

February/March 2012



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 Newsletter Vol. 14 No. 1

February/March 2012
The Minnesota Woodlands Newsletter is published by the Minnesota Forestry Association.

MFA Board Meetings

Cambridge DNR Office, 10 am – 3 pm

- April 17, 2012
- July 17, 2012
- October 19, 2012

Conference Calls

8 – 9 am

- February 15, 2012
- March 22, 2012

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A NEW Service for Members Only: Call Before You Cut

For private woodland owners, our woods represent one of our most valuable assets. The decision to harvest, and how to do so, can either improve or set back the future value of our land, its potential for wildlife habitat, and as a source of pleasure for us and our family.

There are several reasons why we might decide to sell timber:

- For income,
- To improve wildlife habitat,
- To improve the overall health of our woodland,
- To salvage timber damaged by a storm, insects, etc.

Whatever our reason for harvesting, a professional forester is uniquely qualified to assist us with a timber harvest plan that meets our expectations.

When you call MFA's **Call Before You Cut Hotline**, you'll be sent a packet of information including:

- A list of professional foresters, grouped by:
 - DNR Private Forest Management Foresters
 - Soil & Water Conservation District Foresters
 - Private Industry Procurement Foresters
 - Private Consulting Foresters
- A piece that recommends working with a professional forester and what to expect in the process,
- A list of loggers, both Master Loggers and members of the Minnesota Logger Education Program,
- A Landowners Manual provided by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative,
- A sample Timber Harvest Contract,
- The latest information that has been published on Timber Values.

No Cost or Obligation to You

Call Before You Cut is a free service for MFA members only. There is no cost to individual members and *no one will call you soliciting your business!* The whole idea is that MFA provides the information and then lets you decide what is best for you, your family and your land.

Thinking of harvesting timber on your land?

Call Before You Cut

A free service for members of the Minnesota Forestry Association

320-326-6486



This is a major event for family woodland owners to be held in Duluth with dozens of educational presentations and a huge exhibit hall. Over 1,000 people are expected to attend!

We were able to obtain conference brochures for half our members. If you find a brochure enclosed, we hope you send in the registration form today! The early bird discount ends on Friday, February 24th.

If you do not find a brochure enclosed, you may either Google Minnesota Family Woodlands Conference or call our MFA office at 218-326-6486, and we'll mail one to you.

We hope to see you in Duluth!

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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. MFA members are welcome to sit in on the face-to-face meetings and listen in on the conference calls. See a list of board members and meeting dates elsewhere in this newsletter. Contact any board member for further information.

Approving going ahead with a Call Before You Cut system for MFA members as described on page one of this newsletter.

Reviewing and certifying election and survey results.

Preparing for our Spring Field Days event, to be held May 18 & 19 in Grand Rapids, and for MFA's participation in the Family Woodland Conference, to be held in Duluth on March 9 & 10.

Election Results

Thanks to the nearly 300 members who voted on or before January 6th! These four individuals, all incumbents, are re-elected to two-year terms:

Elected to Two-Year Terms	Votes	Write-In	Votes
Chuck Erickson, Battle Lake	282	Mel Baughman, Falcon Heights	1
Dennis Thompson, Aitkin	289	Steve Early, International Falls	1
David Lindroth, Apple Valley	271	Valerie Green	1
Lyle Keller, Peterson	276	Robert Kisch, Stillwater	1
		Peggy Meserall	2
		Mary Maslowski	2

Comments received with the ballots:

"Appreciate the work you do for all of us small woodland owners." Scott Davich, Pequot Lakes

"Can we get the legislature to reconsider cutting us off from tree seedlings? Can we get more DNR PFM support? Why doesn't the legislature like us tree farmers?" Donald L. Janes, St. Paul (This question was referred to Government Affairs Chair, Bruce ZumBahlen, for a personal answer.)

