



Minnesota Woodlands

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

www.MinnesotaForestry.org

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During July and August in Minnesota,

Deer Flies are Woodland Pest #1!

1. Doug Ploof, Little Falls, found a solution to deer flies, such as the one shown here, on the internet. Google "Trolling Deer Fly Trap."
2. Another landowner experimented with the ideas found in the Trolling Deer Fly Trap internet piece. Shown at right is a Suzuki Samurai topped with Solo plastic cups covered with insect glue.
3. A 30-minute drive down shaded woodland trails proved the system works! Many more flies were captured on the darker blue cups than on the light blue ones.
4. The glue used was Tangle-Trap Sticky Coating by Tanglefoot. The material is easy to apply to the cups with a foam paint brush. (To purchase, go to www.Gemplers.com and search for "Tangletrap." You might also find it at a Mills Fleet Farm or similar retailer.)

For those who prefer to walk, the plastic cup can also be affixed to the top of a walking stick or to a cap.

The theory is that by driving or walking through an infested area, enough flies can be caught to crash the local population.

4. The glue used was Tangle-Trap Sticky Coating by Tanglefoot. The material is easy to apply to the cups with a foam paint brush. (To purchase, go to www.Gemplers.com and search for "Tangletrap." You might also find it at a Mills Fleet Farm or similar retailer.)



Wisconsin Coverts Project

Do you recall receiving a yellow postcard from MFA announcing the Wisconsin Coverts Project? The project is a woodland wildlife program for private landowners. Two four-day workshops are being held this year in Woodruff, Wisconsin. The first will be August 12-15 and the second will be August 26-29. There is a limit of 25 attendees per workshop.

What is unique about these workshops is, thanks to the event sponsors, there is no registration fee, no cost for food and no cost for lodging. The only cost to participants is transportation to Woodruff.

For the first time, Minnesotans were invited to apply for admission. So far, ten Minnesotans have been accepted to one of the two workshops:



Promoting Woodland Wildlife Stewardship

continued on page 2



2010
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MFA Board Actions

The MFA board meets every month. The January, April, July and October meetings are face-to-face at the Cambridge DNR Forestry office, and all the other meetings are held via conference calls. All MFA members are welcome to sit in on the face-to-face meetings. See a list of meeting dates and board members elsewhere in this newsletter.

Recent board actions include:

Reviewing the 2010 Annual Meeting and Spring Field Day event with these conclusions:

- Friday's trip to the Lost 40: Long drive but very worthwhile. Everyone enjoyed the experience.
- Friday Evening Meal - Great food!
- Saturday Breakfast at the Cook Shack sponsored by the Minnesota Women's Woodland Network – Nice event. Thank you, ladies!
- Events at the Forest History Center were all rated high including:
 - Woodland Walk with Keith Matson & Cheryl Adams.
 - Wildflower Walk with the Minnesota Women's Woodland Network and led by Angie Gupta and Barb Spears.
 - Chainsaw Safety with Alex Bildeaux.
 - Horse Logging with Ed Nelson.
 - Property Taxes with Bruce ZumBahlen.
 - Carbon Credits with Melissa Harden, Tree Farm, Washington DC.
- Saturday evening's banquet food was outstanding – steak & shrimp.

• Tree Farm Awards went well.

• Ed Nelson's presentation on forest history was well received despite a late hour.

Overall, the entire event was outstanding, with no area of weakness. Thank you to Dennis Thompson and those who helped him!

Discussing the 2011 Annual Meeting and Spring Field Day event.

- Co-chairs are Jim Hunder and Barb Spears.
- Two locations are under consideration: Cabela's in Rogers and Bunker Hills Regional Park.
- The committee hopes to decide on the venue shortly and have the program together by year end.

Wisconsin Coverts Project, continued from page 1

Steve Schwartz, Winona
Craig Stomberg, Shafer
Jason Spaeth, Greenwood
Doug Appelgren, Moose Lake
Charles Erickson, Battle Lake

Robert Asproth, Mahtowa
David Davis, St. Paul
Dennis Lampi, Cloquet
Chad Lampi, Esko
Mark Nammacher, Minneapolis

While it is too late to apply for one of this year's workshops, you could submit an application to express interest in next year. For more information and to print out an application form, Google "Wisconsin Coverts Project" and then select "UW Forest and Wildlife Ecology, Extension, Coverts Project."

