



# 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. 15 No. 5

October/November 2013  
The Minnesota Woodlands newsletter is published by the Minnesota Forestry Association.

## MFA Board Meetings

Cambridge DNR  
Office, 10 am – 3 pm  
• October 15, 2013

Conference Calls  
8 – 9 am  
• November 19, 2013  
• December 17, 2013

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## More Paper Mill Woes

*by Bruce ZumBahlen, chair, MFA's Government Relations Committee*

Recently, the news media reported that Boise, Inc. has been bought by Packaging Corporation of America (PKG) for \$1.28 billion; primarily to acquire Boise's numerous packaging facilities. The demand for packaging papers and container board is one of the brighter areas of paper manufacturing and this acquisition will enhance PKG's market share of those products.

Boise's paper mill in International Falls produces the kind of paper that is used for copying, so there is concern over whether this sale would trigger a re-evaluation of the mill's operation since PKG is not in that business. Last May, Boise announced it was permanently shutting down two older paper machines in October eliminating the jobs of 265 employees. At that time, loggers and Boise's forestry staff were not affected by the machine shut downs since the two machines used pulp manufactured elsewhere.



It's a legitimate concern because the demand for paper used in newsprint, copy papers, magazines and advertisements has been declining for some time. Recently, the Wall Street Journal reported that International Paper was permanently shutting down its largest paper mill in Courtland, Alabama, displacing 1,100 workers. The company stated that emailing, paying bills on line, and storing files electronically have reduced the demand for its copy papers and envelopes.

**BOISE®**

These events follow the earlier shut down of Verso Paper's mill in Sartell, Minnesota, after a deadly explosion. And, with Georgia Pacific having closed its Duluth hardwood plant, Wausau Paper's closure of its Brainerd paper mill, the closure of Ainsworth's three oriented strand plants at Grand Rapids, Bemidji, and Cook, and Weyerhaeuser's closure of its oriented strand lumber mill in Deerwood, Minnesota's forest industries have lost something like 6,300 jobs.

Minnesota needs a vibrant forest industry to maintain healthy forests. Without wood markets, our woodlands would be at risk of relying on Mother Nature to recycle and regenerate its forests through fire, wind, insects and disease with devastating impacts.

Recently, MFA president John O'Reilly sent a letter to the MN DNR Forestry Division in support of its proposal to the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota's Resources (LCCMR) to fund a project to develop more markets for wood products. MFA will continue to be at the forefront working with DNR and others on this subject.

Minnesota Forestry  
Association

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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 starting at 10 a.m. During all other months, the meeting is held via conference call. Any MFA member is welcome to sit in on the face-to-face meetings and listen in on the conference calls. See the list of board members and meeting dates elsewhere in this newsletter. Contact any board member for further information. For a copy of minutes from any recent meeting, contact Carol Cartie at [Information@MinnesotaForestry.org](mailto:Information@MinnesotaForestry.org) or 218-326-6486.

**Reviewing a report of the Membership Committee Meeting.** The committee, chaired by Gary Michael, identified several ways to promote membership. One of the approaches will be selected and implemented for 2014. Any MFA member interested in serving on the committee should contact Gary at [Gary.Michael@state.mn.us](mailto:Gary.Michael@state.mn.us).

**Reviewing sales of No Trespassing signs.** The signs appear to be a hit with members. The first supply has been sold out and more have been ordered.

**Discussing** a number of initiatives, which are all in the developmental stage:

- A field forester to service MFA members.
- A new membership category based on discussion at our Annual Meeting.
- Our 2014 Annual Meeting and Spring Field Day which will be held at the U of M Cloquet Forestry Center on Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17.
- Cost share opportunities for members. We are looking for a way to keep up-to-date on the cost share opportunities available and inform members.

## Are you interested in serving on MFA's Board of Directors?

Responsibilities of board members include participating in 12 board meetings per year, eight of which are via conference call and four are face-to-face at the Cambridge DNR office, plus work on at least one committee. If you have an interest, or would like more information, contact committee members Bruce ZumBahlen or Al Schacht.



## Firewood

by *Bill Cook*

It's a romantic notion, sitting around a wood stove on a crisp autumn night, or a downright frigid January morning. Using wood to heat a home or business is also cheaper than just about anything else. But it takes some work. And, some homework.

