

# FORESTS

*The Minnesota Forests Newsletter is published by the Minnesota Forestry Association*

*MFA Newsletter Vol. 8 No. 1*

*www.mnforest.com*

*January 2006*

*In this issue:*

- President's Message
- MFA Meetings
- Calendar of Events
- MN 2005 Outstanding Forest Stewards
- TIME Inc. and MLEP
- Firewise Program
- Hunting Bucks
- Headlines
- Publications
- Information
- New MFA Members
- For Your Enjoyment
- Woodland Advisors

**MFA President's Message:** On behalf of MFA, I'd like to thank everyone who took time to vote on the change of MFA By-Laws and the election of the Board of Directors. Also, I'd like to express my appreciation to the candidates who ran for election to the Board. Serving on the Board is quite an honor but also carries a lot of responsibilities to serve the membership at large.

*And*, the membership has spoken. Results from the recent ballot show that a clear majority of those voting favored a revision to MFA's By-Laws. Of 190 votes cast, 172 supported the proposed changes; and as a result, the 14 member Board of Directors will now be comprised of just nine members, all serving at large.

As we start 2006, we welcome as the newest member on the Board of Directors, Dennis Thompson, who won over John O'Reilly and Jim Chamberlin in a close election. Besides Dennis, Bob Sonneberg, Jim Lemmerman and I were re-elected to serve on the Board. We will miss long-time Board member Bill Sayward, who brought his business experience to bear in helping MFA; as well as members Priscilla Harvala, who served terms as MFA's Secretary and Vice President, Mike Reichenbach, who chairs the Education and Communications Committee, Carol Jacobs, Gordon Rye, and Bob Perleberg, all who decided not to run for re-election.

This past year has been quite an honor serving as your MFA President. I couldn't have done it without the support of other members of the Board, its officers and members who have volunteered their time in support of MFA's mission. We owe a big thank you to officers who have served over the last year, John Bathke as Treasurer and Past President, Jim Lemmerman as Secretary, and of course, Priscilla, who served as Vice President and editor of MFA's newsletter. Thanks to everyone for their service. Here's hoping everyone's holidays were merry ones.

Bruce ZumBahlen, MFA President

**Next MFA Board Meeting: February 16, 2006 at the DNR's Cambridge office.**

**The MFA Annual Meeting has been set for Sept. 22 & 23 at St. John's University.**

*Serving Minnesota's woodland owners by promoting stewardship of all forest resources.*

P.O. Box 496  
Grand Rapids  
MN 55744  
800-821-TREE(8733)  
www.mnforest.com

## **MFA CALENDAR of EVENTS** (Clip & Save)

**January 11, 2006, Fifth Forest and Wildlife research Review, Duluth.** A variety of topics relevant to forest and wildlife management in No.MN/WI, UP of MI, and Ontario. Topics are Great Lakes forest change assessment, real estate transactions, red pine management, prescribed fire, public involvement in forest planning, and forested wetlands. Contact Louise Levy at 218-726-6404 or llevy@umn.edu or see <http://www.forestrycenter.org/calendar.cfm?refid=77819>.

**January 12, 2006: Carlton County Private Woodland Council Meeting, 4 pm.** At the Carlton County Transportation Building, on Highway 61 about 3/4 mile south of Highway 210. Agenda includes Woodland Advisor Program and Million Acre Conference. At 6 PM the WA program on non timber forest products for those who wish to stay on.

**January 12, 2006 Thursday, NonTimber Forest Products, 6 - 9 pm** Cloquet area: Location Carlton County Transportation Building (see above). Cost \$20. For info call Mike Reichenbach. To register contact Susan Seabury. Satisfies one WA credit: WAC5.

**January 19, Thursday, Shelterbelts & Living Snow Fences: Agroforestry and Productive Conservation, 6 - 8:30 pm** Mankato: Snell Motors. Cost \$20. For info call Gary Wyatt @ 507-389-6748. To register contact Susan Seabury. Satisfies one WA credit: WAE13.

**January 19, Thursday, Growing and Tending Your Forest, 7-8:30 pm** International Falls: Rainy River Community College Room SS143, call Ryan Ryan Heinen at 218-283-1175; Baudette: Lake of the Woods County Board Room, call Dan Haig at 218-634-2757. Cost \$10. Satisfies one WA Credit: WAC3.

