Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA)

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MFA Board Meetings

Cambridge DNR Office, 10 am - 3 pm

- July 12, 2016
- October 11, 2016

Conference Calls 8-9 am

- June 14, 2016
- August 16, 2016
- September 13, 2016
- November 15, 2016

Silver Medallion Award

MFA board member Al Schacht's imagination was piqued by a side bar found on page 44 of Jerry Lenz's History of the Minnesota Forestry Association. Titled "The Mysterious Medal', the article explains a discovery made in 1958 in a garden in Snohomish, Washington by Richard Myrick. Myrick and a friend had found a silver, dollar-size medal with the words "Minnesota State Forestry Association, 1876" inscribed on one side and "Awarded to Charles King" on the other.

While nothing could be learned about Mr. King, nor how the medal came to be found in a garden over 1,600 miles west of Minnesota soil, Lenz did learn something about the general history of the medals. Apparently, the medals were used as an incentive to encourage tree planting. The source stated:

For medals, the association decided upon a piece in silver, of coin standard, and of the size of a silver dollar, pierced for a ribbon and furnished with a case. Each medal was to have stamped on one side a wreath of forest leaves to encircle the same; and on the reverse the words Minnesota State Forestry Association, 1876.

No list of past recipients of the award has been found, but certainly the planting, protection and promotion of private woodlands is as important today as it was in the past. To that end and with the inspiration and leg-work provided by Al Schacht and fellow board

member Lyle Keller, MFA is reintroducing the Silver Medallion Award. The Medallion will be given to individuals who are dedicated to private forest management and will be awarded by a unanimous vote at the board's discretion. It is anticipated that the first award will be conferred later in 2016.





Editor

Linda Dinkel Editor@Minnesota Forestry.org

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MFA Member Signs

New signs are available for MFA members and can be ordered by emailing Information@ MinnesotaForestry.org or calling 218-326-6486. Cost is \$10 plus shipping for current members who are renewing their membership and for new members, or \$15 plus shipping.

Minnesota Forestry Association

2016 Board of Directors

Dennis Thompson, president and treasurer 130 Southgate Drive Aitkin, MN 56431 Office 218-927-6565 Cell 218-821-8684 Treasurer@MinnesotaForestry.org

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For the following Board members' contact information, see www.MinnesotaForestry.org or call MFA at 218-326-6486.

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What a Nice Legislative Surprise!

By Bruce ZumBahlen

Many folks might say the 2016 legislative session was a big disappointment. But, from MFA's view point, I think we can say it turned out okay. I am pleased to report a couple positive outcomes that came together in the closing hours of the session.

First, the long-sought changes to the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) were passed as part of the Omnibus Tax Bill. The bill will enact many of the Legislative Auditor's recommendations to improve the SFIA, and transfer its administration to the DNR. More details on those changes will be reported in future newsletters.



MFA and DNR Forestry sign MOU MFA President Dennis Thompson and Director of DNR Forestry Division Forrest Boe signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the Annual Meeting on May 20, 2016. Cementing the long relationship and cooperation that exists between MFA and DNR Forestry, the MOU will allow for better communication and organization as they continue to work together toward shared goals and initiatives.

Second, passage of the Omnibus Supplemental

Appropriation Bill includes \$2.5 million in fiscal year 2017 and \$2 million a year thereafter for the DNR to become more involved in providing private forest management assistance. The monies will be used to hire a few more DNR foresters, contract with consultant foresters, and cost-share forestry practices, among other things. The bill also includes a one-time appropriation of \$1 million for the next year for reforestation on state lands.

Meet the President: Dennis Thompson

By Linda K. Dinkel, Newsletter Editor

abilities in math and science.

Newly-elected MFA President Dennis Thompson's family history is deeply rooted in Aitkin, Minnesota, even though he settled there by a circuitous route. "I was born in Fargo, raised in Valley City, ND, graduated from Owatonna High School, but I always had a lot of family in Aitkin," said Dennis. His love of the outdoors started in the open fields around Valley City, however.



Dennis Thompson

"We lived on the edge of town, and I can honestly say that, other than school hours, I spent more of my childhood outside than inside," said Thompson. His great-grandparents and both sets of grandparents lived in Aitkin, and he remembers visiting there at Thanksgiving and Christmas, as well as summer camping on Lake Mille Lacs. "Everyone in my family loved the outdoors, and they passed that on to me." However, upon graduating in 1992, Thompson wasn't thinking forestry, but rather, made plans to use his

"I went to the U of M in Medical Technology, but by the time I completed my sophomore year, I'd had enough of organic chemistry. My roommates were in Agronomy and Fish & Wildlife, and they kept talking about how beautiful the St. Paul campus was. I decided, what the heck; I was looking for a change. I took the Intro to Natural Resources class, and part of the course was on forestry. That was it. I graduated in 1998 with a degree in Forestry and not a clue what to do next." That's where family and serendipity came in.

