

Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA)

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MFA Newsletter Vol. 25 No. 3 Summer 2023

The Minnesota Woodlands newsletter is published by the Minnesota Forestry Association.

MFA Board Meetings Conference Calls

- 8 – 9 am
- July 11, 2023
 - August 8, 2023
 - September 11, 2023
 - October 10, 2023

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Pruning Oaks and Perusing the MFRC

As forest landowners and managers, it is likely that you already know about pruning oaks (or not!) from April 'on' (meaning into the summer). It is recommended not pruning oaks in the spring and summer because sap-feeding beetles that carry the oak wilt fungus are attracted to the chemicals produced by fresh wounds. If wounded oak trees are visited by these fungus-contaminated beetles, oak wilt spreads.

That said, (and now that we have your attention), there IS something you want to immerse in this summer - and in the months ahead: it's the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC).

As its web site (<https://mn.gov/frc/>) describes, the MFRC is a 17-member board "created to develop policy recommendations to the Governor and federal, state, and local governments and to encourage the adoption of sustainable forest management policies and practices. The board holds public meetings every other month to discuss key issues in the management and ownership of forested lands and resources."



The Council members represent a broad cross-section of forest resource interests, including industry; tourism; timber harvesting; county, state, and federal lands; tribal lands; conservation and environmental; game species; University of Minnesota; and, importantly "you:" private landowners.

It is very likely you are currently within the boundaries of one of the Council's regional landscapes, as part of the Council's Regional Landscape Program. These volunteer, citizen-based committees are central to carrying out land management on a 'landscape level,' and across ownership boundaries.

The graphic shows the location of these committees. Find your committee and consider joining and/or attending a meeting! To learn more about regional committee activities, check the MFRC Web site and the landscape committee calendar (<https://mn.gov/frc/council-meetings/>) for upcoming meetings.

A recent action by the Council is of great interest to Minnesota's private landowners. The Council created a "Family Forest Landowner Committee" (FFL) as one of its sanctioned and official committees. Janet Erdman, is a private landowner in southeastern Minnesota and private landowner representative on the Council, as is Kathleen Preece. Janet was appointed as the FFL's chair and serves on the committee with Kathleen, Mike Kilgore (University of Minnesota), and Rick Horton, Minnesota Forest Industries. And, importantly, Janet is a MFA member.

Continued on page 3

Minnesota Forestry Association Annual Banquet and Gathering

September 15 & 16 » Details on page 7

Minnesota Forestry Association

2023 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.

Lyle Keller, Peterson, MN

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John Carlson, St. Paul, MN

Bruce ZumBahlen, Cottage Grove, MN

MFA contact information:
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218-879-5100, 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 or call 218-879-5100.

Getting to Know...

Marissa Berguson

Hi, I'm Marissa! I've been managing the MFA website for the past three years, working alongside many board and staff members to bring valuable online resources and content to Minnesota's landowners. Recently, we have expanded



our online presence to include a new Facebook page where you can see the most up-to-date events, news, and important information we have to share with you from all across Minnesota's woodsy communities. In tandem with the website, the MFA's social media presence seeks to provide online information that is easily accessible, relevant to our field, and supports the mission of bringing good stewardship education to all of Minnesota. Check out MFA's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MinnesotaForestry.

I like to know what you want to see and hear about! Don't be shy - you can send me an email at marissa@minnesotaforestry.org with your suggestions regarding anything you would like to see added to MFA's website or social media.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the greater Minnesotan woodland community by helping bring valuable online content that promotes the MFA's mission and keeps us connected. It is an honor to be a part of this organization, and it is my hope that as we grow, we will continue to harness the power of an ever-expanding web of digital resources to connect us to each other and to our natural resources.

On the Move... Nikki Henger

Dear MFA! I have some exciting news to share—I am embarking on a new adventure as a Forestry Outreach Specialist at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It's bittersweet to leave my role as a board member.

