

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)

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MFA Newsletter
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MFA Board Meetings
Conference Calls
8 - 9 a.m.

- December 14, 2021
- January 11, 2022
- February 8, 2022
- March 8, 2022

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Greetings from the President

First off, I want to inform you about a scam that continues to plague MFA and some of its members. Scammers are using my name and identity to get MFA members to buy giftcards on my behalf. As much as I like giftcards, I would never ask people to buy giftcards on my behalf. Please be vigilant—not to be taken advantage of—especially during this season of giving and gifting.

I hope you were able to enjoy some quality time in your woods this fall, as we were gifted the extended warm temperatures well into November. This year there is little, if any, ice on the smallest of ponds in the Grand Rapids area as of Nov. 15. Last year on this date, I was spearing northern pike on a local lake near Grand Rapids.

I learned a great lesson this fall about enjoyment and appreciation of my trees, no matter if it's a single tree or a large forest. I've enjoyed watching my forest grow and transition over the last 40 years, which has included several timber sales. I continue to appreciate the sharing of this resource with my kids and grandkids as another deer season comes to closure. However, I experienced something new this fall, an appreciation of a single tree, given to me by a dear friend some of you may know, Sid Rommel.

Forty years ago this spring, he handed me the eastern white pine I was pictured with in the last newsletter. His wife, Marge, did not want the 2-inch-tall white pine growing in her flower garden, so Sid handed it over the white picket fence for me to plant. Little did I know that 40 years later that white pine would win the Single Tree category for the Minnesota Tree and Woodland Carbon Capture Challenge. The tree grew 2.1 inches in diameter during the 2021 growing season, sequestering some 380+ pounds of carbon. I suspect this special tree will outlive me, my kids and my grandkids, but one thing's for sure: We all get to appreciate the tree and its story for several generations to come.

I wish you all a blessed holiday season. My hope is you enjoy your woods with your loved ones as much as I do. Gathering a Christmas tree on the back 40 is a great way to get started. If you don't have a back 40, consider a family outing, by purchasing a permit to cut a tree on public land or cut your own in a private lot.

Merry Christmas to you and yours.

Your president,
Dave

P.S. Don't forget to vote for board members. You can learn more on pages 4 and 5.



Dave Roerick



**Happy Holidays
to all!**

Minnesota Forestry Association

2021 Board of Directors

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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

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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 or call 218-879-5100.

Drought Assistance Proposal to Help Woodland Owners

From the MN DNR

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has proposed state funding in response to the negative impact of this summer's severe drought on water and trees. The drought has stressed and caused an extremely high mortality rate for tree seedlings planted in 2021.

The DNR proposed \$5.5 million to replant public and private forest lands where seedlings were permanently damaged by the drought. The funding proposal is important to supporting tree health, carbon storage, habitat and water quality in Minnesota.

The DNR estimates 72% of conifer seedlings less than 4 years old died. Field monitoring conducted this summer revealed seedling mortality of 100% on some DNR sites.

The DNR proposal would provide \$2.75 million to replace seedlings that did not survive the drought on DNR-managed land and \$2.75 million to develop and implement a pass-through grant program to assist tribal, county and private forest owners who also face drought-related reforestation needs. DNR requested the funding be available for four years to allow time to grow replacement seedlings, develop grant criteria and process for the pass-through grant program, and prepare sites and execute the replanting. This proposal provides necessary funding to ensure Minnesota's young forests continue to grow by replanting 6.8 million drought-damaged seedlings.

Read more about the DNR's drought response proposals at <https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/legislativeinfo/2021-drought-assistance-proposal.pdf>.

State Forest Nursery Seeks Black Spruce Cones

To help meet the state's reforestation goals for 2022, the Minnesota DNR is seeking cone collectors. Cone collectors can earn \$20 to \$150 per bushel, depending on species. The State Forest Nursery will be purchasing black spruce cones through February 2022. Gather cones on your own property or on State Forest land. Contact one of the DNR seed drop off locations for more information. Find a location at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/nursery/collection-map.html>.

