www.MinnesotaForestry.org

Minnesota Forestry

Association (MFA)

MINNESOTA FORESTRY SSOCIATION

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

Scott

Sherburne

St. Louis

Stearns

Stevens

Traverse

Wabasha

Wadena

Wilkin

Winona

Washington

Todd

BOYG Update

MFA's Boots on Your Ground Program has just taken a giant step forward. Now, professional foresters have volunteered to do Boots on Your Ground visits in 52 counties, which are most of the forested counties in the state. The counties are:

Information@ MinnesotaForestry.org 218-326-6486 26874 County Road 91 PO Box 496 Grand Rapids MN 55744 Administrative Assistant **Carol Cartie**

MFA Newsletter Vol. 17 No. 1

February/March 2015 The Minnesota Woodlands newsletter is published by the Minnesota Forestry Association.

MFA Board Meetings

Cambridge DNR Office, 10 am - 3 pm• April 14, 2015

Conference Calls 8 - 9 am• February 10, 2015 • March 10, 2015 • May 12, 2015

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Aitkin Dakota Anoka Douglas Fillmore Becker Beltrami Grant Goodhue Benton Big Stone Hennepin Carlton Houston Carver Hubbard Isanti Chisago Kanabec Kittson Clearwater Koochiching Cook Lake Crow Wing

Cass

Clay

Lake of the Woods Mahnomen Marshall Mille Lacs Morrison Olmsted Ottertail Pennington Pine Pope Ramsey Red Lake Roseau

Under the Program, for just \$50, a landowner can get a two-hour visit from a professional forester. The two hours can be spent walking the woods, or sitting at the kitchen table while discussing questions and plans, or a combination of the two.

This program is open to all of Minnesota's private woodland owners but you, as a MFA member, are hearing about it first. If you are interested in having a forester walk your land with you, you should get the process started by sending in the enclosed application with your check for \$50 now. Your actual visit can be scheduled at a time convenient for both you and the forester. It could be later this winter or next spring, summer or fall.

An added bonus for you as a MFA member is that you can ask follow-up questions on our Forester Phone Line, which is a free service for members only. Non-members who have questions later are expected to pay for the forester's time on the phone.

This program is coordinated by the Minnesota Forestry Association under a grant from the Minnesota DNR and the U.S. Forest Service. For more information, see www.MinnesotaForestry.org or call MFA's office at 218-326-6486.



ebruary/March 2015



Minnesotans will participate in a **Guinness World Record** Attempt for Tree Planting

On Wednesday, May 20th, teams across the United States, including two in Minnesota, will attempt to set a record for number of trees planted in one hour. The attempt is being coordinated by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and is likely to result in more than 200,000 seedlings being planted in a single hour.

In Minnesota, Quintin Legler, UPM Blandin Paper in Grand Rapids will lead one team. Mark Reed, St. Louis County Deputy Land Commissioner, will lead the second team. If you would like to participate, contact Quintin at Quintin.Legler@upm-kymmene. com or Mark at ReedM@StLouis CountyMN.gov.

Minnesota Forestry Association

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MFA Board Actions

The MFA board meets every month. Members are welcome to sit in on any meeting. See the meeting dates and a list of board members 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 or 218-326-6486.

Board Election Results

Thanks to all the members who took the time to vote in our recent Board Elections. All of the candidates who were nominated were elected.

Re-elected candidates:

Chad Converse, Motley	116 votes
Peggy Meseroll, Esko	119 votes
John O'Reilly, Hinckley	111 votes
David Roerick, Grand Rapids	113 votes
Al Schacht, Zumbro Falls	112 votes

In addition, three people each received one write-in vote: Gary Anderson, Outing; Tom Kroll, Long Prairie; and Barb Spears, St. Paul. If YOU are interested in being considered for a position on the MFA board next year, contact either member of our nominating committee: Bruce ZumBahlen at ZoomerBruce@aol.com or Al Schacht at 507-753-3214.



A drawing was held for a new Pickaroon among those who responded to the survey. The winner is William Johnson, Two Harbors. Congratulations!

