

M i n n e s o t a

F O R E S T S

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A Message from MFA's President - Bruce ZumBahlen: Congratulations go to the East Central Woodland Owners Council, the Metro Chapter, and the Brainerd chapter for being the first to apply for official status as MFA chapters. As many of you know, with nearly a unanimous vote by our membership, MFA revised its by-laws last year to formalize its relationship with local chapters. The by-law change is intended to bolster support for both the local chapter at the grass roots level and for MFA as a statewide organization. A chapter agreement negotiated with each chapter outlines what each chapter and MFA will do for each other.

The by-law change was also prompted by the fact that some groups act as MFA chapters and avail of its services when a majority of its members are not supporting MFA as members. Membership numbers do matter! The more members MFA has, the more we can do. It's the dues that members pay that help provide the services that members enjoy – including the liability insurance that is provided for local educational events. Membership dues provide 55% of MFA's operating budget, annual meeting registrations and fund raising events contribute another 13% or so. MFA also receives about 5% of its budget from a share of the net revenue from ads placed in the annual membership directory published in collaboration with the MN Logger Education Program. The rest of MFA's operating budget, about 25%, comes from using some of the income from its endowment funds' investments.

The Board of Directors has set a goal of building MFA's endowment back to the point whereby the annual income from the investments would support the hiring of an executive director. Remember, officers and members of the Board of Directors all serve as unpaid volunteers; they do this because of their passion for forestry and are committed to supporting programs that encourage good forest management, especially on family forests.

For over 25 years, I have benefited from MFA's educational programs, timely information in MFA's newsletters, articles in its magazines and the pleasure of rubbing elbows with others who love the land. We can help other landowners receive the same benefits by inviting them to join MFA. An invitation from you to a neighbor, friend or relative is the most effective way of increasing membership. The more members we have, the more effective we will be in providing services and representing our interests with public agencies and the legislature.

So, if you have someone in mind that would make a good member, please ask them to join MFA. It really isn't very hard; and if you want, let me know the name and address of the individual you have in mind. I would be happy to send them an application in your name. Now, let's enjoy the coming fall after such a hot summer. Bruce ZumBahlen, MFA President

Next MFA Board Meeting: 10 AM is October 12, 2005 at Cabela's in Owatonna. (right off of I-35 about 60 miles south of Minneapolis). We'll be in the upstairs meeting room; coffee and rolls at 9:30 AM. Lunch in the Cabela's deli. All MFA and potential members are welcome to attend.

MFA Board of Directors Reminder: elections will be coming up shortly. If you are interested in becoming a board member, please contact the Nominations Chairperson, Priscilla Harvala at 218-879-9727 or via email pjhh3home@aol.com.

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

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(Clip & Save) **MFA CALENDAR OF EVENTS** (See Woodland Advisor 2005-06 Class List attached)

This newsletter edition includes the Woodland Advisor classes calendar for fall/winter 2005/06. If you get more than one, please pass it along to your neighbor. We are excited about the class offerings and hope to see you at one or more.

2005 'LIGHT ON THE LAND' Small-Scale Logging Equipment, Field Demonstrations, 9 AM to 3 PM, Satisfies one WA credit: WAE7. Call Mike Reichenbach at 888-241-0724 X 6470. Admission is FREE! To register contact: Susan Seabury @ 888-241-0724, ext 6466. Demonstrations will showcase the abilities of some of the latest timber harvesting equipment, ranging in size from cut-to-length processors all the way down to hand-held logging arches, along with tractor and ATV accessories, as well as a horse logger and portable saw mills. Participants may walk through the site at their leisure and see the equipment in action. All demos will be from 9 AM to 3 PM. Hard hats will be available; food and refreshments may be purchased on site; dress appropriately.

September 14 – Cloquet Forestry Center, Take Hwy 210 exit off of I-35, go west 2.7 miles to Cty Hwy 5 (University Road) 2.5 miles, the Cloquet Forestry Center is on the left. Contact Mike Reichenbach at 218-726-6470 for more info.

September 16 & 17 – Wabasha County, The site is located in Kruger Management Unit, apx 5 miles West of Wabasha just off Hwy 60 on Cty Hwy 81. Contact Lance Sorensen at 651-345-3216 for more information.

