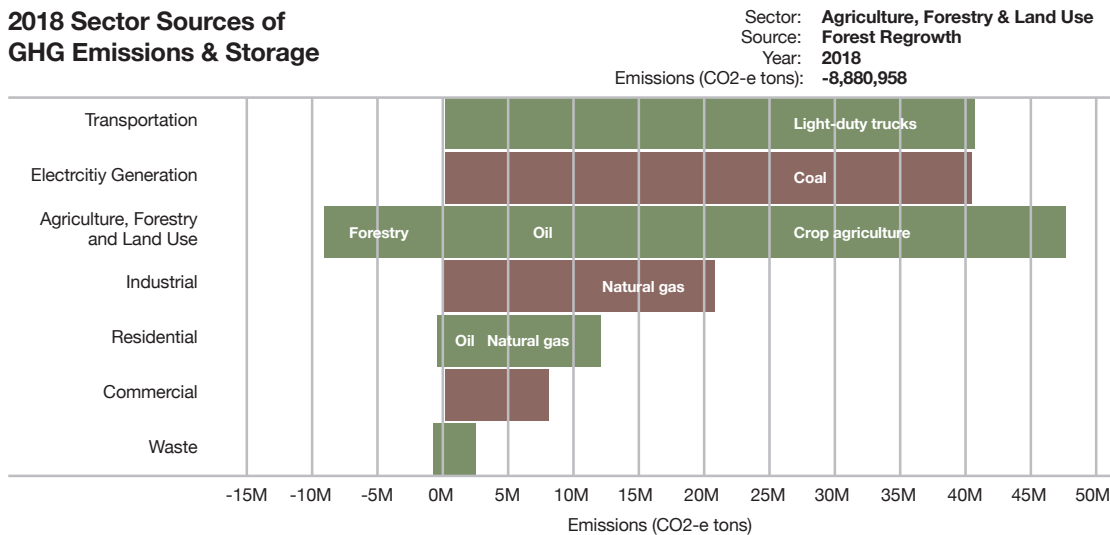
MFA contact information:
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Grand Rapids, MN 55744
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Away from home for a time? Please contact the MFA office if you'll be away from home for an extended time and let us know when you'll be back. We'll hold onto the newsletter until you return so you won't miss a single issue! Email info@minnesotaforestry.org or call 218-879-5100.

Letter from the President continued

This graph is from a recent MN Pollution Control Agency-Green House Gas report which shows forestry as the only sector that can store carbon. If we, as a society, are going to store more carbon, forestry is the only sector that can make a difference.

2018 Sector Sources of GHG Emissions & Storage



Electricity Generation: Fuel combustion, emissions from electricity consumption in Minnesota, including imported to meet demand.

In the coming years, more forest carbon incentives for private woodland owners will be coming from both industry and government programs. So, keep an eye on the upcoming Farm Bill and contact your elected representatives to start supporting private woodland owners.

If you need a primer on the Farm Bill, go here with your browser: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF12047>, or search "Farm Bill Primer: What Is the Farm Bill?" by the Congressional Research Service.

Finally, the management of our forests for timber and other resources is an ongoing concern. We must balance the economic benefits of these resources with the need to preserve our forests' health and biodiversity. It is crucial that woodland owners work closely with forestry professionals to develop stewardship and sustainable harvesting plans that prioritize the long-term health of our forests. If you do not have a woodland stewardship plan, it is time to have one created. Google "MN DNR Forest Stewardship" or go to our MFA website to get more information.

The Minnesota Forestry Association is committed to promoting sustainable forestry practices and protecting the health and viability of our state's woodlands. We encourage all woodland owners to stay informed about the latest forestry issues and to take an active role in managing their properties. Together, we can ensure that our forests remain healthy and vibrant for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Brian Huberty, President
President@Minnesotaforestry.org

Did you know...

» MFA hosted the second Minnesota Forestry Day at the State Capitol on March 21, 2023? This was an informal morning meet and greet session for legislators to stop by and discuss forestry issues.

Pictured from left, Representative Jim Joy (04B) of Hawley, MN, stopped by along with Shannon Mitchell, Mitchell, Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A., and Bruce Zumbahlen, MFA Board. Also in attendance (not shown) were Sam Richie, Mitchell, Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A., and Dave Nolle, MN Logger Education Program. Jim stopped by to get some ideas for land he owns on Many Point Lake. He was not aware of the SFIA program so we will be working with him this summer to get one created. The turnout could have been better, so ask your representatives why they did not stop by the next time you chat with them.

In case you were wondering, why host this “Minnesota Forestry Day” event at the State Capitol? The United Nations has been hosting a March 21 “International Day of Forests” event annually over the last decade. MFA President, Brian Huberty, discovered this by accident last year and ironically, most of our federal, state, academic and industry forestry associations were not aware of this international event either. So, for March 21, 2024, does anyone else have a better idea on what we should do?

