



Minnesota Woodlands

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 Regular Board Meetings

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

- October 18, 2011
- January 17, 2012
- April 17, 2012
- July 17, 2012

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Whew! The SFIA Survived

By Bruce ZumBablen and Kevin Walli

Had the Republican leadership had their way in Minnesota's special legislative session, the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) would be gone. But, it lives on with some significant changes.

First, the revised SFIA now stipulates that future annual payments will be a flat \$7.00 per acre. Second, the annual payment to any claimant (Social Security number or state or federal business tax identification number) must not exceed \$100,000.

This second provision puts into statute the payment cap that Governor Pawlenty decreed following the end of the 2009 legislative session in order to balance the state budget. The Supreme Court ultimately determined that the Governor had exceeded his authority in doing so. The cap in payment affected only a handful of the larger ownerships who have since sued the State to claim \$8 million that they were denied in 2010.

Third, those affected by the new \$100,000 cap may elect to terminate participation in the SFIA through December 31, 2011 and have their SFIA covenants terminated without regard to limitations in the statutes. Fourth, these same large ownerships electing to terminate their enrollment before September 1, 2011, may have their lands reclassified as Class 2c Managed Forest Land if they apply to the assessor before September 1, 2011. The 2c Law assesses woodland values at 0.65 of 1% which can reduce a landowner's property taxes up to a third. To see how your taxes might be affected by enrolling in the 2c, contact your county assessor.

This fourth provision affects only the larger ownerships impacted by the \$100,000 cap. So, a small family woodland owner who is unhappy with the new SFIA payment structure cannot transfer their SFIA land to the 2c Law under the terms above. The landowner (assuming they have been in the SFIA for at least four years) would have to apply to end their SFIA enrollment and wait four more years before their covenant ends.

Those folks who enrolled in the SFIA at its very beginning nine years ago are facing a deadline to update their management plans in order to stay in the program. The DNR maintains that a management plan should not be older than 10 years from the date it was written for both the SFIA and the 2c. Still, for most woodland owners, the time period to recover the costs for paying for a new plan is relatively short.

While we can be thankful that the SFIA survived, we cannot say the same thing for DNR tree nurseries. Despite the Governor's original support for DNR nurseries, the final Environment and Natural Resources Bill stipulates that only the Badoura nursery may grow planting stock that is intended for research or use on public lands or the few private lands under permanent conservation easements. So, in the future, family woodland owners will have to buy their conservation grade tree seedlings from private nurseries.



Bruce ZumBahlen



Kevin Walli



The enclosed poster commemorates 100 years of the Division of Forestry. We extend our thanks for 100 years of service to Minnesota's Private Woodland Owners!

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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:

Beginning discussion on creating a new Private Woodland Owner Education Coop.

As every woodland owner knows, there are many organizations that provide educational opportunities to private woodland owners. The main organizations in this area are U of M Extension, DNR and MFA. Others include: Aldo Leopold Foundation, American Tree Farm System, Minnesota Forest Industries, Minnesota Forest Resource Council, Minnesota Forest Resource Partnership, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, U.S. Forest Service.

The mission of this new private landowner-focused educational coop would be to bring these and other organizations together to coordinate and collaborate. It would work closely with two other organizations dedicated to woodland education, the Sustainable Forest Education Coop, which is focused on forestry professionals, and the Minnesota Logger Education Program, which is focused on loggers.

If you would like to be involved in the early stages of developing this new organization, express your interest in an email to President@MinnesotaForestry.org.

Evaluating the Promotion of Spring Field Days 2011. We want to find ways to engage ever increasing numbers of private woodland owners in events such as Spring Field Days. As a result, key board members spent time evaluating what was done to promote the 2011 event and, after consulting with experts, identifying things that could have been done better. For a copy of the final report, see www.MinnesotaForestry.org/Evaluation

Reviewing preliminary plans for Spring Field Days 2012. The chair of the event is Dave Roerick, Grand Rapids. The dates are May 19 & 20, 2012. The main event will be held at the Forest History Center in Grand Rapids. If you would like to work with Dave on this event, his contact information is listed under Board Members.



Dale Enerson

Carbon Credits - What's the Latest?