September 10, 2005, Public Input Session: Native American/First Nations Activities that Protect and Restore Lake Superior Basin, Grand Portage, MN. In addition to learning what Tribes and First Nations are doing to protect the natural environment, the public is invited to tell the Binational Forum what Lake Superior issues are important to them and what is needed to adequately protect the lake from harm. Contact Lissa Radke at (715) 682-1489 or lradke@northland.edu.

September 16 & 17, 2005, Thursday and Friday, **North Star Expo**. Location: Itasca County Fairgrounds, Grand Rapids, MN. For more information phone 218-722-5013

September 16, 2005, Friday, **Woodland Owner and User Conference**, Grand Rapids, MN Classes for landowners and individuals with an interest in nature and innovative ideas for forest management. Contact Julie Miedtke at 888-649-8705 or see <http://www.goodsfromthewoods.org/> for more information.

September 17 & 18, 2005, Friday and Saturday, **“Goods from the Woods” - Up North Special Forest Products Marketplace**, Location: Grand Rapids, MN. The Marketplace is a premier event designed to showcase the unique and outstanding work of northern Minnesota's forest-based artists and producers. Contact Julie Miedtke at 888-649-8705 or see <http://www.goodsfromthewoods.org/> for more information.

September 17 and October 15, 2005, **Buckthorn Removal Along the Mississippi**; various Minneapolis/St.Paul, MN sites. Volunteers needed! Help remove buckthorn that is taking over high quality natural areas along the river gorge. We'll pull small buckthorn seedlings by hand, and remove larger specimens using loppers and weed wrenches. Tools and gloves will be provided. Please wear long sleeves, long pants and sturdy shoes. To volunteer for the buckthorn removal, please contact Beth Storey at Friends of the Mississippi River, (651) 222-2193 x16 or email bstorey@fmr.org.

October 14-17, 2005 National Land Conservation Conference: Rally 2005, Madison, WI: Join more than 1,600 conservation leaders at the world's premier gathering of land trust professionals, volunteers, board members, public agency staff, attorneys and land conservation advocates for the 18th Rally <http://www.lta.org/training/rally/overview.htm>

February 10-11, 2006, **Million Acre Conference** at the Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center. This will be an opportunity to hear advice and information from experts on a variety of topics that benefit woodland landowners.

Oh No, Not Another By-law Change! Yes, the by-law committee under chair Neal Kingsley is proposing some changes to the membership categories and the number of directors serving on the Board. Other members of the committee are John Bathke, Jim Lemmerman, Phil Bradley, and Bruce ZumBahlen. A proposal to change MFA's membership categories is intended to make the contributing and supporting membership categories more relevant to today's economic climate and make those categories more attractive. To be frank, the current membership categories for the higher levels of

giving (dues) are little used. To encourage legacy gifts (bequests) and contributions to MFA's endowment fund, the committee will also be proposing a new by-law article on finance.

The committee is also tackling the issue of making it easier for the work of the Board of Directors to be more effective. Current by-laws call for six regional directors and not more than eight directors-at-large. There have been times in the past few years that we have had to operate with Board vacancies, particularly for the regional directors. At times, it has been challenging to find someone to run in a region or fill

the unexpired term of a vacant regional director seat. Yet, we have had candidates in another region who would have been willing to serve, but couldn't because of the current requirement that they must live in the region that they would represent. To address this issue, the committee will be recommending to the Board of Directors a proposal to make all the director positions serve at-large.

Another issue is the number of directors called for in the current by-laws. Fourteen directors to represent the interests of some 800 MFA members and carry out its business and affairs

seems disproportionate when compared to the 11 member Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA) that has over three times the number of members as MFA does. All of the WWOA board members serve at large.

By having a smaller Board of Directors, it is expected that communications would be more efficient, it would be easier for a smaller Board to meet quorum requirements, and it would be more nimble on its feet in responding to emerging issues. With that in mind, the committee will be recommending a downsizing of the Board.

The proposals of the By-Laws Committee will be considered by the full Board of Directors at its October 12, 2005 meeting at Cabela's Outdoor Store in Owatonna. If the Board approves the recommendations, the proposed changes to the by-laws will be submitted to MFA members by mail ballot shortly afterwards. Amendments to the by-laws can only be passed if 2/3's of those voting favor the proposals. So, stay tuned and be prepared to vote this fall. Bruce ZumBahlen

At Last – A DNR Budget! The DNR avoided a shut down that affected other State agencies after July 1st when the Governor signed its budget bill late the afternoon of June 30th. We can thank concerns over whether state parks would be open during the 4th of July weekend for that. In that hullabaloo, little notice was made of what was actually appropriated that affects DNR forestry programs for the next two years.