If you don't consider the time to process firewood and all the handling that's involved, then wood is by far the least expensive fuel source. If you buy firewood that is already cut and split, then the costs need to be looked at a bit closer. Similarly, it would be wise to compare costs if you are considering a wood pellet stove. Nearly always, wood costs will trump any of the fossil fuels.

Firewood delivered in eight-foot lengths will run around \$100 per cord for hardwood, and you'll probably need to buy a truck load, which can range from five or six cords to about 13 cords. It depends on the hauler and the truck.

A standard cord is a stack of eight-foot sticks stacked four feet high and four feet wide. The actual volume of wood will vary with the size of the sticks. There are other definitions for cords, so buyer be wary. Know what you're buying.

*Continued on page 3*

# *My Land Plan: Forest Journaling*

by Neal W. Chapman, MFA's Education Committee

One of the many benefits of MLP (MyLandPlan) is the section where you can keep a permanent journal for your land, a place to record the special moments in your woods. Journals help us remember the best of times and keep us smiling long afterwards. Journals also help us keep track of changes in the woods, from how fast our trees grow, to kinds of wildlife we see, and when we see them, to ideas for how to improve our woods.

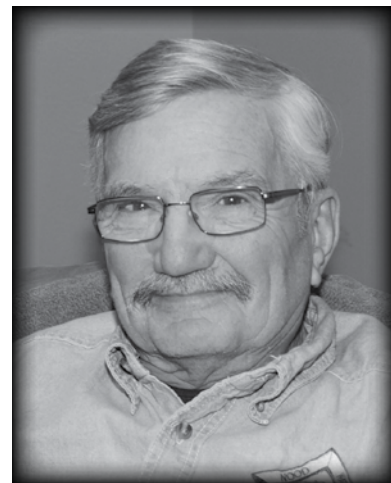
Journaling also helps us remember the not-so-good times: when we discover an invasive plant; when we see unusual looking plants or trees, such as browning of leaves or needles; when the heavy rain flooded an area; or when a windstorm damaged your woods. By recording these events, you document the event, and that reminds us to take action and or to make inquiries as what to do about the occurrence.

Journaling also helps us keep track of experiments we have tried: those that result in positive results, those that result in no change, and those that result in negative results. Sometimes it is all about timing, so by reviewing your journal entries, you can make appropriate adjustments next time.

The journaling feature on MLP also provides the opportunity to save pictures taken for the day's entry, to record your thoughts for the day, to record the weather, and any other information you want to be a record of your stewardship. Journaling helps you record how this entry records how this experience helped you to *Enjoy it, Protect it, Make it, Profit from it, and to Pass it on*, all sections from MLP for your property.

Finally, your journal can remain private, or you can share it with others – the choice is yours.

I'd personally appreciate your comments about your experience using MyLandPlan, These will be shared with the authors to enable the next round of enhancements to better serve you. Please contact me at [Woodland.Steward@gmail.com](mailto:Woodland.Steward@gmail.com)



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## *Firewood continued from page 2*

Most homes will require about five or six cords per winter, but that will vary widely with the variety of homes. So, wood costs will be roughly \$500-600, plus electricity to run any fans or push water. That's about \$11 per million BTUs. At \$2.50/gallon, propane will run about \$35 per million BTUs. Electricity may run around \$65.

Wood looks good based on these loose estimates, but there's more work to wood than for fossil fuels. The delivery truck must have room to move around. A load of eight-foot firewood needs to be cut, split, stacked, covered, and dried. Equipment and space are needed. A considerable amount of sweat equity will be invested before the stove is filled. Some call this recreation.

Drying firewood is essential. It takes energy to drive water out of wood and that's energy that will not be spent heating a house. Burning wet wood adds to incomplete combustion, reduces efficiency, and increases residue inside a chimney. Looking for firewood in the fall, to burn in a few weeks, is looking for trouble.

Much has been said about the amount of energy in different species of wood. Energy content does vary somewhat, but water content and proper air control are, by far, the more important factors. For the northern Lake States, sugar maple is probably the best mix of energy content, ease of processing, and availability. Oak is also quite good.

Lastly, firewood transport has been one of the more common vectors for exotic and invasive species. Examples include oak wilt, emerald ash borer, and gypsy moth. There are several nasty species on the horizon. Be careful when buying or transporting firewood. It's good to ask, in advance, where the wood is coming from and become aware of potential hazards. It's also good to get delivered wood processed and stacked as soon as possible. Burning wood to heat homes is still a great idea, but doing it "right" is becoming increasingly more important.

