



# Minnesota Woodlands

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

[www.MinnesotaForestry.org](http://www.MinnesotaForestry.org)

## Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA)

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## MFA Newsletter Vol. 12 No. 6

December/January 2011  
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## MFA Regular Board Meetings

DNR Office  
Cambridge  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- January 18, 2011
- April 19, 2011
- July 19, 2011
- October 18, 2011

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*Wishing you and your family*  
**A Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Safe New Year!**

## What a Nice Surprise!



*By Bruce ZumBahlen, chair  
MFA's Government Affairs Committee*

Whoo – hoo! Woodland owners with land enrolled under the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) were likely shouting that when they opened their annual incentive payment early this past October. Could this \$15.67 per acre figure be right?

Or is it a mistake – it's nearly double last year's payment of \$8.74 per acre.

Apparently, many had the same question. At the MN Department of Revenue, SFIA Administrator Julie Rosalez reported that she had 44 phone calls the morning the checks hit the mail boxes and 27 more phone calls later the same day. Carol Cartie, who answers MFA's phone line and I received the same kind of calls; can I cash the check?

The \$15.67 figure is correct. In a follow-up letter to SFIA enrollees, MN Revenue explained why the checks were so large and that this year's payment should be considered a one-time occurrence.

It all stems from an unforeseen consequence of replacing the "2b timberland" classification in state law with a new "2b rural vacant land" classification. Revenue had sought that change with the 2008 legislature to simplify assessments on all types of rural vacant land that weren't agricultural or dedicated to some other use, including non-residential woodlands.

## Last Minute Christmas Gift Ideas

A pickaroon would be an inexpensive gift for the woodsman or woodswoman in your family. John Kerbel, Hinkley, shown here, who was using it for the first time while cutting firewood, asked, "Where has this been all my life?" Pat Lanin, Brainerd, who sells this and other woodland equipment said, "No one over 50 should go into the woods without a pickaroon!"

At \$45 plus tax and shipping, a pickaroon is an affordable gift. For more information, call Pat Lanin, who operates under the business name Pine Center Farm and Forest, at 218-764-3315.



Other online sources of last minute gifts are:  
[www.BenMeadows.com](http://www.BenMeadows.com)  
[www.Forestry-Suppliers.com](http://www.Forestry-Suppliers.com)  
[www.Gemplers.com](http://www.Gemplers.com)

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## Election Results

Ballots postmarked on or before November 2, 2010

### Board Election Results – Five Positions:

Candidate	# of Votes
Jim Hunder (incumbent)	93
Gary Michael (incumbent)	96
John O'Reilly (incumbent)	97
Dave Roerick	94
Al Schacht (incumbent)	93
Art Weiderstrom (write-in)	1
Terry Helbig (write-in)	1
Derek Wagner (write-in)	1



MFA's newly-elected board member, David Roerick, Grand Rapids

### By-Law Changes:

	Yes	No
#1- Aligns the Statement of Purpose with the Mission Statement	94	2
#2- Increases flexibility on the size of the Board	89	7
#3- Simplifies MFA chapter processes	93	3

### Comments:

- *Keep up the good work. I liked the original Statement of Purpose because it was very specific. I am also ok with the wordage of bylaw changes, but 2 members with an agenda should not be sufficient for chapter status. Keep at 5 and I would vote for it.* Doug Applegren
- *Your Woodland Advisor classes are wonderful for the community at large!* Meredith Bleifuss
- *Gary Michael is a great guy!* Douglas C. Jones
- *Keep up the good work. Was legal counsel for TPA and MFI for over 30 years.* D.H. Mundt
- *An excellent slate of officers.* Don Peterson

**THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO VOTED AND SENT COMMENTS!!**

## MFA Board Actions

The MFA board meets every month. During January, April, July and October, the meeting is face-to-face at the Cambridge DNR Forestry office. During all other months, the meeting is held via conference call. 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:

**Approving purchase of a new insurance liability policy.** After a two-year search, the board finally found a policy that closes gaps in coverage of our old policy, particularly pertaining to coverage for MFA chapter field day events. Besides providing better coverage, the new policy costs 1/3rd less than the old one (\$800 per year versus \$1,200).

**Approving a plan to solicit memberships from SFIA enrollees** who are not MFA members. This year, a person with 40 acres enrolled in SFIA received a check for more than \$600; those with more acres enrolled received proportionately more. MFA family dues are just \$50 per year. Many SFIA enrollees do not realize that MFA's leadership was a key factor in passage of the legislation. This year, with the state's budget crisis, MFA's role will be to defend SFIA for the future.

