

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 Board Meetings
Conference Calls
8 - 9 a.m.

- March 14, 2023
- April 11, 2023
- May 9, 2023
- June 13, 2023
- July 11, 2023

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From the President

Greetings and welcome to the new year. With the new year, I would like to update you about some changes and an item that MFA and its partners are continuing to work on.

First off, I will announce that I have stepped down as MFA's president, at least for a while. I think a change in leadership is a healthy thing to do, and when I asked for that change, I was happy to hear that Brian Huberty was willing to step up. Brian has been very actively involved as vice president during my tenure as president, and I am happy to announce that I will continue to serve as MFA's past president and vice president under Brian's leadership.

The second item I would like to share is the continuing work that MFA and its partners are doing to build more infrastructure around private land and its owners. Private landowners hold 40% plus of Minnesota's forested land. I find it interesting that all our public land partners and private industrial forests have fleets of professionals managing their lands, along with the database infrastructure to track the history of and plan the future management of said lands. I understand it is a heavy lift to build similar infrastructure around private land, as there are upwards of 200,000 owners who have a broad spectrum of ownership objectives, with an added complexity of managing small acreages while maintaining a scale of efficiency.

Also of concern, short-term warming climate seems to be increasing the numbers and severity of natural disasters around the globe. Trees play an important role in mitigating the warming climate by sequestering and storing carbon. A healthy, vigorously growing forest that is actively managed will sequester two to three times more carbon than a forest that is not managed at all. Private landowners are in charge of a large piece of the pie that mitigates climate change.

As a member of MFA's board of directors, I will continue to represent private landowners by promoting a pilot project in north central Minnesota that would do an alpha test of building infrastructure for privately-held forest land. I won't get into the details here; however, I will share that the project is about connecting and staying connected with landowners about opportunities to actively manage their forest, get a return on their investment, contribute to mitigating climate change, track and record activities and smoothly pass on private ownership to the next generation.

Upon completion of the pilot project, my vision is for private forest landowners across the entire state of Minnesota to be able to take advantage of the added infrastructure assistance.

Continued on page 3



Dave Roerick, past and vice president



Brian Huberty, new MFA president

Minnesota Forestry Association

2023 Board of Directors

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John Bathke, Two Harbors, MN
Lyle Keller, Peterson, MN

Ryan Rothstein, Waite Park, MN

Greg Wuerflein, Cambridge, MN

Ex-Officio Board Members:

Jim Lemmerman, Duluth, MN

John Carlson, 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.

Our Shared Bookshelf

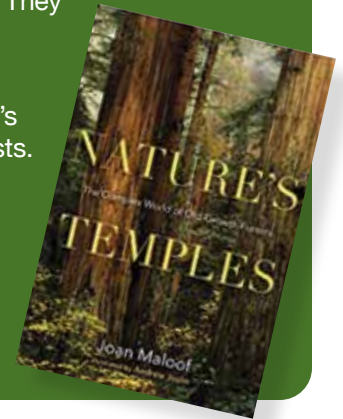


Each issue, we'll be selecting a favorite book to share with our readers to help build community and encourage the sharing of resources. If you'd like to submit a recommendation for Our Shared Bookshelf, please email Editor@MinnesotaForestry.org. We look forward to hearing about what everyone is reading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

This edition, we're highlighting "Nature's Temples: The Complex World of Old-Growth Forests" by Joan Maloof.

An old-growth forest is one that has formed naturally over a long period of time with little or no disturbance from humankind. They are increasingly rare and largely misunderstood.

In "Nature's Temples," Maloof, director of the Old-Growth Forest Network, makes a passionate case for their importance. "Nature's Temples" defines old-growth and provides a brief history of forests. It offers a view into how the life-forms in an ancient, undisturbed forest—including not only its majestic trees but also its insects, plant life, fungi and mammals—differ from those in a forest manipulated by humans. Black-and-white illustrations by Andrew Joslin help clarify scientific concepts and capture the beauty of ancient trees.



Logger of the Year Nominations Needed; Apply by March 3

The Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Program Implementation Committee is accepting nominations for the 2023 Logger of the Year Award. The winning logger will receive a \$500 cash award and "2023 Logger of the Year" plaque. In addition, the winner will be nominated for the Forest Resources Association's Regional Outstanding Logger of the Year award.