*Bill Cook is an MSU Extension forester providing educational programming for the Upper Peninsula. His office is located at the MSU Forest Biomass Innovation Center near Escanaba. The Center is the headquarters for three MSU Forestry properties in the U.P., with a combined area of about 8,000 acres. He can be reached at [cookwi@msu.edu](mailto:cookwi@msu.edu) or 906-786-1575.*

# Creature Feature



by Anne Petry

## Pat Karns on Whitetails

“Do you have a match?”, the late Pat Karns asked as he and I walked across our land.

At the time Pat, who passed away two years ago, was a retired big game biologist who studied whitetail deer in his job managing the DNR’s whitetail research facility in Grand Rapids, which is now closed. Both knowledgeable and straight-talking, I loved listening to Pat when he got going on whitetails and other Minnesota big game.

“Whitetail deer and lab rats are the two most thoroughly studied animals on the planet,” Pat would say. The funny thing is, I think he’s right!

### Improving the Woods for Wildlife

Pat’s request for a match came as a result of my question, “Pat, if you could do only one thing to improve my land for wildlife, what would it be?” While his answer sounds facetious, it was also 100% serious. My woods were a mix of mature aspen and other hardwoods, a hospitable habitat for squirrels and owls and almost nothing else. If some of the 100 acres were burned, sunlight would again reach the ground allowing a host of plants to grow to support deer, grouse, bear and other wildlife. Woodpeckers would find insects in the standing dead trees and other birds would use the excavated holes for nests.

We didn’t take Pat’s advice literally but we did do the next best things. He recommended creating wildlife openings by clear cutting one-acre parcels and then mowing them every other year to keep brush under control. We still have two of these openings. He also recommended logging 10-acre parcels on a regular schedule. After a few years, we have a mosaic of aspens in various stages of development, perfect for both deer and ruffed grouse.

### Deer Attractants

One of the studies Pat conducted in Grand Rapids was intended to find a way to teach white tail deer about electric fences. Because their thick coat insulates deer from electric fence shocks, Pat wanted to find a way to get the deer to touch the fence with their noses. Metal tags were hung at intervals on an electric fence with a different attractant applied to each tag. Some of the attractants were commercial “doe in heat” scents and others were common household items.

Pat said, “It was amazing. We plotted the results on graphs and most of the attractants came out about the same: they all worked but not very well. But the results for one material went off the chart, being many times more attractive than any of the others. It was ordinary, store-bought peanut butter. There was absolutely no reason deer should be attracted to this stuff, since they had never encountered peanuts or peanut butter, but it worked. After looking at the results, I remembered what I was eating the time the biggest buck I’d ever seen in the woods walked under my stand: a peanut butter sandwich.”

### Walking or Driving to the Deer Stand?

In another study, conducted back in the 1970s when snowmobiles were becoming popular, Pat wanted to find out what effect snowmobiles coming down a trail had on deer. Several deer were hooked up to heart monitors and snowmobiles were run by them. There was almost no response from the deer. Then two cross-country skiers came down the trail and the deer heart rates skyrocketed. For hunters, the moral to this story is to drive, don’t walk, to your deer stand!

### Food Plots

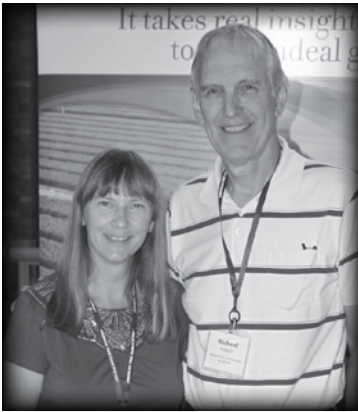
Avid deer hunters plant food plots to attract their prey. The deer hunting magazines are filled with ads for seed mixes that are “guaranteed to drive the deer wild.” All are priced at ten times what normal seed costs in the feed store. Pat’s advice was, “Forget all that stuff. Instead, plant common rye (the crop, not the grass) in late August or early September. Deer are grazers and they like rye because it is the last thing green in the fall and the first thing green in the spring. Not only that, rye is cheap to buy and easy to plant.”

