

Minnesota Woodlands

MFA: an organization of, by and for Minnesota's private woodland owners and friends.

www.MinnesotaForestry.org

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MFA Board Meetings
DNR Cambridge Office
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
• April 10, 2018
• July 10, 2018

Conference Calls
8 – 9 a.m.
• May 8, 2018
• June 12, 2018
• August 14, 2018
• September 11, 2018

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Dobb receives MN Tree Farmer of the Year award

By Kassandra Tuten, Editor

On Friday, Oct. 13, 2017, Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA) held its annual meeting and Tree Farm Awards. Receiving the 2017 Minnesota Tree Farmer of the Year Award was Michael Dobb, a Koochiching County tree farmer who oversees the land owned by his grandfather; land that has been in his family since 1919.

“Our family is humbled by receiving the 2017 Minnesota Tree Farmer of the Year Award,” said Dobb. “It’s amazing to think in 2019 a large portion of the 320 acres will have been managed 100 years by one family totaling three generations.”

He said the history of the land makes “this special recognition extremely heartfelt.”

Dobb, the third generation owner of the property, which is now known as Dobb Forest Stream, took over the stewardship of the 320 acres in 1997, having purchased the property from his father, George. His primary objectives for the woodlands, according to an article written by Better Forest Magazine, are to “improve timber quality and obtain future income while considering resource values, including: Aesthetics, wildlife and recreation; and to be a top-notch steward for timber and wildlife management in a balanced fashion, maintaining natural continuity.”

Dobb said that his accomplishments “have been many,” resulting from today’s quick access technology, as well as his memberships of the American Tree Farm System, Minnesota Forestry Association, and partnerships with the Department of Natural Resources, Koochiching County and others.

“[These memberships and the current technology] have enabled resource management decisions which have led to the highest and best use of the land, a tree farm,” explained Dobb.

With his third 10-year Resource Management Plan in place, Dobb said he will continue to seek cost-share programs to help manage timber quality, enhance wildlife habitat and protect water and soil resources. Ownership emphases will also be placed on scenic greenways along stretches of the county road and state highway that borders the property, which Dobb said he hopes “will provide nature moments for the benefit of the public to enjoy.”

For Dobb, the opportunity to create something for the public to enjoy and learn from is important, and drives a number of his future goals, such as the establishment of a songbird sanctuary and study area on the property. This goal, he said, could be envisioned by providing property and partnering with a non-profit organization to create a major attraction for the public at large to learn about and enjoy nature first-hand.

Continued on page 6



Mike Dobb of Dobb Forest Stream in Koochiching County was awarded the 2017 Minnesota State Tree Farmer of the Year Award during MFA's annual awards ceremony which took place on Oct. 13, 2017. Pictured here, from left to right, are Mike Dobb, wife Marcy Dobb, and Ross Korpela. Photo by Tom Witkowski.

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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!

[Information@
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or call 218-879-5100.

Become a Master Woodland Owner! New class in Brainerd area opens in May

By the University of Minnesota Extension Forestry Team

The University of Minnesota Extension Forestry team is happy to announce its newest course in the Master Woodland Owner program. The Master Woodland Owner: Central Lakes class will focus on the relationship between healthy woodlands, healthy fisheries and water quality.

The Master Woodland Owner program helps private woodland owners interested in becoming better stewards of their woods. Since 2016, 82 woodland owners have participated in the program, representing nearly 4,000 acres of private woodland ownership. The program emphasizes learning ways to manage your woods for the reasons you desire.

The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District, the Board of Water and Soil Resources and the MFRC-North Central Landscape Committee will present content on woodlands and water quality. This class will dive into this topic, in addition to others such as mapping your woods, managing woodlands for wildlife, and identification and removal of invasive species. The program will use both in-person workshops and an online course to teach these woodland stewardship topics. Twelve online topics will be offered as a series of self-paced modules with exercises and group discussions. The class also includes a capstone project, where each landowner will develop action steps to accomplish their goals.

Registration will open in March for this new class. The online portion of the class is scheduled to begin on May 3, 2018. Our first in-person gathering will occur on Friday, May 18, 2018, held in conjunction with the Gathering Partners of Natural Resources conference located at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd. All participants enrolled in the program are expected to attend the first in-person gathering. Participants may also choose to register for the conference and attend other field tours and sessions available on Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20.