Here's what was passed as reported by the Division of Forestry's August 5, 2005 Weekly Wire.

Legislation was passed to return a portion of forest management costs on State Forest Trust fund lands to the Forest

Management Investment Account (FMIA). The division will now be appropriated \$10.315 million per year from the FMIA. This is \$600,000 more than the governor's recommendation of \$9.715 million per year. The FMIA now constitutes 40% of the division's general operation and management budget, reducing the division's overall dependence on general-fund dollars.

Bonding monies will cover \$1.5 million of the reforestation costs on state forest lands in fiscal year 2006.

The division had a general-fund budget reduction of \$540,000 per year for the biennium that was focused primarily on private forest management (PFM).

\$250,000 per year of general-fund dollars has been redirected to the division from elsewhere in the department. In addition, in a "one-time" deal, the division was allowed to roll forward Fiscal Year 2005 year-end monies for use in the new fiscal year.

\$700,000 was appropriated for the Forestry Information System over the biennium.

Legislation passed this session allows up to \$250,000 per year from the forest nursery account to be used for forestry education and technical assistance.

FY 2006 supply and expense budgets were funded at 95% of what was requested.

Overall, the budget came out better than what the Governor first proposed. On the other hand, the PFM program took a major hit. That hit will be mitigated to some extent by passage of a Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) project "Sustainable Management of Private Forest Lands" that appropriated \$874,000 over the next two years. The LCMR project provides \$500,000 to be used in leveraging federal funds for the purchase of conservation

easements on private lands leaving \$274,000 for stewardship plans and \$100,000 to cost share practices on private lands. The LCMR monies may delay the inevitable, but sometime in the near future, the forestry division likely will start charging for stewardship plans.

It is not likely that the Forestry Division will use the forestry nursery account to support forestry education and technical assistance on private lands, at least in the near future. The nurseries are charged by law to cover their cost of operations using revenue from the sale of tree seedlings that are deposited into the account. All of the funds in the account are presently needed to run the nurseries; the division is reluctant to raise the price of its seedlings beyond what it takes to grow them in order to provide the education and technical assistance monies. Bruce ZumBahlen.

East Central Landscape Plan Approved by the MFRC

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) approved the East Central Landscape Plan at their meeting on March 16, 2005. The nine counties in the East Central landscape include Benton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, the eastern half of Morrison, Pine, Sherburne, and Wright.

To help ensure the sustainable management, use and protection of the forest resources, the Minnesota Legislature enacted the Sustainable Forest Resources Act (SFRA) in 1995, which created the MFRC. One of the MFRC's primary efforts is the landscape planning and coordination program. The landscape planning and coordination process is voluntary.

The East Central plan is the sixth landscape plan developed by the MFRC for the six-forested regions of the state.

Implementation of this plan as well as for the five other plans is now underway. A committee overseeing coordination efforts for the East Central landscape has been established and will next meet on Thursday, September 29, 2005. For more information on the East Central landscape or other plans, visit the Minnesota Forest Resources Council website (www.frc.state.mn.us) and click on Landscape Program, East Central Landscape. Information is also available by contacting staff at the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (651) 603-0108.

MFA CHAPTERS & WOODLAND COMMITTEE

UPDATES:

Aitkin County Private Woodlands Committee is hosting the Light on the Land logging workshop and demos Sept. 12, see Calendar of Events. Dennis Thompson.

Wabasha County Forestry Committee is hosting the Light on the Land workshop at Kruger Recreation Area on Sept. 16-17. In addition to the equipment present at the other LOL sites, we will have tents for vendors and a series of tours including use of herbicides, buckthorn control, preparing for a timber sale, tree ID, seed collection, and possible some others. Terry Helbig.

