

Minnesota MFA Woodlands

Minnesota Forestry Association

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

www.MinnesotaForestry.org

Minnesota Forestry
Association (MFA)

info@minnesotaforestry.org

PO Box 6060
Grand Rapids, MN
55744
218-879-5100

MFA Newsletter
Vol. 23 No. 4
August/September 2021
The Minnesota
Woodlands newsletter
is published by the
Minnesota Forestry
Association.

MFA Board Meetings
DNR Cambridge Office
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
• October 12, 2021
*Subject to change
due to COVID-19*

Conference Calls
8 – 9 a.m.
• August 10, 2021
• September 14, 2021
• November 9, 2021

Editor
Kassandra Tuten
editor@minnesotaforestry.org

Graphic Design
Peg Churchwell
Lady Dog Design
PegChurchwell17@gmail.com

Learn About Forest Stewardship

Minnesota DNR

The DNR Forest Stewardship Program helps woodland owners manage their woods through advice and education, cost-share programs and Woodland Stewardship Plans. They work through a statewide network of DNR, public and private foresters specially trained in forest stewardship and are ready to help you achieve your woodland goals, whether it is to create wildlife habitat, increase natural beauty, improve trails, enhance environmental benefits or harvest timber.

Managing Your Woods

Forest management is all the things you do to keep your woods healthy and beautiful. This work tends to happen in small steps over multiple years. For example, if you want to improve wildlife habitat, you may need to remove invasive plants to allow native plants to grow, and then plant the right trees to increase food for wildlife. After time, you may need to remove some trees to decrease competition between trees and increase the health of remaining trees. These actions make your woods attractive to wildlife and also provide environmental benefits. Woodland Stewardship Plans are used to help you organize and complete all of these steps.

Woodland Stewardship Plans

A Woodland Stewardship Plan helps you understand what is in your woods, how to improve them and when to do work. A unique plan is developed for your woods based on your land management goals. The plan can help you stay on track over the long-term and keep your woods healthy and beautiful. Plans are written for woodland owners with 20 to 5,000 acres where at least 10 acres have or will have trees. Plans are updated every 10 years to stay current with your needs and your woods.

Continued on page 7



A Woodland Stewardship Plan helps you understand what is in your woods, how to improve them and when to do work.

Minnesota Forestry
Association

2021 Board of Directors

Dave Roerick, *president*
319 NE 8th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-256-2405
droerick@gmail.com

Brian Huberty, *vice president*
17246 Knox Path
Hastings, MN 55033
651-706-6426
bhuberty@gmail.com

Bill Sayward, *treasurer*
31274 Henselin Rd.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-326-8269
saywardbill@gmail.com

Lyle Keller, *secretary*
28814 Gilbertson Drive
Peterson, MN 55962
507-875-2215/cell 507-272-8883

**Stan Grossman,
*sergeant-at-arms***
3015 S. Highway 169
Grand Rapids, MN. 55744
218-252-8572
iws@wcta.net

For the following Board
members' contact information,
see www.MinnesotaForestry.org
or call MFA at 218-879-5100.

Chad Converse, Motley, MN

Gina Hugo, Elk River, MN

Ryan Rothstein, Waite Park, MN

Mike Vinje, Maple Grove, MN

Larry Westerberg, Hastings, MN

Greg Wuerflein, Cambridge, MN

Ex-Officio Board Members:

Jim Lemmerman, Duluth, MN

John Carlson, St. Paul, MN

Matt Russell, St. Paul, MN

Bruce ZumBahlen,
Cottage Grove, MN

MFA contact information:
PO Box 6060
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-879-5100, [info@
minnesotaforestry.org](mailto:info@minnesotaforestry.org)

**Away from home for a
time?** Please contact the
MFA office if you'll be
away from home for an
extended time and let
us know when you'll be
back. We'll hold onto
the newsletter until you
return so you won't
miss a single issue!
Email [info@
minnesotaforestry.org](mailto:info@minnesotaforestry.org)
or call 218-879-5100.

From the President

Greetings.

I will start from where I left off in the last newsletter. I am starting to see the effects of this prolonged drought, which is taking place throughout most of the state. One indicator to the stress of hardwood trees is having premature coloring of leaves, and they were beginning to drop in mid-July. I'm also having a hard time finding any white pine regenerating on a site that was prepared by exposing mineral soil last summer and having a bumper crop of cones release seeds last fall. Depending on micro-site circumstances, many of the seeds either didn't germinate at all, or the tiny seedlings died early on from lack of moisture. Hopefully, we can get a little moisture to nourish all trees before the growing season closes out within the next month.