58 Timber Auctions resulting in \$3,336,000 to Private Landowners

That is what the Central Minnesota Small Woodlot Owners Association has accomplished since 1978. The organization was founded by a group of Wadena-area woodland owners who wanted to find a market for their timber as a result of a jack pine bud worm kill.

Two people are at the heart of the success and longevity of the organization. Forrest Dingman, a private landowner from Motley, was chairman of the organization from 1988 until last year when Chad Converse, Motley, took over. The other key person is DNR forester Dean Makey, Brainerd, who has acted as secretary and treasurer of the organization since 1986.

While any landowner can join and participate in the auction, the organization focuses on seven central Minnesota counties: Ottertail, Douglas, Todd, Wadena, Cass, Crow Wing and Morrison.

Typically, the organization conducts two timber auctions per year, in spring and fall. Here's how they work:

- Members who have had timber set up for sale by a local forester offer their timber to the auction.
- Information about the various tracts available is sent to several dozen loggers, mills and other potentially interested parties. These people are invited to bid on one or more of the tracts offered.
- On a set date and time, bids are opened and reviewed. Both landowners and bidders are invited to attend the opening.
- Information on who bid on their tract and how much was bid is delivered to each landowner participant. The landowner has the option to accept any of the bids, not just the highest bid, or reject them all.
- The landowner and successful bidder are encouraged to meet, work out any details and sign a Timber Contract.

Landowners have nothing to lose by offering their timber through the auction. Established members pay nothing for being included in the auction, while first year members are charged a \$25 fee. If the landowner rejects all the bids, there is no further cost. If they accept one of the bids, 13% of the sale price will be owed to the forester who set up and managed the sale.

In some years, 15 – 20 tracts have been offered and sold. This past spring, no landowners offered their timber for sale so no auction was held.

Historically, almost all of the sales have been set up and managed by DNR Private Forest Management (PFM) foresters. It is unclear why private consultants have not participated although part of the reason might be that they have one or two loggers with whom they prefer to deal. Now, with budget cuts in DNR's PFM program, the number

of tracts offered for sale is likely to remain low unless private consultants can be enticed to participate.

Besides the auctions, the organization sponsors a field day for members and other interested landowners. This year, the field day will be held in September in the Nisswa area, on land owned by John Wallin. Watch "Coming Events" in this newsletter or on www.MinnesotaForestry.org for more details.

If you would like to join the organization, dues are just \$7 per year or \$25 for four years. Send a check, along with a note indicating in which county your land is located, to:

Central Minnesota Small Woodlot Owners Assoc.
c/o Chad Converse
12133 61st Ave SW
Motley MN 56466

For more information, call any of the directors:

Chad Converse, Motley, 218-352-6987

Max Gilbert, Backus, 218-682-2625

Doug Ploof, Little Falls, 320-632-3412

Ivan Schumann, Sauk Rapids, 320-252-3897

Forrest Dingman, Motley, 218-352-6128

If you would like to organize regular timber auctions in your area like those conducted by the Central Minnesota group, the place to start is with MFA's Chapter Relations chairman, Chuck Erickson. Contact Chuck at CyErick@prtcl.com or by phone at 218-495-3321.



The board of directors met recently at a Motley restaurant to plan their fall field day. Shown on the left side of the table from the front are Chad Converse, Max Gilbert and Forrest Dingman. On the right side of the table from the front are Doug Ploof, Dean Makey and Ivan Schumann.

Woodland Owners Enjoy Field Days!

The East Central Landscape Committee sponsored a Walk in the Woods on Friday, April 30th. The walk was organized by Jason Rehn, Chisago County SWCD Forester and was held on land owned by the Gusk family known as "The Gandy Pines."



Right: Don Carte, Plymouth MN



A dozen hearty souls braved rain and cool weather to tour Jim and Judy Hunders' Wright County woodland on Friday, May 7th.

The Hunder's woodland is located at the northern edge of "The Big Woods," a type of temperate hardwood forest found in south-central Minnesota. The Big Woods once covered 5,000 square miles in a diagonal strip 100 miles long and 40 miles wide, with prairie to the west and oak savanna to the east. Roughly, The Big Woods extended from Annandale in the north to Faribault in the south, and from Glencoe in the west to I-35 in the east. Today, most of this region has been cleared for agriculture and urban development. Besides the Hunders' land, a good example of The Big Woods can be found in Nerstrand State Park located northeast of Faribault.