Carlton County Private Woodland Council: MFA has approved our grant requests. We are hosting Light on the Land, Small scale harvest, forwarding, and processing equipment demonstration, 9 – 3, Wed Sept 14, Cloquet Forestry Center. We need 4 or 5 volunteers from 8:30 - 4 that day to register people, answer questions, teach at a forest inventory and thinning demonstration site, etc. Please call Kelly Smith to volunteer. Woodland Advisor classes for next year were drafted and include:

Green Certification Systems, Non Timber Forest Products, WAP Volunteers Follow up, Crop Tree Management (Growing and Tending Your Forest 2) and Advanced Tree establishment, a trip to the Menomonee Indian Reservation Forest, and Micro or Backyard Forestry. Also, we'll be needing volunteers in Duluth for the Million Acre Conference: Feb 10 - 11 at the DECC. Kelly Smith.

Metro Chapter: will be co-hosting three workshops (see WA Calendar): 1) Chainsaw Safety, Oct. 1, with UofM Ext. 2) Two (Free) Firewise Workshops Oct. 13 at 3-5 PM and 7-9 PM in Zimmerman. Firewise is a program that helps home and landowners, and communities reduce the risk of wildfire. Learn to identify homes and other structures that are fire-prone and discuss techniques that will help lessen the risks. Sponsored by the Tree Trust, the Sherburne County Rural Living Task Force, the Minnesota DNR, and the MFA-Metro Chapter. 3) Balsam Management and Holiday Wreath Production Tour (Free) Oct. 22, 9-12 PM at Mickman Brothers wreath operation and garden center. Learn balsam management, harvesting methods, and how to use the boughs in a variety of products. Family and friends are welcome! Prizes, refreshments and pumpkins in time for Halloween! Sponsored by MFA Metro Chapter, Mickman Brothers, and MN DNR. Contact: Barb Spears at 651-644-5800 x113.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

MN Biomass Exchange: This site is a collaborative effort between the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI), Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERT), MN Dept. of Commerce, MN Dept of Natural Resources, UofM and the Green Institute. These organizations share the goal of

efficiently connecting biomass consumers and producers in an effort to increase the use of renewable resources for energy in Minnesota.

<http://www.mnbiomassexchange.org/>

PUBLICATIONS

Book: The River We Have Wrought: A History of the Upper Mississippi. Historical book from early European exploration through the system of locks and dams on the upper Mississippi and how it's been changed by human intervention. http://www.upress.umn.edu/Books/A/anfinson_river.html

Report: Trends and Current Status of the Contribution of the Forestry Sector to National Economies. This report from the FAO of the UN gives the latest on the value of forestry sector production, exports and the jobs provided in the global economy. Report available at http://www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp?url_file=/docrep/007/ad493e/ad493e00.htm or to send comments or queries to the author, you can write Adrian Whiteman at Adrian.Whiteman@fao.org.

Thicket! A Voice for Integrated Weed Management in MN:

Thicket! Is produced by the multi-agency Integrated Weed Management Group and published twice yearly in the fall and spring. Readers are strongly encouraged to submit articles, article ideas, announcements, and information related to weed integrated pest management (IPM) in MN. <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/ipm/thicket/volume4no2/default.htm>

Designing and Building with FSC:

A one-stop resource on specifying, building, and accounting for the use of FSC-certified wood products. The guide provides information that design

and construction professionals can use to garner a better understanding of forest certification and green building issues, as well as where to find FSC-certified products. The guide also features case studies of projects that successfully incorporated FSC-certified products. The lessons learned could help steer future projects away from costly delays or change orders.

http://www.greenerbuildings.com/tool_detail.cfm?LinkAdvID=64588

HEADLINES

Top Federal forest official looks at uses for logging leftovers (MN): U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns toured a logging site in the Superior National Forest to see the results of new forest management efforts; but officials also were looking at the site to see what wood might be available after logging that usually isn't used by mills yet might be salvaged to burn for energy. As part of that effort, the Superior National Forest has partnered with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, the new Laurentian Energy Authority, municipal utilities, and with Forest Management Systems, a loggers and truckers cooperative. <http://www.duluthsuperior.com/ml/d/duluthsuperior/12302334.htm>

Leaf to bud: Pssst, it's time to flower! How does a flower know when to, well, flower? Scientists have known that it is the amount of sunshine that makes the difference, and now they have figured out how the leaves signal the flowers to form. A gene called FT in the leaves, discovered in the 1990s, is crucial to the process, but questions remained about how it delivered the message. Now they have now found a protein called FD, that occurs in the tips of branches, and causes plant stem cells to form flower buds. <http://www.cnn.com/2005/TECH/s>

[cience/08/12/flower.time.ap/ OR http://www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?RefID=76281](http://www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?RefID=76281)

