



Minnesota Woodlands

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

www.MinnesotaForestry.org

Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA)

Information@

MinnesotaForestry.org

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MFA Board Meetings

Cambridge DNR Office, 10 am – 3 pm

- March 8, 2016
- July 12, 2016
- October 11, 2016

Conference Calls
8 – 9 am

- February 9, 2016
- April 12, 2016
- May 10, 2016

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Drone use in Forest Management

By Linda K. Dinkel, Editor

As manager of the University of Minnesota's Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative, Eli Sagor loves to learn, and to help others learn, what's new in Minnesota's woods. "Forest management is changing rapidly," said Sagor. "With the milder temperatures our weather observer network has recorded over the past few decades, it starts with a growing recognition of the importance of active management to keep our forests diverse and healthy. All kinds of new technologies are helping foresters to know what's in their woods and how best to manage it to maintain forest health and productivity."

Last fall, Sagor organized a field day highlighting one of those new technologies: the use of drones in natural resource management. It's a fast-evolving technology that has far reaching applications. He points out that he's not an expert in the field, and brought in Bill Anderson for the seminar, a retired pilot with knowledge and experience in the field. As with any new technology, it's helpful to understand the terminology associated with it. In this case, even the main identifying terms can be a bit confusing.

"There are several different terms that more or less name the same thing," said Sagor.

"People are most familiar with the term 'drone' but it's not an exact fit, and it carries a military connotation in most people's minds since they were initially developed and used by the military." Today, two acronyms are often used. UAV stands for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, while UAS stands for Unmanned Aerial Systems, a term Sagor prefers as it best describes the fact that it is a whole, integrated system in the air and on the ground: the aerial vehicle, cameras, both still and video, and computer systems in the air, on the ground, and at the office for analysis.

Additional terminology pertains to the manner of flight. Quadcopters can take off and land vertically, move in multiple directions, or hover in place, and are often used with a video system for assessing things like storm or fire damage, road conditions, or disease and pest infestations. Fixed wing vehicles need room for landing and take off and are more limited in maneuverability, but generally can stay in the air longer. They are most often used for mapping and surveys.

Continued on page 3



Eli Sagor

Photo by Dan Hanson,
UMN Extension.



Retired pilot Bill Anderson launches a fixed wing drone.

Photo by Eli Sagor, UMN-SFEC

Minnesota Forestry Association

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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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Board Election Results

Thanks to all the members who took the time to vote in our recent Board elections.

Re-elected candidates:

Chad Converse, Motley 129
Peggy Meseroll, Esko 129
John O'Reilly, Hinckley 124
Dave Roerick, Grand Rapids 130
Al Schacht, Zumbro Falls 124

Congratulations to newly elected Board members:

Brian Huberty, Hastings 127
Gina Hugo, Elk River 132

Additionally, Terry Helbig, Lance Sorensen, Barb Spears and Robert Stine each received one write-in vote, and Julie Miedtke received two. If you are interested in being considered for an MFA Board position next year, contact our nominating committee members: Bruce ZumBahlen (ZoomerBruce@aol.com) or Al Schacht (507-753-3214).

New President

After serving for eight years as the president of MFA, five of which included the unpaid position of newsletter editor, John O'Reilly is stepping down. He will continue to serve on the Board in a variety of capacities. The officers for 2016 as elected by the Board are:

President Neal Chapman, Roseville
Vice President Dave Roerick, Grand Rapids
Secretary Lyle Keller, Peterson
Treasurer Dennis Thompson, Aitkin
Sargent-at-Arms Stan Grossman, Park Rapids

Ballot Survey Results

In response to the survey question: How would you rate MFA's newsletter, *Minnesota Woodlands*, 84% responded "Very good. I look forward to receiving it and read most of it" and 16% checked "Okay. I read parts of every issue." No respondents checked "Poor. Plenty of room for improvement."

To the second question, "In your opinion, what would improve the newsletter?" 52 members wanted to see more how-to material, 25 wanted more articles about birds and wildlife. Eleven respondents would like to see more articles about the DNR and another 8 members wanted the newsletter to focus more on individual members. In addition, 13 members had comments or specific topic suggestions, including such things as markets, forest economics and timber harvest news, bur oak blight, bio-energy, increasing hunting habitats.