**Electing officers for 2011:** President, John O'Reilly; Vice President, Chuck Erickson; Treasurer, Dennis Thompson; Secretary, Curt Kreklau; Sergeant at Arms, David Lindroth.

## Member Profile: Ken & Bobbi Quass

In 2002, after a career as an architect based in the Twin Cities, Ken Quass retired and moved with his wife, Bobbi, to their country place. They have 80 wooded acres near Pine River in Cass County. Their land includes 900 feet of shoreline on Horseshoe Lake, which is one of five lakes of that name in the county. This one is small, just 85 acres.

The land and cabin with its outbuildings had been in the family since the 1960s. "During our weekender years, we'd mostly come up to mow, plant a few trees and do a little maintenance," said Ken.

Then, in early 2002 in anticipation of their move to the land, they hired a contractor to build a home. Ken said, "We had the choice of building on the old cabin site, about 400 feet from the lake, where the other buildings are located or down by the lake. We chose to build a basic farm-type log home on the old cabin site."

Ken and Bobbi have a son and daughter living in the Twin Cities, another daughter living in Kansas City and a third daughter in Austin, Texas. After doing a lot of flying during his working career, Ken now prefers to drive. "To visit the kids," Ken said, "it is 2½ hours to the Twin Cities, 9 hours further on to Kansas City and 11 hours beyond that to Austin."

This past spring, Ken began experimenting with what he calls his exotics. "I went up to Itasca Greenhouse in Cohasset and bought 10 each of various species. Among them are Canaan fir, hemlock, Colorado blue spruce, Douglas fir, Siberian spruce and a cross between Canaan and balsam fir." So far, they seem to be doing o.k., particularly those that were planted in sunny spots."

"We also have some volunteer white pine but the deer eat most of them," said Ken. "For the first time ever I bought a deer hunting license this year." If he does go out hunting, it sounds as though his motivation will be as much to protect his small white pines as to fill his freezer. (Editor's note: For others with deer problems on white pine, see George Anderson's bud capping process in the December – January 2010 issue of Minnesota Woodlands. Find it under newsletters on MFA's web site at [www.MinnesotaForestry.org](http://www.MinnesotaForestry.org).)

"It might be the German in me," Ken says, "but I like things neat and tidy." To help clean up his woods, he bought a wood chipper last spring. "My 28-horse John Deere tractor is big enough to run the machine and chip wood up to five inches."

The thing Ken likes best about MFA field day events is the chance to sit with other woodland owners and trade stories. So, if you would like to tell a few stories about adventures on your woodland, look for Ken at our Spring Field Day event next May 20 and 21 at Bunker Hills Regional Park!

*Right: Ken hasn't decided yet whether this will go through the wood chipper or be left as shelter for rabbits.*

*Far right: The German in Ken requires a neat wood pile. An armload of this each day is enough to keep their home warm.*

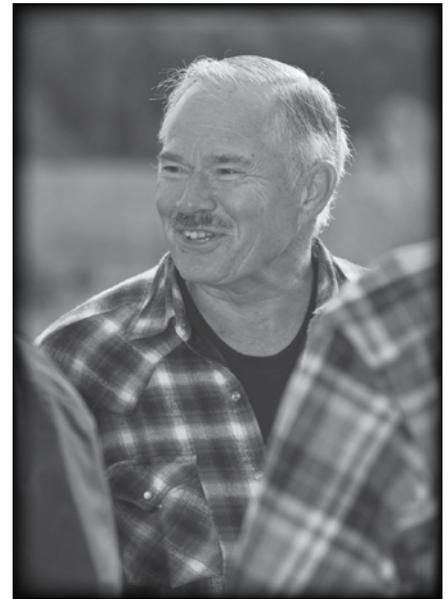


*Above: Bobbi & Ken Quass  
Left: Ken's new pride and joy.  
Below: A Canaan fir, one of Ken's exotics.*



# Field Day in Nisswa

The Central Minnesota Small Woodlot Owners Association held their field day at John Wallin's Berry Farm near Nisswa on September 25, 2010. For more information on this unique group, see the August – September 2010 issue of Minnesota Woodlands and the article, 58 Timber Auctions Resulting in \$3,336,000 to Private Landowners ... (If you did not keep a copy of this newsletter, find it on MFA's web site, [www.MinnesotaForestry.org](http://www.MinnesotaForestry.org).)



