

Minnesota MFA Woodlands

Minnesota Forestry Association

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

www.MinnesotaForestry.org

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DNR Cambridge Office
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
• July 10, 2018
• October 9, 2018

Conference Calls
8 – 9 a.m.
• June 12, 2018
• August 14, 2018
• September 11, 2018
• November 13, 2018
• December 11, 2018

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Tips for Working the Woodlot

By Ben Hoffman

Safety

- Always wear protective clothing—even if you are just walking or cruising timber—but when working off roads and trails, wear a hard hat. Lots of things fall out of trees, notably dead branches from hardwoods and cones from softwoods. If you've ever seen a sugar pinecone, you don't want to be hit by a falling one. From 50 feet up, even a white or yellow pinecone will hurt. Ball caps are designed for the ball field, not the woodlot.
- When working alone, carry a cell phone, and always let someone know where you'll be and when you expect to return.
- When using a chain saw, chaps, hard hat, ear and eye protection, gloves, and steel-toe boots are required.
- Ticks are a serious problem. Tuck your pants in your boots and be sure to check for ticks when you get home. (Tucking is also helpful if you step in a yellow jacket nest; you'll never get your pants down fast enough—trust me!) Some deer ticks are small and hard to see, so look carefully.
- When working in the woods, have a first aid kit and know how to use it: remember that the Red Cross offers first aid courses. One of the most important first aid supplies is a cravat, a 3-foot square of muslin, folded into a triangle. It can be used as a bandage, sling, or tourniquet.
- When working in snake country, don't step over a log; step on it, then hop off. Carry a snakebite kit.
- Lots of bugs? Most (mosquitoes, blackflies, deerflies) are attracted by body heat. Wear light-colored clothing. I rarely wore a white shirt when teaching a class, but wore one in the woods to reflect heat rather than absorb it. Bug dope might help.

Cutting

- When falling timber, an open-faced notch is far safer than the conventional notch. It controls the fall longer, reducing potential kickbacks. Make the top cut first; then sight down the kerf and make your bottom cut match, which ensures precision in directional felling. Some of the videos on YouTube give me the willies.
- Don't use a long bar—It takes more horsepower, adds weight, and is much more likely to strike an object and kick back on you. A saw can cut 2.2 times the bar length, so pick a length that can easily handle most trees. I have cut 22-inch hardwoods with a 12-inch bar and 30-inch

Readers ... Stay tuned for the continuation of our series on last year's Tree Farm Award recipients, to be continued in the next edition of the newsletter.

Enjoy the warm weather and this edition of "Woodlands."
Kassandra Tuten, Editor

Minnesota Forestry Association

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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@MinnesotaForestry.org
or call 218-879-5100.

piners with a 14-incher. Short bars are far safer when limbing.

- Look for possible falling dead limbs and crown imbalances before beginning your cut.
- Always have a cleared escape route at 135 degrees to the angle of fall—180 degrees is dangerous.

Skidding

- With farm tractors, keep the tractor on the trail and use your winch to get into the woods.
- Always try to drive forward. Turning takes time and puts more wear on clutch, transmission, and tires. At the landing, have a "go-back trail," a small loop that enables you to drive forward to get back to the skid trail. In the woods, have a loop to minimize turning, an essential when using a forwarder or trailer.

- Primary trails should be eight feet wider than a skidder or forwarder, or four feet wider than a farm tractor, to prevent root damage to trailside trees. On snow and frozen ground, spacing can be closer. On curves, make the trail wider or use a "rub tree" to protect residual trees. Cut the rub tree last.
- When skidding spruce trees in Alaska, we limbed at the landing and left rub trees on curves to break off dead branches. When skidding was finished, we cut the rub trees.

- When forwarding, slash in the trail improves flotation and traction and reduces root damage in wet soils.

- Tire chains prolong tire life, especially in rocky soils. In one of my time studies, a two-wheel-drive tractor with chains outperformed a four-wheel-drive without them.

- Recon the site and lay out trails before beginning. I watched one operator slobber through dense spruce-fir and lay out his trail from the skidder seat. His trail was 500 feet long and the farthest tree was only 300 feet from the landing.

At the Landing

- When logging tree-lengths, don't deck every turn; deck every other one and save time.