Ballot Survey Results

In Response to the survey question: Under MFA's Boots-on-Your-Ground Program, for payment of \$50 landowners can have a twohour walk on their land with a professional forester. If MFA's Boots-on-Your-Ground Program becomes available in your area, would you:

1. Sign up right away? 36%

- 2. Possibly sign up in the future? 36%
- 3. Definitely not sign up? 28%

Thank you to the many members who included comments or suggestions with their ballot. A small sampling of their remarks:

"Tm glad I signed on as a Life member many years ago. Still kicking at 90 years old and finally got all the wood ticks picked off! Keep up the good work! You all do a great job for the MFA." Bill Marshall, Grand Rapids MN – Keep "kicking and picking", Bill, and thank you for your years of support and involvement with MFA! "MFA continues to be a wellmanaged organization because of the top quality people willing to serve on its Board as indicated by the above candidates." Robert Asproth, Mahtowa MN





"I think MFA does a great job of representation. Thanks for all of the hard and valuable work!" Jan Bernu, Cloquet MN

And in response to the question, **"What other, if any, services would you like to see MFA strive to provide?"**

""Current stumpage prices; available firewood; permits on Federal, State and county land." Richard Holter, Cohasset MN

"More attention to taxes and to insects and diseases. I wonder if students in forestry education are getting the degree of training they need regarding insects and diseases." David Davis, Saint Paul MN



Continued on page 3

Notes From DNR Forestry

A Day in the Life of a DNR Forester: Tony Miller

Just like no two foresters are alike, no two days are alike for Tony Miller. A Department of Natural Resources forester since March of 1996, Tony is the local lead for the Private Forest Management Program in the Little Falls Area, and he loves the diversity of people, forests, and challenges that every week brings. Every day is another chance to learn something new, whether it's discovering a rare, healthy butternut tree, detecting emerald ash borers, or managing buckthorn.

Half of Tony's job requires him to work with private forest landowners in Sherburne, Stearns, Wright, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Todd, and Benton counties. Including Tony, the DNR employs nine DNR foresters who have private forest management responsibilities. While field visits to private forests (still a free service!) release him from office work, much of what Tony does is help landowners navigate through two tax programs designed to help their forests and save them money. Tony knows each tax program inside and out, but essentially, both programs require that landowners have a forest stewardship plan written for their site. Usually, Tony directs landowners to non-DNR consulting foresters to write the plans, yet he needs to approve those plans to be registered with the DNR. He approves between 25 and 50 plans each year.

Tony spends a lot of time teaching people how to keep forests healthy. Today, human impacts such as roads, developments, insect and disease transmission, and farming, nearly always prevent "letting nature take its course." So when Tony consults with a landowner who is reluctant to manage their trees, Tony gives at least two recommendations. One option is to do nothing and deal with the inherent risks, such as: old and weak trees, less diverse habitat, a landscape too dense for hunting, or less valuable property to hand down to the next generation. At the same time, Tony gives recommendations for actions that will do the opposite: increase forest health, tree species diversity, wildlife habitat, recreational value, or other landowner goal.

That said, it's up to the landowner to transform recommendations into action. Tony helps by directing

landowners to local resources. The last thing he wants is for someone's stewardship plan to sit on a shelf and collect dust.



Tony is also the local go-to guy for forestry questions.

Tony meets with John Anderson on the Katherine Anderson tree farm.

When the local Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation District, or county office receives requests from private landowners for help with tree planting, timber stand improvements, or other activities, Tony provides the necessary technical advice. He assists landowners with their seedlings orders from the DNR state forest nursery, writes tree planting and other project plans (e.g. buckthorn removal), meets with landowners when they have insect and disease questions, and answers just about any forestry question asked. He also administers the Minnesota Tree Farm program in his work area performing random inspections and encouraging landowners to steward the best forest possible.

But Tony's favorite task is working with local schools, helping to connect teachers and students with the forests he loves. While this is a relatively minor part of his job, Tony is lucky to serve the 10 DNR school forests in his work area. Each site is essentially a public demonstration forest, and Tony helps classes take to the field to practice their math, science, and language skills while learning about trees, habitats, and the art of forestry. Students also do a fair amount of community service work by planting and tending seedlings and may get to experience a thinning or harvest through Tony's help. Any money earned from these harvest operations is reinvested into the school forest program.