As a part of our first in-person meeting, we'll have an introductory session to meet fellow forest landowners and course instructors, and hear from forestry professionals as a part of a panel discussion. Additional in-person sessions and web/phone meet-ups will occur throughout the summer. The class will conclude with a final in-person gathering in October.

We hope you consider joining us in this Master Woodland Owner course. Information about the Central Lakes class, including registration and program details, can be found online at z.umn.edu/regmwo. We hope to see you this spring!



Arbor Day Tree Planting Event for Students - Thursday, May 10

An annual Arbor Day tree planting and forest management education event will be held near the town of Sawyer in Carlton County on Thursday, May 10. Volunteers are needed; no experience necessary. Welcome the next generation of forest landowners. This event is co-sponsored by Kettle River Woodland Council, an MFA chapter. To volunteer, contact Ann Rust at 218-384-3511.



Wabasha County Forestry Day 2018

By Jennifer Wahls, Landowner Outreach Coordinator

It was a beautiful late winter day. The sun was shining. Snow was covering the landscape, blanketing it during the quiet season, and blue February skies were clear and brilliant on the 42nd Wabasha Forestry Day, held at BJ's Bar and Grill near Theilman, Minn. The Wabasha Forestry Committee, in partnership with the Wabasha SWCD, DNR and MFA, organized the event. This year's theme was "Managing and Protecting the Landscape Puzzle" to have the best ecological and economic outcomes on working lands. It built upon the previous year's theme. We had 69 attendees join us.

The agenda included the following:

"Restoration Work on Private Lands" - Tim Connolly, Private Lands Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), spoke about projects on private lands done in partnership with the FWS and how they can be a technical and financial resource to landowners to help achieve the best ecological outcomes on working lands.

"Private Land Management" - Larry Gates, Chair of the Southeast Landscape Committee and landowner in Wabasha County, described management practices he utilizes including controlled burns through the woodland and prairie to reduce invasive species and promote regeneration of native plant communities, harvesting timber and utilizing DNR cost-share for Timber Stand Improvement. In his presentation, he included how he has permanently protected his land through conservation easements.

"Preserving the Legacy: Land Protection Options"

- A joint presentation by David Schmidt of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Nick Banks of Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), which outlined how their respective entities protect lands with conservation easements or through a fee acquisition process. TNC and MLT have similar goals in protecting these critical areas of conservation need and knitting together areas adjacent to already protected areas.

"Updates to 2C, SFIA and State Cost-Share" - Mark Miller, DNR Forester, went through the changes to SFIA, discussed 2C and outlined the DNR cost-share program. The DNR cost-share program has been successful in southeast Minnesota and we hope to see it continue as a long-term sustainable financial and technical resource.

The Woodland Manager of the Year was awarded to LaVerne and June Hofschulte. LaVerne and June, along with help, have planted and maintained thousands of trees on their property. LaVerne saws for 20 individuals a year and is active in woodworking. We are honored to recognize LaVerne and June Hofschulte as the 2018 Woodland Managers.

The owners of BJ's Bar and Grill, Mark and Sheri, deserve many thanks! The room was set, coffee was ready and they provided a wonderful lunch. We really appreciate all the work they did and the use of the venue.

Informational displays offered opportunities to learn about programs and organizations that may or may not be represented in presentations and a chance for attendees to connect with additional local resources. Dawn Littleton, UMN-

Extension, provided handouts on a variety of invasive pests, had 3-D models to view and was available to chat with participants about the challenges of invasive pest management and more. Barb and Walt Nigon, Prairie Smoke, had a display and enthusiasm to share. You can become a member of the organization and receive access tools, gain education on prairie management, plant identification and have assistance with burning. Lyle Keller, Minnesota Forestry Association, was present with brochures, giveaways and endless support of the Wabasha Forestry Day. We even signed up new members for MFA. Handouts were provided by the Southeast Landscape Committee, Minnesota Forest Resource Council and the Minnesota Land Trust.

As always, there were "fabulous and not-so fabulous prizes" awarded throughout the day. Some attendees were fortunate enough to have won a 2015 calendar, checkers (without the board), 25 trees, and a walnut ornament, just to name a few. Must be present to win. If this enticed you, then we look forward to seeing you next year at the 43rd Wabasha Forestry Day on Feb. 8, 2019.



