



# 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. 18 No. 4

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## MFA Board Meetings

Cambridge DNR Office, 10 am – 3 pm  
• October 11, 2016  
• January 10, 2017

Conference Calls  
8 – 9 am  
• August 16, 2016  
• September 13, 2016  
• November 15, 2016  
• December 13, 2016

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## Carol Cartie Retires as First Silver Medallion Award Recipient

by Linda K. Dinkel, Editor

Over the past 18 years, many MFA members have gotten to know administrative assistant Carol Cartie through phone calls, mailings, emails and personal contact. What they might not know is just how dedicated Carol has been to her job, how many different hats she has worn, and how important her many talents have been for the smooth, day-to-day operation of MFA. For this reason, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to present Carol the first Silver Medallion Award for her exceptional service and dedication to MFA.

When her previous employer, the Northern Minnesota Citizens League, closed its doors, she was offered a job by Kathleen Preece to manage the database for *BetterForests* magazine. In 1998, connections from that job brought her to MFA to work for then-Executive Director, Terry Weber. Directors, and then Presidents, came and went; through it all, Carol remained and her responsibilities grew.

"I started out with data entry, then kept adding various clerical duties," said Carol. Banking, answering phones, editing newsletters, reserving venues and planning menus for the Annual Meeting...all hats came to rest on Carol's head at one time or another. "Eventually, I set up office in my home. All the stuffing of envelopes took place around my kitchen table. I really couldn't have done it all without my husband, Greg's, help and support!"

As new programs were introduced and implemented by MFA, it was often Carol that made it happen. Forester Phone Line, Call Before You Cut, and the Boots-on-Your-Ground programs all relied on Carol for oversight and elbow grease. "My favorite jobs have always been the ones that put me in direct contact with our membership. A call with a question often turned into a wonderful conversation about that member's woodlands, and how much it meant to them. I really enjoyed just listening to their stories and passion!"

Her strangest call came from a Louisiana woman who insisted there were evil spirits in her woods and MFA should send someone to take care of them. "I told her she was calling Minnesota and that we don't normally travel that far, but that didn't seem to phase her. I finally convinced her to call her local DNR."

Curiously, Carol's previous employers at the Citizens League and MFA board members used the same moniker as she prepared to move on. "They called me the glue that kept it all together," laughs Carol. Now ready to hand off the gluepot to MLEP, Carol and Greg are looking forward

*Continued on page 7*



Carol Cartie, (shown here with husband Greg) is the first recipient of the Silver Medallion Award for her 18 years of service to MFA.



## Minnesota Forestry Association

### 2016 Board of Directors

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### Board Members

*From front left: Lyle Keller, Dennis Thompson, Dave Roerick, Chad Converse, Bruce ZumBahlen.*

*Back Row: Chuck Erickson, Al Schacht, Stan Grossman, Pat Lanin, Peggy Meseroll, Neal Chapman, Brian Huberty, Gina Hugo.*

## How to...

# Tell what is wrong with my oak

by *Kylee Berger*, edited by *Brian Schwingle*

Standing tall with branches reaching out wide and high in the sky stands a strong oak tree in the landscape. Like most things in life, there comes a time where this oak no longer looks healthy, and in Minnesota we have a few things that affect our oaks besides old age.

In Minnesota we have a number of different oak species: taxonomically, we split them into the red oak family and the white oak family. Red oaks have bristle-tipped leaves and white oaks lack bristle-tips and are rounded. There are many pests and diseases that produce similar symptoms in oaks, so how do we determine what is happening to our oaks?

The first disease to show in the growing season is anthracnose. Anthracnose affects both red and white oaks as well as other tree species. It is caused by a group of fungal pathogens that all cause similar leaf symptoms. Anthracnose occurs when there is a very wet spring. Oaks with anthracnose will have leaves that develop brown spots and blotches, and many times these brown blotches greatly distort leaf shape. Oaks with anthracnose will usually display the most severe symptoms at the bottom and inner parts of the tree canopy. The fungal pathogen will over-winter on leaves and twigs. This disease is not typically the cause of death of oaks, but depending on the percent defoliation and stress caused, other problems such as two-lined chestnut borer and Armillaria root disease may attack the trees.