You have probably heard by now that there are multiple companies buying and selling carbon credits from private forest landowners in our state. It basically amounts to a landowner receiving a payment for not cutting merchantable trees for a predetermined amount of time. MFA was approached earlier this spring to show support for this opportunity. On one hand, there are legitimate reasons for forest landowners to be taking part in the carbon sequestration equation. On the other hand, forest landowners want to be sure they are considering how the selling of carbon credits fits into the overall objective of managing their forest.

For example, a forest owner may want to consider extending the rotation time of a red pine stand of timber to grow large diameter cabin logs. Under this scenario, it makes sense to take advantage of collecting carbon credit payments for a longer period of time. On the other hand, if a forest owner is managing a stand of aspen for deer habitat, it makes sense to harvest the aspen when it becomes mature. Extending the rotation age of the aspen does not enhance your management objective for wildlife; also, it may reduce the value of your timber over time, which will not be made up by collecting carbon credit payments.

Stay tuned and keep informed. One thing is for sure: Your trees play an important role in the health of our planet.

Enjoy the last half of summer.

Your president, Dave Roerick



Dave Roerick



Our Shared Bookshelf

Each issue, we'll be selecting a favorite book to share with our readers to help build community and encourage the sharing of resources. If you'd like to submit a recommendation for Our Shared Bookshelf, please email Editor@MinnesotaForestry.org. We look forward to hearing about what everyone is reading and enjoying!

This edition, we're highlighting "Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Secrets of Everyday Trees" by Nancy R. Hugo.

There is so much more to notice about a tree than first meets the eye.

Focusing on widely grown trees, Seeing Trees describes the rewards of careful and regular tree viewing, outlines strategies for improving your observations and describes some of the most visually interesting tree structures, including leaves, flowers, buds, leaf scars, twigs and bark. In-depth profiles of 10 familiar species show readers how to recognize and understand many of their most compelling (but usually overlooked) physical features.



Member Bio: Stan Grossman

I am not sure how I developed an interest in trees, but I think it had to do with a confluence of factors: growing up in the relatively treeless prairies of Western Minnesota, having a grandfather with an apple tree farm and going on a family trip to Itasca State Park when I was a small child. That trip left a lasting impression on me, because compared to the wide-open farming country I knew, I may as well have been visiting a different planet! I was mesmerized by the tall pines, clean water, fragrant air and the abundant wildlife found there.

Always willing to encourage the passions of her nine children, my mother allowed me to plant all manner of trees in our three-acre yard, even though I knew she worried about them eventually blocking her view from the kitchen.

As a teenager seeking a career path, I had no idea what I wanted to do. But I knew I had a passion for trees, the woods and wild places, so with almost zero knowledge of what forestry was all about, I enrolled in the forestry program at Vermilion Community College in Ely. Not being someone enamored with pomp and circumstance, I did not wait around for the formal graduation ceremony, but rather immediately “hit the bush,” travelling all around the state for several years completing forest inventory contracts for federal, state, county and Native American agencies. Much of this work focused on forest inventory that tracked historical tree data, allowing me to obtain an intimate grasp of how forests and individual trees changed over time.

In 1996, I moved to the Park Rapids area within 15 miles of Itasca State Park, and started Itasca Woodland Services, Inc. This marked a gradual shift in my business focus from contracted forest inventory work to private consulting, working primarily with individuals and families on their recreational properties.

I truly enjoy meeting with landowners and sharing knowledge of the woods. I firmly believe that knowledge breeds appreciation and fosters a stewardship ethic, so it is very rewarding to me to see people grow in knowledge about the woods and land they have the privilege of caring for while on this Earth.

In 2016, my wife, Julie, and I moved to Grand Rapids, effectively shifting the center of the business operation



Stan Grossman

closer to the center of the state to expand our geographical outreach. I had been working from home for my whole career, but we purchased an office building in Grand Rapids in 2019 and now run the business from there. We have expanded our team and services, too, having now three full-time foresters, an office administrator and additional seasonal foresters as needed.

In addition to our “bread and butter” of writing Stewardship Plans and administering timber sales, we now offer buckthorn control, timber stand improvement, tree planting and various drone services as well. We try earnestly to live by our tagline: “Serving People, Caring for Nature.”

I have been a proud member of MFA for longer than I can remember, and a board member for the past several years. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to support the cause of woodland owners just like you!

To submit a Member Bio or to nominate a fellow member to highlight, please send your information to Editor@MinnesotaForestry.org.

In Case You Missed It: Carbon Program for Hardwood Landowners Q&A

During a recent Carbon Program for Hardwood Landowners webinar (available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7vrJaY4Rao>), a number of questions were posted for future follow-up. The questions and answers have been compiled and are available at <https://files.constantcontact.com/1b6077c0301/0ede309a-2a43-4b45-9f44-129c337f4d86.pdf>.