**February 3, 2006, Wabasha County Forestry Day: The Latest Breaking Forestry News Right Here In Millville Legion Hall. Starts 9:30 am.** Market, Financial Reports, Forest Pest News, Preventing Deer Browse, Forest Certification, Woodland Manager of the Year Award, Plants Behaving Badly. Lunch on site. Forest professionals, trees for spring, visit neighbors, win prizes. Sponsored by the Wabasha County Forestry Committee, MN DNR, MFA, and Wabasha SWCD.

**February 10-11, 2006, A Million Acres in Minnesota: A continuing celebration and conference Woodland Owners and Users:** Duluth DECC. This is a major event with workshops, tours, and keynote speaker, wolf biologist, David Mech. Saturday includes presentations of 70+ topics that will help landowners better understand and apply management techniques for shorelines, timber, taxes, wildlife, and on other subjects and issues that face woodland owners and users. See <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/millionacres.html> or contact Stephanie Kessler at 218-326-1130 or [millionacreconference@yahoo.com](mailto:millionacreconference@yahoo.com). To volunteer, please call Larry Himanga at 651-345-4924. Sponsored by MN DNR, UofM Extension Service, and MFA. Brochures have been mailed to all MFA members.

**February 16, 2006, Thursday, Controlling Forest Weeds and Competing Vegetation, 7-8:30 pm** Rainy River Community College Room SS 143, International Falls, contact: Ryan Heinen at 218-283-1175; Lake of the Woods County Board Room, Baudette, contact: Dan Haig at 218-634-2757; and University of MN North Central Research & Outreach Center, Grand Rapids, contact: Itasca County Extension at 218-327-7486. Cost \$10. WAE4.

**February 18, 2006, Saturday, Growing and Tending Your Forest II and Forestry Field Tour, 9 am to 3 pm** Rainy River Community College Room SC115, International Falls, call Ryan Heinen at 218-283-1175. Cost \$20. WAC4.

**February 18 - March 18, 2006, MN Tree Care Advisor (TCA) Training, St. Paul.** TCA volunteers provide educated stewards to support and enhance urban and community forests. Classes focus on tree and shrub care within the urban environment. Topics covered include, but are not limited to: plant selection based on site, how to prune, common tree insects and diseases, and diagnostic procedures. Contact Dave Hanson at 612-624-1226 or [hanso355@umn.edu](mailto:hanso355@umn.edu) or see <http://www.mntca.org>.

**February 25, 2006, Saturday, Maple Syrup Workshop, 12:30-3:30 pm.** (Sponsors: Metro Chapter &) Lowry Nature Center, Victoria (SW Metro). Learn tree selection, managing maple woods, cooking, filtering and storing maple syrup and other maple sugar products. \$5 fee. For more info, contact Barb Spears at [barbs@treetrust.org](mailto:barbs@treetrust.org) or 651-644-5800.

**March 4, 2005, Saturday, Horse Logging Demonstration,** UMore Park, Dakota County (SEMetro). Tim Carroll, Horse Logger. Program details to be determined. Sponsored by the UMore Park Tree Trail Committee and the MFA Metro Chapter. For info, contact Barb Spears at [barbs@treetrust.org](mailto:barbs@treetrust.org) or 651-644-5800.

**March 16, 2005, Thursday, Managing Your Forest for Wildlife, 6-9 pm** Rainy River Com. College, Room SC 115, International Falls, call Mike Reichenbach, 888-241-0724, ext. 6470. To register call Susan Seabury at 888-241-0724 ext. 6466. Cost \$20. WAC7.

**March 25, 2005, Saturday, How to Use a SGP Receiver, 8:30 am -4:30 pm,** Southern Research and Outreach Center, Waseca.. Note: Limited to 30 participants, pre-registration is required. Have you ever been lost on your own property; try to return to a favorite deer stand or fishing hole, only to be unable to find it? Global Positioning Systems (GPS) will help you to calculate area, navigate to a waypoint, and more with confidence. (GPS units provided for use during this class.) To register call Susan Seabury at 888-241-0724 ext 6466. Cost \$35. WAE13.

**March 25, 2005, Saturday, Managing for White Pine and Ecological Classification System Tour, 9 am to 3 pm,** Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center, Schroeder, for info call Mike Reichenbach, 888-241-0724, ext. 6470. To register call Susan Seabury at 888-241-0724 ext. 6466. Cost \$20. WAE13.