I express my gratitude for letting me serve as board member. Everyone's support, camaraderie, and shared passion for forestry have been amazing. I've learned so much and have even had the pleasure of helping create the MFA's Facebook page!

Although I will be stepping down as a board member, I am certain our paths will cross again. As an outreach specialist, I'm excited to serve as a bridge between DNR forestry programs and the public. In this role, I will work with woodland owners; and help manage statewide outreach and communication programs for the state forest nursery, seed and cone collection, private forest management, and urban and community forest and forest legacy.

I am excited about the opportunity to amplify the positive impact of these forestry programs and foster a deeper understanding and appreciation for the importance of sustainable forest management. I appreciate your continued support and I eagerly look forward to collaborating with all of you in the future!

Kathleen Preece

Hi, I'm Kathleen! In the 'footsteps' of Marissa Berguson, I, too, would like to introduce myself and encourage MFA readers and supporters to be in touch.



I am honored to be working with the more 'traditional' communications tool of the MFA – that of its newsletter, *Minnesota Woodlands*. MFA President Brian Huberty has encouraged us to include more information in the newsletter and via social media about current and significant events and discussions related to our forests.

As Marissa suggested, I, too, want to see and hear about what interests and affects you! You can find me at editor@minnesotaforestry.org, or give me a call: 218-407-2110.

For your interest, I work out of an office along the shores of Lake Marquette in Beltrami County. Out my east window is the lake and the myriad of waterfowl and shorebirds who have claimed that environment as their home. And to the west are my pineries: 40 acres of red and white pine, with a pocket or two of pasture where I care for rescue donkeys and ponies. The latter are my passion; planting trees are my joy!

MFRC continued from page 1

Information on how to contact Janet or Kathleen is on the MFRC Web site. You are encouraged to share your thoughts and ideas with the newly formed FFL Committee.

Doesn't Janet sound like 'our' kind of private landowner? Here is how she ended a recent note to me (and how I will end this writing):

Just got home from coffee with the ladies. I'm stalled as my Ranger overheated, so I'm trying to figure out if I can fix it. I'm starting to spot spray weeds in 150 acres of CRP--not my favorite job. And speaking of trees, I finished planting and caging about 150 but now no rain, then add some heat. So I guess I'll water. Some days it's hard to get ahead but yet we keep plugging along.

On a good note, it's my favorite time of year. In the last day I've seen fawns, owls, turkeys, coyotes, and all kinds of birds. I'm eating asparagus and mushrooms-- my kind of life.

In a past issue of *Minnesota Woodlands*, we described Janet's passion and connection to her family's woods, growing up as the third generation on the family farm in southeast Minnesota. Janet gives credit to her parents for instilling in her their deep appreciation of the 450-acre property in Fillmore County, 225 acres of it in woodland, the rest in either the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or in tillage.

From her early days of touring the woods with her father and looking for wildflowers with her mother and sister, Janet took a keen interest in natural resources and wanting to know more. Her thirst for knowledge led her to becoming a Dakota County Master Gardner, Minnesota Master Naturalist, Tree Care Advocate, and Forest Pest First Detector. She is an active member of the Minnesota Women's Woodland Network.

In 2020, Janet was voted Minnesota's Tree Farmer of the Year by the Minnesota State Tree Farm Committee.

Janet recently retired from her positions as a medical librarian and is pretty much 'full time' on her land along with her husband, Mike, her "right hand man." Janet's parents deeded the land to her through a life estate in 2002, and encouraged her to take leadership of the farm's stewardship.



Above: Janet Erdman.

Bottom: Janet and Mike Erdman.

Janet takes her role as chair of the newly formed FFL Committee very seriously. As she points out: "Privately owned forests make up almost half of the state's woodlands. The importance of private landowners' contributions to healthy forest resources, including wildlife habitat, water and air quality, forest products industry cannot be overstated.

"I welcome the input from all types of landowners: small acreage to large holdings; be their management objectives focused on eradicating non native species, creating hiking trails and/or harvesting for income."