So deer hunters, as you head into the woods this season, take some of Pat’s advice and bring along a peanut butter sandwich as you drive out to your stand set up near a field of rye!



*We have a replica of Jim Jordan's buck. Harvested in 1914 and measuring 206-1/8 according to the Boone & Crocket system, the buck stood as the world record typical whitetail for 80 years, until Milo Hanson harvested his buck in Saskatchewan in November 1993. Said the straight-talking Pat Karns about Jim Jordan's buck: "It's a freak of nature." He'd probably say the same about the Hanson buck today.*

# Member Profile: Richard and Joanne Hufnagle



Dick and Janet Hufnagle, Richard's parents, started a tree farm for themselves in the Big Falls area of Kochiching County (go ahead, say the name of the county for fun!) in 1959. The soil is ideal for growing trees and the location is perfect, just 40 miles from the Boise paper mill in International Falls and 70 miles from Blandin in Grand Rapids. At the

time, the Hufnagles also started a tree farm for Richard, who was just 10 years old, with 109 acres.

Today, the combined tree farm has grown to over 2,000 acres. It is owned by the Hufnagle Family Limited Partnership. Partners include several of Richard's six siblings who are scattered around the country.

When Dick Hufnagle was establishing the tree farm, he had a hard time making ends meet. He had to keep costs down and look for revenue in every place he could to pay the taxes. Today, the tree farm is a profitable, growing business with a sawmill and a wood treatment plant.

To establish and maintain the woods, hundreds of thousands of trees have been planted over the years. In the early years, there were a few fields to be planted so a machine was used. Today, all of the planting is by hand, mostly done by local people from town. Initially, Norway pine was the main species. More recently, white spruce has become a favorite. This year for the first time, oak was included among the 8,500 trees that were planted. "I tried on two occasions to establish cedar," Richard said, "but the deer ate every one."

Work has been done recently to establish jack pine. The soil was prepared with a special scarifying process to remove aspen sprouts and other brush and then allowed to sit for five years. The same results could be achieved with prescribed burning but Richard says, "I've been afraid of

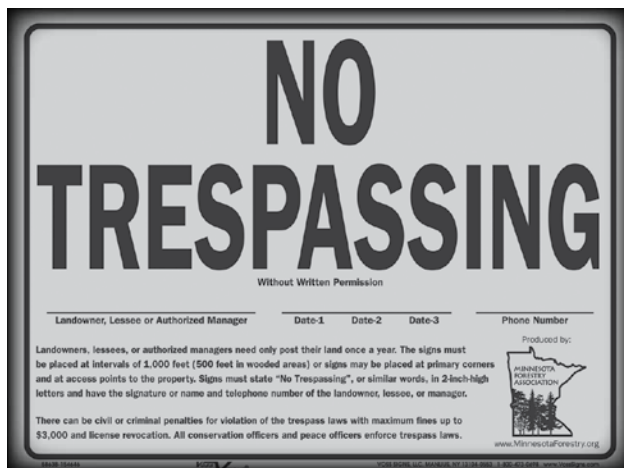
burning. Of the other prescribed burn efforts I know of in the area, it seems like half of them got out of control."

The land was enrolled in the Tree Farm program early. Richard's 109 acres were enrolled in 1960. Dick Hufnagle, besides being an avid tree farmer, was gregarious and hosted many events on the land. He holds a record because he was recognized as Minnesota's Tree Farmer of the Year on three occasions, in 1982, 1990 and 2000.

Richard enjoys touring the more than 10 miles of roads and trails on the land, constantly stopping to prune a tree or clear a deadfall. He also enjoys hunting and trapping. There is a five-acre pond on the land that is fed by a small creek. It was once stocked with walleyes. "Once, I was trapping beaver in the small creek and caught two walleyes in my traps," Richard said.

Joanne makes the three-mile trip from their home in town to the land often. She enjoys cross country skiing in winter and hunting for mushrooms in the spring while helping with the maple syrup process.

By Richard and Joanne's description, the property, which borders on the Big Fork River, is gorgeous. Richard says, "We are privileged to be stewards of this land."



**These No Trespassing signs have proven to be popular with MFA members. Our first order sold out. A second order is due any day. Use the order form enclosed and we will get the signs to you well before the firearm deer season.**

# *A bright spot for woodland owners: St. Paul District Energy*

Several Minnesota cities have central heating and cooling systems such as Duluth, New Ulm, Minneapolis, and Willmar. St. Paul District Energy is unique in that they use biomass – wood chips – for half their fuel.