Order Tree Seedlings for Spring Planting

The Minnesota State Forest Nursery is taking orders for tree seedling deliveries in Spring 2022. Orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Learn more and place your order at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/nursery/pricelist.html>.



Remembering Larry Westerberg

Larry Westerberg, member of the MFA Board, passed away Oct. 30, 2021. A long-time MFA member, he was also a certified tree farm inspector for a number of years following his retirement from the DNR after a 35-year career. He is survived by his wife, Bea, and daughter, Nissa Westerberg. Condolences can be sent to them at 9859 140th St. E., Hastings, MN 55033. Memorials may be given to your choice of rescue for dogs/cats. Learn more about Larry at <https://obituaries.neptunesociety.com/obituaries/golden-valley-mn/lawrence-westerberg-10432011>.

Member Bio: Ryan Rothstein

I was born and raised near Richmond, Minnesota, and I was fortunate as a kid to be able to explore my family's woods right out my back door. Many of my favorite childhood memories involve time spent in the woods, and this is what inspired me to pursue a career in natural resources. I'm now a Wildlife Habitat Specialist for the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District, and I'm fortunate that I get to work with so many landowners to improve their own cherished woodlands. In my free time, I still spend plenty of time in my family's woods, either working on the woodlands or chasing whitetails.

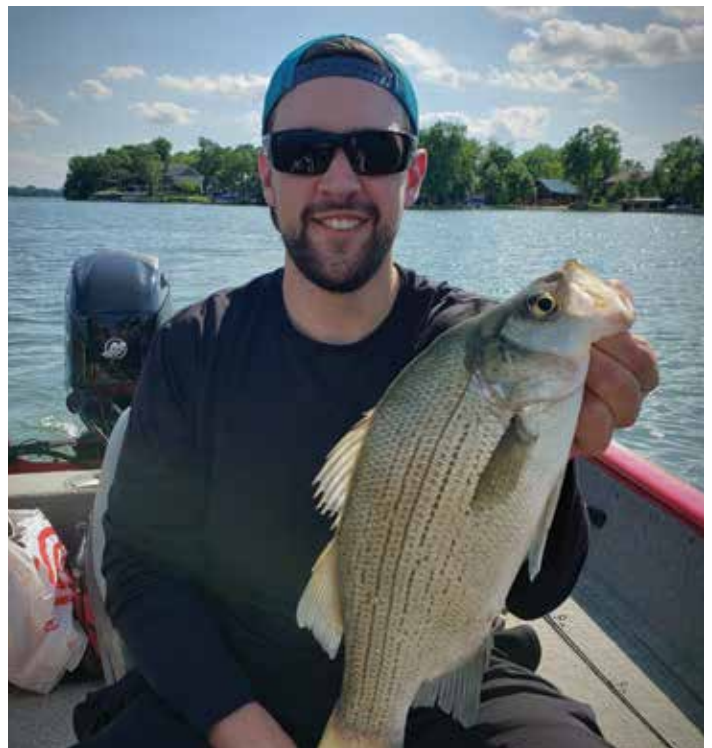
I joined MFA in 2020 when I was invited to become a board member. Though I had heard of MFA before, I had no idea the amount of work MFA does to support private woodland owners. In fact, I quickly found out that most any program or educational opportunity that benefits Minnesota woodland owners has MFA fingerprints all over it. In addition to now being an MFA board member, I am also on the Government Relations Committee, which advocates on behalf of private woodland owners at the legislative level.

The biggest benefit to being a member of MFA is being among the first to hear about new opportunities that arise for private woodland owners, whether that's a tax program or carbon credit opportunities. There are so many options for private forest management, and MFA members tend to be among the most highly educated on these options and what is best for their woodland.