Three years ago, Dale Enerson, Director of the North Dakota Farmers Union Carbon Credit Program, spoke at our Spring Field Day event in Owatonna on selling carbon credits as a supplemental source of income for farmers and woodland owners. Enerson said, "Regardless of your political view on global warming, carbon credits are here for the foreseeable future."

We checked back with Enerson recently for an update on the carbon credit picture.

Enerson said that in 2008 a landowner could earn \$7 - \$15 per acre by selling carbon credits. However, the value of carbon credits at the time was based on anticipation that a Cap and Trade Bill would pass in Congress. When the bill failed to pass, the value of carbon credits collapsed. Now, the Chicago Climate Exchange, where carbon credits were to have been traded, has all but shut down. Farmers and woodland owners who signed up are being released from their contracts.

Carbon credits are unlikely to have any value in the future unless Congress finally does pass a Cap and Trade Bill.

Tips

FROM A FORESTER

Quintin Legler

If you ever have a chance to talk with Quintin Legler about woodlands, you'd better have a pen and paper ready because the facts, figures and ideas will come a mile a minute.

Quintin grew up in Eagan, Minnesota, a suburb of the Twin Cities, and graduated from the U of M School of Forestry. His first job out of school was with a commercial tree nursery in Michigan. He then moved back to Minnesota and began working for Blandin in Grand Rapids as a contractor. Five years ago he was offered a full-time position at Blandin and now enjoys what he calls his "dream job" in which most of his time is spent in the woods. Here are some of his facts, figures and tips:

On Seedlings

In recent years, Blandin has had an average of 600,000 seedlings planted each year. Most are spruce, the species preferred by the mill, but they also plant other species based on an evaluation of the site. They plant only containerized seedlings grown to their specifications by Itasca Greenhouse, North Central Reforestation and others. Advantages they see include better survival, better early growth and easier to handle. A key to good roots is the right size container for the length of time the seedling will be in it.

All of the seedlings are planted by one of two crews from Mexico. Each person on a crew plants an unbelievable 2,000 to 3,000 per day. This is even more astounding considering that Blandin does no site prep except for roller chopping summer logged sites. Quintin says he has planted 200 seedlings per hour in these conditions and was totally worn out at the end of an 8-hour day!

Each year the crews go right from planting to brush sawing.

Blandin used to plant and then spray automatically to release the spruce. Now, rather than spraying, they check the survival rate in the first and third seasons. If survival is good, they will have the crews go in during the fifth season with brush saws to release the spruce by cutting aspen and brush for three feet around each spruce tree. The cost of this process is \$140 to \$170 per acre. On the other hand, if not enough spruce have survived, they may let the site go to aspen.

On Red Oak

The best solution for a young, poorly formed red oak is to cut it off and let it resprout. Because the root system is older, the growth rate will be high. The young tree does have to be checked in a year or two for multiple stems.

When using tree tubes to protect red oak from deer, what do you do when the tree grows out the top of the tube but still



Quintin Legler

within reach of deer? Quintin's solution is to use a taller stake and raise the tube as the tree grows.

Thinning Aspen

For the best sites, Blandin hires the Hispanic crews to thin aspen at age seven at a cost of about \$150 per acre. As a result, the stand will be ready for harvest in about 25 to 30 years versus 35 to 40 years for an unthinned stand. For more information on aspen management, Quintin recommends the online information at [USDA Forest Service > Northern Research Station > NCR Forest Management guides](#).

Pole Saw

If you're going to buy a pole saw, buy one with tri-edge blades from A.M. Leonard (www.AMLeo.com).



The tool used to plant 2,000 to 3,000 seedlings per day is not a standard planting spade that we are use to but a special shovel commonly used in Canada. To find then, Google Gear U for the Outdoors, then go to Tree Planting and Planting Shovels.

Fun Facts One cord of wood would be enough to make any of the following:

- 12 dining room table sets (seating eight)
- 30 rocking chairs
- 250 copies of the Sunday New York Times
- 1,200 copies of National Geographic magazine
- 4,000 one-gallon milk containers
- 61,371 standard (#10) envelopes
- 460,000 personal checks
- 4,384,000 postage stamps
- 7,500,000 toothpicks

The Beaufeaux Field Day

Mike and Dianne Beaufeaux, Minnesota Tree Farmers of the Year for 2011, hosted a field day on their farm located east of Hinckley on Saturday, June 4th. The field day was sponsored by the Kettle River Woodland Council, represented by Kelly Smith, Carlton SWCD.