*Left: DNR forest health experts, Jana and Mike Albers, Grand Rapids.*

*Right: Host John Wallin*



*Left: DNR forester Dean Makey, Brainerd, has mentored the Central Minnesota group for more than 20 years.*

# Beaufeauxes Named Tree Farmers of the Year

Mike and Dianne Beaufeaux have been named the Minnesota Tree Farmers of the Year for 2011 by the State Tree Farm Committee. The Beaufeauxes' home is located on their tree farm in Ogema Township in eastern Pine County.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota with a degree in forestry, Mike spent his career working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry.

In 1994, with retirement on the horizon, Mike and Dianne purchased land on the west side of Lake Lena that had been Mike's grandfather's 160-acre farm. "Gramps lost the farm through foreclosure during the Depression," Mike said. Mike and Dianne have since added 140 acres to their property and two of his brothers purchased their parents' 200-acre farm on the east side of the lake, so all the land around Lake Lena is back in the hands of Beaufeaux family members.

Mike said, "The last corn crop was harvested off Gramp's old farm fields in 1994. The next spring we planted a combination of red pine, white pine and white spruce. Of 54 acres, 44 were planted to trees and 10 were left in small, 2- to 3-acre wildlife openings.

Using his forestry expertise, Mike wrote his Stewardship Plan for the tree farm which was then submitted to the Minnesota DNR for approval. Following the plan, Mike has managed every acre with a purpose.

Minnesota DNR forester Bill Foss who works out of the Sandstone DNR office and who nominated the Beaufeauxes for the award said, "It has been a lot of fun working with landowners who are so passionate about their tree farm. The Beaufeauxes are very hands-on managers and have accomplished almost everything that was specified in their original Stewardship Plan. Today, they are developing more plans for their original tree farm plus adjacent parcels they have acquired. After all, a tree farmer's work is never done!"

With the state title in hand, the Beaufeauxes will be entered into competition for the 10-state North Central Regional title. If selected as the regional winners, they will go on to vie for the national title at the Tree Farm National Convention to be held outside Santa Fe, New Mexico next July.

If you would like to tour the tree farm with Mike and Dianne, plan to attend the field day they will be hosting next year, on Saturday, June 5th. Watch for more information on our web site, [www.MinnesotaForestry.org](http://www.MinnesotaForestry.org).



*Dianne and Mike Beaufeaux.*



*Mike Beaufeaux discussing with fellow woodland owners the management of pines he and his family planted in 1969.*

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## Safety is a BIG DEAL with Northwoods Forestry Coop and Jeff Jepson, Longville, Minnesota!

This photo, which appeared in the October – November issue of Minnesota Woodlands, shows Jeff Jepson demonstrating tree felling at the Coop's field day event last fall. The caption read, "Oh, oh! No safety chaps being worn."

Boy, were we wrong and did we hear about it! Jeff is wearing chaps that are blue in color making them a little hard to see in the photo. It is clear from the reaction by members of the Coop that safety is a very big thing, as it is with Jeff Jepson.



In fact, notice how everyone in this photo is wearing a hard hat. Safety is so important at Northwoods Forestry events that hard hats are issued to all field day attendees as an extra safety measure.

*Our apologies to Jeff Jepson and all the members of Northwoods Forestry Coop. Keep up your great safety practices!*





# Meet a Tree

## Tamarack

Tamarack is a small to medium-sized tree that to some may be considered a bit of an oddball. It drops its needles each fall right along with the maples and oaks. While some may argue why this conifer would act like a deciduous tree, there are some advantages. Tamaracks dominate in some of the harshest environments. The cold and nutrient poor areas such as northern forests and flooded bogs are where tamaracks call home. In areas with these extreme winter conditions, where even winter-hardy conifers have trouble with snow damage and water loss, the tamarack protects itself by dropping its needles.

On average, mature tamarack trees are 50 to 75 feet tall and 14 to 20 inches in diameter. One of the largest tamaracks recorded is in Maine and measures 37 inches in diameter and is 95 feet tall. Maximum age is generally 150 to 180 years, but trees 230 to 240 years old and one 335-year-old individual have been found. Tamarack is also an esthetically appealing tree, especially in the fall when its needles turn a brilliant shade of gold.

The heavy, durable wood is used primarily for pulpwood, but because of its rot resistance, tamarack is also used for posts, poles, mine timbers, railroad ties, and rough lumber. In Alaska, young tamarack stems are used for dogsled runners, boat ribs, and fish traps. Native Americans used the fine roots to sew birch bark, the wood for arrow shafts, and the bark for medicine.