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



"Excellent article on wolves! Would like to see a follow-up/tally of the Boots-on-Your-Ground program and a recent history of timber/lumber prices." Stan Musielewicz, Little Falls, MN—Look for a Boots-on-Your-Ground recap in the April/May issue.



"I really appreciated your Boots-on-Your-Ground program visit on my land in Wright County. Please continue and expand this program. I would have paid additional money for another hour of the forester's time!" Judith Trolander, Duluth, MN



"Thanks to the Board Members!" Peter Bundy, Minneapolis, MN

"I wish we had more time to participate in MFA events. I hope to attend one in the future. Keep up the good work!" Phil Jacobs, Ellsworth, WI

MFA's Forester Phone Line

Recently, a member called the Forester Phone Line with a question about aspen stumpage prices. MFA Forester Dean Makey fielded the question, supplying information on the current price of about \$25-30 per cord in central Minnesota. Makey also said the price would be dependent on many factors, such as access, amount of volume, product, logging conditions and season of cutting. The member described in greater detail what his harvest was like and that it had already been cut.

As they were on the phone, Makey was able to research web sites in the member's county (Beltrami, near Koochiching County) for County Timber Auction results and found some in the last part of 2015 with prices for aspen at \$30 to \$40 per cord. The member was pleased to discuss with Makey the possibilities of higher prices there with larger volume sales and better markets.

The Forester Phone Line is a free service for MFA members only. Call for an appointment with the forester: 218-326-6486.

Drones continued from page 1

Sagor says that drones aren't really being used to their potential in forest resource management for a couple of reasons. **"The main barriers are cost and the effort needed to learn and apply new technology.** Price-wise, quadcopters are the least expensive, starting as low as \$1000, and they can be relatively easy to learn to use. Fixed wing UASs, on the other hand, can have very complicated mapping systems and run over \$30,000." That's not an amount that fits into most natural resource manager's budgets. Sagor said that UAS use is gaining ground in the agricultural sector, particularly to scout crop health in large fields, helping the farmer save time and providing up-to-date information. "Of course, agriculture is big business, and ag specialists are pretty adept at applying new technology when they see the advantages. Even if they can see the applications, few professional foresters or private land owners have that kind of money, and they wouldn't realize the kinds of profits ag does from using such expensive equipment." But Sagor is quick to point out that, like all new technology, the prices will come down over time.

So does Sagor see a use for the less expensive drones for the private woodland owner? "Of course, managing your woods is a very personal thing. There's so much we can be doing and I realize that drones will not be for everyone. **But for someone who has a natural inclination and curiosity about new technology, there can be many uses, and it can be a lot of fun.** A drone's ability to rise above the trees gives you an entirely new vantage point and a different understanding of your landscape. This can really help in planning trails and roads, especially in challenging terrain." He also pointed out that drones are an excellent way to find buckthorn. "In the fall, buckthorn holds its leaves much longer than pretty much everything else in the woods, making it very easy to spot from the air."

Sagor sees one other drone application for the private landowner. "You might be passionate about your land, but it's not always easy to pass that on to the next generation. **Getting grandkids out in the woods with a drone can be a great way to get them interested in what you're doing.** Get them to operate it and talk over what you see. Plan trails together or choose deer stand locations. It really could help plant the seed for the next generation to love the land just as much as you do."

If a UAS might fit into your woodland toolkit, you should be aware of new regulations. The FAA recently announced that all UASs weighing more than 250 grams flown for any purpose must be registered with the FAA. Owners may use either the paper-based process or a new, streamlined, web-based system at www.faa.gov/uas/registration.



Bill Anderson explains drone operation to field day attendees.

Photo by Eli Sagor, UMN-SFEC

Announcing the 2016 Forestry Webinar Series

The Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative and University of Minnesota Extension are pleased to announce the 2016 Forestry Webinar Series. These monthly presentations on topics ranging from forest health, wildlife management, and forest management are designed for natural resource professionals and interested landowners. The presentations are approved for continuing education credits through SAF and MN Forest Stewardship. ISA credits are available for some webinars.