Positive Forest Industry News for Once

By Bruce ZumBahlen

Like good soakings from thunderstorms following a long period of drought, there is good news recently. Perhaps you've already seen it in the news, but Minnesota will be getting a new oriented strand board (OSB) mill. OSB panels are used for roof, wall and flooring construction. The mill will be located in Cohasset, just west of Grand Rapids, and will consume as much as 400,000 cords annually — most of it aspen — and will employ more than 150 people.

Huber Engineered Woods expects construction of its new mill to start in the middle of next year and be operational by 2025.

The company owns five other mills around the country. It comes at a time when demand for building products has caused lumber prices to soar over the past year. Though prices have declined recently as sawmills rev up production again to meet demand following the coronavirus pandemic, this state-of-the-art mill will find a ready market for its product.

Minnesota's timber industry has declined over the past few years – almost 1,000 jobs were lost in forestry/logging and timber manufacturing jobs in 2020 alone. The new mill is welcome news following the closure of the Verso paper mill in Duluth and reduced production at Minnesota's other mills.

The recently passed state tax bill provides a significant incentive for the development of the plant and its operation starting in 2026, with an incentive payment of \$1.5 million the first year, rising to \$3 million through 2034. In addition, the OSB incentive requires that 80% of wood consumed by the mill comes from Minnesota woodlands certified under standards of either the Forest Stewardship Council, the Sustainable Forest Incentive management standard or the American Tree Farm System.

What this new plant will mean for aspen stumpage prices remains to be seen. The most recent average statewide price provided by the DNR is \$28.55 per cord.



SFIA Update

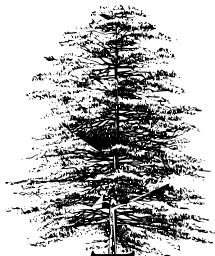
By Bruce ZumBahlen

The legislative session that just ended left the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) unscathed, except for a couple minor twists dealing with split-classifications of SFIA-enrolled property that will be addressed in future updates.

For now, here are 2021 annual payment rates for SFIA-enrolled property on the more than 1,075,000 SFIA acres:

Covenant Length	Enrolled Acreage Size	Payment Per Acre Rate
8 year	Less than 1,920 acres	\$9.71
8 year	More than 1,920 acres or more	\$13.45
20 year	Less than 1,920 acres	\$13.45
20 year	More than 1,920 acres or more	\$17.18
50 year	Less than 1,920 acres	\$17.18
50 year	More than 1,920 acres or more	\$20.92

The higher rates for the larger than 1,920 acre size are in recognition that those properties must provide non-motorized public access. In addition, on conservation easements enrolled prior to 2018, the rate per acre is \$7 and covenants are limited to eight years. For conservation easements enrolled after 2018, the rate per acre is \$3.74.



Meet a Tree

American Basswood

By *Kassandra Tuten, Editor*

American basswood, *Tilia americana*, is a species of tree in the family Malvaceae, native to eastern North America. It is the sole representative of its genus in the Western Hemisphere.

The American basswood is a medium-sized to large deciduous tree reaching a height of 60-80 feet and width of 30-60 feet. It grows faster than many North American hardwoods, often twice the annual growth rate of American beech and many birch species.

The crown is domed, the branches spreading, often pendulous. The bark is gray to light brown, with narrow, well-defined fissures. The roots are large, deep and spreading. The leaves are simple, alternate on the stem, are 3-6 inches long and nearly as wide. They are heart shaped, saw toothed and sharp pointed at the tip. At maturity, they are thick and shiny, green above and paler underneath. They turn yellow to orange in the autumn.

The flowers are small, fragrant, yellowish-white, 10-14 millimeters in diameter, arranged in drooping clusters of 6-20 with a whitish-green leaf-like bract attached for half its length at the base. The flowers are fragrant and insect-pollinated. Fruits are small, round nutlets, accompanied by a long strap-like bract.

American basswood is dominant in the sugar maple–basswood forest association, most common in Western Wisconsin and Central Minnesota. This species prefers full sun and moist, well-drained soil.

Basswood seeds are eaten by chipmunks, mice and squirrels. Rabbits and voles eat the bark, sometimes girdling young trees. The leaves serve as food for caterpillars.

This species is particularly susceptible to adult Japanese beetles, an invasive species in North America that feed on its leaves. The mushroom *Pholiota squarrosoides* is known to decay the logs of the tree. American basswood is highly susceptible to ice damage.