The District Energy plant is located on the edge of downtown St. Paul. Until the 1970s the plant was used by Excel Energy to generate electricity. When Excel closed the plant because it was too small and inefficient to generate electricity, it was converted to producing water for heating and cooling about 40 downtown buildings.

In closed systems, hot water is sent out from the plant at 250 degrees and comes back at 160 degrees. Chilled water for cooling is sent out at 38 degrees and comes back at 50.

Wood chips are used year round in the plant boilers. As the chips are fed into the boilers, natural gas is added to ensure the temperature of the fire is high enough for complete combustion. When the wood chips are wet, more gas is added and when the chips are dry, less gas is used.

Why use biomass? District Energy lists these reasons:

- Large quantities of wood are available.
- Wood delivered to the plant is not put into a landfill or burned in the open air.
- The process is economically viable.
- It is community based.

All of the chips used by the plant are trucked from a wood yard located about two miles downriver. During the summer, most of the wood used is brought to the yard as trimmings and storm damaged trees from St. Paul and surrounding communities. The plant has equipment to make chips out of logs up to four-feet in diameter.

Of interest to private woodland owners is the plant's wintertime source of wood. During the winter, the amount of wood coming to the yard from cities declines to almost nothing. To keep the plant going, chips are purchased from loggers who truck them in from as far away as 100 miles. From 40 to 60 100-yard loads of chips are used by the plant every day.

## **Wood Procurement**

In the summer, municipalities and tree service companies bring wood to the wood yard. District Energy accepts the wood without charge but also does not pay for it.

To fill their wintertime need for chips, District Energy regularly works with nine logging companies. The purchasing process is a negotiation rather than bid. Typically, the logger will call District Energy to announce they have wood chips available. The District Energy buyer will ask, "How much do you need for the chips?" The goal is to pay enough so the logger can make a modest profit but not be overpaid. Currently, District Energy pays from \$25 to \$34 per ton for chips that typically come in 25-ton loads. This means the logger will be paid from \$625 to \$850 for each load brought to the District Energy wood yard.

## **Could Other District Energy Systems Do the Same?**

Even in the face of today's cheap natural gas, District Energy's use of biomass is viable. There doesn't seem to be any reason other municipalities could not adopt the same system which would benefit the environment and Minnesota's private woodland owners!



*St. Paul District Energy located on the edge of downtown.*



*Logs and branches are reduced to chips in the wood yard.*



*The plant uses 40 – 60 100-yard trucks full of chips each day.*

## Central Minnesota Small Woodlot Owners Association

### A Model for All of Us

This October, 17 tracts of timber, belonging to 16 private woodland owners, are being offered for sale by an auction organized by the Central Minnesota Small Woodlot Owners Association. Auctions like this have been conducted twice per year on average going back to 1978. It is estimated that these auctions have resulted in over \$4 million for the landowners.

Here's how the auctions work:

- Association members who have had a sale set up 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 who are invited to bid on one or more of the tracts.
- On a set date (October 4th this year), the 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 one, or reject them all.
- The landowner and successful bidder are encouraged to meet, work out any details and sign a timber contract.

Historically, almost all of the sales were set up and managed by DNR Private Forest Management (PFM) foresters. In recent years, more private consulting foresters have participated in the auction.

Can you imagine what a great benefit to you and your neighbors such an organization in your area would be? For more information, start with Chuck Erickson, chair of MFA's Chapter Relations Committee. Contact Chuck at 218-495-3321 or [CYErick@prtel.com](mailto:CYErick@prtel.com).



The annual field day of the Central Minnesota Small Woodlot Owners Association was held on the Tom Bisek property in Cass County. Chairman Chad Converse is shown addressing some of the association members.



Minnesota Tree Farmer of the Year, John Wallin, Pequot Lakes, left, with Inspector of the Year, Dean Makey.

### Our Best to Dean Makey

After 33 years with DNR Forestry, all of it based in Brainerd, Dean Makey will be retiring.

Starting in 1986, Dean took on responsibilities that included working with private landowners. In the 27 years since, Dean has earned a reputation among landowners as one of DNR's most consistently helpful foresters. This last spring, Dean was recognized as the state's Tree Farm Inspector of the Year. Dean was saluted by Tree Farmer of the Year, John Wallin of Pequot Lakes, as key to Wallin's success.