There are also many educational benefits, such as finding out about workshops or trainings that can translate to better woodland management on your own property. Another benefit is knowing that being a member of MFA means that private woodland owners' voices are represented at the state level and during legislative discussion. MFA has a long history of promoting and advocating for private woodland owners, and that isn't changing any time soon.

I'd like to encourage every woodland owner, though they probably don't need to be reminded of this, to take time out now and then to just go "be" in the woods. Take in the surroundings, the sights, the sounds, the smells, and remember how lucky we are to have these wild places to explore.

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



Ryan Rothstein enjoying the outdoors.

Discover What Your Woods Looked Like in the Past

One thing that nearly every woodland owner has is a curiosity for the history of their property. A number of resources are available to woodland owners to better understand the history of the woods they enjoy. From aerial photos dating back to the 1930s, original land survey maps and Native American uses of the land, there is a lot to be explored. Learn about resources to explore the history of your land at <https://extension.umn.edu/my-minnesota-woods/how-find-out-what-your-woods-looked-past>.

MFA Board Elections 2021



John Bathke, Two Harbors

John is a licensed Real Estate Broker with Timber Ghost Realty, working mostly in Lake, St. Louis and Cook Counties. John and his wife, Sue, live on the north shore of Lake Superior about 10 miles past Two Harbors. He is a small Non-Industrial Private Forest Landowner (NIPF) and represents an association that is a large NIPF (1,800 acres), both in Lake County. John has had a life-long interest in the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. In the last 30 years he has been increasingly interested and involved in forestry, including the Woodland Advisor Program. John is a U of M Extension Master Naturalist Instructor – Northwoods/Great Lakes. John has previously served on the MFA board and currently serves on the following boards: Sugarloaf: North Shore Stewardship Association - 1st VP;

United Northern Sportsmen Club; Realtors as Neighbors Foundation - Treasurer; North Shore Forest Collaborative; Northeast Landscape Committee chair (MN Forest Resources Council Landscape Program); East Central landscape Committee; Gitchee Gammi Chapter of Trout Unlimited - Secretary and Treasurer; Friends of the Band Shell Park; Friends of the Edna G - Treasurer; Beacons of Hope - Treasurer.



Nikki Henger, Osceola, Wisconsin

Nikki grew up in Ohio and went to the University of Dayton for her B.S. in Environmental Biology. She continued her education in New York and enrolled in a dual degree program with State University of New York-Environmental Science and Forestry and Syracuse University. There, she obtained an M.S. in Forestry and Natural Resources Management and an MPA and also completed a thesis on Emerald Ash Borer state management plans. She is currently on the board of the Minnesota Women's Woodland Network and works for Wild Rivers Conservancy, the official friends group of the St. Croix and Namekagon National Park. As the Forestry Program Coordinator, she is focused on private woodland owner outreach and education.



Brian Huberty, Hastings

Brian is a forester and the remote sensing lead scientist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Brian has B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Minnesota, College of Natural Resources, specializing in geospatial resource inventory systems. Over the last three decades, he has applied remote sensing and geospatial assessment technologies for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Geological Service.



Lyle Keller, Peterson

Lyle is a retired civil engineer who worked for a road construction firm based out of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In 1984, he and his wife bought what he calls an “abused farm” adjacent to the Root River near Peterson, Minnesota, which is about 30 miles southeast of Rochester and 15 miles from the Iowa border. Lyle has been living on that 146-acre farm since 1995. His first Forest Stewardship Plan was developed in 1986 and in 1987, the land was designated a Tree Farm. He has planted thousands of trees on his property and harvested 113,000 board feet of lumber in 1999. Lyle was elected to the MFA Board in 2012 and currently serves as Secretary.



Our Shared Bookshelf

This edition, we're highlighting “The Forest for the Trees: How Humans Shaped the North Woods,” by Jeff Forester.