There's never a dull day in the world of forestry. If you can get on his schedule, Tony would be happy to walk your forest with you!

Comments continued from page 2

"Advocate for private forestland owners. Help the public realize the value private forestland owners provide to the public." Steve Earley, International Falls MN



"Opportunities and/or Field Days for children and young adults to help capture their interest in forestry." Phil Jacobs, Ellsworth WI In Lake of the Woods County, we have a lot of people living on small acreages and planting trees. I would like to see more active recruiting by the MFA for memberships so maybe we can get a chapter organized again." Leland Hendrickson, Roosevelt MN

"Continue with landowner services." Doug Appelgren, Wirt MN



"More information about programs such as SFIA, CRP, etc." Tony McGinnity, Arden Hills MN

Wood Pellets — The Basics

There is lots of talk about renewable energy and alternatives to fossil fuels for producing electricity and heat. When it comes to renewable thermal energy, one of the concerns in Minnesota is providing alternatives to heating with propane. One of the alternatives is the use of wood – as cordwood, chips or pellets. Wood pellets are of growing interest. This article addresses the what, how and why of wood pellets.

Wood pellets- what are they?

Wood pellets are compressed wood particles used as fuel. Pellets are already commonly used in some areas of the country, especially the Northeast region, and in other areas they are growing in popularity as primary fuel costs increase and concerns about global climate change build.

Advantages of wood pellets

Wood pellets are very low in moisture and ash content, so they burn hot and clean. Fuel pellets are limited to one percent (premium grade) to three percent (standard) ash, whereas regular firewood typically produces more ash. Wood pellets also are small and easier to handle than firewood logs



and are available in 40-pound bags or, in some areas, in bulk. There is very little dust and no bark. Pellets are also much more dense than cordwood because they contain much less water, making their transportation more efficient.

There is a wide range of wood pellet-burning stoves on the market. Many have hoppers with feed screws that feed the pellets into the fire when fuel is needed. Larger furnaces are available which have large storage silos that also automatically feed fuel into the furnace when needed. Both systems require little maintenance because the pellets burn so cleanly.

Pellets have a number of environment-friendly attributes. They usually are made from wood processing byproducts (sawdust, for example), so they are taking potential waste material and turning it into a valuable product. Low-quality trees from forest thinning and salvage operations may also be used. Biomass fuels, including wood pellets, are generally recognized as having far lower net life-cycle carbon dioxide emissions than fossil fuel equivalents, to the order of 98% fewer emissions.¹

Cost

Because wood pellets are made from wood, they have many of the same advantages as cordwood: local, abundant, renewable, and relatively low-cost. While pellets tend to be more expensive than cordwood, they are usually cheaper than fuel oil,



Katie Fernholz

propane, or electricity. In northern Minnesota, pellets typically sell for about \$220 per ton (including delivery) when purchased in bulk. Pricing will be higher if purchased in 40-lb bags. This compares to about \$215 for an equivalent amount of heat energy from cordwood (\$120 per cord; 9.4 mmBtus/ton cordwood vs. 16.8 mmBtus/ton pellets).

— McDermott, Matthew (2009-04-14). "Biomass Can Only Offer Major Emission Reductions if Best Practices Are Followed, New UK Report Says". http://www.treehugger.com/files/2009/04/biomass-can-only-offer-major-emission-reductions-if-bestpractices-followed.php.

Article provided by Katie Fernholz, Dovetail Partners, with special thanks to Gary Atwood who originally wrote about wood pellets to support the exploration of biomass energy opportunities in Cook County, MN. More information about biomass energy opportunities in Minnesota is available at: http:// www.dovetailinc.org/programs/responsible_materials/mn_biomass_case_studies

Congratulations, Gary Michael!

For the past three years, DNR's Gary Michael has been performing two jobs, his job as Private Forest Management (PFM) coordinator and Andrew Arends' old job of Cooperative Forest Management (CFM) coordinator. Gary has been promoted. In January, Gary was officially promoted to the CFM position. He has authorization to fill his old PFM position and will likely have someone selected in about three months.