Left, new MFA member Julie Ostrom and, seated, Dawn Littleton, UMN-Extension, provided handouts on a variety of invasive pests, had 3-D models to view and was available to chat with participants about the challenges of invasive pest management and more. Barb and Walt Nigon, Prairie Smoke, had a display and enthusiasm to share. You can become a member of the organization and receive access tools, gain education on prairie management, plant identification and have assistance with burning. Lyle Keller, Minnesota Forestry Association, was present with brochures, giveaways and endless support of the Wabasha Forestry Day. We even signed up new members for MFA. Handouts were provided by the Southeast Landscape Committee, Minnesota Forest Resource Council and the Minnesota Land Trust.



Creature Feature

By Jodie Provost, MN DNR Private Land Habitat Specialist

Wild Turkey and Ruffed Grouse - The Mistaken Blame Game

It's a frequent question of landowners and hunters: Do wild turkey harm ruffed grouse populations? This large, gobbling game bird – handsome in back but not so much in front – has expanded its range into historically prime ruffed grouse range. As flocks amble through fields and forest, they are often highly visible. Coupled with a ruffed grouse long-term population decline, particularly in southeast Minnesota, and its 10-year population cycle, these observations have led people to speculate.

Ben Franklin's Favorite Bird The ancestral range of eastern wild turkey is believed to include extreme southeastern Minnesota. Due to clearing of forest habitat during settlement and unregulated hunting, the last known native turkey there was spotted in 1880. The successful reintroduction of wild-trapped, eastern wild turkeys began in southeastern Minnesota in 1971. These efforts, along with the re-establishment and maturation of forest, especially where mixed with agricultural lands, has resulted in wild turkey range spreading across southern, central and western Minnesota. The first modern hunt was held in 1978. Since then, fall registered harvest has peaked as high as 1,753 in 2012, and spring harvest as high as 13,467 in 2010. Ben Franklin, who extolled the virtues of the wild turkey over the bald eagle, would be pleased.

Top Gun of the Upland Game Birds The ancestral range of ruffed grouse includes our forests from southeastern to northwestern Minnesota. They have fared relatively well, benefiting from young and varied age forests created by settlement and timber harvest. Ruffed grouse lead the way as our most harvested upland game bird. In 2016, the estimated hunter harvest was 308,955. The long-term annual average harvest since 1983 is about 545,000 birds, and up to 1.2 million have been harvested when their population cycle is at or near peak. Drumming counts in spring 2017 reflected a 57 percent increase in the grouse population from spring 2016, as the population nears its 10-year peak. Yet fall reports indicated the anticipated population increase may not have happened. Results of our small game hunter survey and this spring's drumming counts will shed more light on the situation.

New Range Mates in Minnesota Wild turkey and ruffed grouse have historically co-existed in portions of the eastern U.S. where their ranges overlap. However, in Minnesota, sharing ranges is relatively new. Turkey do have an impact on their new environment, as any new species does due to the interconnectedness of living things (i.e., web of life). However, there is no indication that wild turkey



have a negative impact similar to non-native invasive species that outcompete native living things and wreak havoc on ecosystems.

But Differing Diets and Habits Despite overlapping ranges in our state, wild turkey and ruffed grouse ecological roles differ enough that they largely prefer different habitats and won't displace one another. Turkeys favor a mix of fields and mature forest throughout their lives, especially oak forest. Quality habitat for ruffed grouse, on the other hand, includes a combination of different aged aspen stands, including a portion in young, dense forest for overhead cover from raptors. They rarely use open fields.

While wild turkey and ruffed grouse share some foods, their diets differ enough to prevent substantial competition. Turkeys are opportunistic, eating a wide array of foods including ferns, grasses, seeds, leaves, grain, buds, berries, insects, bulbs, acorns, and nuts. On occasion, they will eat frogs, snakes, salamanders and snails. Researchers have studied turkey heavily and never reported grouse chicks or eggs falling victim. Though never say "never" when it comes to wildlife – irregular things happen. In contrast, the mainstay of ruffed grouse is aspen buds, twigs and catkins, though they will also forage on berries, rose hips and other fruits, acorns, nuts, and green leaves of clover, strawberries, bunchberry, aspen and ferns.