Forester describes how humans have occupied and managed the northern borderlands of Minnesota, from tribal burning to pioneer and industrial logging to evolving conceptions of wilderness and restoration forestry. The book more broadly explores the nation's

history of resource extraction and wilderness preservation, asking readers to consider what today's actions may mean for the future of America's forests.





Dave Roerick, Grand Rapids

Dave has two adult children and five grandchildren whom he says can wear him out quickly! Dave retired in April of 2009 after 35 years with the U.S. Forest Service, where he was most active in the timber program. Dave currently owns and actively manages several hundred acres of woodland, mostly in Itasca County. He also owns a fire extinguisher business, sells timber for building log homes and is an active volunteer for five non-profits in the Grand Rapids area. Dave says he enjoys volunteering and serving in the area that has been so good to him.



Bill Sayward, Grand Rapids

Bill and his wife, Cathy, moved to Minnesota in 1987 to manage and own Itasca Greenhouse Inc. in Cohasset 1987-2016. Prior to moving to Minnesota, Bill worked as the Research Forester for Georgia Pacific in Woodland, Maine, managing two company nurseries that supplied containerized tree seedlings for planting on company lands in Maine and New Brunswick, Canada. In later years, these two nurseries were made profit centers supplying containerized tree seedlings to private and industrial landowners in the northeastern U.S. and in eastern Canada. Bill and Cathy have three boys who were raised in the Grand Rapids area. Bill has been active in forestry all his life, working on the family woodlots in Vermont since 1955 planting trees, improving timber stands and wildlife habitat, and surveying and managing boundaries. He and Cathy have managed the woodlot on their homestead in Arbo, Minnesota, as well as a clonal seed orchard of improved selections of balsam fir and some other species. Bill has really enjoyed trade shows and visiting with other landowners over the years. He looks forward to continuing working as a director and treasure of MFA, and visiting and working with other woodland owners.

OFFICIAL BALLOT 2019 Directions

1. Select a candidate by placing an “X” in the appropriate box. Those with Family Memberships are entitled to TWO votes.
2. Return the ballot to the MFA office, postmarked no later than Jan. 15, 2022. (Any ballot postmarked after this date will not be a valid vote.)
3. You may write in the name(s) of any MFA member in good standing.

Vote for five, each for a two or three year term on the MFA Board of Directors	First Vote	Second Vote (Family Members)
John Bathke, Two Harbors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nikki Henger, Osceola, Wisconsin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Huberty, Hastings (incumbent) 2-year term	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lyle Keller, Peterson (incumbent) 2-year term	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dave Roerick, Grand Rapids (incumbent) 3-year term	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Sayward, Grand Rapids (incumbent) 3-year term	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For Family Members, please print your name here so we can verify that you are entitled to two votes: _____		

Thank you for voting!

Tape Here

Tape Here

Tape Here

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

Return Address (Optional)

<p>Affix a 1st Class Stamp Here</p>

TO:

MINNESOTA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
 PO Box 6060
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Any comments you'd like to add? Put them here and then fold this side in first.

Guidelines for Processing Minnesota Basswood for Lumber and Specialty Products

By John Krantz

Minnesota basswood lumber is highly preferred by industry, carvers and crafters throughout the U.S. because of density, brightness and slower growth. However, to make it highly desirable, strict guidelines from harvest to final product must be followed. Here are some basic steps to follow that will produce a quality basswood product:

Harvesting and Sawing Season

To manufacture a desirable white wood, most basswood in Minnesota should be harvested during the dormant season and delivered to the mill before road restrictions. Sawing into products and piles for drying should be completed by mid-April.

Sawing Methods

Producing basswood for specialty markets (carving) demands special sawing and over-sizing. The thicker the wood, the higher the market price. By sawing the method shown, called flat sawing, wood produced will have uniform growth rings and uniform drying and will produce quality sizes desired by crafters and carvers. Do not saw during mid-winter. Thawing weather followed by freezing could surface crack thicker basswood.