To nominate an outstanding logger, submit a nomination form describing why your nominee should receive the award. Nominations should include letters of support from peers, private landowners, agency staff, etc.

Nominations are due Friday, March 3, 2023. They should be emailed to alehner@minnesotaforests.com or mailed to the address on the nomination form. All nominations will be reviewed, and a Logger of the Year selected by the end of March. The winner will be notified in April and the award will be presented at the MLEP Logger Conferences.

If you have any questions about the award or nomination process, contact Ashlee Lehner at alehner@minnesotaforests.com.

Learn more and find nomination forms at <https://www.mlep.org/LOY.htm>.

From President continued

In closing, I would like to share a quote from the late Russell Means of the Oglala Lakota Nation about how important it is that we stay connected to, and care for our land: "Before I was six years old, my grandparents and my mother had taught me that if all the green things that grow were taken from the earth, there could be no life. If all the four-legged creatures were taken from the earth, there could be no life. If all the winged creatures were taken from the earth, there could be no life. If all our relatives who crawl and swim and live within the earth were taken away, there could be no life. But if all the human beings were taken away, life on earth would flourish. That is how insignificant we are."

Thank you for your continued support of the Minnesota Forestry Association. Feel free to contact me anytime with questions, concerns, thoughts or ideas, as I will continue to answer MFA's phone at 218-879-5100.

Dave

DNR to Fly Elk Surveys in Northwestern Minnesota

The DNR will soon be conducting aerial elk surveys. DNR staff will survey the Kittson County and Grygla elk herds in Northwestern Minnesota and the border elk herd in both Minnesota and Manitoba.

The surveys are typically conducted each year during the winter, weather permitting, and are expected to be completed in two weeks.

Aerial survey information is used to monitor elk populations and help the DNR make decisions about future elk management and harvest regulations.

DNR pilots will fly surveys during daylight hours at an altitude of approximately 200 to 300 feet.

The DNR is also asking for help from those who have recently seen elk in their area. People are encouraged to contact their local DNR office with sighting information:

- Karlstad area wildlife office, 218-436-2427
- Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area, 218-633-7671
- Thief River Falls area wildlife office, 218-219-8587

You can also document observations online using the DNR elk sightings tool:
www.dnr.state.mn.us/elk/elk-sightings.html.

What is it?

Can you guess what this is? Is it a turkey track, on the surface of the moon, which we all know, is made of cheese? No... Keep guessing.



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



Family Forest (10+ Acres)
Ownership Characteristics

2018

MINNESOTA

WHO IS THE PRIMARY DECISION-MAKER?



66 YEARS
(AVERAGE AGE)

49%
COLLEGE DEGREE

84% MALE

2% MINORITY

PAST 5 YEARS Forest Management Activities

CUT TREES FOR SALE

10%



CUT TREES FOR OWN USE

52%

INSECT/DISEASE MITIGATION

5%

INVASIVE PLANT MITIGATION

17%

IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT

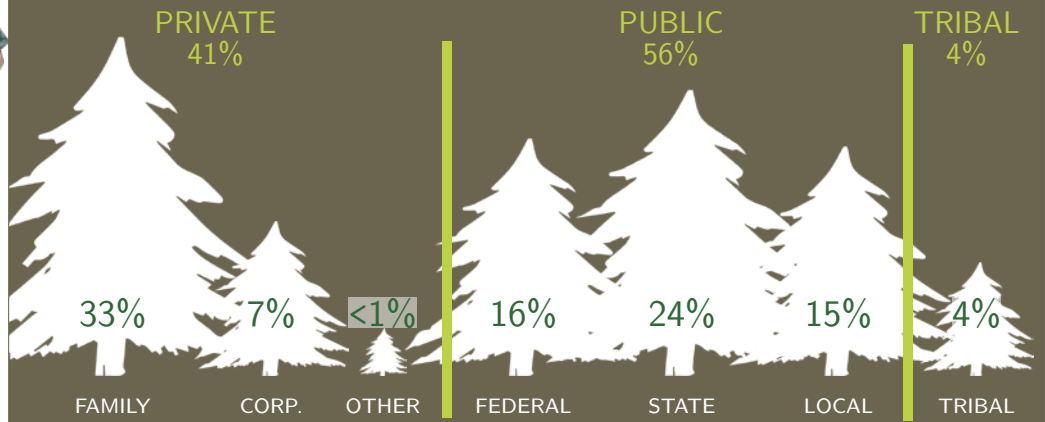
25%

REDUCED FIRE HAZARD

11%



WHO OWNS MINNESOTA'S FORESTS?