Left: DNR forester Al Olson presented the Hunders with a Big Woods Heritage Forest sign.





The Kettle River Woodland Council, with major assistance from the DNR Sandstone Forestry Office, sponsored a field day on Saturday, June 5th at John & Sandra O'Reilly's land in eastern Pine County. One hundred people braved light rain to see examples of wild flowers and prairie grass, food plots for wildlife, hardwood management, ponds and trails and pine management. The walk in the woods was topped off with lunch of chili, ham sandwiches, dessert and lots of conversation.



Above left: Rick Dunkley, DNR Forestry Supervisor, Sandstone, introducing the program.

Left: Creating ponds and trails are discussed by Robin Poppe, SWCD Hinckley (back to camera left) and Scott Jensen, Jensen Backhoe, Hinckley (right).

Above: Wayne Johnson, Pine City.



Left: Cheri Petersen, Petersen Wildflowers, Askov MN, discusses how to establish wildflowers and prairie grasses.

Below: Mike Beaufeaux, retired Wisconsin DNR forester, discusses pines that he and his family planted in 1969.



Want to Host a Field Day on your Land?

Here's all you need:

- A forester who is familiar with your land, such as the person who wrote your Stewardship Plan, and is willing to lead a walking tour.
- A date and time during any season of the year. (Even a walk through the woods in winter can be interesting!)
- A place to gather after the walk to enjoy some conversation with coffee and cookies.
- An up-to-date homeowners or woodland owner's insurance policy in case someone trips over a stump.
- An invitation postcard to be sent to friends and neighbors. A group of one to two dozen people is ideal for an informal walking tour.
- A camera to take photos of your event for *Minnesota Woodlands*, MFA's newsletter,.

When you have your event planned, send the information to Editor@MinnesotaForestry.org to be included in the events calendar.

Member Profile

DNR Tree Nursery's # 1 Customer

In the year 2000, the DNR Tree Nurseries gave Morey Schwen, Brainerd, a plaque in recognition of the fact that he had purchased seedlings for 50 consecutive years! But Morey did not stop there. He has continued to purchase and plant seedlings every year; 800 seedlings this year and, while he is running out of places to plant, he has more planned for next year.

The Schwen family owns 126 acres in the Brainerd area, just west of Gull Lake, where most of the planting has been done.

At 86, Morey shows no signs of slowing down. Besides managing his woodland, Morey is active in his business, Mid-America Energy which distributes ground source heat pumps to heating and cooling contractors. Morey is also chairman of the board of KJLY (www.KJLY.com), a series of five Christian radio stations located in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa.

Born in 1924, Morey was just old enough to enlist in the Navy during World War II. Because he had had training as an aeronautical engineer, he was sent to flight school to become a pilot. He said, "I was trained to fly dive bombers. We'd climb to 16,000 feet and then fly straight down at the target." The squadron to which he was assigned was waiting to be deployed for the first time when the Japanese surrendered.

Morey's interest in woodland started on the family farm located in southern Minnesota near Blue Earth. He tended the woodlots on the farm and began planting trees in 1950. When President Eisenhower led the effort to build our national freeway system, the Schwen family farm was acquired to become part of Interstate 90. In fact, what was the farm is now a rest area outside of Blue Earth. One strip in the freeway at that point is golden in color because it marks the exact halfway point between the eastern and western ends of I-90.

With the proceeds from the farm, Morey bought the 126 acres and a home on the eastern shore of Gull Lake and he and his wife, Marvel, along with their three children started

their life in Crow Wing County.