Step 1. Operating a bandsaw sawmill, the first cut after removal of the bark is to produce a 1¹/₄-foot (5/4) board or 1¹/₂-foot (6/4) board. On larger logs (15+ inches) a 2¹/₄-foot (9/4) board can be sawn. Over-sizing is necessary to ensure that a full 1-inch and 2-inch board will result after drying and planing. Carving patterns generally list dimensions in even sizes so over-sizing will permit the producer to plane the board and meet pattern sizes.



Step 2. Turn log 180 degrees. Saw slab and 5/4 or 6/4 or 9/4 board. The log should now be a symmetrical 2-sided cant.



Step 3. Turn cant 90 degrees. Lightly remove slab. A light amount of bark can be left on the corners which will be removed in planing. Set head rig or depth gauge to produce thickness of 3¹/₄-inch, 4³/₈-inch or even 5¹/₂-inch timbers. Do not include the heart.



Step 4. Either saw out the 2-inch center then turn the log, or saw the edging then set controls for the thickest piece minus the center 2-inch heart. Always remove the heart to prevent cracking, especially on thicker pieces.

Sawing and Drying Considerations

Here are other tips for producing quality lumber.

1. Fresh cut green basswood lumber weighs four pounds per board foot. Air dried to 10 or 12% weighs 2¹/₄ to 2¹/₂ pounds per board foot. Basswood also shrinks 15% when air dried. Place fresh cut lumber piles using dry stickers and covers at least 8 to 12 inches off the ground in the open to take advantage of early spring southern breezes and low humidities. Basswood will lose half of its moisture within a month. **Caution:** Do not store fresh cut basswood inside or in tight corners or woods where there is not air flow. By summer, basswood moisture is reduced sufficiently so the lumber can be moved inside and restickered for further drying.
2. End-coating logs or fresh cut lumber with Anchorseal or Sealtite or wax is desirable and may save 5 to 6 inches of end checking, especially on thicker pieces. Apply promptly.
3. Basswood harvested during summertime needs to be sawn into lumber within several weeks. Hot weather induces a "funnel rot" that penetrates both ends of the log and degrades the wood structure and appearance.

Follow these guidelines and you can produce quality wood from Minnesota's basswood!

Call Before You Cut

Thinking of harvesting timber from your land?
You will be sent a packet of information and receive a visit to your wood lot with no cost or obligation to you.

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: It's Not Easy Being Green: Trees in a Changing Environment

9-10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21

As long-lived urban denizens, trees endure and are often viewed as unchanging components of our communities. With changes in climate, development and new pests in our community, forests are facing increased pressure to do more with less. Learn about some of the challenges for our community trees and how you can address those challenges. Learn more and register at <https://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2021-webinar-december>.

Are you on the map?

Join more than 10,000 others on the Homegrown National Park map. Homegrown National Park, a nonprofit started by Douglas Tallamy, is a grassroots call-to-action to regenerate biodiversity and ecosystem function by planting native plants and creating new ecological networks. The online map is an interactive community-based visual that will show each person's contribution to planting native by state, county and zip code. It's also a way for individuals to see their part in the greater whole—creating new ecological networks and restoring biodiversity. Learn more and add your name to the map at <https://homegrownnationalpark.org>.



MFA's

Forester Phone Line

A free service for MFA members only!

Call for an appointment with
the forester: **218-879-5100**



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Change Service Requested

Join the MFA Annual Business Meeting at 9 a.m. on Dec. 14, 2021:

VIA ZOOM MEETING

Enter the following web address into a current, updated browser such as Google Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge or Apple Safari: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94287067737>.

You will be placed into a virtual waiting room where the host will let you in with your computer microphone muted.

OR

VIA PHONE CALL

Choose one of these numbers to call:

- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington, D.C.)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Then enter this Meeting ID#: 942 8706 7737

Learn more at <https://www.minnesotaforestry.org>.