"Good job, everyone!" Jim Marshall, Grand Rapids

"I could use tips on finding affordable beaver trappers and foresters to do some tree cutting about 50 miles west of Minneapolis (Cokato area). Also, I would like more tree identification field trips, e.g. for butternut hickory saplings." Judith Trolander, Duluth

"I hope to be able to take part in some activity in the future." Roger L. Finifrock, Barnum

"I thought we had term limits. I never liked that idea so it's good to keep good people." Neal & Gretchen Kingsley, White Bear Lake

"I really appreciate all that the Minnesota Forestry Association promotes and supports!" John & Carolee Wallin, Pequot Lakes

"Looking forward to spring annual meeting in Grand Rapids." Robert Asproth, Mahtowa

"Keep up the good work!" Peter J. Grover, Austin

"Keep up the good work!" Gene Rajala, Bigfork

"MFA - a great forestry oriented association. Proud to be part of the group!" Leroy Bergstrom, Cloquet

"You are doing a good job." Roger L. Rustad, Fergus Falls

"Thanks, John. But let's not expect any money from the State. Gotta cut taxes, not trees!" Douglas C. Jones, Nerstrand

"Thanks for all you do for us!" Doug Ploof, Little Falls

"Thanks for volunteering your time!" David Tincher, Red Wing

"Thanks to all who give as leaders of MFA. I am especially aware and grateful for all the work Bruce ZumBahlen does with the legislative committee." Thomas & Mary Kroll, Long Prairie

"Thank you for serving on the MFA board!" Harvey & Priscilla Harvala, Osage

"The Board is solid, the business/office running well, and the newsletter is useful!" Frank & Marian Smith, Emily

"The MFA newsletter gets better all the time - very interesting!" William J. Marshall, Grand Rapids

"Thirty-eight and a half acres have been under a forest management plan since 1969. Been in family since 1948. Recently put into conservation easement (35 acres) including 800 feet of lakeshore on Lake Washburn. Plant or improve timber area each spring. Includes foot plots." Richard Nelles, Remer

"Why would anyone - bow - would 'write in' against four incumbents?" Germain Davison, Hokah

"Woodland has land trust easement on it. Sold to new owner July 2011. Purchased woodland in Washington state which will be managed by son who lives there." Rod & Diana Hanson, Lino Lakes

Survey Results

Over 250 MFA members filled out and returned the Survey that was included with our Election Ballot. If you haven't returned your survey yet, please do it today!

MFA members were asked, <i>Which ONE of the five descriptions fits you best?</i>		
25 (10%)	said	Interested but do not own woodland.
36 (15%)	said	Own woodland primarily for its beauty and recreational value, which could include hunting. Plan to do little or no harvesting or active management of the woods.
178 (70%)	said	Own woodland both for its beauty and recreational value and as a financial asset. Hope it increases in value over time. Also hope to earn some income from harvesting trees, etc.
10 (4%)	said	See woods primarily as a financial asset. Hope it increases in value over time. Also hope to earn some income from harvesting trees, etc.
1 (0.4%)	said	Do own woodland but not very active in managing or using it.

With regard to age,			And, are you working?		
1 (0.4%)	said	Under 35	45 (25%)	said	Yes
20 (9%)	said	35-50	125 (71%)	said	Retired
20 (29%)	said	50-65	5 (3%)	said	Semi-Retired
139 (62%)	said	Over 65			

Comments included:

- "About one acre."* Diane L. Lindstrom, Esko
- "Former owners as of 7/11."* Diana & Rod Hanson, Lino Lakes
- "Sold woodland last year."* Larry Sampson, Duluth
- "Used to own 2,000 acres; got old; gave it to our four kids."* William J. Marshall, Grand Rapids
- "Finance is not a reason for owning and managing our acres (1700+). We do active management."* John Bathke, Two Harbors
- "Including biking."* Judith Trolander, Duluth
- "Maple syruping, firewood, camping, etc."* Dennis Grieser, Brainerd
- "We actively manage the woods!"* Cheryl Culbreth
- "Have earned income from harvesting 10 years ago."* Jan Bernu, Cloquet
- "Also, maintaining a legacy for the family."* Anonymous
- "My recreation is working in the woods."* James G. Towler, St. Cloud
- "We do manage it."* Dick Rohloff, Cohasset



Those who returned a survey were entered into a drawing for one of three Multi-Tools obtained by Lyle Keller, left, from Gander Mountain Rochester store (Thank you!). Lillian Baker, DNR, who was a guest at our recent board meeting, did the drawing. And the winners are:

- John & Carolee Wallin, Pequot Lakes
- Frank Smith, Emily
- Doug Jones, Nerstrand



Tips for the New Maple Syrup Producer

Stephen G. Saupe

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Are you thinking about making maple syrup this spring? If you have access to just a couple of mature maple trees, it's easy to do. If you've never made maple syrup, I encourage you to give it a try. Here are half a dozen tips for those who might want to get started in this springtime tradition.