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

- Management plan **12%**
- Management advice **10%**
- Property tax program **6%**
- Cost-share programs **5%**
- Green certification **2%**
- Conservation easements **2%**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

- Property taxes
- Trespassing or poaching
- Keeping land intact
- Government regulation
- Dumping or vandalism

BY THE NUMBERS Minnesota's Family Forest Ownerships

5,377,000 ACRES

102,000 OWNERSHIPS

205,000 OWNERS

MEAN SIZE

53 acres

Median = 30 acres



TOP 5 REASONS FOR OWNING

- Beauty or scenery
- Wildlife habitat
- Nature protection
- Privacy
- Water protection



Family Forest (10+ Acres) Ownership Characteristics | 2018

MINNESOTA

Data in this report come primarily from the USDA Forest Service, National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS). The NWOS is implemented by the Forest Inventory and Analysis program to answer questions related to who owns the forests, why they own it, what they have done with it in the past, and what they intend to do with it in the future. The family forest ownership results are based on random sample of 256 family forest ownerships from Minnesota who participated in the NWOS in 2017 and 2018. The sampling errors provided below are important for assessing the reliability of the estimates. Additional results from the NWOS are available in USFS General Technical Report NRS-199 and can be accessed via the [NWOS Dashboard](#) and additional documentation and resources can be found on the [NWOS website](#).

TABLE 1. Forest Ownership

OWNER GROUP	ACRES	SE
Family	5,880,000	89,000
Corporate	1,224,000	56,000
Other private	69,000	13,000
Federal	2,882,000	35,000
State	4,204,000	70,000
Local	2,702,000	80,000
Tribal	661,000	43,000

TABLE 2. Totals, family forest (10+ ac)

UNITS	TOTAL	SE
Acres	5,377,000	166,000
Ownerships	102,000	5,000
Owners	205,000	11,000

TABLE 3. Demographics, family forest (10+ ac)

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Age (65+)	53.1	3	59.8	4.4
Education (College)	42.5	3	48.6	4.9
Gender (Male)	84.2	1.8	84.1	2.5
Minority	2.2	<1	1.7	<1

TABLE 4. Size of forest holdings, family forest (10+ ac)

SIZE OF HOLDINGS	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
(ACRES) ----- Percentage -----				
10-49	27.2	2.3	65	5.2
50-99	28.7	2.3	22.6	2.2
100-499	39	2.7	12.2	1.1
500-999	2.4	<1	<1	<1
1,000+	2.7	<1	<1	<1

Mean size = 53.0 ac (SE = 2.7); Median size = 30 acres

TABLE 5. Reasons for owning, family forest (10+ ac)

OBJECTIVE	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Beauty or scenery	81.3	3.3	82.2	4.8
Wildlife habitat	83.5	3.5	78.3	5
Nature protection	71.4	3.5	69.4	5.1
Privacy	72.1	3.3	68.6	4.7
Water protection	62.8	3.2	61.5	4.7
Hunting	73.1	3.2	55.6	4.1
Recreation	61.8	3.3	51.6	4.1
Family legacy	61.4	3.2	48	3.9
Raise family	45.6	2.9	38.4	3.9
Land investment	45.3	2.9	38.2	3.8
Firewood	23.5	2.2	22.5	3
Timber products	18.8	2	9.5	1.7
Nontimber products	11.2	1.6	8.9	1.8

TABLE 6. Concerns, family forest (10+ ac)