"I ended up taking most of the summer off and spent time in the Boundary Waters and camping and fishing around Aitkin. My parents threw a 4th of July graduation party for me and my uncle from Aitkin showed up with a newspaper clipping about a temporary position for a forester with the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District. I mailed off an application, did an interview, and they offered me the job," said Dennis. "I know I'm pretty lucky. I don't think

Continued on page 7

Spring Field Days and Annual Meeting

On May 20-22, members of MFA met for their Annual Meeting and also took part in classes offered at the Gathering Partners in Natural Resources Conference held at St. Mary's University in Winona, MN. The Conference is a collaborative effort between University of Minnesota Extension Forestry and the Minnesota Master Naturalists programs. In addition to class offerings and field trips, the regional and state winners of the 2016 Minnesota Tree Farmer of the Year Award were named.

Right: Angela Gupta, Matt Russell, and Mike Reichenbach, U of M Extension, presented several sessions for the Master Woodland Owner Program. Here, Angela teaches tree identification.

Below: MFA member Dale Rohlfing learns to identify trees using a bifurcated tree identification book.









MFA members John and Vicki Riester, with their family, received the 2016 Outstanding Minnesota Tree Farmer of the Year award at the Gathering Partners Conference.



Top: Jamie Edwards, MN DNR Nongame Wildlife expert shares her knowledge of Minnesota snakes and identification tips.

Below: Board Members at the Annual Meeting.

Member Profile: John and Vicki Riester Family

By Linda K. Dinkel, Editor

It's not difficult to get MFA members John and Vicki Riester to talk about the family, friends, foresters, soil and water conservationists and contractors who have worked with them over the years to improve their 602-acre property near Red Wing, Minnesota, nor is it hard to get them to share stories of the many people and organizations who enjoy their land. What is tough is to get them to take credit for their years of work and commitment to improving their tree farm. That will have to change, however, since being recognized as Minnesota's 2016 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. It's a spotlight that they're quick to share with others.

"So many people have worked out here and helped us over the years, planting or pruning trees, planting wildlife feed plots or installing water retention ponds. They deserve recognition as much as we do, especially our kids, Ryan, Kevin and Katie. And our neighbors, Charlie and Diane Grabow, had started conservation practices before we even bought land from them," said John. Indeed, the Riester's property has been a hub of outdoor work and activity for many people from the Red Wing area.

John and Vicki both grew up near Wabasha, meeting in high school. The nine Riester siblings learned conservation practices early in life from their parents, Leonard and Mae, as they pruned and planted in the woodlands surrounding their farm. John considered pursuing a degree in forestry, then attended Rochester Community College until enlisting in the military and serving in Korea for two years. During this same time, Vicki attended Winona State, graduating with a degree in Art in 1975. After the service, John went through the Minnesota State Southeast Technical College's Refrigeration program, and the couple married in 1975, settled in Red Wing, and started their business, Riester Refrigeration, that same year. The business still occupies a great deal of their time.

"Our business and our family have always kept us really busy. When we bought the first 160 acres here in 1990, there was even more work to be done, but it was a different kind of work. For us, working on the land out here is recreation," said John. Originally, the farm was an active, 30-acre orchard business. "We really didn't have enough time to run both the apple orchard and the refrigeration business," said Vicki. Over the years, they changed the priorities, eliminated the orchard business, and focused their efforts on purchasing more land and managing it for quality timber, wildlife habitat, farm land and expanding recreational uses. The opportunities and blessings haven't been lost on their children. "Ryan, Katie and I have been fortunate enough to call this property home. We've used it for recreation, but we've also learned a great deal about managing property and the work that it takes to maintain it. We have our parents to thank for that," said Kevin Riester.

If you ask John how they came by their knowledge of woodland management, he smiles sheepishly and says, "We



MFA members John and Vicki Riester of Red Wing were the 2016 Outstanding Minnesota Tree Farmers of the Year.