Bur oak blight (BOB) is very similar to anthracnose in that it is caused by a fungal leaf pathogen and symptoms start in the lower and inner canopy. It differs from anthracnose in that it only infects bur oaks. Symptoms first appear in mid-summer rather than spring, and it seemingly is causing significant stress amongst some bur oaks in certain parts of the state. Leaf symptoms on BOB-infected bur oaks are first visible as brown flecking along leaf veins, typically seen in July. Later in the summer, abundant leaf drop can occur, starting in the inner canopy, as well as leaves that develop wedge-shaped brown areas. Some dead leaves persist in the canopy throughout the winter, and these serve as the infection source the following spring. Many citizens mistakenly cut down their bur oaks that had severe BOB because they think they will die. Bur oaks with BOB typically re-leaf the following spring, and they look healthy until mid-summer, when BOB symptoms start to develop. Bur oaks can tolerate many consecutive years of moderate BOB before they become susceptible to other problems.

Oak wilt is a xylem blocking fungal disease that shows signs and symptoms throughout the growing season. Oak wilt starts to show symptoms of browning, wilting leaves at the top of the crown and moves down the tree from the outside in. Oak wilt affects both red and white oaks. It will kill a red oak in about one month, a bur oak in 1-7 years, and a white oak in 1-20 years. Another indicator of oak wilt is discolored streaking of the sapwood. This can be seen by slicing away the bark on an actively wilting branch. Streaking is more readily seen on white and bur oaks than on red oaks. Come spring, if red oaks are not leafing out, examine the tree for subtle cracks in the bark and peel back the bark to reveal any spore pad/spore mats that the oak wilt fungus sometimes produces. Bur oaks form spore pads less often, and white oaks

do not form them. In order to really determine oak wilt, lab tests of branches are needed, unless a pressure pad is located. Oak wilt is creeping northward in Minnesota and is a highly preventable, yet devastating disease. Please contact your local DNR forest health specialist if you see oak wilt symptoms in northern Minnesota.

Finally, there are other stress-related problems that occur to oaks. When any tree, including oaks, becomes stressed by weather or defoliating diseases/insects, it weakens the tree, sometimes allowing for opportunistic fungi or insects to invade. Two-lined chestnut borer and Armillaria root disease are examples of these opportunistic pests. Two-lined chestnut borer tunnels in the cambium and outer sapwood, eventually cutting off nutrients and water flow through the tree. Armillaria also kills cambium and outer sapwood. When two-lined chestnut borer infests an oak, leaves develop a red-brown scorched look from mid to late summer on the top half, or so, of the tree. Two-lined chestnut borer typically kills a stressed oak in one to three years. The beetle creates small D-shaped holes in the trunk of the tree. When Armillaria is infecting an oak's root system, leaves in the

outer canopy may be stunted and yellow, and branches die back. Over the course of several years, Armillaria root infection will kill a stressed oak. These stressed-related problems are not treatable, but increasing tree vigor with careful harvesting and removal of unhealthy trees can minimize these problems. Harvesting in stressed oak stands should only occur after at least two consecutive growing seasons with near-normal precipitation and no defoliation.

All these insects and diseases are unique in their own ways but have a common target of oak trees and cause somewhat similar symptoms. With a few key distinctions, you can narrow down the search! The U.S.F.S. publication *How to Recognize Common Diseases of Oaks* may help you in diagnosing what is wrong with your oak: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/howtos/HowToRecognizeCommonDiseasesOaks.pdf>.

Leaf drop and branch death from top down is typically oak wilt, Armillaria, or two-lined chestnut borer; leaf death from the bottom up in the spring is typically anthracnose; and leaf death from the bottom up in bur oaks in later summer is typically bur oak blight!



Bur Oak Blight deformation from ground up.