» MFA published this “Guide to Lakes, Canoe Routes and Auto Trails of Minnesota” map in 1917?



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 “The Lost Forest,” a picture book by Phyllis Root. Thank you, Bob Backman, for the recommendation.

In 1882, when surveyors set out to map a part of Minnesota, they somehow mapped a great swath of ancient trees as a lake. For more than 75 years, the mistake stayed on the map, and the forest remained safe from logging. “The Lost Forest” tells the story of this lucky error and of the 144 acres of old-growth red and white pine it preserved.



Member Bio: Bob Backman

By Cassandra Tuten, Editor

Bob Backman lives by a lake in northern forested Becker County along with his wife, who shares a love of the outdoors. When the region was logged in the 1850s, it was primarily a white pine forest. Today, it's dominated by maple and basswood. The Backmans have owned the property since the 1980s.

“With the help of friends, we built a small house on the property and expanded it seven years ago for a full time retirement home,” said Bob.

The house was built using as much local wood products as possible thanks to the Two Inlets Mill, which is only 36 miles from their residence.

“We like wood and enjoy looking at our basswood, pine and popple V-groove paneling daily,” said Bob. “We also built our basement out of wood.”

Their friend Bill, a wood craftsman, even crafted much of the couple's interior furnishings from local wood and salvaged materials, including their bookshelves, dressers, desk, picture and mirror frames, headboards and small tables.

Today, the Backmans own two other forested parcels, both within walking distance of their original property. One is 20 acres and the other is about 30 acres, said Bob. The last parcel was purchased in three segments as they came up for sale. The couple purchased the land for a number of reasons.

“We wanted to preserve it as forested land, for ‘forest bathing,’ to hunt on, to manage it, to observe wildlife and provide firewood,” Bob said. “My wife and I walk in it almost daily. As our knees and hips are telling us their age, I snowblow a one-mile trail in the winter to make walking easier.”



Bob on Ryan Island on Siskiwit Lake in Isle Royal National Park.

According to Bob, on the 20-acre parcel of land, a half acre portion was cleared for a building site. It was not built on and was later used for the storage of old vehicles and bricks. Their granddaughter named the site “The Brick Yard.” With the help of neighbors, they cleared the site and replanted it, primarily with white pine, one of Bob's favorites.

On the larger 30-acre parcel, the Backmans hand-cleared a 2.1-acre portion with the help of friends, family and neighbors. It was primarily sugar maple with some basswood, poplar and ironwood, said Bob. Standing dead trees were left for the birds to use as habitat and the half dozen oaks on the site were left to provide acorns for wildlife. With the financial assistance of the Minnesota DNR, they replanted with 200 white pines, all in tubex. Their granddaughter named that site “Pine Hill.”

In the early 1990s, along with a neighbor, Bob raised funds to buy an undeveloped 20-acre forested peninsula on a nearby lake which was eventually donated to the Minnesota DNR. The land is now



Bob with grandson, Steven, splitting wood.

home to a nesting eagle pair, deer, an occasional bear and, most recently, a nesting loon pair.

Along with several neighbors who also own parcels of forested land, the Backmans have joined the SFIA program for 50 years. The DNR helped write the Woodland Stewardship Plan.

To improve the health of their land, the Backmans have considered some selected small scale commercial harvest using the MFA's Call Before You Cut program.

"Stan Grossman spent most of a day with us and provided a huge amount of information which we ponder as we consider future actions," said Bob.

While Bob doesn't consider himself a forestry "expert," he does enjoy reading books about white pines and simply spending time outdoors exploring his woodlands.

"Our most interesting finds in the woods were a strawberry spinach plant and, under a half foot of soil, a small empty glass bottle labeled 'Johnson's American Anodyne Liniment,' which was probably left behind by a muscle-sore logger in the late 1800s," he said.

Before retiring, Bob was executive director of a nonprofit that worked with the Red River of the North. Today, Bob is active with several organizations that work to make Minnesota a better place to live and work, and he and his wife consider themselves fortunate to have many neighbors and friends that are similarly engaged.

Dear MFA Members

Thank you for welcoming me and allowing me to join the MFA family as your editor for the last six years. It's been an absolute pleasure telling your stories and sharing your passion for the woodlands.

As you read in Brian's piece, this is my last edition as your editor. I'm excited for Kathleen to take over the role and share her expertise and passion for Minnesota's woodlands with you all, and I look forward to exploring ways I can continue to support MFA's important mission in the future. If you'd like to keep in touch with me, feel free to reach out on social media or email me at kassandraturen@gmail.com. It's been a pleasure.