**The 2005 MN Outstanding Forest Stewards are John and Sandra O'Reilly!** The MN Assn. of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) has recognized MFA members, John and Sandra O'Reilly, Hinckley, with the 2005 Minnesota Outstanding Forest Steward Award. The Pine Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) nominated the O'Reillys for the award, and Dave Epperly, Director, Division of Forestry, MN Dept. of Natural Resources

presented the award at the 69<sup>th</sup> annual MASWCD Convention held Dec. 4-6 in Bloomington. The award honors landowners who have implemented innovated forestry conservation activity, demonstrated leadership, and achieved significant results in the protection of MN's forestry resources. Since the 1980s, the O'Reillys completed the following woodland management activities:

-Hardwood thinning on 20 acres.

-Planted 10,000 spruce and pine trees since the early 1980s

-Conducted three harvest cycles

-Completed planned pruning

-Developed their woodland trails.

The O'Reillys have hosted Forestry Field Days in cooperation with the DNR, and have been involved in sponsoring local Maple Syrup Days. John O'Reilly writes a weekly column called "Timber Talk" for two local newspapers.

The SWCD said that the O'Reillys were nominated because of their dedication to forest management, educating other landowners of same, and because when they were given recommendations to manage their property, they did it, as well as recommended to others what they should do to manage their lands. The O'Reillys are great examples of land stewards and make good role models for the rest of us to follow. MFA congratulates the O'Reillys!

**TIME Inc. endorses MLEP:** On Nov. 29, 2005, Dave Chura forwarded to MFA the following information: David Refkin, Dir. of TIME INC.'s Sustainable Development, announced that Minnesota MLEP's Master Logger Certification Program met the requirements of their CSF (Certified Sustainable Forestry) program. Logger certification promotes sustainable forestry and provides an independent, third-party audit of a logging business's harvest, safety and business practices. It's a performance-based logger program that recognizes training, experience and the implementation of specific sustainable forest management and safety practices. Only two other states' (Wisconsin and Maine) logger certification programs have received this recognition from Time Inc. MLEP's logger certification program is the only program qualified by Time Inc. in Minnesota. Several mills in Minnesota and across the country have been asked to meet a target that 65% of the resource going into their product be certified by year-end 2005 and 80% by year-end 2006. Minnesota's has 15 million acres of timberland, and of that 15 million, 38% is controlled by family forest landowners and these family forests provide 45% of the timber harvested each year. "Logger certification provides confidence to customers and the public that the person performing a harvest has the education and experience to do the job correctly," said Dave Chura, MLEP's Executive Director. "Certification is an independent and formal recognition of those logging businesses who implement sustainable forest management practices

and safe, professional operations." MLEP's Master Logger Certification Program was developed by a working group including representatives from the MN DNR, The Nature Conservancy, MFA, UofM, MN Forest Industries, Assoc. Contract Loggers and Truckers of MN, MN Timber Producers Assn, Izaak Walton League, and Dovetail, Inc.

**Firewise Project in Lino Lakes:** In 2001, the DNR regional forestry office in St. Paul put together a project to work with Lino Lakes (and another community) to identify fire prone property. After identifying several areas in the community that were a concern to Fire Chief Milo Bennett, a contractor was hired to canvas each area to assess the fire risk of each home. The contractor found one of the highest risk areas to be the Pine Vista development.

Pine Vista consists of 26 homes nestled in a 44-acre tree plantation that was planted in the early 1960's and consists of predominantly Norway pine with white pine, Scots pine, white spruce and other species mixed in that has never been thinned. Much of the plantation was sold to a developer who started to build homes in 1978.

It took a few years and some National Fire Plan funding to finally convince the city and the homeowners to take action. By the spring of 2003, DNR foresters, Art Widerstrom and Jim Wilson, along with city forester Marty Asleson, began marking the trees to be removed. It was a challenge for these foresters to balance good forestry practices with the homeowners' desires, and pockets of pine bark beetle and white pine blister rust were encountered in the process. Some homeowners wanted more trees removed and others wanted none.