Oak wilt leaves.



Crack on trunk of tree caused by pressure pads in oak wilt.

## How to Identify Minnesota Oaks

Species	Leaf	Bark	Acorn	Location
White Oak	Simple, alternate, rounded lobed leaves of fairly equal depth	Pale gray w/scaly ridges	Pale gray w/scaly 3/4" - 1" (smooth cup)	Most common in SE Minnesota
Bur Oak	Simple, alternate, rounded lobed leaves of distinctly different depths	Thick, deeply furrowed	Vary in size (hairy, fringed cup)	Common in southern half of Minnesota
Northern Red Oak	Simple, alternate, pointed lobes cut about halfway to leaf center	Young stems smooth on older trees; thick shallow fissures; smooth surfaced vertical plates	Large 3/4" - 2" blunt top	Common on fertile grounds of central and SE Minnesota
Northern Pin Oak	Simple, alternate, pointed lobes, cut nearly to leaf center	Rather smooth, divided by shallow fissures into irregular ridges and plates	1/2" - 1"	Common on dry ridges in SE Minnesota and dry, sandy, infertile soils of central MN



# Member Profile: Nick Gulden

By Linda K. Dinkel, Editor

MFA member Nick Gulden is quick to acknowledge that he was blessed to follow his childhood interest in nature into a career as a DNR Wildlife Manager, using his skills and education primarily in southeastern Minnesota. Since retiring in 2002, he continues to apply his passion for the outdoors to his own little corner of Minnesota — 81 acres of mixed hardwoods and bluff prairie overlooking the Mississippi River near Minneiska. He's come full circle, starting out and ending on land near a river.

**“I spent much of my childhood in the outdoors exploring fields and forests, or fishing on the Cottonwood River near our home in New Ulm.** I was fascinated by bugs and butterflies, and when it came time to decide on a career, I thought about either entomology or forestry.” Gulden eventually decided on fish and wildlife management and graduated with a BS degree from the University of Minnesota in fall of 1961. Prior to graduating, however, he found the other major piece of his life's puzzle near the wetlands of central Minnesota.

“After my first year of college, I was hired for the summer by the Minnesota Conservation Department to assist in surveying wetlands, including those involved in a duck study area near Fergus Falls. One weekend, a member of a duck-banding crew also working in the area, unexpectedly had to head home to the Cities and asked me to stand in for him on a

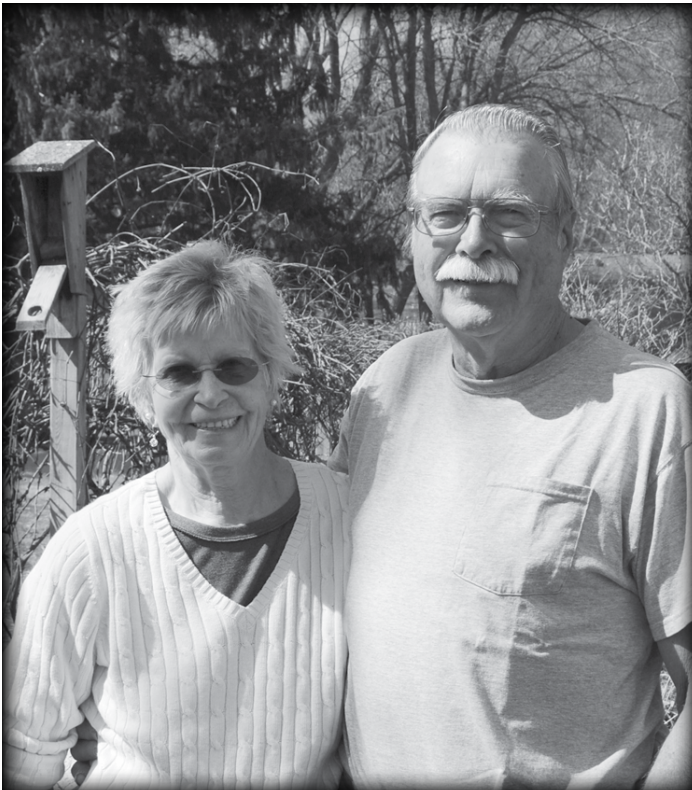
date he had lined up for the weekend. I said I might, but I wasn't going to go on a blind date! We went for a root beer at the A&W where Geri worked at so I could see what I was getting into. We ended up eloping a year later.”