One of his early projects on the land was to create some open water in lowland. He enlisted the help of the local technical college that had a class on using ammonium nitrate fertilizer and diesel fuel to blast ponds. The students dug 18 holes and inserted an explosive charge

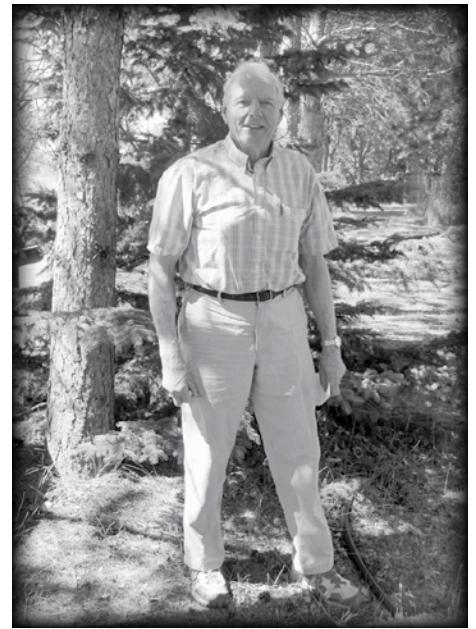
into each. The charges were wired together and back to a plunger. Morey said, "The blast was so strong, the sky was blackened with flying dirt, trees and roots. The windows in our home on the far side of the lake were rattled." The process created 2-1/2 acre Lake Schwen.

In case anyone is longing for the good old days when ponds could be dug with a single blast, Morey says forget it, "Digging with a backhoe works better and is far less dangerous."

In his "spare time," Morey has served many organizations including his church and the Boy Scouts. His sons Steven and Kent picked up his interest in scouting and both achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

In the woodland arena, Morey was named Minnesota Tree Farmer of the Year in 1989. And, oh yes, he was president of MFA in 1984-85.

We salute Morey Schwen for a great life of service and accomplishment which isn't over yet! May you plant seedlings for many years to come!



Morey Schwen

Last Minute Changes to the Rural Property Tax Program (RPTP)



Bruce ZumBablen, MFA's Government Affairs chair, reports the legislature made these changes to the RPTP during the last hours of the session:

The covenant requirement for enrolling woodlands into the RPTP has been shortened to eight years instead of the 10 years previously. (Reads like the SFIA now). And, the time period to get out of the program has been shortened to three years once the owner has been in the RPTP for at least five years.

The other major change appears to soften requirements for what is now called the "conservation assessment plan" (CAP) by reducing the need to have someone actually walk the property (my impression). The Board of Water & Soil Resources is still on the hook to provide the framework for the CAP. I'll follow up with them to see what they are going to do.

In SFIA, 'A Deal is a Deal'

One MFA member enrolled 80 acres in the SFIA three years ago. Last year, he was approached by a company who

continued on page 7

Woodland Owners in Finland and Minnesota ...

How We Compare

By Bruce ZumBahlen

I visited Finland as part of a tour sponsored by the Blandin Foundation. The tour was part of the "Seeing the Forest AND the Trees" project to learn how to make the most of Minnesota's woods.

Why to Finland did we go? First, we have about the same number of people, a little more than 5 million people each. Second, Minnesota and Finland have similarities in climate (short growing seasons) and third, a sizeable forest industry. But, Finland's forests are much more productive and their level of management is far more intensive. That's what we hoped to learn more about.

There are striking differences between Finland and Minnesota, though. Finland's land mass is 64% greater than Minnesota's and is 68% forested; Minnesota is 32% forested. Family owned woodlands comprise 57% of Finland's forest; in Minnesota, that figure is 32%. While Finland has 20 some tree species, only four are truly commercial: Scots pine, Norway spruce, and two species of birch. Contrast that to the 35 tree species commonly found in Minnesota and 14 forest cover types that have commercial value.

Here are the "key learnings" that I took away from the tour.

1. Finland holds contributions from their forests in higher regard than in our country and looks to them to help address mitigation of global climate changes by reducing its energy dependence on fossil fuels.
2. The country supports forest programs and retention of family owned woodlands with friendly policies. One in six families own woodlands, the average size is 75 acres. And, there are no property taxes on family owned woodlands.
3. Forest-based research support is remarkably more than in the USA.
4. Intensity of forest management and its scale are much greater than in Minnesota. This makes it easy for any landowner to carry out activities regardless of how small they are. Harvest operations occur on an average every three years – mostly thinnings that account for 2/3's of



Seen here are members of the tour's Private Woodlands Team l-r, Jim Marshall, Kathleen Preece, Bruce ZumBahlen, and Tom Duffus at MTK Forestry Groups office in Helsinki.

Finland's domestic timber harvest. The average timber harvest is only 150 cords. Some 70% of woodland owners are actively involved in practical silviculture work. They invest 10-20% of their forest income in the forests.