Grouse are better adapted to winter than wild turkey, roosting in snow burrows, or conifer clumps in the absence of snow, to conserve energy and avoid predators. They generally feed twice daily in tree tops. Turkeys, in comparison, roost in the open in broad arching tree branches and prefer to scratch on the ground for food. Thus, winters with long durations of deep snow can be hard on them, unless an easier food source from a farming and ranching operation or a home is found, such as a feedlot, silage pile, or bird feeder. Protein-rich insects, which usually abound in spring and summer, are the prime food source for turkey poults and grouse chicks.

Not to Blame So wild turkey are not to blame directly for declining ruffed grouse populations here in Minnesota or elsewhere in the eastern U.S. Forest habitats that have changed, aged and become more suitable for turkey is the likely cause. Other culprits that may impact grouse are free-roaming cats, West Nile Virus and a changing climate (e.g., quaking aspen is predicted to likely decrease due to its heat and drought susceptibility).

Who to Invite for Dinner? We know for certain that we can positively impact habitat for both of these intriguing and sporting birds. Which one would you like to invite to your land and for dinner? Consider your landscape, habitats, local wildlife of concern, stewardship plan, goals and consult with your local natural resource professionals. Was your neighborhood once home to oak savanna and red-headed woodpeckers? Restoring this globally imperiled habitat would also benefit wild turkey. Does your land and surrounding

private land have aging aspen forest? Consider working with your neighbors to harvest aspen in patches over the years to provide the diversity of young to old forest needed by ruffed grouse and other wildlife. In some neighborhoods, the opportunity exists to benefit both wild turkey and ruffed grouse. Wishing you all safe and memorable spring turkey hunts, and fall turkey and grouse hunts!

Thank you to Ted Dick of Minnesota DNR and Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS), and Rick Horton of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) for information and review of this.

Thinking of harvesting timber from your land?

Call Before You Cut

You will be sent a packet of information with no cost or obligation to you.

218-879-5100



Plant Identification Workshop Series

Providing the skills and experience necessary for advanced, habitat-specific plant identification.



Woodland Plant ID and Sampling

June 6-7 | Amherst Junction, Wis
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Aquatic Plant ID and Sampling

June 16-17 | Hatley, Wis
Instructor: Paul Skawinski
Register by: June 8



Prairie Plant ID and Sampling

July 28-29 | Amherst Junction, Wis
Instructor: Sophie Demchik
Register by: July 20



Wetland Plant ID and Sampling

June 29-30 | Stevens Point, Wis
Instructor: Rachel Schultz, Ph.D.
Register by: June 22



Prairie Plant ID and Sampling

July 28-29 | Amherst Junction, Wis
Instructor: Sophie Demchik
Register by: July 20

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Visit our [website](#) for workshop details, pricing, and registration.



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Questions?
<http://www.uwsp.edu/ceoutreach/Workshop/Pages/Plant-Identification-Series.aspx>
Halley Frates, CNR Outreach Program Manager
hfrates@uwsp.edu or 715-346-4176

MFA Unveils New Logo

The Minnesota Forestry Association has been working on developing an updated look for the past year.

The existing logo has served the organization well, but does not work well in today's technology, such as smart phones. The board of directors decided to update the look of the logo to something that works well in all sizes on computers, tablets, smart phones, as well as print and clothing items. The new logo needed to be simple and clean so that it will be easily identified in any type of media.

The board worked with the MFA's contracted graphic designer, Peg Churchwell of Lady Dog Design, to develop multiple ideas for the members to choose from at the annual meeting last October. The options were narrowed down to three and then presented for a final vote in the December newsletter. The option on the right is the winner.

The new logo will be transitioned to use in MFA materials over the next year.



MFA's existing logo, on left, and the updated logo on the right. The strong, simple lines of the new logo make it easy to recognize even at a small size.

Kettle River Woodland Council Hosts Woods Walk

Kettle River Woodland Council, an MFA chapter, is holding a woods walk on Wednesday, May 2, from 10 a.m. – noon, on the Alan and Sharon Finifrock property, southeast corner of Co Rds 8 and 11, 6.5 miles east on Co Rd 8 from the I-35 northern Moose Lake exit.