After a short stint in fishery research at Yankton, SD, Gulden was hired by the DNR for a position in the Rochester area where he spent a lot of time working with the giant Canada goose population. **Eventually, he was promoted and moved to the Twin Cities, living there from 1966-69, but desk work didn't sit well with him.** “I didn't like office work or the crowds, so I took a voluntary demotion...best career move I ever made.” The Guldens and their three children settled in Winona where Nick worked as the Area Wildlife Manager. Over the years, he was involved in several significant projects for the State.

“When I first moved here, there really wasn't much of a deer population and hunting was pretty poor. Following the implementation of special deer regulations in the early 70's, we increased that harvest five-fold. I worked to procure public hunting lands, including the 3,000-acre McCarthy Lake WMA in Wabasha county. We paid \$17/acre for swamp land, \$25 for woodland, \$75 for pasture and \$100 for cropland back in the early 60's!”

**Gulden was also involved in the original release of turkeys in Minnesota in the late 60's and early 70's.** “The initial release involving the Merriams subspecies from western South Dakota eventually failed, but when we obtained the Eastern subspecies from Missouri, they really took off. I also spent time trapping, or more accurately, trying to trap, ruffed grouse in an exchange program with Missouri. They're not easy to trap!”

Today, Gulden can most often be found working on the land he purchased in 1984. **“I always wanted to manage my own land for wildlife.”** One of the first things he did was build access roads through a cost-share program. The steep



Geri and Nick Gulden at the Rollingstone home.



Steep river bluffs form the southeastern boundary of Gulden's land, while prairie grasses grow in former farm fields.



country would be hard to manage without them. "Quite a bit of our land has a 45-degree slope, so there's more like 1 1/2 acres of surface area per one acre. We've put in 1.7 miles of roads and trails that require a lot of maintenance." A shed is the only structure on the property, housing the DR brush cutter, grader and log splitter, and other tools that Nick uses on the property. "I do a lot of pruning and cutting to release trees and eliminate undesirable growth, including over 55,000 buckthorn". Most of the land had been farmed or was in pasture from the previous owners, while the rest is hardwoods.

**"When I first retired, I spent almost every day up here.**

Gerri loves to walk in the woods and look for morels or wild raspberries, and the kids have all helped in one way or another. Besides the road work, we planted white spruce for Christmas trees, but we really didn't pursue that too far. I also planted red and white oak, ash and sugar maple, but it's been a challenge since this is prime deer habitat. The previous owner planted black walnut in the 60's, some of which have become beautiful trees, while others haven't done well because of poor site placement." In addition to planting trees, Nick planted native prairie grasses in two different open fields with help from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

**The Gulden's have held three different timber sales,** the first one in the late 80's for oak veneer and railroad ties, followed by a salvage sale of black walnut after a big wind damaged the trees in 1998. The last was a large sale in '07, harvesting 40 walnut that produced 9,000 board feet at \$2.51/board ft., and 20 oaks that produced 6,400 board feet at \$0.38. "I had done some forest cruising and written up management plans before, but because I was dealing with high value walnut, I didn't feel like I knew enough to handle the sale myself. I didn't hesitate to go to DNR Forestry to do it. A private forester would have worked out fine, but I felt comfortable with these guys because I had worked with them." Other