The wood of basswood is commonly used in the production of solid-body electric guitars because it is light, strong and resonant. It is also used for carving and in the manufacture of paper pulp, wooden ware, furniture, trunks, crating, drawing boards, kegs, barrel heads and lumber.

Did you know? The inner bark of American basswood was used historically as a fiber source for making baskets, rope and fishing nets.



Leaves alternate on stem; length three to six inches, nearly as wide.



Flowers are fragrant, appear in July and are bee-pollinated.



Bark is light gray, smooth; becoming dark gray with shallow, vertical ridges. Photos from MNDNR.

Creature Feature

By *Kassandra Tuten, Editor*

American Badger

The American badger, *Taxidea taxus*, is a somewhat flat, furry mammal that spends much of its time beneath the ground. It digs through soil to make a home for itself, to find food and to escape enemies.

Badgers are medium-sized, heavily furred mammals with thick necks, broad shoulders with short powerful legs, sharp teeth and 1-inch-long claws. They are 20-35 inches long and adult males weigh 24 pounds on average, with females averaging 17 pounds.

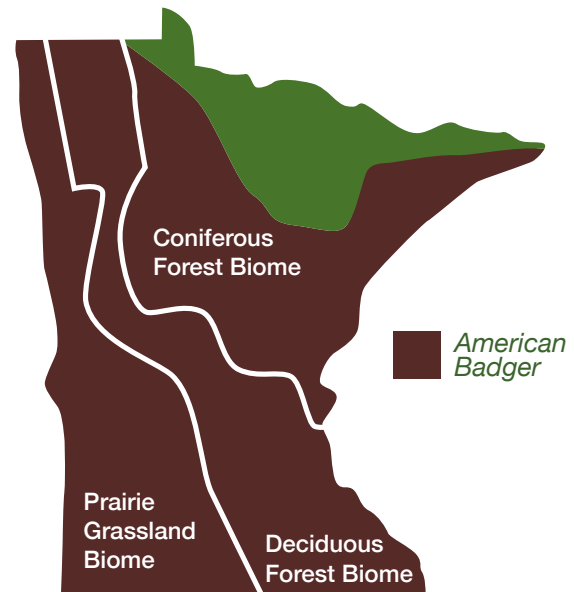
A distinctive white stripe runs from the badger's nose over its head to the nape of its neck; the fur is yellowish-gray, long and very thick; and the skin is loose-fitting.

Badgers mate in August or September. After the eggs are fertilized, the embryos develop slightly, then lie dormant for several months. In late winter, they begin developing again. The babies — usually three, but as few as one or as many as seven — are born between March and June in a grass-lined den 2-6 feet beneath the ground. The mother takes care of them by herself until they leave the nest in the fall.

Badgers are found throughout most of Minnesota except in the heavily forested northeast. They are nocturnal creatures. During cold weather, they keep to their burrows. They prefer open prairie, but will also make their homes in farmland. They dig an intricate den system and at the end of a long tunnel build a grass-lined nest.

Badgers feed primarily on mice, ground squirrels and gophers and are the only predator that can dig out the deep-burrowing pocket gopher. Badgers also eat snails, grasshoppers, bird eggs, honey, insect larvae and snakes.

Badgers have few natural predators, though predation on smaller individuals by golden eagles, coyotes, bobcats, bears and gray wolves is common. American badgers are trapped by humans for their pelts and their fur is used for shaving and paint brushes.

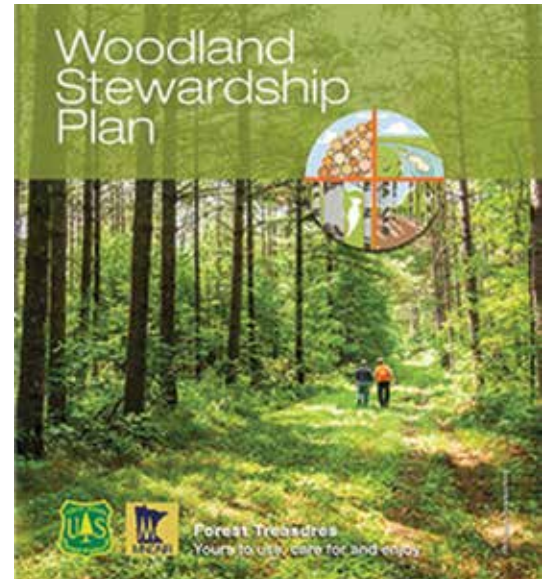


'Gypsy Moth' Moniker Gets a Reboot

The fluttering bug known as the “gypsy moth” is in the market for a new name after the world’s largest organization of insect experts announced it would stop using the moniker because it contains an ethnic slur. The Entomological Society of America’s recent announcement is part of a broader discussion within the scientific community about equity in naming.