Once marked and cruised, it became a challenge to find a logger willing to bid on the sale to cut and remove some 600 cords. Restrictions on cutting hours, concerns of 23 different landowners (3 did not participate), and sensitive areas such as gardens, lawns and sprinkler systems

all made the sale less than inviting. The one enticement to bid was the fact that nearly half the acreage was a working forest without homes or other urban challenges. In July 2004, a request for bids was sent out to loggers from a list obtained from the East Central Woodland Owner's Council. The successful bidder, Blomberg Logging, Inc., met with the neighbors in December to discuss everyone's expectations. The logging company moved their brand new Ponsse cut-to-length processor onto the site in June 2005 and did a very nice job of picking trees out of yards with almost no impact to the ground or remaining trees.

The sale was completed in August 2005. A mountainous pile of slash that had been on the landing was chipped up with a huge tub grinder and trucked to St. Paul District Energy to burn for energy.

The homeowners were very pleased with the outcome. The fire department is much more at ease knowing that the thinning has reduced the ladder fuels and fuel loading of the neighborhood. More work needs to be done to prune some remaining trees, remove a few additional fire hazards around homes and do other Firewise maintenance.

Several other similar projects have been completed in the northern suburbs of the Twin Cities as well as other parts of the state. Thousands of acres remain in need of similar projects.

Managing pine plantations prior to development is one of the goals of the Firewise program. It is much easier for a logger to work in plantations without homes. The Firewise program is beginning to work toward such projects in Sherburne County and is receptive to any of these opportunities throughout the State. For more information on the Firewise program, visit our website at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/firewise](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/firewise). By Dave Schuller.

**Hunting Bucks by Bob Perleberg:** Ask any deer hunter if they would like to consistently shoot trophy racked whitetails and they will likely say, "Yes." Follow that question with, "Are you willing to not shoot any bucks for 6 - 8 years before you start harvesting the occasional trophies and most will say, "No." The quality deer management debate is on! Unfortunately, QDM has been linked too closely to the end result of harvesting trophy bucks. QDM is a concept that encourages proper deer densities, proper sex ratios and proper age structure in the herd. The end result of this is a healthy, balanced herd. Large racked, mature bucks are the bonus.

My wife and I own 480 acres in central Minnesota and have been practicing a modified QDM program for 6 years. Generally, here is how our program works. Young/new hunters shoot what they want. This group must be given the opportunity to harvest animals to develop a passion for the sport and confidence in their abilities as a hunter. Adults/experienced hunters must shoot does or 2½ year old (2<sup>nd</sup> set of antlers) or older bucks. The harvesting of does is encouraged. On our property the food and genetics can give you horns in the 110" – 130" Boone & Crocket range in 2½ years.

The basic management concept attempts to return the herd to a natural balance, more bucks, older bucks, and less does. This results in a natural breeding cycle where mature, genetically superior bucks are competing for does and protecting them from young bucks. We must realize that adult buck mortality in a non-hunted environment is always high – the curse of testosterone. Adult buck herd percentages over 40% are probably unrealistic mostly due to post rut health conditions leading to various causes of winter mortality. But when you realize 20% of the population is adult bucks and 40% of the total harvest (including fawns) is adult bucks, it seems we are over harvesting bucks.

This type of management requires dedication understanding and patience. It may also be a sign of a maturing hunter who doesn't need another basket rack in the corner of the garage and has gone

past the "if I don't shoot a buck I'm not a man" complex. Does are much better table fare! There certainly are problems that come with this program most of them being psychological. Remember they are not your deer. Your neighbors will still probably shoot small bucks. Take the time to explain the program to them, once they figure out you won't shoot a young buck they pass up; they will probably let yours go by, maybe. Don't give up on the program too early. Our results weren't realized for 6 - 7 years. Now we are consistently harvesting 8-10 point bucks in the 110" – 130" range with one 16 point scoring 179 5/8 after deductions and drying.

Our program also incorporates food plots, timber harvesting, and regeneration to create a diverse habitat for deer. These types of programs obviously work best on larger tracts of land where you can hope to hold the herd. Smaller parcels work but adjoining landowner cooperation becomes more critical for success. There are many variations on this theme such as not harvesting any bucks with less than 4 points or buck harvests each second year.

Each property owner has their own long-term goal relating to deer, they own and pay taxes on property so they can make these decisions. Tap into the resources available to help you. Contact your local DNR Forestry office for a stewardship plan and your DNR Wildlife manager for management recommendations. Browse the nationwide QDMA website for more in depth information.

The Minnesota Deer Hunters Association is a great organization to be part of. 60% of the adult bucks harvested are 1½ years old, maximum rack potential occurs around 6½ years. Age equals large deer; it is that simple. Our management is based on three problems: overpopulation, low buck densities and a lack of mature bucks. We are trying to address these problems and improve our herd.