On a time study, we found the time-saving meant three to four more turns per day. Better yet, with a go-back trail, as you come in, drop the hitch, deck the previous turn, then winch your hitch into position. If using a grapple, deck every other hitch.

- When bucking at the landing, you might have three (or more) sorts—veneer logs, sawlogs, firewood. In a production operation, with a man at the landing to buck, you can stop for firewood, and when he bucks that, pull ahead to sawlogs, then to veneer. If working alone, drop the hitch, then buck and use your winch to pull stems to the next sort. Don't waste a lot of time backing and turning with the skidder.

I have seen landings where a sawyer and horse did the limbing and sorting and another where a small dozer limbed with the blade, then sorted with the blade. When we had two skidders working, a man at the landing cut limbs the dozer missed.

Time

- Whether working for profit or just doing your own woods for enjoyment, time is either money or saved energy.
- With two or more workers, be sure workers with saws don't hold up skidding, a much more expensive process. In a study of two skidding operations, one skidder operator slowed production to keep up with a slow cutter.
- When in a smaller timber, either add more chokers or pre-bunch.
- Cross-train crews so each person knows how to make work easier for another.

Machinery

- Grease extends metal life and is cheaper than repairs.
- Preventive maintenance pays unbelievable dividends.

"Tips for Working in the Woodlot," authored by Ben Hoffman, appeared in a recent issue of Independent Sawmill & Woodlot Management Magazine. For more information, go to sawmillmag.com.

SAVE THE DATE:

MFA's Annual Meeting, Tree Farm Awards Ceremony and Field Day will take place on Oct. 5-6 at Camp Ripley. More details to come.

FISH CREEK BIOBLITZ

EXPERT SESSION

FRIDAY JUNE 22, 2018
(FOR ADULTS)



AT FISH CREEK PRESERVE, 1505 HENRY LANE, MAPLEWOOD 55119
***AT FISH CREEK, MEET AT OAKWOOD CHURCH PARKING LOT**
1388 POINT DOUGLAS RD S., SAINT PAUL 55119

Birds 1: 7:00AM-9:00AM (Blufftop)

Prairie Plants 1: 10:00AM-12:00PM (Blufftop)

Prairie Plants 2: 10:00AM-12:00PM (Blufftop)

Woodland Plants: 10:00AM-12:00PM (Creek)*

Insects: 12:30PM-2:30PM (Blufftop)

Birds 2: 8:30PM-10:30PM (Blufftop)



Are you an expert in field identification of plants, insects or birds? Then WE WANT YOU! Work with other experts, in partnership with Maplewood Nature Center and Great River Greening, at our first Fish Creek Bioblitz.

Help us identify, record and generate a species list. Download the iNaturalist smart phone app or hand-record observations. Bring your favorite field guides, sweep nets, insect jars, and binoculars or use those provided. Surveys will be off trail.

Long pants, closed-toe footwear and tall socks are highly recommended. A light refreshment will be provided.

MUST MEET ONLINE PREREQUISITES.



Fee: Free!

Register online by Friday, June 15th at www.maplewoodnaturecenter.com and click on the [RegisterOnline-Go button](#), or call 651-249-2170.

Creature Feature

By Jodie Provost, MN DNR Private Land Habitat Specialist

Fireflies – Nature’s Night Lights

Learning more about fireflies has been on my list ever since experiencing the awe of these tiny creatures on a warm summer night after a rain. Their blinking lights in the moist air were like dancing fairies. It’s a magical spectacle that everyone should have the chance to delight in. Soon, the nights of June and July will be alive with fireflies, bringing the opportunity.

Around the World The miniscule night lights of fireflies are distributed worldwide in about 2,200 species, with thousands of species yet undescribed. In North America, about 170 species have been identified. They live in an array of habitats from forests, fields and marshes to more arid areas after rainy seasons. Warm, humid environments and tall grass are preferred. In day, they hide in ground cover. By night, they venture to the tips of grass blades and into trees to blink for mates. The element which all firefly species need is standing water, whether vernal pools, ponds, streams, marshes, rivers or lakes, likely because their prey thrive there.