1. Join the Minnesota Maple Syrup Producers Association (MMSPA). This group publishes a quarterly newsletter (Minnesota Maple News) and hosts annual fall and spring meetings where you can learn about syrumping and tour various maple syrup operations. Not only will this group of syrumpers share information with you, but they also produce some of the best syrup you'll find anywhere. In fact, at the October 2011 maple syrup competition held as part of the annual meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council and International Maple Syrup Institute, members of MMSPA won several ribbons! For more information about the MMSPA, visit their website (<http://www.mnmaple.org/>) or contact the president, Mr. Stu Peterson (campaquila@aol.com).
2. Obtain and read the North American Maple Syrup Producers Manual edited by M.R. Koelling, R.B. Heiligmann and T.D. Perkins (2007, Second edition). This book is an outstanding resource that covers all aspects of maple syrup production from maintaining a maple woodlot to tapping trees to collecting sap to cooking sap to syrup quality. It's the "bible" for making syrup and can be obtained from maple syrup suppliers listed below or the Ohio State University Extension.
3. Tour a local maple syrup operation to learn different techniques for syrup production. For example, our operation hosts two festivals each spring to show visitors how the monks and their friends at Saint John's have been making syrup since 1942. Many other syrup operations offer similar tours.

4. Volunteer to help your neighbors. There's perhaps no better way to learn how to make syrup than to actually do it. Maple syrup makers are always looking for help and willingly share their knowledge. At Saint John's, we have a core group of about five individuals who run the operation, but each season we are assisted by countless volunteers. In 2011, 150 volunteers collectively donated more than 650 hours of labor. Most importantly, each volunteer was welcomed in a Benedictine fashion that characterizes the monastic community at Saint John's and was able to learn about the syrumping process.
5. Don't be afraid to try to make some syrup at home. With a minimum of equipment and a couple of afternoons, you can make enough syrup to satisfy the needs of most families. Each tap will produce roughly 10 gallons of sap, which is enough to make about one quart of syrup. You may be surprised at how quickly syrumping gets 'into your blood' – you'll know that you're 'hooked' when you start planning to tap even more trees next year.
6. Supplies can be purchased at a variety of places. I personally recommend two Wisconsin companies, Anderson's Maple Syrup (www.AndersonMapleSyrup.com) and Roth Sugar Bush (www.RothSugarBush.com), though I'm sure that there are lots of other equally good vendors. Some vendors also sponsor an 'open house' where you can get discounts on supplies and it is also a great time to learn about the latest equipment and trends and get your questions answered.

Unfortunately in this limited space, it's not possible to discuss everything I've learned during my 12 years as a syrup-maker at Saint John's. Mostly I hope that I've simply encouraged you to 'give syrumping a go.' But be sure to invite your family and friends to join you. The extra hands will come in handy, but even more importantly, the best part of the syrup-making process is laughing and sharing stories with others as the sap boils. It's a magical experience and it is what keeps us syrup-makers going season after season.





Top: During a recent chainsaw safety class, Courtney Kerns, Grand Rapids, harvested her first tree.

Above: Three active members are Judy Carlson, Holyoke, Angie Gupta, Rochester, and Barb Spears, St. Paul.

MN Women's Woodland Network

Learning about trees, nature and caring for the land.

2011 was a great year with over 300 women (and their families) participating in this new outreach program. Field trips, hands-on learning opportunities and discussions were offered in six locations: Grand Rapids, Rochester, Virginia, Metro, Carlton County (aka the Woodchicks), and with the Sand Lake Women in the Woods. Resources were shared, trees were planted and some women landowners enrolled in property tax programs. The programs are informal, and more conversational and allows you to ask questions that will help you make informed decisions for your land.

This past year, the program was funded through the MN Stewardship Program and the Renewable Resources Extension Act. The program is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

We'll look forward to meeting you at the MN Landowner Conference in Duluth!

For more information online, Google Minnesota Womens Woodland Network or contact these U of M Extension Foresters: Angela Gupta, 507-280-2869, or Julie Miedtke, 218-327-7365 or email: miedt001@umn.edu.

Creature Feature



By: Jodie Provost, DNR Private Land Wildlife Habitat Specialist
Jodie.Provost@state.MN.US

Sharp-tailed Grouse, the "Fire Bird"

The Sharp-tailed grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*), or "fire bird," is native and one of Minnesota's four grouse species. It inhabited much of our state until the 1880s and was once one of the most abundant, upland game birds, after ruffed grouse and pheasants, reaching its peak in the late 1940s. Since then, due to habitat loss from natural succession and conversion of habitat to unsuitable cover, its population has declined dramatically. It is now listed by DNR as a species in greatest conservation need and its primary range is restricted to brushlands of northwest and northeast/east-central Minnesota.