The Riesters have developed extensive buffers between fields and forests to prevent run off and erosion.

were just too busy to attend workshops, even though we wanted to. I had learned some fundamentals from my dad, and after that, we learned by doing, and by getting a lot of advice from Soil and Water and DNR people. I can't say enough about how knowledgeable they are, and how good they are at what they do. People like Terry Helbig, Chris Fritz, Tom Steger, Larry Westerberg, Bruce Zumbahlen, Mary Perala, Keith Jacobson, Paul Callas, and Beau Kennedy played a big part in teaching us what we needed to know to manage our land"

Currently, the Riesters have 230 of their 324 woodland acres certified in the Minnesota Tree Farm program. They rent out an additional 270 tillable acres to Hadler Farms and Balow Farms, who are committed to following good conservation practices. Some of their woodland management practices include an initial planting of black walnut, oaks, and ash interspersed with soft maple to encourage rapid, straight growth, followed by pruning and removal of the maple as the crop trees mature. John also sprays Garlon on the lower 12 inches of box elder trees to eliminate these trees and encourage more desirable species. Removal of buckthorn is planned for this summer.

Touring their farm, one is struck by the beauty of the rolling fields nestled between wooded hills and steep ravines. "Any





Top: A retention pond near a well-pruned stand of black walnut. Bottom: John shows a recently cleared area and installed water impoundment. The area above was planted this spring in a variety of grasses to prevent erosion.

hard rain we get here is in the Mississippi within an hour, so controlling erosion and water flow is an important focus for us," said John. With guidance from the Goodhue County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Riesters planted grass buffer zones and waterways between fields and forests and have

installed twenty water impoundments and ponds to reduce soil erosion. "We really depended on Soil and Water to steer us in the right direction," said John. "We received some cost share from the state for the impoundments, and we just thought that if we were going to receive this help from the state to improve our land, it was important to share the land with others," said John. In addition to the many friends and family who enjoy hunting, working and skiing on the farm, Riesters also worked with the Red Wing Snowmobile Club to establish a trail on theirs and neighboring property and encourage outdoor activities and learning by sharing their property with Red Wing High School, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and the Red Wing Environmental Learning Center. It's about passing on a love for the outdoors to others.

"Our parents and grandparents on both sides of the family really instilled a love of the outdoors in us," said Vicki. "Living out here, working with our friends and kids, and now our grandkids on the land, teaching them to identify birds and care for the woods and wildlife, I think we've been able to pass on that love to them. That's really the most important thing we can do with the land, is pass on that passion to others." With grandchildren in the area, that part of the plan seems likely to succeed. "I hope that our kids can enjoy the property like we have. They're all pretty young yet, but they've already helped haul firewood and plant trees. I think that having them help with these things will teach them a good work ethic and help them appreciate the outdoors and the property. My parents learned these values from their parents and they taught us the same. We plan to continue that trend with our children," said Kevin.

For their efforts in conservation, woodland and wildlife management, and their willingness to share their land and outdoor experiences with others, the Riesters, (and their family and friends!) embody all that the American Tree Farm program represents. Congratulations, John and Vicki!

EQIP Application Deadline Approaching

John Carlson, MN DNR Private Forest Management Coordinator

If you're looking for some financial and technical assistance on a forestry project such as tree planting or timber stand improvement, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) may be an option. The program is administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Applications are accepted year round; however, the application deadline for projects occurring in 2017 is **August 19, 2016**. To apply, visit your local County NRCS office.

After you apply, a Technical Service Provider (TSP) or DNR Forester will meet with you to develop a detailed plan to carry out your desired project. If your project is approved

for funding, you then can either do the work yourself or hire it out to a consultant. Work could not begin until the spring of 2017. After the work is completed, the forester that wrote your project specifications needs to inspect and sign off on the project. After that point, you will be reimbursed for cost share.

If you can't make the August 19 deadline, be thinking ahead on what projects you might want to complete in 2018, and plan to get an application in by next spring. For more information go to: nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mn/programs/financial/eqip/

Creature Feature

By Jodie Provost, DNR Private Land Habitat Coordinator

Feeling the Heat: Helping Our Forests and Creatures Keep Up with Change

In recent months, we couldn't help but hear about climate change, from Pope Francis to President Obama to world leaders gathered in Paris. What does it mean to our Minnesota forests and their creatures, and most importantly, what can we do about it?