Photo credit: Dean DuCas

*Tamaracks can be beautiful in the fall. The tree on the left has already dropped many of its needles while the one on the right is still in its golden glory.*

Tamarack has one of the widest growing ranges of all North American conifers and will grow under extreme and varied climatic conditions. It tolerates a wide range of soil conditions but grows most commonly in pure stands and in mixed stands with black spruce on wet, organic soils. Given enough sunlight, tamarack will also do quite well on well-drained mineral soils.

Tamaracks will begin flowering in April and May with cones ripening in August and September. Trees as young as 12 can bear viable seed; however, the best years for seed production occur when trees are around 75. Good seed crops occur every 3 to 6 years. For best growth, tamarack seedlings need abundant sunlight and a constant but suitable water level.

Did you know? - The name tamarack is derived from a Native American word meaning “wood for snowshoes”.

### *What a Nice Surprise! continued from page 1*

That set the stage for changes in the calculation of the SFIA payment. The SFIA law specifies that the incentive payment be based on the highest value generated under three different scenarios. One is a minimum payment of \$7.00 per acre, another on stumpage prices and tree growth rates, and the other one is based on the value of timber lands.

With the change to the expanded 2b classification, MN Revenue recognized that the new classification would no longer provide an accurate measure of the value of MN timber lands. So, they chose the “2c managed forest land” classification since woodlands enrolled under the 2c class are required to be managed under a forest management plan, like the SFIA. With no previous valuation history on 2c woodlands (the 2c Managed Forest Law was enacted only in 2008) – MN Revenue erroneously surmised that the 2c lands

would have average values similar to the former 2b timber lands.

But, what a surprise they got! The statewide average for 2c lands came in almost double the prior year’s average 2b timber land values. Given this unexpected outcome, MN Revenue will be seeking a fix in the next legislative session to bring the incentive payments more in line with what was intended to encourage retention and sustainable management of private woodlands.

MFA supports a fix, too. The next legislative session will be grappling with a projected \$5.8 billion biennial budget deficit. Without a fix, such large payments going forward could place the SFIA in jeopardy of being repealed.

# Food Plots for Wildlife

Most woodland owners say a big reason they own land is for either hunting or watching wildlife. In either case, the experience can be enhanced with food plots.

While hunters and landowners have dabbled with planting crops especially for deer and other wildlife for decades, the idea really took off when an Alabama firm, the Whitetail Institute, introduced its Imperial Whitetail Clover in 1988. Since then, many seed companies have entered the field, all offering products that are guaranteed to “drive the deer crazy!” In addition, the equipment industry has joined the game by developing a full range of farm implements that can be pulled by an ATV.

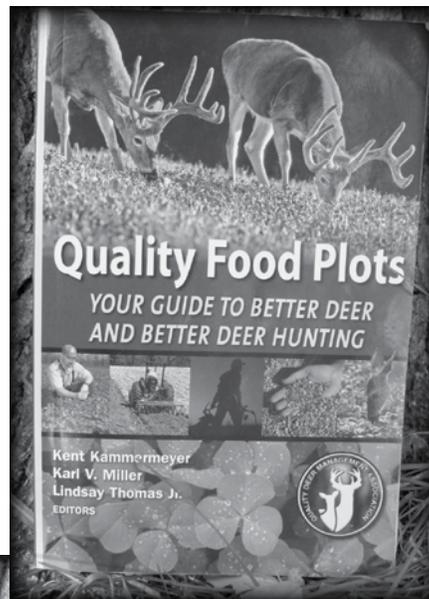
Locally, Tom Miskowiec, Minneapolis, and Mark Blumhoffer, Wyoming, have been hunting deer together for nearly 20 years. Strictly bow hunters, they have the challenge of not only seeing deer but getting them close to their stand. To improve their chances for success, Tom and Mark began experimenting with food plots early in their hunting careers. Here are some of the crops they have tried, either alone or in a mixture:

- Clovers:** Ladino, red and white Dutch
- Other Legumes:** Alfalfa, soybeans and winter peas
- Grains:** Corn, oats, rye
- Grasses:** Timothy and brome
- Brassicac:** Kale, rape and turnips
- Others:** Sunflowers, buckwheat and chicory

When commenting on their overall experience, Tom says, “We’ve had a lot of failures.” The causes have included a range of factors such as not enough fertilizer, poor weed control, acidic soil and dry weather.

For deer, their most consistent success has come from rye and turnips. Both are planted in mid-August. Deer begin feeding on the rye in mid-September, which is the start of the bow hunting season, and continue into early winter when they dig through the snow to feed. Tom and Mark have found turnips to be very attractive to deer late in the season when they eat the tops and dig for the bulbs.