Brushlands include several habitats including bog with stunted, scattered tamarack and spruce, old hayfields and pastures, shrub swamp and savanna. What these habitats have in common is an open structure with scattered brush and trees. Fire was and still is a key disturbance in maintaining these habitats, hence the "fire bird" nickname which was given by Native Americans who used fire to enhance habitat and attract game.

Sharptail mate in April to mid May on a "dancing ground" or "lek," lay a clutch of 12 eggs in a ground nest within 1/2-1 mile of the lek, and incubate 23 days. If a nest is lost early in incubation, hens will mate and nest again. Most hatching occurs in late-May and early June. Chicks can fly somewhat at 10 days and resemble adults by mid-September to October. Flocking begins in fall and flock size increases as winter approaches. Sharptail feed before sunrise and at sunset, traveling one to three miles a day and eating a diet of insects, leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds, buds and catkins, depending on the season.

How can you enhance habitat for sharptail? If your land lies within sharptail range and your neighborhood has a complex of open habitats, consider enhancing and maintaining open habitats on your land. Technical and financial assistance is available for practices such as brushland mowing and prescribed burning (contact jodie.provost@state.mn.us). The lek is the most critical component of their habitat, serving as the heart of a subpopulation. If you are aware of a lek on your land or

nearly land, keep habitat within 1/8 mile of it free of woody vegetation, and keep conifers at least 1/2 mile away.

The impressive courtship display of sharptails is their most unique and enjoyable feature. To see males hooting, stomping their feet and rattling their tail feathers on a crisp April dawn, make a reservation at a viewing blind after March 1. To see a list of DNR offices with blinds and learn more about sharptails, go to www.sharptails.org. A morning in a blind is an adventure you won't forget!



Photo: Mike Paulbeck

The 2012 Wisconsin Coverts Project

Another great opportunity for Minnesota woodland owners!

The Wisconsin Coverts Project is a wildlife program for private woodland owners. Each of two sessions consist of three days of indoor sessions and outdoor experiences for those who want to enhance their woodland for wildlife. More than a dozen Minnesotans applied and were admitted over the last two years. All have been enthusiastic about their experience. One of them, Chuck Erickson from Battle Lake, said, "This was the best workshop I've ever attended."

The sessions are to be held from 6 p.m. Thursday through noon on Sunday on August 9th through the 12th and repeated on August 23rd through the 26th. The workshop is held in northeastern Wisconsin at the University of Wisconsin's Kemp Natural Resource Station in Woodruff,

Wisconsin. It's a long drive from any Minnesota location but worth it! Thanks to the program's sponsors, there is no registration fee, no charge for housing and no charge for food!

For more information, and to print out an application form, Google "Wisconsin Coverts Project." If you do not have access to a computer, call MFA's office 218-326-6486.

Admission to the workshop is by application. Each session is limited to 25 participants. The deadline for applications is June 15th but you should apply today!



\$1 Million for Minnesota Woodland Owners!

*Ginger Kopp, Easement Forester
USDA NRCS, St. Paul*



The Minnesota NRCS 2012 EQIP State-wide Forestry Initiative has \$1 million available for forest

landowners. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is available to forest landowners with as little as one acre of forestland. There is no requirement to own or manage agricultural lands, pasturelands or grazing lands to qualify for EQIP.

If you have a forest management plan that meets NRCS's plan criteria, a Forest Stewardship Plan may qualify, that plan meets an EQIP landowner eligibility requirement. The owner in this situation may immediately apply to EQIP for implementing the forest practices in their plan.

Landowners who do not have a forest management plan can apply to have a plan completed through a certified and registered Technical Service Provider (TSP). Financial assistance is available through EQIP to partially reimburse the landowner to hire a TSP for plan development. Only after the plan is developed and meets NRCS's planning criteria can a new application be submitted for implementing the forest practices in the plan. Forest landowners may request the services of MN DNR if available, or contact the local NRCS or SWCD to develop a plan. These plans will not qualify for financial assistance since they are developed by a public agency.

Other Eligibility Requirements

(Owner, Land and Practices)

Other eligibility requirements include the owner, the land and the practices. Owner eligibility consists of income limits, proof of land ownership, and an active interest in the land. This last requirement refers to having a forest management plan as explained above.