Watch from your personal computer at a cost of \$20/presentation or \$50 for the whole series, or attend a broadcast site for free at one of five locations throughout the state. For more information, visit MFA's website: www.minnesotaforestry.org and click on the Webinar link in the Upcoming Classes and Events calendar.

Choosing the Tree Farmer of the Year

By Linda K. Dinkel, Editor

Every spring, a hardworking, committed Minnesotan is recognized as the state's Tree Farmer of the Year for their exceptional work in the four focus areas of the American Tree Farm System: wood, water, wildlife and recreation. This year, the recipients will receive their award in Winona, MN at the Gathering Partners convention. Of course, the process used in choosing each year's recipient begins long before that.

"Minnesota Tree Farm System is made up of four regions. Each fall, the region chairs ask area foresters for potential candidates," said Mary Perala, MN Tree Farm's Chair and forester for Boise Paper. "We're looking for tree farmers who are engaged in their land on a variety of levels: implementing sustainable forestry practices, community outreach, educational opportunities, and multi-use objectives for their property." Each area awards its own regional winner.

In October, regional tree farm inspectors submit nomination forms for each of the four finalists to the state committee for review. The forms supply information on such things as acreage, how long they've owned the property, what type of work they perform, plans and objectives, and how they involve others on their property. The committee, a board of 15 representatives from MFI, DNR, MFA, Industry, Consulting Foresters, U of MN Extension and private landowners votes for the state winner who is notified in November.

"The whole process is really about recognizing the good work done by so many of our woodland owners. It doesn't matter to the committee if they own 20 acres or 2000. It's about finding and recognizing the people who care deeply about the woods, wildlife, and water in their corner of Minnesota," said Perala.

Beyond the state award lies the regional award. Forty-four states are involved in the American Tree Farm System, which is broken up into four regions. Minnesota belongs to the North Central region along with Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin. In February, each of the four regions votes for their own regional Tree Farmer of the Year. Finally, from these four finalists, the National Tree Farmer of the Year is named in late summer.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System, and the 65th year of Minnesota's involvement. To look into starting your own membership, visit their website at mmtreefarm.org.



Member Profile: Mary and William Bailey and Steve Bailey

By Linda K. Dinkel

"Allemande left, do sa do! Swing your partner, 'round she goes!"

The art of square dancing is in how smoothly a person moves with their partner, moves away from that partner, and then moves back once again to the home position. For Mary and Bill Bailey, that description is about more than the dance. It's about life.

Initially, visits to the Mayo Clinic brought Mary and husband Leonard to this area. "We just fell in love with the land and planned to retire here, having found the ideal 58-acre piece of property in 1992," said Mary. "We established hiking trails and installed bluebird boxes, and finally moved to Chatfield from Indiana in 2002. Sadly, Leonard died suddenly just two years after we moved here. It was just devastating. I considered selling and moving back near family. Instead, I got lots of help and good advice from neighbors and friends and realized I couldn't leave here."

For Bill, who lost his first wife to cancer in 2006, leaving the area was never a consideration. "My great-grandfather



Mary and Bill on one of their many woodland trails.

homesteaded near here in 1884. The land I farm now with my brother Steve was bought by my grandfather in 1917, passed to my dad, and then on to us. On our 2000 acres we raise corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and a 200-head cow-calf herd. **We also have 300 acres of woods that we manage, along with some woods that the cows rotationally graze, though I never met a cow that was much of a forester,**" quipped Bill.

Mary watched a demo square dance during a local town festival and contacted one of the dancers about lessons. "It seemed like a good, safe way to meet people and socialize." It also happened to be a good way to meet a new partner for life. Bill and Mary were married in September 2008, and



Top: Steve, Mary and Bill Bailey proudly stand by the entrance to their property.

Below: Baileys harvest around 100,000 board feet every winter.

continue to square dance three to four times per week. So, how does this match made on the square dance floor end up as the 2015 Minnesota Tree Farmers of the Year? It really began in Bill and Steve's childhood.