Dress for the weather and wear mud boots as attendees will be walking approximately 1/2 mile round trip. We will have a half hour business meeting, a tour of a red pine plantation planted in 1955 and thinned in 1990, a 1997 spruce plantation, a Golden-winged Warbler habitat timber harvest of this winter, and a discussion of logging history of the area. Afterwards we will cook hot-dogs (provided) on a campfire. This is a great opportunity for learning, networking and walking. For more information, contact Alan Finifrock at 218-721-2896.

Farmer of the Year continued

To learn more about Dobb Forest Stream Tree Farm, read his memoirs, "My Memoirs of the Dobb Property," which chronicle 20 years of tree farm passion, and include details on harvesting, walking, berry picking, planting and collecting wood for special forest projects such as birch hot plates and candle holders. The memoir can be found online at koochichingswcil.org/larycoruentluploads/2076/110/DOBBWordDoc_2016.pdf

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

For MFA members, the two best online sources of woodland information are the MFA website at www.minnesotaforestry.org, and the University of Minnesota Extension Forestry website at www.myminnisotawoods.umn.edu.

Advocating for state investment with focus on EAB

By Gina Hugo, Forest Resource Specialist

A few key points for members to relay to legislators concerning Emerald Ash Borer

The Government Relations Committee has been actively advocating for the SFIA language pertaining to eligibility to be revisited and changed. It is our goal to remove the problematic language that requires landowners with existing conservation easements on properties less than 1,920 acres to allow public access removed.

We have also been advocating for the state to invest in community forest management with a focus on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Here are some key points that MFA members could relay to their legislators:

- HF2031 and SF1687 appropriate \$10,000,000 from bonding proceeds to fund the commissioner of agriculture for grants of up to \$1,000,000 to cities, counties, towns and park and recreation boards for removal and replacement of publicly owned shade trees damaged by or lost to forest pests or disease, or to establish a more diverse community forest better able to withstand disease and forest pests.
- The impact of Emerald Ash Borer has been repeated in every state it has touched. The pest currently threatens to kill every unprotected ash tree in Minnesota; the loss of these trees will affect everyone living in the state.
- Ash trees comprise an average of 2/5 of the trees in Minnesota community forests.

- Effectively slowing ash mortality in community forests will suppress the pest population and reduce the risk of spread of EAB to the 1 million acres of black ash habitat in northern Minnesota and the hundreds of miles of floodplain forest buffering rivers and streams that contain green ash as a major component.
- Current state EAB programs at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have funded important research and quarantine measures, but do not provide sufficient funding to address EAB infestation and the current over-reliance on ash trees in community forests.
- Scientific advances have developed an integrated pest management approach which includes detection techniques, pest control measures and the protection of high value healthy trees.
- Green infrastructure is a major component of water quality protection and sustaining the legacy of Minnesota's lakes. Allowing the ash trees in Minnesota to be effectively decimated will adversely impact one of the greatest natural resources known to our state.
- Communities in our state are not equally equipped to deal with what is a predictable natural disaster. State-wide leadership and funding will enable Minnesota to deal with EAB and every subsequent forest pest and disease in a way that maintains the environmental benefits of trees and reduces costs for communities and ultimately tax payers.

Conference discusses maintaining or increasing wildlife in your woods

A conference was held on Wednesday, March 14 in St. Paul, Minn., discussing measures for maintaining or increasing the abundance of wildlife in your woods. Attendees were able to listen to and interact with experts on the topic of forest and wildlife management, as well as get in touch with resources that can help them manage their property for the habitat many of Minnesota's game species depend on for forage and cover. Public, private, and non-profit forestry and wildlife professionals were on hand to provide a primer on managing forest for wildlife. More than 100 individuals attended the event, which sought to provide them with the resources they need to begin sustainably managing their woods for improved habitat. The conference was hosted by Minnesota DNR, East Range Joint Powers Board, MFA (Metro Chapter), Minnesota Forest Industries, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Wildlife Management Institute.



Applications Being Accepted for 2018 Wisconsin Coverts Project

Applications are now being accepted for the 2018 Wisconsin Coverts Project. "Coverts" is a Woodland Wildlife Management Program for Private Landowners. Several MFA members have participated and thought it was an excellent experience.

The next Wisconsin Coverts Project workshops will be held Aug. 16-19 at Kemp Natural Resources Station in Woodruff, Wis.