Shining Ones Also known as lightning bugs, moon bugs or glow worms, fireflies are really beetles in the family Lampyridae which means “shining ones” in Greek. Their bioluminescence is a cold light produced by combining a chemical called luciferin with luciferase (an enzyme) and oxygen in their abdomen. The light is typically used by male fireflies as they fly to attract mates, but may also be used to deter predators, assert territory, and communicate with others of their species. Different species can be distinguished by light color (yellow, green or amber), flash pattern, season and variations in flight. Some firefly species are protected by chemicals that make them repulsive to predators. Female Photuris fireflies, which lack these defensive chemicals, are dastardly in their lure of Photinus males – they display the flash pattern of female Photinus to capture and devour the males to obtain their defensive chemicals.

Conservation Needed Unfortunately, opportunities may be becoming fewer due to a decline in firefly numbers. Reports from around the world tell of shrinking or even disappearing firefly populations and an urgent need for habitat conservation. Threats include pesticides, habitat loss, light pollution and a long history of collection by the biomedical industry for their light-producing enzymes.

Tiny Yet Important Though tiny, fireflies play an important role and provide services in our ecosystems like all native creatures. Larvae dwell on the ground one to two years, aiding pest control, eating slugs, snails, worms, aphids and other insects. It is not clear what adults eat. They may feed on pollen or nectar, serving as pollinators. Or they may eat nothing in the three to four weeks they are alive to



mate and lay eggs. Fireflies are food for some bats, spiders and birds. The luciferin and luciferase chemicals in fireflies have been used to test food for bacteria and study cancer, diabetes, allergy response, gastric inflammation, and harmful effects of pollutants on humans. These chemicals can now be manufactured synthetically, thankfully.

Tips to Keep Nature’s Night Lights On We can benefit fireflies and other wildlife by using these tips in our backyards to our back forties:

- Turn off outside lights and close your blinds at night. Human light pollution may disrupt their blinking communication and thus ability to mate and reproduce.
- Create water features. Even small depressions full of water can make a difference.
- Let leaf litter, branches and rotten logs accumulate under trees, giving firefly larvae a home.
- Avoid use of chemicals, whether to treat insects like mosquitoes, kill weeds or fertilize your lawn. Go natural. Fireflies and their larvae may ingest these chemicals and come in contact with insects that have been poisoned.
- Mow your lawn less, cut it at a taller height, and leave areas un-mowed. This reduction in lawn care (yay!) will disturb fireflies on the ground less, and make more habitat available.

- Plant native trees. Pines in particular can provide the shade and low light that increases the amount of time fireflies have to mate. Needles that collect on the ground offer habitat for prey of firefly larvae.
- Do not introduce earthworms, such as dumping unwanted bait worms. They are not native, and diminish plant diversity and leaf litter. Cover and food available to insects such as fireflies is reduced. In turn, fewer insects means less food for reptiles, amphibians, birds and small mammals.
- Join Firefly Watch (legacy.mos.org/fireflywatch/about_firefly_watch). This citizen science project by the Museum of Science encourages people around the country to report firefly sightings for a database on distribution and abundance.
- Spread the word to neighbors, friends and family to magnify your effort, creating even more firefly habitat.

By implementing these tips, we can each do our part to



increase the odds that the enchantment of Nature's night lights and the services they provide will endure. To learn even more amazing facts about fireflies and other insects, visit Firefly.org, BugGuide.net and Xerces.org.

SWCD to Hold Forestry Field Day at Magelssen Bluff

In July, the Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be hosting a field day to explore how terrain, soils and aspect affect timber productivity and the types of plant communities found on a site, as well as to identify trees and plants that will thrive depending on the site conditions.

Held at Magelssen Bluff in Rushford, this event, which will take place on Wednesday, July 25, is offered in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Minnesota Tree Farm Association, Minnesota Forestry Association and High Point Realty.

Magelssen Bluff has witnessed extensive habitat restoration work completed by the DNR to restore the bluff prairie through the use of goat grazing and rattlesnake habitat improvements. This July field day is a fun and informational opportunity for anyone interested in forestry and evaluating a site's suitability for particular tree and plant species. It also offers attendees the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors and get to know about local projects in the area. Anyone who wishes to enjoy a fun and educational walk with beautiful views is encouraged to attend.

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 include Jim Edgar (DNR Forester), Jaime Edwards (DNR Nongame Wildlife Biologist), Mitch Gilbert (Private Forestry Consultant) and David Schmidt (The Nature Conservancy).