CONCERN	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Property taxes	83.8	3.2	79.6	5.1
Trespassing	77.7	3.4	72.6	4.9
Keeping land intact	75.1	3.3	72.2	4.8
Government regulation	67.5	3.2	64.4	4.7
Vandalism	64.1	3.3	64.3	4.8
Insects or diseases	56.1	3	60.4	4.8
Water pollution	51.2	3	52.7	4.9
Wildfire	52.1	3.1	51.3	4.7
Invasive plants	50.1	3	49.2	4.3
Wind or ice storms	39.4	2.8	40.2	4.4
Air pollution	38.3	2.8	39.5	4.6
Development	35.9	2.7	39.3	4.6
Climate change	36.7	2.7	37.5	4
Drought	28.6	2.5	30.4	3.8
Off-road vehicles	27.6	2.4	30.1	4
Animal damage	17.3	2	16.1	2.8

TABLE 7. Management activities, family forest (10+ ac)

ACTIVITY	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Controlled burn	8.4	1.3	5	<1
Cut trees - own use	50	2.4	52.2	3.7
Cut trees - sale	19.7	1.8	10.5	1.7
Insects management	5.2	1.1	4.9	1.4
Invasives	18.3	1.8	17.1	2.7
Livestock grazing	15.9	1.9	14.4	2.5
Nontimber products	29.2	2.1	29.6	3.4
Reduced fire hazard	15	1.8	11.5	2.1
Roads	16	1.9	13	2.7
Trails	45.6	2.4	35.5	3.7
Wildlife habitat	39.1	2.3	24.9	2.9
None	11.3	1.5	15.5	2.6

TABLE 8. Management programs, family forest (10+ ac)

PROGRAM	ACRES	SE	OWNER-SHIPS	SE
----- Percentage -----				
Advice	22.1	2.0	10.2	1.7
Conservation easements	3.5	<1	1.8	<1
Cost-share programs	9.2	1.4	5.0	1.3
Green certification	6.4	1.1	2.1	<1
Management plan	23.0	2.1	12.5	2.0
Property tax program	15.5	1.7	6.3	1.1

Creature Feature

By *Kassandra Tuten, Editor*

Snow Fleas

The snow flea (*Hypogastrura nivicola*) is a springtail species that is active in winter and easily seen against white snow. A primitive insect, the snow flea is very small, about 1/10 inch long, and dark blue-gray in color. They have a somewhat plump body and small compound eyes comprised of only eight facets in each. Snow fleas are wingless and are classified as hexapods, which is a subtype of the arthropod family. Like insects, snow fleas have six legs, but researchers say they are more closely related to crustaceans.

Contrary to their name, snow fleas are not actually fleas. Their name is derived from their ability to jump by using a forked appendage under their abdomen called a furcula. Facing forward, the furcula is held in place by a clasp-like structure known as a retinaculum. When the furcula is released, it propels the snow flea up and forward. A snow flea can jump up to several inches.

Generally found in groups, snow fleas are a harmless species that become more active as soon as the ground begins to thaw in late winter or early spring. Although they exist throughout the year, they are more easily noticed during snowy winter months.

Probably the most interesting thing about snow fleas is their ability to thrive in the winter, dotting melting snow instead of remaining in a period of dormancy like their insect and arthropod cousins. This is because snow fleas produce their own type of antifreeze, a protein that is rich in the amino acid glycine, which prevents the formation and enlargement of ice crystals.

Snow fleas live in the soil and leaf litter where they eat microscopic fungi, algae and decaying organic matter. For this reason, snow fleas are commonly found in wooded areas where there are rotting leaves and logs. Snow fleas can also be found in mulch. Watch for snow fleas especially around the base of trees.

Snow fleas are beneficial because they break down organic matter, helping to enrich the soil. Keep in mind: While not parasitic and thus harmless to people and pets, snow fleas are attracted to maple syrup and can sometimes be pests in buckets of sap during harvest.



These little black specks on the snow are known as snow fleas. These tiny arthropods are commonly seen on warm winter days on top of the snow layer.

What is it?

Is it a plate of rocks? No... Keep guessing.



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.


UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION



Meet a Tree

Eastern Cottonwood

By Cassandra Tuten, Editor

The eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) is a cottonwood poplar native to North America, growing throughout the eastern, central and southwestern United States as well as the southern Canadian prairies, the southernmost part of eastern Canada and northeastern Mexico. It is one of the fastest growing trees in North America.