The event was unusual for a number of reasons. First, Mike is a retired Wisconsin DNR forester and, as a result, falls into the category of a very knowledgeable landowner. Plus, Mike has kept excellent records and was willing to share facts and figures with the group including 300 acres purchased since 1994 in five separate transactions.

Mike's records show there have been five timber sales since 1995 resulting in:

- Aspen - 1,605 cords
- Hardwood - 907 cords
- Pine - 258 cords
- Logs - 54.6 MBF

The total value of all sales is \$74,043.

The tour of the woods was topped off with a scrumptious lunch prepared and served by Dianne.

Thank you, Mike and Dianne for a very enjoyable and informative event! And GOOD LUCK in the coming competition for Regional and National Tree Farmers of the Year!



Host Mike Beaufeaux



Above: Hostess Dianne Beaufeaux.

Right: A tick spotted.

Far right: A tick captured!





Eli Sagor and Quintil Legler examine a white pine branch that is showing signs of blister rust.

Supercharge Your Trees!

Private landowners along with foresters and loggers met at the Sonnenberg Farm in New York Mills on Thursday, July 7th. The subject was Intermediate State Treatment for Private Landowners.

Eli Sagor, U of M Extension, defined intermediate treatments as those carried out to enhance the:

- growth
- quality
- vigor or
- composition

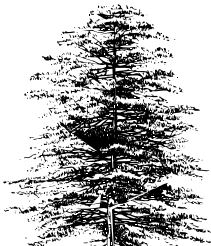
of a stand after it's been established and prior to final harvest.

The day consisted of a short introduction by Eli followed by hands-on visits to various sites in the Sonnenberg woods, discussing treatments and techniques that would be beneficial and others that would not be economical.

This was the first of three sessions to be conducted on the topic. The other two day-long sessions, which are FREE but require advance registration, will be:

- Wednesday, August 31 at the Long Lake Conservation Center, Palisade MN
- Thursday, October 6, in Brimson, Minnesota which is near Two Harbors.

For more information, and to register, call 218-759-7730 or go to www.MLEP.org > Training > Current Workshops > Intermediate Stand Treatment Field Days.



Meet a Tree **Paper Birch**

Paper birch, also called white or canoe birch, is the most widely distributed birch species in North America. Paper birch is a medium-sized, fast-growing tree that rarely lives more than 140 years. It develops best on well-drained, sandy loams but can grow on almost any soil and in topographic situations ranging from steep rocky outcrops in the mountains to flat muskegs in the boreal forest. While it's a common component in mixed hardwood-conifer forests, it can also grow in nearly pure stands after disturbances such as fire or logging.

Paper birch flowers from mid-April through early June depending on the location. Seeds will ripen from early August until mid-September. Paper birch can also regenerate from sprouts following cutting or fire. Commercially, the lumber is used for veneer, pulpwood, and many specialty items. But besides its role in the traditional forest products industry, paper birch is a prized species for ornamental planting and landscaping around homes and public buildings.

The bronze birch borer is the most serious insect pest of paper birch. It usually attacks over-mature trees or trees in weakened condition. Because of this, it is very important to keep yard trees and landscape trees healthy.

Did you know? – Paper birch can be tapped in the spring to obtain sap from which syrup, wine, beer, and medicinal tonics can be made.



Photo credit: Joseph O'Brien, U.S. Forest Service

Member Profile: Laverne & Janine Ehnert

On a ride through his woods Laverne Ehnert said, “We might have the best stand of white pine in Becker County.” Looking up at the magnificent 80-foot trees, no one could dispute that claim. In fact, the trees are among the best in all of northwest Minnesota. “We have pretty heavy soil here but the pines seem to love it,” Laverne went on. “I can dig up a small pine and plant it just anywhere and it will grow.”

The Ehnerts’ 120 acres is located outside Frazee, which is near Detroit Lakes. Laverne’s father purchased the first 80 acres in 1950 from a fellow who had moved to California to work during World War II and never came back. Since, another 40 acres has been added.