The land, or in this case the forest, needs to have a documented natural resource concern which means that at least one of the five natural resources (soil, water, air, plants or animals) needs improvement. For example, you may have invasive species in your forest, or erosion which can cause excess sediment from nearby cropland which, in turn, may create a need for a riparian forest buffer. An NRCS or SWCD employee or a TSP will determine if you have a natural resource concern on your land.

Recommended forest practices in the forest management plan must be on the EQIP docket to be eligible for EQIP payment. Some important practices include tree planting, site preparation, forest stand improvement, riparian forest buffer, red and white pine establishment, oak savannah establishment, prescribed burning, and windbreak planting.

All applications will go through a screening and ranking process at the state level to prioritize the applications. Although there are prioritized areas and practices in this Forestry Initiative, applications are not competing with agricultural applications and a significant number, and even a record number of applications should be approved. NRCS is very excited to be offering this opportunity to forest landowners, particularly to those who have never requested financial assistance through EQIP.

EQIP is a continuous application program; you may submit an application at any time. There are three ranking periods for 2012: February 10, March 23 and May 25. Applications must be received by those dates to be considered for approval for that ranking period. Corresponding award dates are February 17, March 30 and June 1; soon after these dates, landowners awarded financing will receive a letter from NRCS.

For more information about this process, contact your local NRCS office. To find your local NRCS office, call 651-602-7900.

Pride Comes With Being Certified

Aitkin County's SWCD provides forest landowners with one-of-a-kind opportunity.

(Aitkin, MN) – Last summer, the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) created a partnership with neighboring St. John's Abbey to expand the country's only conservation district-led forest certification program. Thanks to the district's efforts, north central Minnesota landowners have an advantage when marketing timber harvested from their lands.

By the late 1990s, all of the public forestland within the county had become Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified, allowing any timber harvested from those lands to be marketed as such. Not long after, landowners began to explore having their timber certified, only to find the process was time intensive and not economically feasible.

When Dennis Thompson was hired by the district in 1998, he was given one primary mission: to work with landowners to develop more forest stewardship plans. Thompson soon recognized the interest landowners had in certification, and he then began to explore what the district could do to assist.

Aitkin County SWCD created a group certification model and became FSC certified in early 2007. The program is accredited by Smartwood, which ensures landowners are meeting the FSC standards of sustainability. The potential benefits of participating in the program are increased assurance that forest management is compatible with widely recognized measures of responsible forestry, the potential for unique marketing opportunities, and access to more information and expertise about forest stewardship. To qualify, landowners must have at least 10 acres of forestland and a stewardship plan.

To establish its group, the district sent letters to all of the landowners it had helped create stewardship plans for. In the first year, the group consisted of 12 landowners with a combined 1,500 acres. Landowners were charged a \$25 annual fee. Within a few years, the number of participating landowners jumped to 19, and the district increased its fee to \$100 to help offset administrative costs – an amount well below what it would cost landowners to go through the certification process on their own.

The project has also received financial support from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund and an NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant.

Many of the group's members sell their wood to Sappi, a paper mill in nearby Cloquet that consumes a lot of certified product. Many of Sappi's customers demand that its manufactured paper come from a certified source. "Our members are not seeing a premium for their wood, but they're having a much easier time selling it than non-certified forest landowners," Thompson says.



Dennis Thompson, Aitkin County SWCD Forester.



Roger Howard, Aitkin, with some of his certified wood.

Not every landowner sells to the paper mill. Roger Howard makes a variety of custom woodworking products that he markets as certified, while another landowner sells certified Christmas trees.

Howard believes customers care about the difference. "Put two products side by side, one certified and one not. If everything else is equal, I think 99 percent of people will buy the certified," says Howard, who adds: "If nothing else, it gives me a little extra pride in my products."

According to Thompson, there are three primary types of landowners who participate in the group certification program: those who actively manage their land and sell timber marketed as FSC certified, those who will market timber eventually, and those who do not actively market timber. The last group "may never market timber," says Thompson, "but for them, being recognized for managing their lands to some of the highest standards in the world is enough to justify the fee."

When St. John's Abbey determined this summer it could no longer afford to manage the certification process for its 1,500 acres of forestland, Thompson made a phone call. "I saw it as an opportunity to partner with St. John's University, add acres, gain credibility, and turn out more certified wood in the marketplace," he says. Aitkin County SWCD now manages the certification for both groups, with administrative assistance from University officials.