Sincerely,
Kassandra Tuten



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**



CALL 218-879-5100

Creature Feature

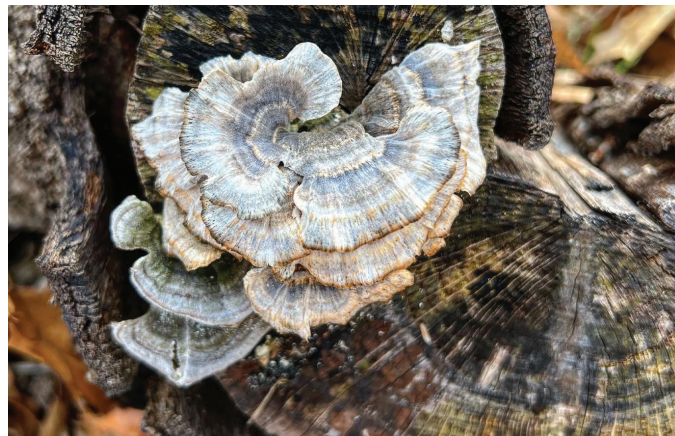
By *Kassandra Tuten, Editor*

Photo by C. Vecchio.

Decomposers

When you think of “creatures,” you might not consider some of the world’s natural demolition crew: fungi, slime molds and soil bacteria. Although they are relatively small and most of their work is completed out of sight, the impact of their work is gigantic. Through recycling of organic matter, they guarantee the continuation of life in all of the Earth’s ecosystems.

Decomposers work to break down dead plant or animal tissue that they then transform into organic matter and nutrients which can be used for the growth of new organisms. Below, we’ll discuss the three examples listed above, fungi (through the example of a turkey tail mushroom), slime molds and soil bacteria.



Turkey tail mushroom. Photo by *Kassandra Tuten*.

Turkey tail mushroom (*Trametes versicolor*)

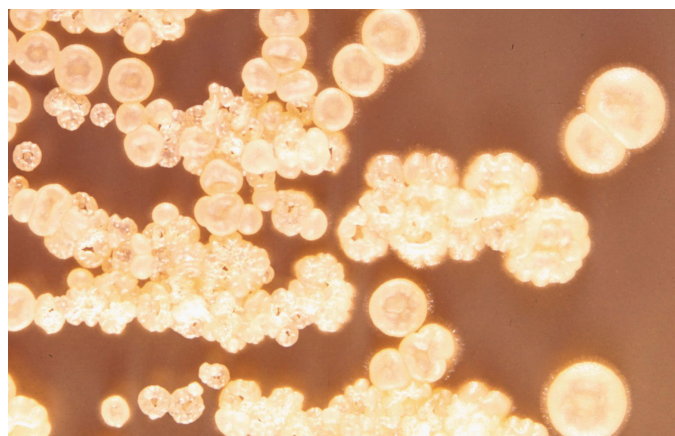
Trametes versicolor is a common polypore mushroom found throughout the world. A polypore is a type of mushroom that has pores on its underside as opposed to the gills found on most mushrooms. Most commonly, these are shelf or bracket fungi that grow on living or dead trees. Because it grows together in a cluster, and its multiple colors are similar to those of a wild turkey, *T. versicolor* is commonly called turkey tail. It is one of the most commonly found species of mushroom in North America. Turkey tail is a white-rot fungus which degrades lignin from materials such as wood. Any type of fallen hardwood log or stump often harbors clusters of this fan-shaped fungi.



Slime mold. Photo by *C. Vecchio*.

Slime mold

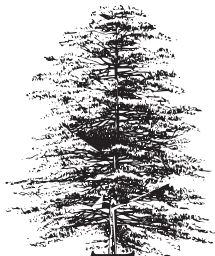
Slime mold is an informal name given to several kinds of unrelated eukaryotic organisms. Their common name refers to a stage in these organisms’ life cycles when they can appear as gelatinous “slime.” Slime molds were formerly classified as fungi but are no longer considered part of that kingdom. More than 900 species of slime mold occur globally. They contribute to the decomposition of dead vegetation and feed on bacteria and fungi. They are usually found in soil, lawns and on the forest floor, commonly on deciduous logs.



Soil bacteria.

Soil bacteria (*Streptomyces species*)

Streptomyces is a genus of filamentous bacteria of the family *Streptomycetaceae* that includes more than 500 species occurring in soil and water. Many species are important in the decomposition of organic matter in soil, contributing in part to the earthy odor of soil and decaying leaves and to the fertility of soil.



Meet a Tree **Black Locust**

By Cassandra Tuten, Editor

Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) is a fast growing tree in the legume family that can reach up to 75 feet in height. It has deeply furrowed bark with flat-topped ridges, and seedlings and root sprouts have long thorns and grow rapidly.