Laverne does some harvesting every year and, over the years, has harvested a total of nearly 30,000 board feet of white pine. “We have a problem with blister rust here,” Laverne said. “The only pines I cut are those with a dead top due to the blister rust or other reason.” A fellow down the road provides an unusual market for the big pines. “He builds timber frame homes. He lets me know how many logs he needs and how long they should be and I go get them.”

Other sources of income are occasional aspen harvests and collecting white pine cones for sale to the DNR. “I cut a lot of firewood, mostly from the aspen, to feed a wood stove inside the house. We had an outdoor wood furnace but I took it out back in 2001 when I retired. I thought we’d be traveling so much there would be no time to keep it supplied with wood. That was a mistake. Now I wish I had that furnace back.” Laverne had a 35-year career with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

One recent problem has been too much water. “Our water table is high here,” Laverne said. “Last year, the water started rising on the north side of the property, flooding an area that had never had standing water before. It looks as though the 30-year-old white pines in that area will be killed. I plan to harvest them this winter.”

The Ehnerts’ two sons and their families enjoy the land as much as Laverne and Janine. Erik is a tool and die maker and built a home on the land. Robert lives and works in Fargo but makes it back to the land on most weekends.

Besides trees, the land is a haven for wildlife. An eagle has built a nest atop one of the white pines and deer enjoy a food plot with turnips, clover and chicory planted especially for them. Deer hunting is an annual event for the family. “Last year Erik got a beautiful 10-point buck that he’s had mounted,” Laverne said.



Left: Janine and Laverne with Daisy and one of the white pines in their yard.

Middle: Son Erik is very handy with metal. He built this firewood processor from scratch.

Bottom: Laverne uses this ancient cable skidder to haul trees out of the woods. It has 100 feet of cable operated with the tractor’s PTO. Thanks to his nine miles of trails, Laverne can reach almost any tree from a trail.



Timber Values - 2010

Each year the DNR publishes a Public Stumpage Price Review. The review for 2010 shows the peak year for all species was 2005 when the average price received by public agencies was \$65 per cord for aspen. After a steep decline in 2006 and 2007, prices have leveled out in the last three years.

Here are approximate stumpage prices in nominal \$/cord

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Aspen	\$34	\$31	\$35	\$41	\$65	\$46	\$28	\$26	\$23	\$25
Oak	\$24	\$33	\$35	\$26	\$42	\$25	\$21	\$22	\$21	\$21
Basswood	\$19	\$16	\$18	\$20	\$24	\$18	\$16	\$15	\$12	\$13
Birch	\$10	\$10	\$13	\$16	\$25	\$18	\$16	\$15	\$13	\$14
Maple								\$18	\$17	\$18
Red & White Pine	\$43	\$40	\$39	\$40	\$55	\$46	\$34	\$28	\$29	\$31
Jack Pine	\$39	\$36	\$39	\$44	\$51	\$49	\$33	\$30	\$25	\$28
Balsam Fir	\$24	\$21	\$23	\$27	\$42	\$30	\$25	\$23	\$23	\$24
Spruce	\$34	\$35	\$36	\$43	\$47	\$31	\$28	\$26	\$24	\$26

For more information online, go to: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/timbersales/stumpage.html>

Private woodland owners often get less for their wood than public agencies. Here are few reasons why.

	Public Agencies	Private Landowners
Competition	Usually sold by auction with many loggers competing.	Often sold after talking with a single logger.
Size of parcel to be harvested	Larger parcels – often 40 acres or more	Smaller parcels – often 10 acres or less.
Time to harvest	Contracts usually give the logger 3 to 5 years to harvest so they can plan ahead and put nearby parcels together.	Often want it done this year.
Standards	Public agencies usually have strict standards the loggers must follow but the standards are known and are consistent from job.	Nearly every landowner has their own standards; the logger has to adapt to please each landowner.

Upcoming Events

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

Saturday, August 20

- 10am – 4:00pm Badgersett Research Farm Field Day (Canton MN, south of Lanesboro). Growing hazelnuts and chestnuts. Free admission. For more information see <http://badgersettresearch.blogspot.com/>

Wednesday, August 24

- 12pm Forest Stewardship Planning (Online). No charge, but registration is required in order to obtain connection instructions. Details and registration are at <http://z.umn.edu/woods>.