In retirement Dean will pursue an interest in working with middle school-aged children as a mentor for their School Forest and as a substitute teacher.

Dean began working with the Central Minnesota Small Woodlot Owners Association during his first year and has been a stable force behind the organization since. The Association is conducting its 65th timber auction this fall which is described to the left.

Thinking of harvesting timber from your land?

*Call Before You Cut*

You will be sent a packet of information with no cost or obligation to you.

**218-326-6486**

# Membership Application

## For New and Renewing Members

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(second person for Family membership)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

If you use E-mail, what is your address?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Categories

Renewing members, your membership will be extended by 12 or 36 months as you choose.

Category	One Year	3 years
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120
Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000**	
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 - \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 - \$3,000

*\*\*Your Life Member Dues: 80% of the dues (\$800) goes into MFA's St. Paul Foundation endowment account. Once invested, it is out of MFA's control. The Foundation board determines investments and the amount of annual distributions, which has been about 5% of the account's balance. This means your Life Membership dues provide a perpetual benefit to MFA. Thank you!*

Mail this application with your check to:

**Minnesota Forestry Association**  
P.O. Box 496, Grand Rapids MN 55744

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



### Here's what's new at MyMinnesotaWoods:

- Announcing winter 2014 landowner conferences
- An ecological approach to managing woodland ash in northern MN
- Bioenergy webinar series continues
- Meet a Minnesota logger
- Two quizzes: Buckthorn and lookalikes and test your tree bark ID skills

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

Find a link to MyMinnesotaWoods on our website, [www.MinnesotaForestry.org](http://www.MinnesotaForestry.org).

# Upcoming Events

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

## October

### Saturday, October 12, 2013

- 8:30am: **Fall Forestry Tour** (Tobie's Restaurant, Hinckley). Enjoy the fall colors as you tour Sandstone, MN and the surrounding area to learn how to manage your woodlands for Buckthorn, Oak wilt, Wildlife habitat, Blow down debris and Clean water. A cost of \$10/person includes an all day tour and a buffet lunch at the Audubon Center of the North Woods.

### Tuesday, October 15, 2013

- 6:30pm: **Wonder About Your Woods: Using My Land Plan** (Fairview Community Center, 1910 County Road B, Roseville, MN). Are you getting what you want from your woods? Your guide for this program, Neal W. Chapman, is a seasoned woodland owner, Master Woodland Steward, and Woodland Advocate, who enjoys sharing his passion for the woods with others. For more information, contact Neal at [Woodland.Steward@gmail.com](mailto:Woodland.Steward@gmail.com).

### Wednesday, October 16, 2013

- 7pm: **An Introduction to Conservation Easements** (Itasca County Courthouse, Grand Rapids) For more information, contact Julie Meidtke, Extension at 218-327-7365.

### Monday, October 21, 2013

- 1pm - 4pm: **Bioenergy Tour, Invasive Control & Mgmt Class** (Deep Portage Learning Center, Hackensack) \$20 registration fee. For questions or to register call Elaine Hardy at 218-828-2276.

### Wednesday, October 23, 2013

- 8:30am - 4:30pm: **Vital Forest, Vital Communities Redux: So What? Now What?** (U of M Cloquet Forestry Center) For details and registration, go to <http://www.dovetailinc.org/content/vital-forests-vital-communities-redux-so-what-now-what>.

## November

### Friday, November 1, 2013

- 1pm - 3pm: **Lumber from Local Woodlots** (19600 Cardinal Drive, Grand Rapids) Cost: FREE. For more information or to register, call 218-327-7486.

### Saturday, November 2, 2013

- 9am - 12noon: **Buckthorn Bust** (Ravine Regional Park, Cottage Grove) This is a working event; three hours of work followed by lunch. For details and directions, call Lindsay Hefferan at 651-222-2193 x24.

### Wednesday, November 13, 2013

- 12:30pm - 2:30pm: **Watching Green Fire about Aldo Leopold** (Fairview Community Center, 1910 County Road B, Roseville, MN) Come prepared to be inspired by the film and the conversation afterward. For more information, contact Neal at [Woodland.Steward@gmail.com](mailto:Woodland.Steward@gmail.com).