This is a very elemental primer on QDM. Hopefully, it will start you on a quest for more information on the

subject. Even if you decide QDM won't work for you, the knowledge and insight you gain on Minnesota's premier large game animal will help you better understand it and your forest.

#### **HEADLINES:**

#### **Deal will protect 4,800 forest acres in Crow Wing, Cass counties (MN):**

Nearly 4,800 acres of forest owned by the Potlatch Corp. in north central Minnesota will be protected from development under a deal with the Trust for Public Land and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Potlatch will receive about \$3.5 million for the reduced value of land that cannot be developed. It still will manage the land for timber and allow public access for recreation. <http://www.startribune.com/stories/5315753880.html>

OR <http://www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?refid=77681>

#### **What ever happened to the paperless office?**

For office innovators, the unrealized dream of the "paperless" office is a classic example of high-tech hubris. Today's office drone is drowning in more paper than ever before. But after decades of hype, American offices may finally be losing their paper obsession. The demand for paper used to outstrip the growth of the US economy, but the past two or three years have seen a marked slowdown in sales - despite a healthy economic scene.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/1212/p13s01-wmgn.html>

OR <http://www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?RefID=77971>

#### **PUBLICATIONS:**

#### **Book: The Secret Life of Trees:**

This book by Colin Tudge explores the way trees work and what they are, finding out how they communicate, how they tell the time, how they came to exist, and much more. Strange and surprising, this witty and informative book will make everyone fall in love with the trees around them. Available

at  
<http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/A/SIN/0713996986/203-4195394-7550305>

### **From Walden to Wall Street: Frontiers of Conservation Finance:**

This book brings together the experience of more than a dozen pioneering conservation finance practitioners to address the daunting funding gap that conservationists face in the years to come. It is an outgrowth of a series of symposia on conservation finance sponsored by the Lincoln Institute over several years. It is designed for a broad range of readers who are considering how to invest in the future of essential natural systems. Available at <http://www.lincolnst.edu/pubs/pub-detail.asp?id=1066>

### **INFORMATION:**

**LCMR project - Third-Party Certification of Private Woodlands:** A \$376,000 LCMR grant is being used to pilot third-party certification for private forest landowners in four counties (Aitkin, Cass, Itasca, and St. Louis). Working with existing organizations, the project will further define mechanisms for attracting private forestland owners to certification, seek methods for large groups and/or statewide certification, and help develop a program that will allow loggers to harvest certified wood from private lands. This project started in July 2005 and concludes July 2007.

The Project Manager is Robert Stine of the UofM. Dovetail Partners, Inc. has been subcontracted to provide assistance with the development of a logger certification program, a review of the Sustainable Forestry Incentives Act (SFIA), and a review of methods of large-scale certification approaches. Dovetail is also providing assistance to individuals and organizations interested in developing a certification project. Contact Katie Fernholz at 651-762-4007 or [katie@dovetailinc.org](mailto:katie@dovetailinc.org) for more information.

**A BIG WELCOME TO NEW MFA MEMBERS:** Mark DeBoer, Inver Grover Heights, Blair Gagne, Floodwood, Tom Murn, Potlatch

Corporation, Cloquet, Sister Phyllis Plantenberg, St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, Dennis F. Thompson, Owatonna.

**FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT:** Thanks to Scott Lagaard for sending in this story written by his daughter.

### **The Day My Dad Set Fire to Our Tree Farm By Monika Lagaard.**

It was a day like any other. A Friday in April of 2002. All was quiet in the house. Marin and I had just gotten out of bed to start our school work. My mom was at work and my dad was outside laboring on our land. Just a regular day in the dreary life of home schooling, when suddenly, the still of the late morning was shattered by the phone ringing. I dashed across the room to grab it, nearly tripping in my haste. I picked up the phone and said, "Hello, Lagaards." To my surprise it was my dad. The first thing he said was, "Monika, there's a fire. Come outside so I can pick you up to help fight it."