*Note: Clothing and shoes (closed toe) appropriate for hiking through woodland terrain is encouraged. The hike is a quarter- to half-mile long.

Directions: From the intersection of State Highway 43 and State Highway 30 in Rushford, go about a quarter mile past the Rushford city limits to Magelssen Drive; turn north and follow it to the park at the top of the bluff.

Contact the SWCD for more information at 507-765-3878, ext. 3, or go to www.fillmoreswcd.org.



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.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu.

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

What is Your Vision for Wildlife on Your Land?

By Neal W. Chapman

You know the feeling well... Nothing quite compares with the experience of watching a wild animal. Somehow, wildlife gives us all something we need: a connection with nature, a sense of wonder, peacefulness and beauty. Whatever your specific reasons, you are not alone. In fact, just about everyone gets some kind of benefit or enjoyment from wildlife. If wildlife gives us so much, why not give something back to wildlife?

As a landowner, you—as well as your neighbors—are in the best position to help wildlife survive and prosper.

If all of us work together, wildlife will flourish. Start by getting to know some of the basics of wildlife management.

One needs to consider the recreational, conservation, and economic benefits of managing your land for wildlife.

All wildlife (critters) need four basic conditions to survive: food, space, cover and water. Each species has specific needs within these areas, and once you clearly define what wildlife you want on your land and begin to provide a needed resource, they likely will come.

Landowners always list “more wildlife” as high on their priority list when asked about their goals for their land. Usually, wildlife is undefined. One needs to be quite specific as to species. Many landowners do not have the knowledge of what wildlife—“critters”—are already on their land, whether for their whole life, seasonally, to fill a particular need such as food or water, or perhaps only passing through on an annual basis.

Continued on page 8

Walk in the Woods

By Kelly Smith, Secretary of Kettle River Woodland Council

Eighteen people attended a Kettle River Woodland Council (the chapter of the Minnesota Forestry Association that serves Carlton and Pine Counties) event in May on the Al and Sharon Finifrock property located east of Moose Lake. During the event, Al shared a little history of the forest, which was once part of glacial Lake Duluth, resulting in soils of lake-bottom clay under nearshore sand ridges.

For some hundreds of years, the lake level was so high that it spilled over to the west into the Moose Horn River. Al's parents cleared and then farmed this land, beginning in 1938. In 1951, the family planted red pine, now more than 100 feet tall, and in 1991, the pine were thinned to improve the trees' health and growth rate. Carlton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Forestry Technician Kelly Smith noted that when pine have less than 30 percent of the trunk in live branches, it is time to thin. Al remembered making hay as a child where these giant trees now stand.

Al recalled how he and Will Salo, who attended May's woods walk, harvested aspen here 30 years ago. In 1964, Al, Sharon and Al's parents planted red pine here. Al also recalled how he and John Schwoch, also attending, planted 10,000 spruce and pine in 1997. Last winter, Al had 11 acres of aspen harvested to create young forest habitat for Golden-winged Warbler and many other kinds of critters. The warbler's populations are dropping in many areas. Al worked with logger Justin Salmela and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to achieve this project.

Smith also informed the group that there is funding assistance available to help complete forest management projects. Red pine thinning and young forest habitat are just two of the eligible practices. If there is not enough timber volume to attract a logger, federal, state or local funding can



Al makes his stump speech on forest stewardship in a recent harvest area. The woody debris left behind will benefit wildlife, as well as young trees and forbs that will quickly fill in. Al, in brown vest, shares his tall pines with the group, which had a picnic around a campfire afterwards.

help make up the difference so that the project can move forward.

Al also recalled how his children learned valuable work skills and ethics on the property. Al enjoys improving the forest and observing wildlife including sandhill cranes, otter, badger and redhorse. On winter days, he will cross-country ski the forest and take a nap in the old shack, finding peace, quiet, and satisfaction of a lifetime of work, growth, family and friendship.

Woods walks like this Kettle River Woodland Council event offer great opportunities to learn about managing your forest, and serves as a way to meet other woodland owners. If you would like to attend future woods walks, or would like to host one, contact Smith at 218-384-3891.

