

FORESTS

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A Message from MFA's President - Bruce ZumBahlen: In this newsletter is an insert on the Million Acre Conference scheduled to be held February 10-11, 2006 at the Duluth Entertainment Conference Center. The first "Million Acre Conference" held 5 years ago at the same place was so successful that plans were laid to have it again in 5 years. Back then, the "million acre" theme was chosen to celebrate achieving 10,000 forest stewardship management plans on 1 million acres of family forests in Minnesota. Nearly 1,000 folks came to the 2001 event to learn more all sorts of things that add enjoyment to owning and using their woodlands. The 2006 event is looking to be even better. So, plan now to attend.

About the same time you receive this newsletter, you will be receiving a ballot for election of directors. You will also be asked to vote on some important changes to MFA By-Laws as recommended by your Board of Directors. An explanation on the reasons for the proposed changes will be sent with the ballot. But, those changes can only occur if over half of those voting favor the proposed changes. This is your chance to have a say in the future of the MFA. So, please vote and return your ballot in by the deadline so it can be tallied. Thanks for helping Minnesota Forestry Association to be a great organization. Bruce ZumBahlen, MFA President

Goods from the Woods: The third annual Goods from the Woods Up North Marketplace drew big crowds from across the region and throughout the state. About 5,500 attended this year's event, which featured about 120 booths for vendors. Items featured include birch bark canoes, bent willow furniture, maple syrup, wild rice, log cabin furniture and medicinal herbs as well as numerous other products. "The marketplace is a testament to the growing enthusiasm for forest-based products in the community. By shopping at the marketplace people demonstrate their support for value-added, high-quality products made by local and regional artisans," said Allison Rajala, a member of the Goods from the Woods steering committee. "The 'Up North' Marketplace continues to grow in quality and variety of crafts. This year has brought 30 new vendors to the show," said Allison Rajala, a member of the Goods from the Woods steering committee.

Goods from the Woods is an annual event designed to promote the many uses of the forest. The Blandin Foundation is the major benefactor of the project; additional support also comes from other nonprofit sponsors and number of business and patrons. The Minnesota Forestry Association is a supporter of the Goods from the Woods program as is the Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership. For more information visit www.GoodsfromtheWoods.org or call 888-649-8705.

The MFA Booth at the Goods from the Woods was shared with the Itasca County Private Woodlands Committee, with Andy Arens as coordinator. The focus was on MFA membership and getting people to sign up for information about the Million Acre event to be held in February 2006. To attract new MFA members, a contest was held guessing the number of mixed forest nuts (1727) in a jar with two prizes of one year memberships to MFA. Winners were Janet Walz of Cold Spring (1,763) and Dick Dirks of Walker (1,777). By Okey Ukaga.

Next MFA Board Meeting: 10 AM on December 12, 2005 at Gander Mountain in Forest Lake, 14640 W. Freeway Dr. (Exit 129 off I-35E south of Forest Lake), 651-464-0707. All members are welcome to attend.

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

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GOV. PAWLENTY SIGNS PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER AS INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS MONTH IN MN: This is an opportunity for government to join forces with community, business, industry, conservation, and recreation groups to raise awareness and take action against the introduction and spread of invasive species.

MFA CALENDAR of EVENTS (Clip & Save)

November 19, Saturday, Pruning and Direct Seeding of Hardwoods, 9:30 am to Noon, Mankato: Elk's Nature Center. Cost \$20. For info call Gary Wyatt 507-389-6748. To register contact Susan Seabury 888-241-0724 X6466. Satisfies one WA credit: WAE13.

December 1, Thursday, Income Taxes and Family Forests, 6 - 9 pm, International Falls, Rainy River Community College. Cost \$20. For info call Mike Reichenbach 888-241-0724 X 6470. To register contact Susan Seabury 888-241-0724 X6466. Satisfies one WA credit: WAC10.

December 3, Saturday, Non-timber Forest Products and Managing Your Woodland for Wildlife, Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center, Schroeder, MN. One or both topics may be attended. Cost \$20. For info call Mike Reichenbach. To register contact Susan Seabury 888-241-0724 X6466. Satisfies two WA credits: WAC5 & WAC7.

December 8, Thursday, Forest Certification Systems in MN, 6 - 9 pm Cloquet area, Location TBD. Cost \$20. For info call Mike Reichenbach. To register contact: Susan Seabury. Satisfies one WA credit: WAC13.

December 8, Thursday, Reaching your forestland ownership goals: Stewardship Planning and Cost Share Programs, 6 - 9 pm International Falls: Rainy River Community College. Cost: free! For info call Mike Reichenbach. To register contact Susan Seabury. Satisfies one WA credit: WAC10.