“Growing up, I was always drawn to our woods. Of course, I spent a lot of time doing fieldwork, but being in the woods was my favorite thing to do,” said Bill. “When it came time to go to college, I decided I already knew enough about farming, so I got a degree in forestry from the U of M in 1971.” While Bill was still in college, he and Steve began to manage their woods by more intensely logging some areas, creating more trails and hand planting black walnuts. “In 1985, I wrote up our first real management plan. The idea evolved to log 30 acres every year, which means we’re back in an area every 10 years. We’re pretty aggressive in thinning and selecting crop trees. Every year, our goal is to harvest 100,000 board feet,” said Bill. According to Steve, “thinning is one of the best things you can do for the environment. A young tree takes in more carbon dioxide than the fully mature trees, just like a young man utilizes more nutrients compared to an old man.”

The Baileys have hosted field days on their property and have a unique way to show the advantages of thinning. “One of my favorite things I’ve shown people is a wedge I cut from a basswood we harvested in 2014,” said Bill. The area around the tree was thinned in 1984 and again in 2000. Bill used colored pins to show the impact of thinning on growth rate. The first 35 years of growth resulted in 9% of the total volume of the tree. In the 16 years after thinning in 1984, the tree added 26% of its total volume. Fourteen years of growth from 2000 to 2014 resulted in 65% of the total volume.

“Many woodland owners are missing out on a great opportunity if they don’t thin their stands,” said Bill. “You need to thin out that low-value tree in a timely manner to give your more valuable ones room to grow!” Even though Bill has a forestry background, he recommends building a relationship with a local forester. “DNR forester Jim Edgar has really helped us a lot with advice and expertise, and that would be even more important for someone new to forest management. It’s a good investment to find a reputable forester to oversee your timber sale.”

With chainsaws, tractors, a Finnish-built PTO winch and occasionally a rented skidder, **Steve and Bill spend their winters in the woods, thinning and harvesting a wide variety of species: black walnut, hard maple, red, white and burr oak, red and gray elm, cherry, basswood, poplar, ash, hackberry and cottonwood.** “Keeping the forest healthy is kind of like healthy eating,” said Steve Bailey. “No matter how good one food is, if you only eat that one, it’s not going to be healthy. That’s why we have lots of different tree species, because that’s more healthy.” Root River Hardwoods of Preston and Albert Lea, MN, grades and marks the logs for length, with most of them going to local Amish sawmills for pallet production. Premium logs are used for veneer, flooring, barrel staves, and finish wood sold in commercial stores.

By the way, any article about the Baileys would be remiss if it didn’t mention two other things. First, a large portion of the six-mile Lost Creek Hiking Trail meanders through their land. Opened in October of 2011, the trail is maintained by the Bluff Country Hiking Club, and the Bailey’s cooperation and enthusiasm was crucial to the success of the project. Complete with educational signs, the trail is a wonderful marriage of recreation and forest education. Second, there’s this thing about Mary and bluebirds. For more information on that, see the article on the Bluebird Recovery Program in this issue.

For their efforts in conservation, public education, forest improvement, and making their woodlands available to the public for recreational activities, Steve Bailey, and Bill and Mary Bailey are certainly worthy recipients of the Tree Farmer of the Year award and an inspiration to all woodland owners.



Steve beside a large stump, evidence of the winter’s harvest to make room for a sugar maple.

Creature Feature

By Jodie Provost, DNR Private Land Habitat Coordinator

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) – Happiness on Wings

Eastern bluebirds are a symbol of summer happiness and likely one of Minnesotans' most beloved birds, up there with chickadees and loons. When enjoying a spring or summer day on our hobby farm, I can't help but pause to take in this small thrush's sweet, warbling song and brilliant colors. They have been cheerful company on many days of garden, horse and chicken chores.

A Recovery Success Story: While eastern bluebirds are currently common due to the proliferation of nest boxes and bluebird trails, that hasn't always been the case. They declined dramatically from the 1930s to the 1960s due to loss of habitat and nest site competition from house sparrows and European starlings, two non-native birds and bluebird enemies. Together, partners like the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program and Bluebird Recovery Program sponsored workshops, published education materials and promoted bluebird houses. Restoration efforts paid off. Minnesota now has one of the most successful bluebird recovery projects in the nation.