Black locust leaves are compound leaves, composed of 7-21 paired leaflets on both sides of a common stalk. Leaflets are oval, 1-2 inches in length, and untoothed. Each leaf is 6-14 inches long and arranged alternately to each other along the twigs. There is one un-paired leaflet at the tip of each leaf and a pair of short, sharp thorns at the base of each leaf. Fragrant, showy, drooping white flowers (which look similar to other pea family flowers) hang from branch tips, appearing in drooping clusters with a yellow blotch on the uppermost petal. Flowers are pollinated by bees and bloom in late May and June. Seedpods are smooth, flat and 2-4 inches long and mature in September, persisting on the trees through the winter. Each pod contains four to eight seeds which are spread by wind, gravity and birds.

Black locust is native to the U.S., but not to the Upper Midwest. The native habitats of black locust are temperate, moist to wet forests and wooded slopes. It occurs naturally on the lower slopes of the Appalachian Mountains and has been extensively planted for its nitrogen-fixing qualities in land reclamation, erosion control, for ornamental purposes and for honey production. It is currently spreading into states including Minnesota, which is outside of its historical range, and is a threat to native habitats.

Black locust primarily invades disturbed habitats, degraded woods, thickets and old fields, where it crowds out native vegetation and forms single species stands. The species spreads mainly through intentional human plantings and

disturbance (such as through methods of mechanical control by mowing and burning, which is temporarily effective but can actually stimulate vigorous re-sprouting). The seeds are long-lived, remaining viable in the soil for up to 10 years. Seedlings can sprout and grow fast, enabling this species to colonize disturbed sites very quickly. Once established on a site, the trees reproduce vigorously by root suckering and stump sprouting to form clonal groves linked by a shared root system. This species can change nutrient cycling due to its ability to fix nitrogen in the soil and can potentially create favorable habitat for other non-native species.

Did You Know: Black locust has been reported in about half of the 87 counties of Minnesota.



Clockwise from top left:

Black locust has fragrant, drooping white flowers that bloom in late May and June. Photo credit: Jan Samanek, Phytosanitary Administration, Bugwood.org.

Each black locust seedpod contains four to eight seeds. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 10 years. Photo credit: Ohio State Weed Lab, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org.

Mature black locust trees have dark brown bark that is deeply furrowed with flat-topped ridges. Photo credit: Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org.

Black locust leaves are made up of 7-21 paired leaflets on both sides of a common stalk. Photo credit: Robert Videki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org.

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.

APRIL

Fridays With a Forester: Strategies to Keep Your Woods Healthy and Resilient

9 a.m. Friday, April 21, Online

Join University of Minnesota Extension foresters to discuss strategies to keep your woods healthy and resilient. Learn more at <https://www.minnesotaforestry.org/events>.

Fridays With a Forester: 2023 Participatory Science: Spotted Lanternfly, Mock Strawberry, Garlic Mustard Aphids

9 a.m. Friday, April 28, Online

Join University of Minnesota Extension foresters to learn about spotted lanternfly, mock strawberry and garlic mustard aphids. Learn more at <https://www.minnesotaforestry.org/events>.

JUNE

Intertribal Timber Council Annual Symposium

June 12-15

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Walker, MN

The Intertribal Timber Council has coordinated and conducted an Annual National Indian Timber Symposium each year since 1977. The symposium is designed to facilitate communication from the perspective of tribes, the BIA, private industry, legislative bodies and academia on issues and concerns of current forestry management practices. Learn more at <https://www.minnesotaforestry.org/events>.

JULY

Fillmore SWCD 2023 Forestry Field Day

5 p.m. Wednesday, July 26

Mary Catherine Bailey Wildlife Sanctuary
9400 150th Ave. SE, Chatfield, MN 55923

Light Supper at 5 p.m., Tours at 5:30 p.m.
Learn more at www.fillmoreswcd.org,
or call 507-765-3878 ext. 3
or email aaren.mathison@fillmoreswcd.org



Minnesota Forestry Association

PO Box 6060

Grand Rapids, MN 55744

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Change Service Requested

Fillmore SWCD 2023 Forestry Field Day



Wildlife, Woodland, Wetlands

Experience an evening of wildlife, woodlands and wetlands! This woodland features an abundance of wildlife, basic trail maintenance, and the effect of “hands off” management on your woodland. Natural and constructed wetlands are present, along with learning about Decorah Shale geology.

Please wear appropriate closed-toe waterproof shoes for hiking. Due to the nature of the wetlands, rubber boots are recommended. Seating is limited so bring a lawn chair if needed. Prepare for ticks and bugs.

Photo from 2022 Forestry Field Day at Chimney Rock Forestry LLC