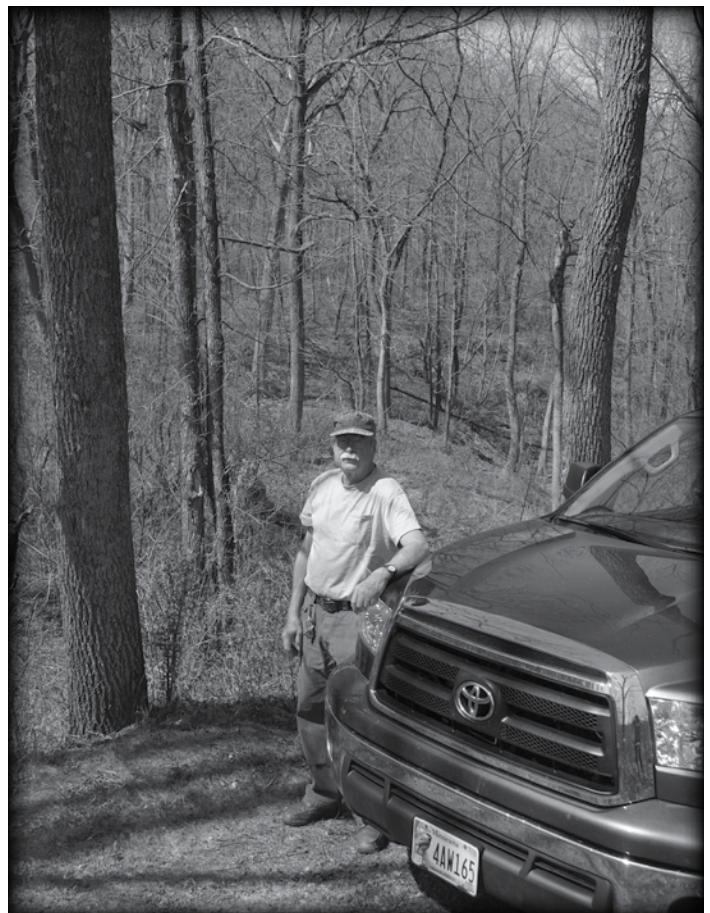
projects included three aspen regeneration cuts for ruffed grouse, and planting high-bush cranberries which are highly relished by wildlife.

**The entire 81 acres is now enrolled in the Minnesota Land Trust, establishing a conservation easement and ensuring that the property will be free of certain types of development.** "Once Gerri and I decided we didn't want to build our own home there, we knew that we wanted to preserve this land as it is now. We're very happy with the program. It really hasn't restricted me; I still follow a normal management plan, but now I know it will be protected from development and subdividing." The property is also enrolled in the SFIA program, and in 2007, Nick received the Wabasha County, SWCD "Woodland Manager of the Year" award.

Ultimately, Nick and Gerri hope that the land will remain much as it is today and eventually pass on to the next generation. "Our son, grandson and nephew enjoy hunting out here. It would be wonderful to keep it in the family. I'm not going to be the one that reaps the benefits of good stewardship on this land. **You do it for the enjoyment of working with God's creation, and for passing it on to the next generation, hopefully in a little better shape than you found it.**"



*Gulden spends time maintaining 1.7 miles of roads and trails.*



*Gulden manages his woodlands with aggressive pruning and releasing trees as well as brush and buckthorn control.*

# Creature Feature

By Jodie Provost, DNR Private Land Habitat Coordinator

## Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) in Minnesota - A Balanced, Restoration Success



It was a perfect fall day near the Canadian border on Caribou Wildlife Management Area. While posting boundary in the golden aspen parklands landscape, suddenly there they were – a cow and calf elk. This encounter was my first with elk and a magnificent moment to recall. These stately, native creatures were once common on our prairies and in our hardwood forest transition zone of Minnesota. In American Indian culture, Shawnee referred to elk as “wapiti” which means “white rump”, and Plains tribes associated them with masculinity, endurance, and bravery. A great deal of interest presently centers on this regal mammal due to northwest Minnesota’s actively managed and hunted elk population, new research underway, and an updated elk management plan in the works. Plus an upcoming feasibility study will assess restoring elk to a portion of east-central Minnesota.