December 14, Log Safe at Iron World Discover Center, Contact MLEP, Dave Chura @ 218-722-5442.

January 12, 2006 Thursday, NonTimber Forest Products, 6 - 9 pm Cloquet area: Location TBD. 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, 6 - 9 pm International Falls: Rainy River Community College. Cost \$20. For info call Mike Reichenbach. To register contact Susan Seabury. Satisfies one WA Credit: WAC3.

February 10-11, 2006, Million Acre Conference at the Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center. An opportunity to hear advice and information from experts on a variety of topics that benefit woodland landowners. See flyer enclosed. If you would like to volunteer at this event, please call Larry Himanga at 651-345-4924.

A Revisit to the SFIA: In 2001, MFA helped form a coalition of private landowners, industry representatives, environmental organizations, county assessors and others that met repeatedly during the 2001 legislative session to reach consensus on provisions of the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA). Upon enactment of the SFIA, MFA helped to promote enrollment by hosting over 20 workshops around the state and has continued to provide information and guidance to landowners interested in participating in the program.

Since passage of the SFIA, over 600 landowners have taken advantage of the program. During October of this year, these landowners will receive \$4.32 per acre for their enrolled acreage. While the majority of the landowners appreciate the program, some problems have

surfaced that were unforeseen at the time the Act was passed. A few landowners have seen their property taxes increase dramatically since enrolling their lands under the SFIA. In those cases, the annual incentive payment hasn't come close to offset those increases forcing them to reconsider whether they can afford to hold the land for forestry purposes.

With financial support from the Blandin Foundation, UPM- Blandin Paper Company, and Forest Capital Partners, MFA has organized a 14 member work group of stakeholders to address this and other issues with the SFIA. Stakeholders represented in the work group range from the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, the Minnesota Forest Industries, the Minnesota Campaign for Conservation, to the Association of County Officers.

The goal of this work group is to reach consensus on how to remedy any problems with the Act or its administration before the start of the March 1, 2006 legislative session.

At their first meeting on October 5, 2005 at Cambridge, the work group identified 7 possible program fixes to address the issues. Further meetings have been scheduled for November 9 and December 9, 2005.

The SFIA revisit comes at a critical time as pressures to develop woodlands have soared in many places. The SFIA is very important to MFA's members and other landowners who have enrolled their woodlands in the program. Many are pleased with it, but there are others that are not. The dissatisfied have had a dampening affect on encouraging others to enroll. It's crucial for Minnesota to have a viable

program in support of sustainable forest management on family forest lands if they are to contribute to healthy economies and communities. It's with that in mind that MFA will continue to work in support of the SFIA and other programs that support that goal. By Bruce ZumBahlen

DNR is Increasing Support for PFM: After taking it on the chin because of budget problems over the past 2 years, the DNR's private forest management program (PFM) is being revitalized. Recently, the DNR Div. of Forestry (DOF) issued vision statements and an action plan for the PFM program for the current 2006 fiscal year and beyond.

The vision calls for the DOF to increase the level of support for the program to previous FY 2004 levels. Further, the DOF will seek supplemental and or dedicated funding to support the expansion of PFM services. As part of that effort, the DOF is considering transferring some of the cost of preparing stewardship plans to the landowner. At a recent Forest Stewardship Committee, a \$100 fee for writing new management plans and a \$50 fee for updating management plans was discussed.

American Tree Farm related activities are also going to be reinstated. Previously, the DOF performed approximately 90% of the tree farm re-inspections until the DOF chose to drop them in the face of severe budget cuts. As a result, a large backlog of re-inspections was created and the Tree Farm program turned to training volunteers to do the work. Return of the DOF to doing tree farm inspections will greatly help that program.

To help ensure that landowners receive professional assistance in planning and implementing timber harvest activities, the Division will

incrementally increase its involvement in private timber sales. In cooperation with MFA, the Division will also provide a basic level of expertise related to tax implications from timbers sales for the landowner. And, in cooperation with MFA, the Division will provide avenues for landowners to access current, knowledgeable expertise.