Note: You do not need to be a Wisconsin landowner to attend; any woodland owner in the Midwest region will be considered.

Applications are due by June 15. For more information on The Wisconsin Coverts Project, contact Jamie Nack, Wisconsin Coverts Project Coordinator, at 608-265-8264 or jlack@wisc.edu.

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.

Webinar: Wasp Watchers - Engaging Volunteers in EAB Biosurveillance

Thursday, April 12, 12 – 1 p.m.

This program brings together citizen scientist volunteers and native, stingless, ground-nesting wasps for the purpose of finding emerald ash borer. Speaker: Jen Schultz. Cost: \$20 per webinar or \$50 for the series. Learn more and register at citizenscience.umn.edu/upcoming-events/citizen-science-webinar-series

Webinar: The Physiology of Tree Responses to Drought

Tuesday, April 17, 12 – 1 p.m.

Trees have developed a wide range of physiological adaptations to ward off damaging effects associated with drought. We will review key adaptations relevant to silviculture, forest ecology and natural resource management. Speaker: Rebecca Montgomery. Cost: \$20 per webinar or \$50 for the 2018 series. sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2018-webinar-apr

Webinar: Be AVID About Forest Health! Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer

Thursday, April 19, 12 – 1 p.m.

In this webinar we will discuss the impacts of deer populations on vegetation in Minnesota and current forest resources research being done at the University of Minnesota. Speakers: Johanna Desprez and Matt Russell. Cost: \$20 per webinar or \$50 for the series. Learn more and register at citizenscience.umn.edu/upcoming-events/citizen-science-webinar-series

Minnesota Native Plant Society's 2018 Symposium: Old Growth Forests (Chaska)

Saturday, April 21, 8:30am – 4:00pm

Co-sponsored by the Plant Conservation Program at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

Webinar: Bee diversity and citizen science

Thursday, April 26, 12 – 1 p.m.

In this webinar led by Britt Forsberg, we will address common misconceptions about bees, why they matter, and how participating in the Minnesota Bee Atlas can help scientists learn more about the estimated 400 bee species in Minnesota. Those who attend in person may have the opportunity to view preserved bee specimens and tour the Bee Atlas lab space. Cost: \$20 per webinar or \$50 for the series. Learn more and register at citizenscience.umn.edu/upcoming-events/citizen-science-webinar-series

Webinar: Update on Silvicultural Practices and the Logging Sector in Minnesota

Tuesday, May 15, 12 - 1 p.m.

This webinar will present key information for natural resource managers, logging business owners and policy makers about the current application of silvicultural practices and the status of the logging sector in Minnesota. Speakers: Marcella Windmuller-Campione and Charlie Blinn. Cost: \$20 per webinar or \$50 for the 2018 series. sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2018-webinar-may

Gathering Partners of Natural Resources Conference (Brainerd, Minn.)

May 18 – 20

Cragun's Resort on Gull Lake, 11000 Craguns Dr, Brainerd, MN

Additional information: www.minnesotamasternaturalist.org/annualconference/



Minnesota Forestry Association

1111 Cloquet Ave. Suite 7
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www.MinnesotaForestry.org

Change Service Requested

Annual Forestry Field Day, July 25 at Magelssen Bluff

On July 25, 2018, Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Root River Woodland Council will be hosting a field day to explore how site characteristics such as soils, slope and aspect affect productivity for trees and grasses. The field day will be held at Magelssen Bluff in Rushford (entrance about one mile west of Rushford on Hwy 30). The event is being held in partnership with Minnesota DNR, the American Tree Farm System, MFA and High Point Realty. The tour will begin at 6 p.m. with a light supper being served beforehand at 5:30 p.m. provided by High Point Realty. Those attending will benefit from the expert knowledge of foresters and fellow landowners. Presenters will talk about the importance of knowing how soil characteristics, landscape slope and aspect for sunlight affect the types of trees and grasses that will grow. a fun and education.

Contact the Fillmore SWCD for more information at 507-765-3878, ext. 3, or visit www.fillmoreswcd.org. Applications are due by June 15.

For more information on The Wisconsin Coverts Project, contact Jamie Nack, Wisconsin Coverts Project Coordinator, at 608-265-8264 or jlack@wisc.edu