**Deer Cousins:** Elk are a member of the deer family, weighing up to 900 pounds and standing five feet tall at the shoulder. Their coats are deep reddish brown in summer, but their sides and back become light tan while their head, neck and legs become dark brown in the winter. Males are larger than females and have impressive antlers. Relative to their Minnesota cousins, elk are bigger, darker and have more massive antlers than white-tailed deer, but smaller and lighter colored than moose which have paddle-like antlers. A third cousin, the woodland caribou, once roamed the coniferous forest of northeast Minnesota, but is now extirpated.

**Back from Extirpation:** Settlement and excessive hunting pushed elk to near extinction in our state by the early 1900s. In 1893, they received complete protection from hunting, but our last native elk was seen in the Northwest Angle in 1932. In 1935, 27 elk, originating from areas around Yellowstone National Park and a private farm in Ramsey County, Minnesota, were released into the wild in northwest Beltrami County. The herd reproduced and moved southwest away from the original release site. It’s now known as the Grygla herd of Marshall County. In the early 1980s, a second herd of elk naturally migrated into northern Kittson and Roseau counties, presumably from Canada, North Dakota and/or the original reintroduced herd. This herd occurs in both Manitoba and Minnesota. It’s known as the Caribou-Vita herd. A third herd, Kittson-Central, has also become recognized in Kittson County.

**Recipe for Roast:** Elk are primarily grazers, preferring open brushlands and grasslands for foraging and forested areas

for winter and security cover. The aspen parklands biome of northwest Minnesota is ideal habitat, with its mosaic of woodland cover and large open areas. Grass and forbs are preferred during snow-free periods. Woody browse, like willow and aspen, is eaten during late fall and winter. Elk also use agricultural crops, such as sunflowers, soybeans, oats, corn, wheat, barley, and alfalfa, especially when adjacent to cover. A variety of methods are used to enhance habitats for elk, including prescribed burning, shearing and mowing of brush, food plots, and timber harvest. The elk’s behavior and diet make for excellent slow cooked roasts.

**Bugle Call:** The breeding season or rut for elk in Minnesota peaks in mid to late September. Bulls compete for cows, gathering them into harems. They grunt and make a low whistling sound or ‘bugle”, primarily at dusk and dawn, to challenge other bulls, maintain their harems and stake out territory. It’s enough to give any listener goose bumps. After the rut, elk gather into winter herds, staying together until late May or early June when cows leave to give birth to a single calf. Twins are rare. Mature bulls spend the summer in bachelor groups. Cows and calves rejoin the herd several weeks after birth. Elk can live to 20 years or more. Their natural predators here include wolves, coyotes and black bear.

**Keeping Balance:** Support for Minnesota’s elk population appears to be increasing, yet elk can cause crop and fence damage. Thus DNR strives to find a balance between landowner/farmer tolerance and the public’s desire for increased recreational opportunity and more animals in the free-ranging, wild population. In 1976, DNR drafted the first elk management plan. During the 1986 - 87 Legislative session, a bill was passed that allowed for financial compensation to farmers who experience crop damage from elk and the first elk hunting season since 1893.

Elk population goals were established in the 2009 elk management plan. A 2016 - 2020 plan update and re-evaluation of population goals was underway when the 2016 Legislature required that it be put on hold and elk numbers managed at current population estimates. The Caribou-Vita herd is estimated at 120 - 150 elk, with a goal of 150 - 200. The Kittson-Central herd had 52 elk when surveyed last winter. It will be managed at that level for at least two years under current legislature direction. The Grygla herd had just 21 elk last winter. Plans are to recover this herd to the 2009



goal level of 30 - 38 elk and maintain that level as directed by the Legislature.

**Once-in-a-Lifetime:** Minnesota's elk hunt is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and primary tool for managing populations at desired goals. It also helps maintain natural, wary behavior in elk, encouraging them to avoid croplands and human-use areas. Generally, bull or either-sex seasons are conducted in September, followed by antlerless hunts later in the fall and into winter. This fall, seven bull-only permits total are available for the herds in Kittson County for the September 10 - 18 season. The Grgyla herd will not see a harvest this year.