You are encouraged to reread the article about Janet in the December/January 2019 issue of *Minnesota Woodlands*. As author Barb Spears concluded in that article: "MFA is proud to have Janet as a member – as I told her, she is like a poster child for MFA and its mission of encouraging the retention and sustainable management of family owned woodlands."

MFRC Contacts

- MFRC Web site: <https://mn.gov/frc/>
- MFRC Landscape Program link: <https://mn.gov/frc/landscape/>
- MFRC Landscape regional committees links - links to each can be found on the Landscape Program page link above
- MFRC Landscape regional committee calendar for meeting dates. All meetings should be posted on the main calendar located on the home page.
- MFRC link to Council member listings: <https://mn.gov/frc/council-meetings/council-members/>

Discover the benefits of your trees via “i-Tree: A tool for assessing individual trees



It is common knowledge that one of the many benefits that trees provide is removing carbon dioxide from the air. Carbon dioxide is the leading source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

Most of the information we read or hear about in regards to carbon and forests, however, is the ‘big picture.’ Have you ever wondered just what that tree in your backyard contributes to the environment? Or perhaps a healthy, monarch white pine standing in your forest?

In trees and woodlands, carbon is measured by how much is stored and sequestered.

Carbon storage refers to the current amount of carbon in a tree or woodland.

Carbon sequestration refers to the process by which trees and other plants use carbon dioxide and photosynthesis to store carbon as plant biomass.

A new web site provides tools for assessing individual trees. i-Tree (itreetools.org) is an innovative, not-for-profit, public private partnership that combines government, business, and professional organizations to advocate for better tree and forest management. Its mission is to show the potential risks to tree and forest health through quantifying the benefits and value of trees. The ‘tool’ can be used with individual trees or on areas of tree canopies in many regions around the planet.

For instance, one of the tools (<https://mytree.itreetools.org/#/tree>) allows you to choose an individual tree in your woodland (or in your back yard). You will be asked a series of questions about that individual tree: location, trunk size, condition, sun exposure, distance from a building. The information will be used to estimate the carbon dioxide and air pollution that tree

removes from the air, as well as its storm water impacts. As the site says, it’s ‘easy.’

Take a look at the chart on the right. Minnesota Woodlands Graphic Designer Peg Churchwell used a tool from ‘i-Tree’ to take a closer look at one of her own trees!

MyTree Benefits	
Over 20 years.	
Bur oak, (<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>)	
Serving Size: 14.00 in. diameter	
Condition: Excellent	
Expected over 20 years:	\$701.07
Discover benefits of all your community trees!	
Carbon Dioxide Uptake	\$33.68
Carbon Sequestered ¹	394.91 lbs
CO ₂ Equivalent ²	1,447.99 lbs
Storm Water Mitigation	\$5.01
Runoff Avoided	560.68 gal
Rainfall Intercepted	24,880.95 gal
Air Pollution Removal	\$1.14
Carbon Monoxide	2.35 oz
Ozone	244.62 oz
Nitrogen Dioxide	13.56 oz
Sulfur Dioxide	0.6 oz
PM _{2.5}	9.43 oz
Energy Usage³	\$463.95
Electricity Savings	1,244.72 kWh
Heating Fuel Savings	34.16 MMBtu
Avoided Energy Emissions	\$197.29
Carbon Dioxide	8,455.72 lbs
Carbon Monoxide	35.8 oz
Nitrogen Dioxide	32.66 oz
Sulfur Dioxide	205.06 oz
PM _{2.5}	5.08 oz
Benefits are based on USDA Forest Service research and are meant for guidance only. Visit www.itreetools.org to learn more.	



Bookshelf

It’s a ‘given:’ many of us now turn to the internet and ‘cyberspace’ for our daily ‘reads.’