Neal Chapman

Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance

By Neal W. Chapman, chair, MFA Education Committee

The chainsaw has been described as "the most dangerous hand tool that can be purchased on the open market." Every year, over 165,000 people are injured while using chainsaws in the U.S. Chainsaws are relatively common and may seem

simple to use, but running a chainsaw, clearing brush, and felling trees are operations that require training and proper safety precautions. Logging is among the most dangerous professions, and if it is dangerous for professionals, amateurs should consider carefully their need for training before buying and using a chainsaw.

In fact, "purchasing a chainsaw" should imply purchasing a saw with modern safety features and appropriate personal protective equipment from an established chainsaw dealer that will help you select the right saw for you and your use. At a minimum, this equipment should include: eye, head and hearing protection, correct gloves, and chaps. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, "80% of injuries attributed directly to chainsaws affect the hands and legs. One-handed use, over aggressive cutting, lack of knowledge and experience, and fatigue cause many injuries."

How many of us even own – let alone always use – this recommended safety equipment. Make it a habit to be safe all of the time!

Saws require maintenance on a very regular basis. You should consult your owner's manual; read, understand, and follow their recommendations as your minimum responsibility. Remember that gasoline goes stale in a relatively short time. Keep it fresh to avoid hard or not-starting engines. Read this newsletter's enclosed booklet; it's packed with good information!

Minnesota Women's Woodland Network

Announcing the launch of our new website. Please check it out!

http://www.mnwwn.org/

The Minnesota Women's Woodland Network (MNWWN) is dedicated to building a community of women woodland owners, their families and land managers to nurture a land ethic. The MNWWN creates supportive, informal, small group learning opportunities on topics that include trees, nature and caring for the land.

For more information, visit the site and fill in the "Contact Us" tab.

Replacement chain selection should not be a trip to the big box store to purchase whatever they have that fits your machine. Enclosed with this newsletter is a handy guide from Oregon provided by a company that makes most of the bars and chains on the market, regardless of what brand saw they are being used on. It explains a lot about chains, more than you ever knew existed! As a side note, a friend of mine in Wisconsin that runs a saw shop and sawmill sells a lot of chain. He recommends the 95VP style, replacing his prior recommendation of 21LP, because it is more forgiving of dirt.

For training in chainsaw use, the MFA Metro Chapter regularly hosts a day-long Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance class. Watch the calendar on our website, <u>MinnesotaForestry.</u> org, for details. BE SAFE OUT THERE!







by Jodie Provost, DNR Private Land Habitat Coordinator

Domestic Cat *(Felis catus) –* Keep "Fluffy" Indoors or Leashed

Photo by NASF, Leslie Robertson

An article on the impact of feral and free-roaming, domestic cats is one I've been chomping at the bit to write. Thus, this issue's Creature Feature is not about a native species and making a habitat difference, but rather about a non-native, invasive predator and controlling its behavior. Free-roaming, domestic cats pose threats to our native forest, farmland, prairie/grassland, brushland, wetland and urban wildlife, and thus the integrity of ecosystems that they and we need. "Fluffy" can provide excellent companionship and make a wonderful pet. If we care about Fluffy's well-being and/or sustaining our native wildlife, we need to keep him indoors, in an outdoor enclosure or on a leash.

Great Producers: Domestic cats originated from an ancestral wild species, the European and African wild cat (Felis silvestris). They are now considered a separate species and found on all seven continents, with approximately 600 million cats worldwide and 148-188 million within the United States. They have great reproductive potential, become sexually mature as early as six months of age, and have the ability to reproduce any time of year. A single female can have up to three litters each year with two to four kittens per litter, thus raising up to twelve offspring per year.