**Tracking Cows:** Wildlife researchers from DNR and Minnesota State University-Mankato began tracking elk last February by capturing and collaring 20 female elk in northwestern Minnesota. Researchers will follow their movements and determine seasonal habitat use such as what habitats cows select for calving. The study will continue through June 2018. Data will be used to improve habitat management, aerial survey methods and population goal setting, and reduce depredation by elk. Funding is provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF), DNR and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF).

**More Restoration?** Elk could someday roam parts of southern St. Louis, Carlton and northern Pine counties of Minnesota again. That's the hope of the Fond du Lac (FDL) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and RMEF. To evaluate whether elk can be restored on FDL's traditional territory in this portion of historic elk range, a

feasibility study is being led by University of Minnesota with support from FDL and RMEF. It will assess public attitudes toward elk and determine where and how much potential elk habitat is available in the region. Primary funding for this study has been provided by the ENRTF. It will begin in 2017 and be completed by June 2019. If results are encouraging, the FDL Band hopes to move forward with next steps in the process to restore elk to the area. If ultimately successful, elk would freely roam portions of east-central Minnesota for the first time in over a century.

The future of Minnesota's elk will depend upon successful partnerships between producers, landowners, elk enthusiasts, other agencies and DNR. For additional information, see the DNR website elk page.



## MFA Member Signs Available

Two different signs are available to MFA members and can be ordered by emailing [information@MinnesotaForestry.org](mailto:information@MinnesotaForestry.org) or calling 218-326-6486. The new MFA MEMBER signs are \$15 plus \$5 shipping/handling. MFA No Trespassing signs are \$2.10 plus \$5 shipping/handling.



*Carol Cartie Retires continued from page 1*

to spending more time together on the road or on their land, more time with grandchildren, and more time on hobbies.

"I've learned so much over my 18 years with MFA. My greatest pleasure has been speaking with members and helping private woodland owners do a better job on their land. I will really miss that!"

From all of us at MFA, thank you, Carol, for your years of professional service and your friendship. Have a wonderful retirement!

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).



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**



**Minnesota Forestry Association**  
P.O. Box 496  
Grand Rapids MN 55744  
[www.MinnesotaForestry.org](http://www.MinnesotaForestry.org)

*Change Service Requested*

**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 until you return so you won't miss a single issue! [Information@MinnesotaForestry.org](mailto:Information@MinnesotaForestry.org) or call 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**

## 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.

### August

**Tuesday, August 16, 2016, 12 - 1pm | Webinar: Natural resource applications of unmanned aerial systems**  
<http://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2016-webinar-natural-resource-applications-of-unmanned-aerial-systems/>

**Mon-Wed, August 29 - 31 | Agroforestry Institute Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center**  
12718 10th St. NE, Spicer, MN

The Minnesota Agroforestry Institute is a three-day training that includes classroom workshops and on-farm visits. Participants will work in small groups to gain hands-on practice in agroforestry design based on the needs of a working farm. Registration: [athttps://www.regonline.com/MNAGRforInst](https://www.regonline.com/MNAGRforInst). Fee: \$100.

### October

**Friday, October 7, 9am - 4pm | Your Woodland, Your Legacy: Intergenerational Land Transfer Workshop**  
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, 3675 Arboretum Dr, Chaska, MN

This workshop will help you begin the land transfer conversations with family members. You will also learn about what you can do to share your land ethic with the next generation. You will participate in exercises designed to stimulate discussion and be given resources that will help you plan a successful transfer.

Register at: <https://www.regonline.com/YourWoodland> or contact Mike Reichenbach, 218-726-6470. Fee: \$150. For more information: Mike Reichenbach, UMN Extension, 218-726-6470 or [reich027@umn.edu](mailto:reich027@umn.edu); Barb Spears, MN Forestry Association Metro Chapter, 651-328-0463 or [barb@twfllc.com](mailto:barb@twfllc.com)