Not Really Blue: Eastern bluebirds have big, rounded heads, large eyes, plump bodies, and alert posture. Their wings are long, tail and legs fairly short, and bill short and straight. Males are a vivid, deep blue above and rusty or brick-red on the throat and breast. Females are grayish above with bluish wings and tail, and a subdued orange-brown breast. And guess what? They aren't really blue, but gray. Their feathers bend light so they look blue. When light enters their feathers, it bounces off tiny air pockets and cells so that only the blue wavelengths reach our eyes.

Habitat Mix: Bluebirds prefer habitat of mixed hardwood forest and grassland with short, sparse, mowed or grazed vegetation. Perches such as scattered trees, powerlines or fences are important. They inhabit open woodlands, meadows, old fields, roadsides, pastures, hay lands, prairies, orchards, golf courses, backyards or city parks of every county in Minnesota.

Bugs and Berries: Bluebirds are ground foragers, primarily catching insects caught on the ground much of the year. Major prey includes caterpillars, beetles, crickets, grasshoppers, and spiders. They typically hunt by sitting alertly in the open on a perch and scanning the ground. They drop to the ground after insects with fluttering wings, followed by a quick return to the perch. Occasionally, they catch insects in midair. They can sight their tiny prey from 60 feet or more away. In fall and winter, bluebirds eat large amounts of fruit such as mistletoe, sumac, blueberries, dogwood berries, hackberries, and juniper berries.



Bluebird Tweets: Bluebird language is diverse. Their song is a fairly low-pitched warble of several phrases. Typically, unpaired males sing this song from a high perch or sometimes in flight to attract a mate. Their most common call is a soft, short, low-pitched tu-a-wee with a querulous tone. Bluebirds use it in all seasons to stay in touch or signal to nestlings that food is on its way. When bluebirds get too close to each other, they let out a single, harsh screech. If nervous at the approach of a ground predator, a loud, continual chit-chit-chit is uttered. And when attacking predators or other intruders draw near, bluebirds may dive-bomb them and clack their bills.

Devoted Parents: Some bluebirds winter in Minnesota, but most migrate south, returning in March. They nest April to July, typically raising two broods. They depend on cavities excavated by other wildlife, such as woodpeckers, or nest boxes. The male fights feistily over and defends about five-acre territories. He displays at his nest cavity to attract a female, bringing nest material to the hole, going in and out, and waving his wings while perched above it. The female builds the nest by loosely weaving together grasses or pine needles, lining it with fine grasses and occasionally horsehair or feathers. The eggs, usually five to six, are pale blue, or rarely white, and incubated 13-16 days by the female. After a nestling period of 18-19 days, the young take flight. Bluebirds typically live two to three years, five if lucky. The oldest recorded eastern bluebird was over 10 years old. Birds of prey, snakes, and various mammals, especially cats and raccoons, are their main predators.

To learn more about how to keep bluebirds common in Minnesota, join the Bluebird Recover Program (featured on page 7) or visit the North American Bluebird Society website at nabluebirdsociety.org. You'll find ample instructions and advice at both sites for building (or purchasing), placement, and maintenance of bluebird nest boxes so you can enjoy these beautiful songbirds on your own property.

The Bluebird Recovery Program: *Bringing Back Bluebirds for Future Generations!*

By Linda K. Dinkel, Editor

Mary Bailey, Minnesota Bluebird Recovery Program County Coordinator for Olmsted and Fillmore Counties, has no intention of recovering from the “bluebird bug” that bit her over 30 years ago. “I’ve always loved the outdoors and wildlife, and in my 30’s I volunteered at a state park near my home in Indiana to check bluebird nest boxes. I was hooked.”