Options for Managing Your Woodland

- This is a series of three-hour sessions, each starting at 9am and repeated starting at 1pm. You will learn how

to: Improve wildlife habitat, design recreational trails, produce useful products for the family, explore income opportunities, recognize serious pest problems, and protect soil and water resources. Sessions held on:

Saturday, August 27 (Deep Portage Learning Center, Hackensack, MN)

Saturday, September 10 (Lanesboro)

Friday, September 16 (Duluth – Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center)

Friday, September 23 (New York Mills)

There's no cost to register or attend. All the details are at <http://z.umn.edu/woods>.

Wednesday, August 31

- Supercharge Your Woods! (Long Lake Conservation Center, Palisade MN). In this all day session you will learn about intermediate stand treatments that you, as a woodland owner, can accomplish with a pruning shear, a chain saw or with the assistance of a professional timber harvester. This event is FREE but limited to 25 registrants. Register online at www.MLEP.org/TrainingOnlineReg.htm. For more information contact Kathleen Preece via email at Katy@PaulBunyan.net or via phone at 218-759-7730.

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September

Friday, September 9

- 9am - 3:30pm Intergenerational Land Transfer. (Multipurpose Room, North Central Research and Outreach Center, Grand Rapids). Cost: \$100 per family and \$20 per person for refreshments and lunch. Contact: Julie Miedtke, miedt001@umn.edu, or 218-327-7365.

Friday & Saturday, September 16 & 17

- 9am each day. North Star Expo. (Itasca County Fairgrounds, Grand Rapids). This event, with both indoor and outdoor exhibits and events, is for loggers and private woodland owners who enjoy seeing the "big machines" in action. On Friday there will be a social hour at 5pm and BBQ with door prizes at 6pm.

Saturday, September 17

- 9am - 3:30pm Intergenerational Land Transfer. (Beaver Bay Town Hall). Cost: \$100 per family and \$20 per person for refreshments and lunch. Registration required via Molly Thompson, Sugarloaf, 218-525-0001.

Tuesday, September 20

- 12pm Where to Find Soils, Water and Land Management Information (Online). No charge, but registration is required in order to obtain connection instructions. Details and registration are at <http://z.umn.edu/woods>.

Tuesday, September 27

- 12pm Property Tax and Incentive Payments (Online). No charge, but registration is required in order to obtain connection instructions. Details and registration are at <http://z.umn.edu/woods>. Learn about the changes in SFIA and other tax and incentive programs and how you can qualify for the lowest property taxes under the new laws.

October

Thursday, October 6

- Supercharge Your Woods! (Brimson MN located north of Two Harbors). In this all day session you will learn about intermediate stand treatments that you, as a woodland owner, can accomplish with a pruning shear, a chain saw or with the assistance of a professional timber harvester. This event is FREE but limited to 25 registrants. Register online at www.MLEP.org/TrainingOnlineReg.htm. For more information contact Kathleen Preece via email at Katy@PaulBunyan.net or via phone at 218-759-7730.

Saturday, October 8

- 9am Dave Hanson's Pruning of Evergreens (St. Paul Campus). There is a world of mystery surrounding evergreen plants as they do not have the same of the same classic characteristics we learn so well about deciduous plants. How do you prune evergreens? Is there a difference in pruning junipers vs. pines vs. spruces vs. firs? \$15 registration; class limited to 30. For more information: Rebecca Koetter, 612-624-4261 or RebeccaK@UMN.ed

2012

PLANNING AHEAD FOR 2012

Friday & Saturday, March 9 & 10, 2012

- **Million Acre Conference**
(Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center)

Friday & Saturday, May 18 & 19, 2012

- **MFA's Annual Meeting and Spring Field Days**
(Forest History Center, Grand Rapids)

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

Here's what's new at MyMinnesotaWoods:



- Ash Management for Minnesota Woodland Owners: New full-color guide
- Northern Minnesota phenology report
- Options for Managing Your Woodlands: Field day and webinar series
- Supercharge Your Woods workshop series
- And, as always: Minnesota Tree Improvement Cooperative column, poem of the month, upcoming events, logger profile, news, and more.

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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Sustainable Forestry, LLC
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Photo background by Eli Sagor (Flickr: esagor).