These are just some of the changes in direction of the PFM program that MFA welcomes. If you would like a copy of the entire document, please contact Bruce ZumBahlen at 651-458-0483 or by email at: zoomerbruce@aol.com

NEW MEMBERS: New members include: Janet Walz, Cold Spring; Dick & Solveig Dirks, Walker; Dan & Sharon Amell, Duluth; Craig Augustin, Britt; Ray Barta, Faribault; Paul Baughman, Cannon Falls; Mark & Mary-Jean Becker, North St. Paul; Robert Collison, Duluth; Paul D. Erickson, South Haven; Stanley Gale, Grand Rapids; Stan Grossman, Park Rapids; Angela Gupta, Rochester; Robert Hammes, Verndale; Robert Hartman, Kettleston's Eagleview Farms, Crosslake; Douglas Hecker, Moose Lake; Daniel Imholte, Princeton; Gary Johnson, Missoula, MT; Stuart Johnson, Moose Lake; Jim Kientop, Backus; Charles H Mayo, St. Croix Falls, WI; John McCoy, Effie; Don McTavish, Duluth; John Mickman, Mickman Brothers Inc., Anoka; James Ravis, Aitkin; Gale Stanley, Grand Rapids; Gary Steiner, Brook Park; Nick Swenson, Minneapolis; Larry Taylor, Bovey; Dana Thomsen, Foreston; Delbert Triesch, Blaine

Renewing member comments: Tony Beuning, Lake Region Companies, who says: "A very informative and helpful association. Thanks." Michael Boyd, Pike River Nursery: "Sorry

I'm late -- don't cancel Better Forests." John N. Koerth: "Any information on medical products made from forest products?" (We'll try to answer that question in a future issue.)

MEMBERS' COMMENTS: Robert Asproth, Mahtowa, MN: "I would like info on birch bark harvesting if available. I didn't become aware of the class in Grand Rapids on time to attend." *MFA sent you an article on what we know about harvesting birch bark, Robert. Let us know how it goes.*

Michael & Dianne Beaufeaux, Hinckley: "Keep up the good work! Sustainable Forestry Act is great!"

Jerry & Judith Carson, Holyoke, MN: "Love classes and magazine!"

Charles Franklin, Moorhead, MN: "I have 160 acres of old growth hardwood: oak, elm, maple, ash, some poplar. Last harvested in 1985. Thinned out the large deciduous trees. Problem: taxes rising to unbearable rates. Next step is development. Not good!" *We have heard from a number of MFA members about the tax situation. A recent study done by Dr. Mike Kilgore at the U. of MN found that value of woodlands over the past 15 years has increased more than 1% every month over that period. MFA is working with others to address the tax situation for woodland owners dedicated to managing their woodlands for the long term. Look for more information on next few months on what MFA is doing.*

Samuel K. Dickinson, Grand Rapids, MN: "Make MFA's views known Re: U of MN documentary MN History of the Land; far too negative for me!"

Mark Holien, Britt, MN: "It would be interesting to see some info on the following topics in the magazine: 1) woody biomass development/energy; 2) food plots for wildlife; 3) highlight various wood-using mills in the region."

MFA passed on your comments to the Better Forests editor, Mark.

Gordon W. Pearson, Mora, MN: "Keep working for a better tax relief system, not interested in SFIA. I do appreciate all info mailed." *MFA recognizes that the SFIA isn't all that attractive to some landowners, particularly in the Metro area where taxes on woodland are very high. MFA will be exploring options to address this issue.*

Daniel Steffen, Brainerd, MN: "Good job. Keep it up! Thank you."

John O'Reilly, Hinckley, MN: "It appears that MFA is making progress. The membership welcome letter is very professional. The web site appears to be improved. Keep up the good work."

HEADLINES:

Gypsy Moths Take Hold in Northeastern MN: The steady westward march of the gypsy moth continued into Minnesota this summer with the leaf-eating insects infesting North Shore forests more than ever. Officials

are puzzled about the reason Northeastern Minnesota has become such a moth hot spot. Scientists had expected the moths to slowly move through Wisconsin and into eastern Minnesota, especially in the Twin Cities. <http://www.duluthsuperior.com/ml/d/duluthsuperior/news/local/12831123.htm> OR <http://www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?refid=77042>

Potlatch land gets green 'certified' label (MN). The move to certify wood and paper made from Minnesota trees as environmentally friendly got a push this week, with forests owned by Potlatch Corp. certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. The certification helps Potlatch market its trees and lumber from the trees to wholesalers and retailers that are increasingly demanding the certified stamp of approval. Potlatch, Minnesota's largest private landowner, will make the

announcement today in St. Paul. Company officials say it's the last of Potlatch's 1.5 million acres nationally to be certified under FSC, making Potlatch the only major forest products company in the United States to achieve full FSC certification. <http://www.duluthsuperior.com/ml/d/duluthsuperior/news/local/12532025.htm> OR <http://www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?refid=76494>

PUBLICATIONS:

Exotic Invasive Plant Species Found in Minnesota Forests: Exotic Invasive Plant Species Found in Minnesota Forests: includes counties-affected maps, pictures and descriptions of the most common invasive terrestrial plants invading Minnesota's woodlands. <http://www.forestrycenter.org/library.cfm?refID=76483>