Effective Predators: Feral and free-ranging domestic cats are not a natural part of our ecosystems and are significant predators of native wildlife, including birds, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and endangered species. According to a report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Smithsonian's Migratory Bird Center, America's outdoor cats kill an estimated 1.4 to 3.7 billion birds and 6.9 to 20.7 billion mammals per year. Many of our native wildlife are already under increasing pressure from habitat loss and degradation and other man-made threats. The added hazard of cats could be the final straw. In fact, cat predation is one reason that one in three American bird species are in decline. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature lists cats among the world's worst non-native invasive species. Cats on islands worldwide have contributed to 33 species extinctions. They are currently an important factor in the decline of the endangered Hawaiian petrel.

Two unique studies using the latest technology have verified the cat predation hazard. In one study, tiny radio transmitters were affixed to gray catbird nestlings in Washington, D.C. suburbs. Predators killed about 80% of the birds after they fledged (more than was sustainable to maintain the population). Cats were responsible for nearly half those deaths. In another study, "KittyCams" were placed on 60 outdoor housecats in Athens, Georgia to record their outdoor activities. The cats killed lizards, voles, chipmunks, birds, frogs, and small snakes. About 30% of them were successful in capturing and killing prey. Of that 30%, they averaged 2.1 kills per week and brought home 23% of their prey.

Disease Reservoirs: Feral and free-ranging domestic cats also serve as reservoirs for several diseases, including rabies, bartonellosis, typhus, feline immunodeficiency virus, and toxoplasmosis. These diseases can have significant effects on the health of humans, wildlife, and other domestic animals. For example, consider toxoplasmosis, caused by a parasitic protozoan that relies on animals in the cat family, Felidae, to complete its life cycle and can infect all warm-blooded species. A study by the University of Nebraska found that 62 to 80% of feral cats tested positive for toxoplasmosis. Widespread environmental contamination increases the likelihood of human infection which has been linked to schizophrenia and can lead to miscarriages, blindness, memory loss, and death. According to a recently published study in EcoHealth, feral cats are likely driving white-tailed deer toxoplasmosis infections in northeastern Ohio. Nearly 60% of deer and 52% of feral cat samples tested positive for the protozoan.

A Safer, Healthier Fluffy: Keeping our cats indoors, in an outdoor enclosure or on a leash is not only safer for wildlife, but very importantly, safer for them, too. According to the American Humane Society, the average life expectancy of an outdoor cat is three years, while an indoor cat's is 15 years. Free-roaming cats are exposed to risks of traffic, poisons, bitter cold weather, tempting warm vehicle engines, and encounters with predators such as coyotes, foxes, raptors, and other cats and dogs. They have increased exposure to fatal diseases including rabies, feline leukemia, and distemper. In addition, they can bring home debilitating little parasitic "friends" such as worms, ticks, mites, and fleas.

Knowing Better: Humans introduced domestic cats to North America, and now we are ultimately responsible for the effects they are having on our native wildlife. As a farm kid growing up, I didn't think twice about the many free-ranging farm cats we had. Now I know better. For more resources on keeping cats indoors, see the American Bird Conservancy website at www.abcbirds.org and click on "cats indoors".

Spring Field Days: Gathering Partners in Natural Resources

This year's Annual Minnesota Forestry Association Spring Field Day, "Gathering Partners in Natural Resources," will be held jointly with the Minnesota Master Naturalists and the Minnesota Phenology Network. A joint meeting means more choices for classes and more interaction with others who are interested in forests, forestry, natural resources and the outdoors.

MFA members will find several familiar events: The MFA annual membership meeting on Friday, May 15 will be open at no charge to all members who wish to attend. The Banquet and Tree Farm Awards ceremony will be held on Friday evening. Saturday will include demonstrations of small scale logging equipment, portable sawmill and chainsaw demonstrations. A much wider range of classes will be offered with an additional half day on Sunday featuring classes of interest.

The event will be held at the Sawmill Inn in Grand Rapids



from Friday through Sunday, May 15, 16 and 17, 2015. As soon as it is available, further information and registration material will be published on our website, <u>MinnesotaForestry.org</u>.



John Saxhaug, Minneapolis, is a former MFA board member and current chair of the Land Committee.

citizen (I can't believe I said that!), I am paying only \$10 a credit, and can well afford whatever happens to my academic program. Apparently all those rationalizations mean nothing because the butterflies have inhabited my stomach, and my mind has gone blank.