But Climate Has Always Changed. Our Earth and forests are ever-changing. So is our climate. The pace of this change usually happens slowly over hundreds, thousands or millions of years, allowing our forests and their creatures to adapt. Minnesota was glaciated just over 10,000 years ago. So what's different this time? Scientists have noticed the earth's overall average global temperature has warmed in the last 150 years, and it's happening faster than past changes. About 40% more carbon dioxide has been added to the atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution in the mid-1700s. The most recent decade was the warmest since instrumental record keeping began around 1880. Abundant evidence shows it's primarily the result of human activity. Our burning of fossil fuels for heat and energy is releasing greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, trapping heat in the atmosphere.



Terry Spivey Photography, Bugwood.org

a Changing Forest: Depending on our future emissions levels, scientists predict the Earth's average temperature to rise another three to 12 degrees by 2100. Minnesota is projected to have increases in annual average temperature of 9 degrees Fahrenheit (most notably in winter). Overall precipitation could increase by three to five inches, but in the form of more frequent.

Warmer, Stormier, and

intense rain and wind events, with periods of severe drought. Increases in disturbances such as blowdown events, wildfire and erosion are expected. Snowfall could be reduced by 30% and snow depth by 40-60%. The growing season may increase by 35-49 days.



David Cappaert, Bugwood.org

Minnesota is unique in its diversity of biomes including grassland, deciduous forest and coniferous forest. They have been shaped by differences in temperature and precipitation, from north to south and east to west, creating a tension zone and causing many of our forest plants and wildlife to be at the edge of their range. As climate changes occur, their ranges will shift north and east. Species that will struggle the most to adapt or migrate will be those with isolated habitats, very specific habitat requirements, low reproductive rates, limited dispersal, dependence on interactions with specific other species, low genetic variability, and/or living near their physiological tolerance limits.

Our forest ecosystems, economy and recreation may be altered in many ways. Stressed trees will be more susceptible to insects and disease. Invasive and non-native plants and pests that thrive in the new conditions may increase. An example is the eastern larch beetle which effects tamarack and fares better in warmer weather. Northern tree species such as balsam fir, spruce, tamarack, quaking aspen, and paper birch will likely decrease and be replaced by oak, hickory, elm and maple. Lake trout and cisco will be negatively affected by warmer lakes. Less snow and coniferous cover will not bode well for spruce grouse and marten. Moose likely already feel the impact of warmer temperatures and loss of energy spent staying cool. Whitetailed deer may benefit from greater access to forage and reduced energy loss in winter. However, as their abundance increases, potential impacts to crops and forest vegetation could be felt. And possible effects of increase in disease outbreaks under new temperature and precipitation patterns, like epizootic hemorrhagic disease, should be considered. Activities from timber harvest to maple syrup-ing, and fishing to snowmobiling will "feel the heat".

What Can We Do? Grow Diverse and Resilient Forests. While climate change may seem overwhelming, the good news is we can take action. Mitigation, or reducing carbon emissions, is our first opportunity. It includes familiar activities such as turning the thermostat down and lights off, driving less and using more efficient vehicles, using renewable heat and energy sources, and planting trees to shelter our homes.

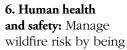
In addition to mitigation, as a forest owner, you have a second vital opportunity - adapting to climate change by managing your forest for diversity and resilience. The four steps you can take are:

- **1. Prepare**: Learn more about climate change, identify potential threats and vulnerabilities to your forest, and share with and encourage others.
- **2. Plan:** Gather basic information about your forest, establish goals, and identify where climate change may impact it.
- **3. Apply key strategies:** Implement on-the-ground practices to meet your goals. (More detail to follow.)
- **4. Monitor and adapt:** Track your efforts and adjust your strategies as needed.

Key Adaptation Strategies: Your goals, and the adaptation strategies to address them, could include the following. You may already be applying some of these tangible, on-theground practices:

- 1. Forest health: Encourage native trees and plants, especially those predicted to thrive in the new conditions; consider harvesting trees expected to be most vulnerable sooner rather than later and occasional thinning to decrease competition and increase vigor of remaining trees; be on the watch for invasive plants and control them promptly; and maintain a diversity of native trees, sizes and age classes so your "eggs are not in one basket".
- **2. Wildlife habitat:** Maintain and restore native forest habitats; buffer and protect wetlands and streams; and maintain refugia, habitat structure and connectivity, and large undeveloped, un-fragmented forest habitat blocks.
- **3. Water quality:** Minimize disturbance to water bodies and wetlands; restore shorelines to native vegetation; and maintain watershed health by keeping it forested.
- **4. Carbon storage:** Grow and retain trees on site; minimize soil and tree damage during harvest; and use trees in long-lived wood products.