Dead trees? Letting dead trees stand at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area is by design (PA). Game Commission biologists say the "snags" attract birds from hawks to woodpeckers and eventually break down into valuable soil nutrients. It's a message they are trying to carry to the other landowners in a state that was once entirely cleared of standing timber. "We're trying to get people to understand the role that dead trees play in the ecosystem and to not necessarily be so quick to say, 'We've got to cut this down because it's dead.'" <http://www.philly.com/ml/d/philly/news/12320751.htm> OR <http://www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?refID=76258>

Dinosaur-Era Tree Set for First Auction Sale (UK): Saplings of a giant tree that was a snack for dinosaurs and was believed to also be extinct until a chance discovery in Australia will be for sale. Less than 300 of the trees, that can grow to at least 40 meters tall and live for 1,000 years, will be offered for sale through auction house Sotheby's individually and in lots. <http://www.enn.com/today.html?id=8544> OR <http://www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?refid=76365>

Afghans see forests, tree by tree: "One day, if we do not prevent the cutting, we will not have trees," says Lal Kham, a wood seller in Kabul. The UN estimated that Afghan forests could be wiped out by 2030. Faced with a long-term problem that rarely gets sustained attention from donors and politicians, groups working on reforestation have developed some clever, albeit limited, ways to turn Afghans into Johnny Appleseeds. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0>

[801/p11s02-wosc.html OR http://www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?RefID=75521](http://www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?RefID=75521)

MEMBERS' COMMENTS:

Here are some comments received from MFA members. If you have a question that MFA can help with, let us know.

Michael Greenheck, St. Paul, is a tree farmer with 600 acres in Wabasha County and a member of the Wabasha County Woodland Committee: "You folks are great! I wish I could attend more of your events. Keep it up!" Thanks, Mike.

John Guillemette, Dakota Wood-Grinding Inc of Rosemont, 612-867-1281,

dakwoodgrinding@aol.com

"Please help me find huge piles within 150 miles of Twin Cities: brush, logs, and stumps for St. Paul wood-burning power plant." It's a bit out of MFA's services to members, John, but, we'll pass on your request.

Tim & Mary Wilson of Rochester, have 80 acres in Olmstead County for wildlife habitat, timber production and investment and would like: "More meetings like you had at St. John's in October 2003." For your information, MFA's 2006 annual meeting will be held next fall at St. John's University.

Robert Peterfeso, Jr. of Oakdale has 20 acres in Pine County: "I would like to be involved with the Metro Woodland Chapter or one in East Central Minnesota." We passed on your request to the East Central Minnesota Woodland Owners Council, Bob.

Woodland Advisor Volunteer Opportunities: As many of you know, the Woodland Advisor (WA) program asks graduates and participants to volunteer their time and resources toward various

forestry activities throughout the state. They have participated in the School Forests program, Lake Home and Cabin Days Expo, and many other activities, and hopefully, they will continue participating in these activities while branching out in new directions as volunteering with the Minnesota Land Trust and Tree Trust.

In April, Dave Davis, Bob Nobis, and Jim Hunder visited Ramsey School Forests for a Walk Through the Woods. The WA program would like to partner more with the School Forests program so volunteers may be able to help teachers and students better understand our forest resources.

At the Lake Home & Cabin Days Expo at the Mpls Convention

Center, Gene Ulstrom and Jim & Judy Hunder helped Extension reach citizens by speaking about tree and woodland ownership and encouraged active management and participation in their natural resources.

Bob Sonneberg, helps community members better understand forest management and encourages them to get a professional forester involved when appropriate. He also works with a consulting forester to cruise timber for other community members. Bob is a great example of a WA Volunteer taking initiative to help educate the community about its woodlands.

A recent survey of WA activities reports 680 volunteer hours last year doing a variety of activities including: helping with the MN

Logger Education Program classes, writing articles, organizing field days, meeting with landowners to discuss timber harvests, volunteering for MFA presenting on various forestry topics, and helping neighbors better understand forest management. It is wonderful to know WA's are using their skills to help their communities and forest resources!

Thanks to all you hardworking WA Volunteers! The WA Newsletter will continue to be a source of information about upcoming volunteer opportunities; let me know if it's not coming directly to your home! Angela Gupta, REE, UofMExt. agupta@mun.edu, (888) 241-4536.