Halfway through the 75-minute test, a majority of the undergrads have already calmly handed in their papers and headed for other classes. How could they have finished an essay exam of 10 questions in the time it would have taken me to just write down answers, much less put thought into them? Has my thought process slowed down that much? I was the last one out, and not terribly confident about the result. This scenario repeated itself at the final. I did pass both tests.

Forestry Grad School Journal

By John Saxhaug

Dear MFA Friends,

In my last journal entry, I mentioned that my first midsemester exam for Landscape Ecology was approaching and I was harboring some anxiety. But why? I am enrolled in graduate school to expand my understanding of the natural world, not to achieve scholastic honors or impress a future employer. On top of that, as a senior Landscape Ecology was an extremely interesting class and broadened my horizons not only on a species basis but geographically and historically. The impact of American bison on the prairie landscape and the passenger pigeon on the eastern hardwood forest were just two instances of environmental impacts that are generally forgotten as we race toward an uncertain future in this ever-changing world. Unfortunately, the passenger pigeon is no more, and the buffalo population is but a shadow of its former self.

An additional benefit of the class was the opportunity to reacquaint myself with the work of the late Miron Heinselman, who carried out landmark research on the ecology and fire history of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Growing up in Grand Rapids, I was aware of Bud Heinselman, whose wife gave my brother piano lessons and whose daughter was a student assistant in my seventh grade biology class. I had heard his name frequently over the years and during my time at the College of Forestry, but hadn't realized the impact his work had on our understanding of the ecology of the Boundary Waters. I recommend his book *The Boundary Waters Wilderness Ecosystem* to anyone who is seeking an understanding of the Boundary Waters ecosystem.

Now on to Spring Semester, and a class entitled Science and Policy of Global Environmental Change! This should be enlightening.

Take care, John

Membership Application For New and Renewing Members

Name _____

Name _

(second person for Family membership)

Address ____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone_____

Email___

Please make any address changes above

Membership Categories

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

One Year	3 years
□\$40	□ \$120
□ \$50	□ \$150
□ \$75	□ \$225
🗅 \$500 - \$1,000	□ \$1,500 - \$3,000
One-time payment of \$1,000**	
Perpetual*	
	□ \$40 □ \$50 □ \$75 □ \$500 - \$1,000 □ One-time payment o

*Perpetual Membership is for any estate, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership or similarly structured entity. A Perpetual Membership is entitled to one vote. Call MFA for more information.

**80% of dues from Life and Perpetual Memberships go into MFA's Endowment Fund.

Mail this application with your check to: Minnesota Forestry Association P.O. Box 496, Grand Rapids MN 55744

1-2014

Upcoming Events

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

Thursday, February 25, 2015

- 17th Annual Landowners' Meeting at DNR Forestry, Cambridge. 2-7:30 p.m.
- A pot luck dinner will be served. No admission fee but participants are encouraged to bring a dish to pass. Topics will range from wildlife to conservation officers (game wardens) to fire and insects. DNR Office, 800 Oak Savanna Lane, Cambridge. RSVP appreciated at 763-689-7100 x 222.

Tuesday & Wednesday, March 17 & 18, 2015

53rd Annual Minnesota Shade Tree Short Course • For more information see MNShadeTree.com.

Friday - Sunday, May 15, 16 & 17, 2015

Gathering Partners in Natural Resources

 MFA's Annual Meeting and Spring Field Day will be held at the Sawmill Inn in Grand Rapids. More information and registration material will be published on our website, MinnesotaForestry.org, as soon as it is available.

Thursday-Sunday, August 20-23

2015 Wisconsin Coverts Project

 "Coverts" is a Woodland Wildlife Management Program for Private Landowners. You do not need to be a Wisconsin landowner to attend. To confirm and find an application, go to http:// forestandwildlifeecology.wisc.edu/coverts, or email the event coordinator, Jamie Nack at JLNack@ Wisc.edu. Applications are due June 15th.

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

MyMinnesotaWoods.org



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.



MFA's Forester Phone Line A free service for MFA members only! Call for an appointment with the forester: 218-326-6486