5. Recreation: Create low-impact trail systems; monitor and repair trails after large storms; and encourage deer management to control populations and protect forest vegetation from over-browsing.





Becca MacDonald, Sault College, Bugwood.org

Firewise and reducing fuel load around your home and forest; maintain safe trails by closing or re-routing them when threats such as hazard trees or unsafe crossings exist.

Handy Worksheet: For greater detail on adaptation strategies, see the "Weather-Wise Worksheet for Woodland Owners" enclosed with this mailing. Though it refers to forests in New England, the strategies are also very relevant to our Minnesota forests. It can also be found on the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences website under "Programs", "Sustainable Economies", and "Creating Resilient Urban and Community Forests", or by contacting me (218-429-3052; jodie.provost@state.mn.us). Please consider using it with your professional forester to integrate climate change goals and strategies into your forest stewardship planning and management, taking action to keep your forest healthy, diverse and resilient far into the future. Your forest, its creatures and you will be glad you did! (For more information on climate change, see the DNR web page at dnr.state.mn.us/climate/climate change info/overview.html)

Meet the President continued from page 2

I sent out more than three applications after I graduated from college!" Thompson started in September of 1998 and still holds that "temporary" position, almost 18 years later.

In talking about his new responsibilities as president of MFA, Dennis feels it's a good fit for what has become his priority as a forester. "I've written over 400 management plans in my years in Aitkin. My favorite thing to do is work with private landowners. This is what MFA is all about. I'm excited to work to promote relationships between professional foresters and private landowners. When that happens, people and their woodlands always benefit." Thompson is also excited to see MFA re-establish the Silver Medallion Award (see related article in this issue) as a way to recognize the exceptional work of MFA members. "I also want to continue to keep our members informed about issues that affect them and their woodlands."

Congratulations on your election, Dennis! MFA is in good hands, and we look forward to working with you for a stronger future for our forests and the MFA organization.

We've Moved!

Earlier this year, the Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP) moved its office from Duluth to Cloquet. The new office features more storage space, better parking, and a training room. If you are in the area, stop by. The staff there is more than happy to give you a tour. They can be reached at (218) 879-5633 and their new address is:

Minnesota Logger Education Program 1111 Cloquet Avenue, Suite 7, Cloquet, MN 55720



Membership Application

For New and Renewing Members

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.

Category	One Year	3 years	
Individual	□ \$40	□ \$120	
Family	□ \$50	□ \$150	
Contributing	□ \$75	□ \$225	
Supporting	□ \$500 - \$1,000	□ \$1,500 - \$3,000	
Life	☐ One-time payment of	of \$1,000**	
Perpetual*	☐ One-time payment of \$3,000**		
*Derpotual Mambarahia in far any actata, corporation, limited liability company			

^{*}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.

Mail this application with your check to:

Minnesota Forestry Association

P.O. Box 496, Grand Rapids MN 55744

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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.

Monday, June 20, 2016, 1 - 5pm 2016 Linnaeus Symposium: Shining Light on Minnesota's Changing Landscape Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN

Celebrate the summer solstice. Presentations on Minnesota's grasslands, woodlands, and waters. Dinner featuring locally grown food and a keynote address followed by a guided solstice stroll through the Arboretum. \$40 non-members; \$25 current members; become a new member and receive two complimentary tickets. For more information and to buy tickets, go to gustavus.edu/arboretum, email arboretum@gustavus.edu, or call 507-933-6181.

Tuesday, June 21, 2016, 12 - 1pm Webinar: Importance of Managed Forests to Minnesota's Forest Birds

sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2016-webinar-importance-of-managed-forests-to-minnesotas-forest-birds/

Friday June 24, 2016, 9am - 3pm Logs to Lumber

Micheel's Tree Farm- 20920 County 26 Houston, MN

Information-filled day about sawing local hardwood logs. Demonstrations on how log quality and sawing technique affect lumber production and grade. Information on lumber drying will also be provided. Lunch on your own. Bring PPE (hearing protection, safety glasses, etc.) Contact: Valiree Green, valiree.green@state.mn.us, 507-724-5261 x5

Tuesday, July 19, 2016, 12 - 1pm Webinar: Forest Disturbances in Minnesota: What impacts us most?

sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2016-webinar-forest-disturbances-in-minnesota-what-impacts-us-most/

Away from home for a time? Please contact the MFA office if you'll be away from home for a time and when you'll be back. We'll hold onto the newsletter and its contents until you return so you won't miss a single issue! Information@MinnesotaForestry.org or call 218-326-6486.

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





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

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

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