To evaluate their results, Tom and Mark make regular use of automatic trail cameras. With them they learn how many deer and other animals are feeding on a food plot, and at what time of day or night. They are especially interested in seeing images of bucks and other wildlife such as bear and coyotes. In one week during mid-September this year, one of their trail cameras captured over 300 images of deer feeding on a plot of alfalfa and rye.



*Top: Mark Blumhoffer, left, and Tom Miskowiec in a small field of sunflowers, one of their experiments for 2010.*

*Above middle: This book, Quality Food Plots, has 300 pages of information on everything from understanding whitetail nutrition to creating Leopold landscapes. It is available from the Quality Deer Management Association for \$34.95 on their web site, [www.QDMA.com](http://www.QDMA.com).*

# Upcoming Events

Find more events, and more information on these events, at your MFA website, [www.MinnesotaForestry.org](http://www.MinnesotaForestry.org). or by calling MFA at 218-326-6486.

## December

**Wednesday, December 15**  
• **1pm and 6pm. Crop Tree release of hardwoods for improved growth and survival. This session is offered online.**  
For connection details, register through <http://www.ForestConnect.info>. Webinars are also recorded for subsequent viewing. This webinar will examine both individual tree and stand level responses to crop tree management with an emphasis on upland oaks and black birch. Join Dr. Jeff Ward of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station as he discusses research on the different responses of hardwoods crop tree crown thinning release.

**Friday, January 14, 2011**  
• **1pm. Energy Saving Landscape / Windbreak System** (Alexandria). To register contact Sue Crotty, 218-828-2275 or [crott012@umn.edu](mailto:crott012@umn.edu).

**Thursday, January 27, 2011**  
• **6pm. Assessing Aerial Photos** (Rochester). Many free websites allow users to download airphotos, generate custom maps, and access other customized geographic info. We'll walk you through how to find the right airphoto for your Minnesota wooded property, then to make a map that you (or others) can later access online. We'll meet in the computer lab. No prior experience with computers is required. Everyone is welcome, but pre-registration is required. This class will fill, so register soon by calling (888) 241-4536.

**Friday, February 4, 2011**  
• **1pm. Forest Farming** (Brainerd). Land Services Building, 322 Laurel Street, Brainerd. To register contact Sue Crotty, 218-828-2275 or [crott012@umn.edu](mailto:crott012@umn.edu).

**Friday, February 11, 2011**  
• **1pm. Non-Timber Forest Products** (Grand Rapids). North Central Research and Outreach Center; 1861 E US Highway 169, Grand Rapids. To register contact Sue Crotty, 218-828-2275 or [crott012@umn.edu](mailto:crott012@umn.edu).

**Friday, March 4, 2011**  
• **1pm. Economic & Environmental Benefits of Agroforestry** (St. Cloud). Stearns County Extension; Midtown Office Complex, #108, 3400 1st St, St. Cloud MN 56303. To register contact Sue Crotty, 218-828-2275 or [crott012@umn.edu](mailto:crott012@umn.edu).

**Tuesday & Wednesday, March 15 & 16, 2011**  
• **49th Annual Shade Tree Short Course** (Bethel University, Arden Hills). This is a two-day course for everyone involved in urban forestry and arboriculture. More information and online registration: <http://www.cce.umn.edu/shadetree>

Plan now to attend MFA's Annual Meeting, Spring Field Day and Tree Farm Awards **Friday and Saturday, May 20 & 21, 2011** at Bunker Hills Regional Park near Anoka MN. Events will include a Friday afternoon guided tour of sites interesting to woodland owners followed by MFA's Annual Meeting, Social Hour, Banquet and Tree Farm Awards. Saturday will be filled with educational events at the Park.

For MFA members, the two best online sources of woodland information are our MFA web site, [www.MinnesotaForestry.org](http://www.MinnesotaForestry.org) and [www.MyMinnesotaWoods.UMN.edu](http://www.MyMinnesotaWoods.UMN.edu).

Here's what's new at MyMinnesotaWoods:



- Research review: Oak conservation in the driftless area
- MN DNR releases new Marketplace Bulletin
- Extension's 2011 woodland webinar series
- Northern Minnesota phenology report
- MFA member profile
- And the usual: Woodland Stewardship book winner, poem of the month, upcoming events, and news headlines.

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](http://MyMinnesotaWoods.org)

## Thank You to Our Supporting Members!

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