Taking a deviation from our traditional “Shared Bookshelf,” you are encouraged to take a read from each of these internet links! (And for those of us who still find the greatest satisfaction in having a book in our lap and pages to turn, get a copy of “Bringing Back the White Pine” by the late Jack Rajala. Editor

Kathleen Preece has a few copies on hand if you are interested in this paperback handbook by someone considered the patriarch of Minnesota’s monarch white pine.)

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch/61767>

This article, co-authored by Northern Research Station scientists and published in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, was recently recognized

Continued on page 7

Speaking of tools . . .

Our own University of Minnesota is heading up a new “AI” Institute focused on climate-smart agriculture and forestry.

Back in the day, “AI” used to be an acronym for “artificial insemination.” Now, this buzz word is heard throughout new media to denote “artificial intelligence.”

The University of Minnesota has announced that it will receive a \$20 million grant over five years from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to lead a new National Artificial Intelligence Research Institute.

Researchers at the AI Institute for Climate-Land Interactions, Mitigation, Adaptation, Tradeoffs and Economy (AI-CLIMATE) aim to leverage AI to create more climate-smart practices that will absorb and store carbon while simultaneously boosting the economy in the agriculture and forestry industries.

The new institute is one of seven new NSF and NIFA-funded institutions and is part of a larger federal initiative — totaling nearly half a billion dollars — to bolster collaborative artificial intelligence research across the country.

AI-CLIMATE is a joint effort between the U of M College of Science and Engineering, Minnesota Robotics Institute, Data Science Institute, College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences and the Office of the Vice President for Research. It will bring together scientists and engineers from across the country, including national experts on artificial intelligence and climate-smart ag and forestry from Cornell University, Colorado State

University, Delaware State University, Purdue University and North Carolina State University. The researchers will also collaborate with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and the tribal nations it represents.

Farms and forests can be used as carbon sinks, which pull more carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere than they release. Farmers and foresters may be rewarded for doing this through carbon markets, or systems in which property owners can sell “carbon credits” — equal to the amount of carbon dioxide their farm or forest has sequestered — to

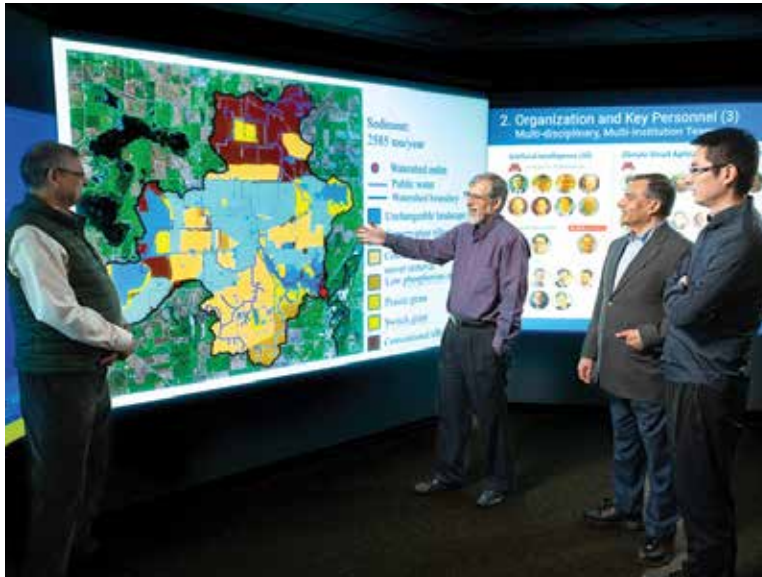
companies trying to offset their carbon emissions. However, with current technology, it’s both difficult and expensive for farmers and foresters to accurately measure how much carbon they’ve sequestered.

“When farmers touch, smell and look at the soil, they can tell if it’s carbon rich or not,” said Shashi Shekhar, director of the institute and a professor in the College of Science and Engineering.