Hooked, indeed! **Since that first exposure to the beauty and blessings of bluebirds, Mary has become a tireless advocate and educator of all things bluebird.** Her passion led her to the Bluebird Recovery Program (BBRP). “I was already pretty involved in bluebirds before my late husband and I bought our land in Minnesota. The first thing we did was put up bluebird boxes. We were not disappointed. Bluebirds nested in the first box we put near the gate. Once we moved here, we joined BBRP and began networking with other bluebirders and attending the expos,” said Mary. “BBRP is just a wonderful organization that really has all of the resources you need to help bluebirds flourish on your property!”

BBRP began as a call for help. In 1979, Minnesota resident and bluebird enthusiast Dick Peterson and his unique design for nest boxes were featured in a *Minneapolis Star & Tribune* article. He was inundated by letters requesting plans for the boxes and asked the Minneapolis Chapter of Audubon for help. **The Bluebird Recovery Program was quickly organized as the first state bluebird organization in the nation.** Today, BBRP is an independent, non-profit with chapters throughout the state serving over 600 members.

According to Mary, BBRP is the best, first resource if you’re interested in bluebirds. **“We focus on education and encouragement to follow best practices in attracting bluebirds and helping them nest, hatch and thrive.** To do it right, it involves a commitment.” Yet, the rewards make all the effort worthwhile. “When I got my first box with eggs in it, that was it. I was hooked for life!” said Mary.

Best practices focuses first on this commitment. **According to the BBRP pamphlet Top Ten Tips for Successful Bluebirding, the first step is to commit to opening and checking the contents of your nest boxes at least once a week during the nesting season,** keeping written records of what you find. This identifies problems and keeps you informed of the success or failure of each location you’ve chosen to install nest boxes. Another vital aspect is reporting your trail results to BBRP at the end of the season. Once you’re committed to this, the pamphlet offers nine more guidelines for site selection, installation and how to deal with predators and keeping bluebirds safe. By following these ten guidelines, you will avoid common mistakes and increase your chances of a successful season.

For more information on bluebirds or to find out how to join BBRP, visit their website at www.bbrrp.org. This website lists all of the county coordinators so everyone can find someone nearby to answer questions, free of charge. They also have a yearly expo that attracts two to three hundred participants each year. The event is open to members and non-members alike. This year, the expo is on April 16, at Byron Middle School in Byron, MN, with a full lineup of speakers on a variety of topics relating to nature, including bluebirds. Registration information is on the website.



Top: Mary stands beside one of her many blue bird nests.

Middle: Bluebird nest boxes should be checked once a week.

Bottom: Mary will continue to check the nest box even after the eggs have hatched, until the nestlings are 12 days old.

Membership Application

For New and Renewing Members

Name _____

Name _____
(second person for Family membership)

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please make any address changes above

Membership Categories

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

Category	One Year	3 years
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120
Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 - \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 - \$3,000
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> One-time payment of \$1,000**	
Perpetual*	<input type="checkbox"/> One-time payment of \$3,000**	

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

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

Mail this application with your check to:

Minnesota Forestry Association
P.O. Box 496, Grand Rapids MN 55744

1-2014

Upcoming Events

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

February

Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative Webinar:
Practical Silviculture for non-foresters.

Tuesday, February 16, 12 to 1 pm

Join Dr. Eli Sagor over the lunch hour for a practical review of common silvicultural strategies in Minnesota and the theory that informs them. See article in the newsletter for information on how to sign up.

March

Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative Webinar:
Forest Management Effects on Water

Tuesday, March 15, 12 to 1 pm

Dr. Karwan will review common drivers of soil hydrology changes following forest operations, compare effects in conifer- vs. deciduous-dominated stands, and suggest practices to reduce negative impacts in the long term.

May

Mark your calendar! MFA's Annual Meeting and

Spring Field Day will again be held in conjunction with the Master Naturalists' Gathering Partners Conference. It is set for **Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 20, 21 and 22**. The event will be held at St. Mary's University in Winona which gives our northern members an opportunity to see how things are done in the "Land of Black Walnuts". There will be educational sessions available both inside and out in the field. Topics will include forestry, birds, wildlife, and environmental subjects. Housing will be at nearby motels or, for those who want an adventure, in dorm rooms. Watch for more information here and on our website, www.MinnesotaForestry.org.

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.

MyMinnesotaWoods.org
Your source for woodland stewardship advice



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