The decision to rename both the “gypsy moth” and the “gypsy ant” coincides with the launch of the organization’s Better Common Names Project. Though the change is specific to the society and its publications, it’s anticipated to ripple outward.

Learn more about the Better Common Names Project at www.entsoc.org/better-common-names-project.



The DNR Forest Stewardship Program helps woodland owners manage their woods through advice and education, cost-share programs and Woodland Stewardship Plans.

Stewardship continued

Plans are developed and written by foresters trained in woodland stewardship from the DNR, environmental organizations, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and consulting foresters. The cost for a Woodland Stewardship Plan depends on who writes it and the size of your woods.

While a DNR forester can write your plan, you can also hire an approved Minnesota Woodland Stewardship Plan writer to do the work.

Financial Benefits of a Woodland Stewardship Plan

A Woodland Stewardship Plan registered with the DNR qualifies you for woodland tax and financial incentive programs.

Cost-Share Program: The DNR has cost-share funds available to help woodland owners complete projects to improve their woods — these are the steps outlined in your Woodland Stewardship Plan. A DNR forester works with you to develop a project plan. Project work can be done

by you or a contractor. Sample projects include wildlife and pollinator habitat improvement, tree planting, bud capping, invasive species removal, tree thinning and forest road work. More information can be found on the DNR's Cost-Share for Woodland Owners webpage at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/woodlands/cost-share.html>.

Incentive Programs: The Minnesota Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) jointly managed by Minnesota Department of Revenue and DNR is an incentive program to keep forests as forests on our landscape. Created in 2008, 2c Managed Forest Land is a property tax designation that offers Minnesota woodland owners a property tax rate of 0.65% on actively managed woodland. For both programs, landowners with at least 20 acres of forest land under a registered Woodland Stewardship Plan may be eligible.

Learn more at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/foreststewardship/index.html>.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA **EXTENSION**

For MFA members, the two best online sources of woodland information are the MFA website at minnesotaforestry.org, and the University of Minnesota Extension Forestry website at myminnesotawoods.umn.edu.

MFA's
Forester Phone Line

A free service for MFA members only!
Call for an appointment with
the forester: **218-879-5100**

Upcoming Events

Find more events, and more information on these events, at the MFA website, www.MinnesotaForestry.org, or by calling MFA at 218-879-5100.

Webinar: Invasion Potential of Mountain Pine Beetle to Forests of the Lake States

9-10 a.m. Tuesday, August 17

Mountain pine beetle, an insect that has killed tens of millions of acres of mature pines in the western U.S. and Canada, has been expanding its range eastward. Brian Aukema, professor, UMN Department of Entomology, will present highlights of recent research that help understand how the threat of mountain pine beetle may be facilitated or impeded by our native insects and trees. Learn more and register at <https://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2021-webinar-august>.

To Leave or Not to Leave: Exploring Leave Trees in Minnesota

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, September 9

Visit a range of sites with different leave tree species, configurations and objectives. Also, discuss and visit silvicultural treatments involving a much larger percentage of retention. Learn more and register at <https://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/leave-trees-2021>.

Cultivating a Deeper Relationship With the Land

6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 14

Learn strategies to cultivate a deeper connection with the land you steward. Learn more and register at <https://mshs.app.nconcrm.com/np/clients/mshs/eventList.jsp>.

Webinar: An Update on Wolf Research: Biology, Populations and Federal Delisting

9-10 a.m. Tuesday, September 21

In Minnesota, wolves have rebounded in populations since the 1960s to a current population of around 2,700. In October 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed the wolf from the federal endangered and threatened species list. This presentation will provide an update on research related to wolves and the impacts of the federal delisting. Learn more and register at <https://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2021-webinar-september>.

Webinar: Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Outreach: Potential Implications for Natural Resource Management

9-10 a.m. Tuesday, October 19

As chronic wasting disease (CWD) continues to take hold in Minnesota and across North America, research and education are equally important for the management of this disease. The Minnesota Center for Prion Research and Outreach is actively discovering innovations that advance CWD detection and help comprehend its ecological significance, while also reaching a variety of audiences who are impacted by this complex neurological disease. Learn more and register at <https://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2021-webinar-october>.



Minnesota Forestry Association

PO Box 6060
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
www.MinnesotaForestry.org

Change Service Requested

Is your home firewise?

Minnesota has more than 2,200 fires a year, but that doesn't mean you can't do something about it. In fact, creating a defensible space around your house will enable your home to survive a wildfire. Learn more about firewise in Minnesota at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/firewise>.