Thompson says the district has no immediate plans for further growth, only the desire to continue to assist participating landowners with helping to manage their lands and market their wood.

If you would like to form or join a certification group in your area, call Dennis Thompson for ideas on how to get started. You may reach Dennis at 218-927-6565, or you may go online for more information at www.AitkinCountySWCD.org/FSC.

This piece was adopted from one that appeared in the National Association of Conservation Districts Forestry Notes.

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.

Thursday, February 23

- Small Woodland Management (Rochester). For the person who has a large wooded yard or a woodland of less than 20 acres. The class will focus on planning and goal setting, identifying what you have, writing a plan, keeping your woodland healthy, planting trees, attracting wildlife and more. We'll connect you to many resources to help you learn more and reach your goals. For more information and to register, call 888-241-4536 or 507-280-2869.

Saturday, February 25

- Living in the Avon Hills (St. John's University). Annual conference. Keynote presenter is WCCO Radio's Mike Lynch. Educational sessions of gardening, wildlife and land management, plus many exhibits. For more information visit: <http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum.htm>.

Saturday, March 3

- 10am - 1pm. Northwoods Forestry Coop Annual Meeting (Northland Arboretum, Baxter MN). All members and guests are welcome. Guest Speaker: Jack Rajala. Potluck Brunch. RSVP to Pat Lanin at 218-764-3315 or PELanin@Brainerd.net.

Friday & Saturday, March 9 & 10

- Minnesota Family Woodlands: A Landowner Conference (Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center). This "Don't Miss" event is a successor to the two Million Acre Conferences that have been held in Duluth. For a conference brochure and registration form, call MFA at 218-326-6486.

Tuesday & Wednesday, March 20 & 21

- 50th Annual Shade Tree Short Course (Bethel University, Arden Hills). This is a two-day course for everyone interested in urban forestry and arboriculture. For more information and online registration, visit www.cce.umn.edu/shadetree.

Saturday, March 24 and Repeated Saturday, March 31

- 1pm - 4pm. Maple Syrup Festival (St. John's University). This is the most popular event of the year at St. John's. Sap collecting, syrup cooking, horse-drawn rides, demonstrations, and hot maple syrup sundaes await the whole family during this fun-filled event! For more information visit: <http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum.htm>.

Friday & Saturday, May 18 & 19

- MFA's Annual Meeting and Spring Field Days (Forest History Center, Grand Rapids). For more information, contact event chair, Dave Roerick at 218-326-3774 or DRoerick@gmail.com.



One of DNR's Best is Retiring

Terry Helbig, supervisor in the Lake City Forestry Office, is retiring in April. Terry has spent over 35 years in southeast Minnesota, an area he refers to as "God's Country." A special event is being held in his honor on Saturday, April 28th from noon to 3 p.m. at Hok-Si-La Municipal Park in Lake City. Food

will be catered by Mike & Pete Greenheck's Nelson Cheese and Deli so it's bound to be good. There is no charge, but if you can come, let Sarah Stegen know by calling 651-345-3216 x 221.

Tax Questions?

If you have a woodland-related tax question, Geary Searfoss is a CPA who specializes in the needs of private woodland owners. Minnesota DNR has an annual contract with Searfoss to answer brief questions for woodland owners free of charge. There is also good information on his web site.

Contact Gary at 715-266-8290, Email: GSCPA@CenturyTel.net, Web site: GSCPA.biz

Hazelnuts in SE Minnesota

Have you thought about growing hazelnuts? The 3rd Annual Hazelnut Growers Conference will be held on Friday afternoon, March 2nd, and all day Saturday, March 3rd at the Hotel Winneshiek in Decorah, Iowa. The Friday afternoon program will be dedicated to new and prospective growers with a Hazelnuts 101 course. For a conference brochure go to MFA's web site, www.MinnesotaForestry.org, or call MFA's office at 218-326-6186.

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

MyMinnesotaWoods.org

Your source for woodland stewardship advice



Here's what's new at MyMinnesotaWoods:

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

- Minnesota Family Woodlands Conference is the event of the year: March 9-10 in Duluth. Details at <http://z.umn.edu/MFWC>
- New Forest Insect and Disease Newsletter from MN DNR - Forestry
- News from the Minnesota Tree Improvement Cooperative
- Woodland Stewardship book winner: Best comment this month
- Meet a Minnesota Logger
- Tri-state Forestry Conference, Sinsinawa, IA
- Poem of the month, Upcoming events, News links, 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.