5. Educational opportunities in Finland would be hard to match in the USA.

Here are thoughts on what might benefit Minnesota to emulate from my experience. We need to instill the Finns' culture for "love of the forest" starting with the youngsters in our families. We have to get them involved – if nothing else, to appreciate the recreational opportunities that family ownership provides.

Second, MFA needs to continue to support programs and policies that encourage retention and sustainable management of family owned woodlands, whether it is property tax relief or supporting the creation of market based systems that compensate woodland owners for providing environmental benefits (e.g. sequestering carbon that can be traded).

Third, each of us should work with our neighboring woodland owners in planning silviculture practices and timber harvests so that similar type projects can be bundled together to reduce costs or generate higher returns. While I wish public funded programs could help in this regard, we shouldn't count on them given the state's current economic conditions, let alone the huge Federal deficit. (Editor's note: See elsewhere in this newsletter how the Central Minnesota Small Woodland Owners Association is doing exactly this!)

Government Affairs, continued from page 6

offered to build a cell phone tower on a portion of the land which would have resulted in nice annual income. The member petitioned to the Minnesota Department of Revenue to have five of the 80 acres removed from the SFIA agreement. In denying the request, the Revenue Department wrote:

You are restricted by the SFIA recorded covenant. Enrolling your land in the SFIA program was a voluntary act on your

part. In return for having the SFIA covenant on your land, you receive an incentive payment each year. The only way a cell phone tower can be installed without violating the SFIA covenant is through the eminent domain process.

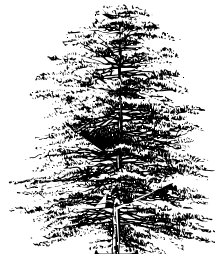
Bottom line: SFIA is a good deal for many woodland owners but a deal is a deal so do not expect sympathy from the Revenue Department if another opportunity arises after signing up. For more information on the SFIA, go to MFA's web site www.MinnesotaForestry.org and click on "Taxes."

Upcoming Events

Find more events, and more information on these events, at your MFA website, www.MinnesotaForestry.org, or by calling MFA at 218-326-6486.

Saturday, September 25

- 9am: Natural Resources Field Day, to be held on the Mike and Pete Greenheck Tree Farm near Kellogg, MN. Morning presentations will include a Forest Group and a Prairie Group. Following a complimentary lunch at noon, there will be Fisheries Presentations. More than a dozen agencies will be exhibiting and distributing information. For more information, go to the event web site at <http://www.aldoleopold.org/FieldDay.shtm>
- 9am: Field Day sponsored by the Central Minnesota Small Woodlot Owners Association. The event will be held on woodland owned by John Wallin, located southeast of Pequot Lakes. For more information, call Dean Makey at 218-833-8700 or Chad Converse at 218-352-3897.



Meet a Tree

Cottonwood

Cottonwood, or eastern cottonwood, is one of the largest hardwoods in North America. In Minnesota, it can be found everywhere except for the northeast boreal forests. This short-lived, fast growing tree does best on moist, well-drained soils near streams. The lightweight, soft wood is used primarily for core stock in manufacturing furniture and for pulpwood. It is one of the few hardwood species that is planted and grown specifically for these purposes.

Cottonwood is frequently planted to give quick shade near homes. Male clones, which have none of the objectionable "cotton" associated with the seed, are preferred. Because of its high yield potential, there has been considerable interest in growing cottonwood for biomass. Since cottonwood grows primarily in relatively low areas near streams, it is subjected to frequent flooding. Floods during the dormant season or floods of short duration during the growing season may benefit cottonwood trees by recharging soil moisture and reducing competition.



For MFA members, the two best online sources of woodland information are our MFA web site, www.MinnesotaForestry.org and www.MyMinnesotaWoods.UMN.edu.

Here's what's new at MyMinnesotaWoods:



- Garlic mustard: One Minnesota woodland owner's story
- Nontimber forest products feature: Blueberries!
- Northern Minnesota phenology report
- Seeking walnut trees and sites for thousand cankers of walnut study
- And, as always: Poem, Quiz, Upcoming events, and News links

Have a question about your woodland? Post it on the Discussion Board. You may be surprised at how many good responses you get!

For the live version, with much more info on each topic, visit MyMinnesotaWoods.org

Thank You to Our Supporting Members!

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