FISH CREEK BIOBLITZ FAMILY

FRIDAY JUNE 22, 3:00PM-5:00PM



**AT FISH CREEK PRESERVE,
1505 HENRY LANE,
MAPLEWOOD 55119**

(FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN AGES 6+ WITH ADULT)



Become scientist for a day! Join experts, in partnership with Friends of Maplewood Nature and Great River Greening, for hands-on learning in the field.

Learn about the importance of species diversity and how you can help protect nature. Will you see an eagle, a dragonfly, or a snake? Who knows? Anything goes!

Use field guides, sweep nets, insect jars, binoculars, and clipboards to help generate a Fish Creek species list. Equipment will be available for use or feel free to bring your own.

Surveys will be off trail.



Fee: Free!

Register online by Friday, June 15th at www.maplewoodnaturecenter.com and click on the RegisterOnline-Go button, or call 651-249-2170.

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.

Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer - East Bethel

Friday, June 8, 1–5 p.m.

Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, 2660 Fawn Lake Dr NE, East Bethel, MN, 55005

The AVID program will instruct and train volunteers on the impact deer have on woodlands. Workshop registration is \$35, and includes take-home materials and supplies. Learn more about the project at avid.umn.edu. To register, visit minnesotamasternaturalist.org/courses/register/?courseid=752

Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer - Osseo

Saturday, June 9, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Eastman Nature Center, 13351 Elm Creek Rd, Osseo, MN, 55369

Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer - Cloquet

Friday, June 15, 1–5 p.m.

University of Minnesota Cloquet Forestry Center, 175 University Rd, Cloquet, MN, 55720

Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer - Schroeder

Saturday, June 16, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center, 9096 MN-61, Schroeder, MN, 55613

Webinar: Urban Forest Inventory and Analysis in Minnesota

Tuesday, June 19, 12–1 p.m.

In this presentation, we will discuss the major features of the inventory. Cost: \$20 per webinar or \$50 for the entire 2018 series. For more information, visit sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2018-webinar-jun

Webinar: Managing Deer Browse for Forest Health: Insights from the Great Lakes Silviculture Library

Tuesday, July 17, 12–1 p.m.

This two-part presentation will include a presentation of results from a long-term exclosure study in mixed-woods along Minnesota's North Shore from Mark White, forest ecologist with the Nature Conservancy. Cost: \$20 per webinar or \$50 for the entire 2018 series. For more information, visit sfec.cfans.umn.edu/2018-webinar-jul

Fish Creek Bioblitz Family Session (For adults and children 6+ with adult)

Friday, June 22, 3–5 p.m.

Fish Creek Preserve, 1505 Henry Lane, Maplewood, MN, 55119
Join experts, in partnership with Friends of Maplewood Nature and Great River Greening, for hands-on learning in the field. Register online at maplewoodnaturecenter.com or call 651-249-2170. Activity Registration No. 16040.

Fillmore SWCD Annual Forestry Field Day (Rushford)

Wednesday, July 25, 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Magelssen Bluff, Rushford, MN

This year's program will discuss how soils, slope and aspect affect productivity of timber and other vegetation. For more information, contact Donna Rasmussen at donna.rasmussen@fillmoreswcd.org or 507-765-3878, ext. 3.



Minnesota Forestry Association

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www.MinnesotaForestry.org

Change Service Requested

Vision for Wildlife continued

Most landowners don't realize how much impact they can have on the wildlife on their land. By managing their land, they also are managing wildlife. One simple way is to leave some standing snags, both live and dead, for wildlife, and when they fall, to let them lay-forever.

If you are a landowner, you are a wildlife manager. You can influence how healthy the wildlife populations are on your land, where they congregate and how their habitat and populations are managed.

Starting with the soil, there are as many living organisms in one teaspoon of soil as there are humans living on the Earth.

If you are very serious about learning about wildlife, please consider applying for the 2018 session of Coverts. The program is free and includes lodging and meals. The only thing you need to do is get there. Significant others and spouses can also apply to attend.

"Coverts" is a Woodland Wildlife Management Program for Private Landowners. The next Wisconsin Coverts Project workshops will be held Aug. 16-19 at Kemp Natural Resources Station in Woodruff, Wis. Applications are due June 15.

For information and an application, visit bit.ly/2ETA0mx