One of the largest North American hardwood trees, eastern cottonwood can grow up to 65-100 feet tall with a trunk up to 9 feet in diameter. The bark is silvery-white, smooth or lightly fissured when young, becoming dark gray and deeply fissured on old trees.

The twigs are grayish-yellow and stout, with large triangular leaf scars. The winter buds are slender, pointed, 1-2 centimeters long, yellowish brown and resinous. The leaves are large, triangular and very coarsely toothed; they are dark green in summer and turn yellow in the fall (but many cottonwoods in dry locations drop their leaves early from the combination of drought and leaf rust, making their fall color dull or absent). Due to their flat stems, the leaves have the tendency to shake from even the slightest breeze, one of the identifying characteristics of the tree.

The flowers (catkins) produce on single-sex trees in early spring. The male (pollen) catkins are reddish-purple and the female catkins are green with several 6-15-millimeter seed capsules (samaras) in early summer. The samaras split open to release the numerous small seeds attached to cotton-like strands. A single tree may release 40 million seeds a season.

Eastern cottonwood requires bare soil and full sun for successful germination and establishment. In natural conditions, it usually grows near rivers, with mud banks left after floods providing ideal conditions for seedling germination. Human soil cultivation has allowed it to increase its range away from such habitats. Unlike related species such as quaking aspen, eastern cottonwood does not propagate through clonal colonies, but will resprout readily when cut down. Eastern cottonwood is found throughout Minnesota, often forming extensive groves.

Eastern cottonwood leaves serve as food for caterpillars of various Lepidoptera.

Clockwise from top left: Bark is dark gray and rough on older trees. Leaves are alternate on stem and are 3 to 5 inches long. Fruit is borne on short stock in drooping "catkins"; seeds, when set free in late May or June, are minute, pale, brownish white, enclosed in a cluster of white cottony hairs that carry them for long distances.

The wood of eastern cottonwood is typical of the *Populus* family in its softness, weighing just 28 pounds per cubic foot. It is utilized for plywood, interior parts of furniture, boxes, fencing, fuel, rough lumber for inside use and making high-grade magazine paper for printing half-tone illustrations. Eastern cottonwood is also used extensively for windbreaks owing to its rapid growth and adaptability to soil.

Eastern cottonwoods typically live 70-100 years, but they have the potential to live 200-400 years in ideal conditions.

Did You Know: Calling the cottonwood tree "the pioneer of the prairie," the Kansas state legislature designated the cottonwood the official state tree of Kansas in 1937. It became the state tree of Wyoming in 1947 and that of Nebraska in 1972.



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.

FEBRUARY

Itasca County Master Woodland Owner Program

Feb. 13-May 15

Participating in the Master Woodland Owner program will give you a better understanding of woodland stewardship and leave you with a plan to keep your woods healthy for future generations. Learn more at <https://www.minnesotaforestry.org/events/itasca-county-master-woodland-owner-program>.

The Society of American Forests Winter Conference: Forests for the Future

Feb. 15-16, Breezy Point Resort

Engage in collaborative learning, take part in state and chapter business meetings, network and more. Learn more at <http://www.mnsaf.org/>.

The Wildlife Society, Minnesota Chapter Annual Meeting

Feb. 21-23, Cragun's Resort, Brainerd

There will be many opportunities to learn and reconnect with colleagues. Learn more at <https://wildlife.org/mn/annual-meeting/>.

MARCH

Minnesota Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils Annual Meeting

March 3, Northern Lights Casino, Walker

Learn how Minnesota landowners can benefit economically from USDA's Climate-Smart Agricultural and Forestry Commodity Production projects that leverage greenhouse gas reduction. Learn more at <https://www.minnesotarcd.org/events.html>.

International Day of Forests 2023

Tuesday, March 21

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 21 as the International Day of Forests in 2012 to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests. Countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/forests-and-trees-day>



Minnesota Forestry Association

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Change Service Requested

What is it?

It's a species of Amanita mushroom. Did you guess correctly?

Thank you to Stanley Musielewicz for submitting these fun images. If you'd like to contribute to future editions of the newsletter, please email Editor@MinnesotaForestry.org.