“But, they can’t manually survey thousands of acres of land every year. We’re developing easy-to-use tools where we can show all of these measurements

and images of the soil to an AI neural network and let it figure it out for us, saving farmers and foresters time, energy and money.”

The goals of AI-CLIMATE directly intersect with what other federal programs are doing to further develop climate-smart agriculture. In 2022, the United States Department of Agriculture announced that it would be investing \$3.1 billion to support farmers, ranchers and private forest landowners through its Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities project.



A map of Minnesota’s Seven Mile Creek Watershed created by the researchers’ AI-powered GeoDesign tool showing farming practices that could optimize carbon sequestration and boost soil health. Photo credit: Rich Ryan, University of Minnesota.



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

Meet a Tree



Mulberry The ripe berries can be eaten raw, cooked, or dried.



Beech This nut can be a valuable and delicious wild food source, but you'll have to be quick to beat the squirrels.



Maple Many species produce edible seeds inside the little "helicopters" that spin down from the tree.



Cedar The ripe berries of some species can be used as a spice, though the berries of many cedars are slightly toxic.



Ash Enjoy this genus while it lasts, because ash is heading the way of the dodo bird thanks to EAB.

Once again, in this issue of *Minnesota Woodlands*, we are deviating from the 'norm.' We assume, as MFA members and likely owners of a woodland, you know your basic tree identification. But do you know some intimate details about those trees? For instance, do you know...

- The ripe berries of some species of cedar can be used as a spice.
- The bark from many species of poplar contain salicylates, just like their cousins the willows. It is from this original source that aspirin is derived. HOWEVER, levels of salicin vary from species to species (even tree to tree). Do your homework before using local cottonwoods for analgesic tea!
- One ounce of nutmeat from an oak acorn contains 100 calories.

In this edition of *Minnesota Woodlands*, we are sharing a link to "15 Trees Every Outdoor Lover Should Learn to Identify." This is taken from *Outdoorlife.com*, author Tim MacWelch. (<https://www.outdoorlife.com/15-trees-every-outdoor-lover-should-learn-to-identify/>)

If you want to be a true outdoorsman or woman, and a true survivor, you've got to become a plant person.

I know, I know—it's not as cool to walk around with your nose in a book as it is to sling lead or light stuff on fire. But at the end of the day, plants give us so much that we'd be crazy not to pay attention to them. Some of the most helpful (and long-lived) plants are trees, and it's our job as survivalists to learn the merits and problems with each species we encounter.

Sure, trees all look very similar at first, but once you start to see the subtle differences, you'll start to see trees as easily a bloodhound can pick out a fresh scent. Trees have given our ancestors the building blocks for self-reliance, and those same trees are here to help us today. From fiber and medicine, to food and drinking water, many tree species have something to offer us through all four seasons. Get to know these fifteen common genera through this gallery of useful survival trees (and a few bonus woody plants).



Sycamore Sycamore trees makes good firewood, and is also favored for woodworking.



Hickory Like pecans? Then you like hickory. Pecan is a southern species of hickory.



Black Locust The flowers can be battered and deep fried or used to make fine homemade wine.



Birch Lovely trees, and they offer us some unique bark for utilitarian purposes, as well as tea and medicine.



Pawpaw The sweet, strange flavor is a little like a banana with a hint of mango.



Black Walnut These remarkable trees provide food, medicine, dye, and useful wood.



Cottonwood A gulch full of cottonwood can give you the means to make fire in many different ways.



Pine These versatile trees provide us with food, fuel, glue, and other useful things.



Willow Most willow twigs and shoots are flexible and make great baskets.



Oak Providing everything you need to survive. Oaks give us fire, food, medicine, shelter, and so much more.

Minnesota Forestry Association Annual Banquet and Gathering

September 15 & 16

Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids

You are invited to attend the annual gathering and meeting of the Minnesota Forestry Association Members this fall!