Being still rather sleepy, I asked, "where?" thinking it was somewhere in the house. (Remember: I wasn't fully awake so don't blame me for my stupid question.) Marin had also answered the phone at the same time, so when she heard there was a fire, she was just as astonished and bewildered as I was. Of course, there was one small difference. She wasn't freaking out like I was. Luckily, my dad eased my fears somewhat when he told us the fire was on our tree farm, which is about a quarter mile from our house. So there was no danger of our house burning down, thank God! My dad explained hurriedly that he was in the car driving back to our house to pick us up to help fight the fire so it wouldn't burn any of the corn field (which wasn't ours). He had already called "911," but we live so far out of Cambridge, it would probably take them awhile to get there. So, I rushed up the stairs to find where Marin was. I met her at the front door. We went out to wait for our dad on the steps together. While we were waiting, we tried to figure out what might have

started the fire. Nothing plausible came to mind.

After about a minute or so, we heard a car. Then we saw it. It was Dad, tearing off of our trail and coming onto our driveway. He came to a stop before us. Dust hung suspended in the air above the driveway where the car had cruised over, seconds before.

Dad opened the door and hopped out saying, "Get in the car!" as he sprinted over to the pole barn to get some tools. Marin and I piled into the back seat of the car. By the time we were in and seat-belted, dad had returned. He bounded into the car and shut the door.

On the way to the fire, Dad quickly explained what had happened. Apparently, he had been scattering ashes from our woodstove on some of his baby trees. Normally, after dad takes the ashes out of the woodstove, he lets them sit in a metal trash bin for a week to cool. After the week is up, he uses the ashes to fertilize his trees. This time, unfortunately, the ashes had not fully cooled. So there Dad was, sprinkling the ashes on his trees. He's on about his 6<sup>th</sup> tree when he happens to look down and there, to his surprise, is a little fire. Looking around for something to put it out with, he finds the top of the trash bin. He uses that to extinguish the fire. Afterward, he thinks "Whoa! What a close call!" In that moment my dad happens to look back over the trees already fertilized. There are happy little fires at each and every one of them! So, knowing he probably wouldn't be able to put out the fires on his own, he heads back to the house to gather up Marin and me.

Dad had just finished telling us this when we cleared a small hill and the burning area came into view. By now the little fires had turned into sky-high flames. The whole tree farm was ablaze with a raging fire!

Marin and I got out of the car. Dad instructed us on what to do. We were to run up with our shovels and put out the flames on the side nearest

to the corn field. It was not as easy as it sounds. Whenever we went up to try to subdue the fire, the wind would pick up, and the heat of the blaze would sweep into our faces making us break out into a sweat after just a few seconds. We'd immediately retreat knowing we couldn't stand that kind of heat.

We had not been out there long when Dad gave me a new task. I was to run down to the end of our trail and direct the fire trucks when they got there. I was kind of apprehensive, but what could I do? So, I obeyed and headed down to the end of our trail, where I waited for a very long time. Well, it seemed like a very long time. I could hear the sirens getting closer, and closer. The sound of them was unbearable by the time they got to me (they sounded like banshees screaming in pain after being run over by a bulldozer). I gestured to try to explain

that the fire was down our trail. They stopped the trucks in front of me and the firemen got out. One of them was pretty skeptical. He didn't think there was a fire. I reassured him the best I could and sent him on his way.

By the time I made it back to our burned tree farm, the firemen had hosed down the entire area. Everything was black, wet, and smoking. I made sure that Marin and my dad weren't hurt. They were okay, just somewhat shaken.

That night, we gave my mom a glass of wine and headed out of the house and down our trail to our blackened tree farm. We hadn't told my mom ahead of time; we thought it would be an interesting surprise. By the time we got out there, she was slightly tipsy. When she saw the charred and blackened area, do you know what she said? She said, "Oh,

you mowed it!" We explained to her laughingly that no, we had not mowed it, but rather we had burned it. She laughed right along with us.

One may ask: what was learned from this experience? Be more careful with ashes, the fire department takes twenty minutes to get to our house, and that my mom is funny when she's tipsy. But perhaps an even more important lesson was learned here, that it's best to see the humor in bad situations – life is too short to worry about small things – and that it's okay to laugh at yourself and your mistakes.

**WOODLAND ADVISORS:** At the Dec. 15 meeting, Bruce ZumBahlen presented the Woodland Advisor Program Certificate of Completion to Jerry Lenz. Congratulations, Jerry!

**Note to woodland councils and chapters:** Sending in your group's news to the Newsletter publication is a great way to share information and events that may be helpful to other groups. Send via email to MFA Newsletter Editor at [pjhh3home@aol.com](mailto:pjhh3home@aol.com).