We have a new 'walk and talk' for this year's get-together. It will be held in conjunction with the 69th annual North Star Expo. Each year, all parts of Minnesota's logging community--vendors, truckers, foresters, lawmakers, policy makers, and of course loggers!--gather in Grand Rapids for the "Great Minnesota Logging Get-together – the Expo!

The MFA Annual Business Meeting will be in the Log Building late afternoon on Friday September 15.

Followed by dinner, Tree Farm Awards and speakers.

Before and after the MFA annual meeting, you can take the opportunity to tour these picturesque fairgrounds, talk with equipment dealers, see harvesting and sawing equipment at work, and just plain mingle with fellow woods-people who like to talk trees, tree planting, tree harvesting, and tree care.

TO REGISTER:

Since we need a head count for seating and food, please RSVP by September 10, 2023 by calling the MFA Phone Number: **651-879-5100**. Plan on bringing \$20 per person for the dinner.

Check out the MFA website (minnesotaforestry.org) for more information later this summer.



Bookshelf continued from page 4

as a top-cited paper. The article notes the lack of research on land management strategies helping wildlife adapt to climate change. As you are aware, wildlife are one of the most important reasons private forest landowners engage in management activities in their woodlands.

 <https://coveritup.umn.edu>

Buckthorn. Just saying the name of this invasive species causes folks to cringe. The University of Minnesota Extension has a web site called "Cover It Up" which encompasses a suite of related research projects headed up by the Reich Lab in the U of M's

Department of Forest Resources. Check out the link pertaining to buckthorn for some of the latest – and not so 'greatest' news on this aggressive non-native species.

 <https://extension.umn.edu/news/learn-about-your-land-using-web-soil-survey>

One of the most important details to consider when you are making management decisions for your woodland is the type of soil on your property. This link will help you assess your soil characteristics and suitability for different uses (e.g. harvest equipment operability, potential for seedling mortality, suitability for hand planting, suitability of mechanical site preparation and planting, and wind-throw hazards.)

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.

July

Forest Stewardship Council: Community and Family Forest Workshop

July 18-20

Minneapolis



This is a 2.5-day workshop to explore opportunities to make certification more accessible to community and family forests. Contact Emily Huff (ehuff@msu.edu, 413-320-2396) for questions related to the workshop content. Contact Anna Grotzky (a.grotzky@us.fsc.org, 718-938-8209) for questions related to logistics.

Timber Management and Taxation School

July 24

Minnesota North College, Grand Rapids, 10 am – 3:30 pm

The 'school' is designed to provide tax professionals, foresters, logging contractors, landowners, agricultural lenders, and farm management instructors with up-to-date information on federal tax treatment of income and expenses associated with the sale of timber. The registration fee covers workshop materials, refreshments, snacks, and lunch. Registration costs \$95 before July 10, 2023 and \$120 thereafter. Get more information and register online at: z.umn.edu/tschool.

Fillmore SWCD Forestry Field Day

July 26

Mary Catherine Bailey Wildlife Sanctuary
in Chatfield

Experience an evening of wildlife, woodlands, and wetlands. Light supper at 5 pm; tour from 5:30 pm until sunset. Phone [507-765-3878](tel:507-765-3878) ext. 3.

September

Minnesota Forestry Association Annual Banquet and Gathering

September 15-16

See page 7 for details.



Minnesota Forestry Association

PO Box 6060

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www.MinnesotaForestry.org

Change Service Requested

Fillmore SWCD 2023 Forestry Field Day



Wildlife, Woodland, Wetlands

Experience an evening of wildlife, woodlands and wetlands! This woodland features an abundance of wildlife, basic trail maintenance, and the effect of “hands off” management on your woodland. Natural and constructed wetlands are present, along with learning about Decorah Shale geology.

Please wear appropriate closed-toe waterproof shoes for hiking. Due to the nature of the wetlands, rubber boots are recommended. Seating is limited so bring a lawn chair if needed. Prepare for ticks and bugs.

Photo from 2022 Forestry Field Day at Chimney Rock Forestry LLC