

Woodland Advisor
Program's Vision:

To be
Minnesota's
leading resource
for citizens
participating in
forestry learning.

Volume 5 Issue 4

Fall 2009

MN Women's Woodland Network

By Angela Gupta

There's been some exciting activity around engaging female forest landowners in Minnesota. For years we've seen anecdotal information about the lack of women participants in forestry learning. Woodland Advisor organizers have been critically looking at the demographics of class participants to discover that indeed there are far more men than women attending Woodland Advisor classes. Why? There are more women in the United States. Research tells us women live longer. During the Intergenerational Land Transfer class we learn about how important it is to get the whole family involved in forest management and ownership to ensure the desired long-term outcomes. So where are the ladies? Why aren't they attending classes? Are they participating in forest management decisions?

U of MN Extension provided seed money to create a steering committee to address this issue. As a result of 15 engaged women learning about female forest landowner education programs in Maine and Oregon, studying what little research is available on forest landowners and gender, and reviewing the literature on how men and women learn different—the Minnesota Women's Woodland Network was born. Currently an informational brochure is being assembled, there's work on the Network's new website, and plans are in place for eight kitchen-table gatherings across the state to try and engage these elusive ladies. The mission of this network is *sustaining privately owned woodlands through education*.

So how, you ask, is the MN Women's Woodland Network different from the Woodland Advisor program? Excellent question! Network organizers plan to nurture this network of active forest landowners through women-friendly, low-key learning activities that increase their comfort level enough to join the traditional Woodland Advisor classes and participate completely. This Network will not parallel Woodland Advisor classes, but rather help feed ladies into those classes and build a more equal gender representation. Hopefully this network will form into active groups of women that meet regularly and discuss forestry topics; the more synergy a group can form, the more sustainable and active they're likely to be.

Now you're wondering: How can the University of Minnesota, an equal opportunity employer and provider, offer classes only for women? Another great question! First, anyone can attend these gatherings but they will be very women friendly. Organizers plan to create a safe environment for women to ask questions, explore topics they've never thought about before, and stretch their wings by flying through their forests.

Are you getting excited about this Network? Do you know of women who might be interested in joining? I hope so! Extension has provided funds to start the ball rolling. We plan to offer gatherings and get folks energized in three to four regions across the state in the next few months. We will be advertising these meetings, but if you would like to get involved or know someone we should contact directly, please contact either: Angela Gupta, 507-280-2869, agupta@umn.edu or Julie Miedtke, 218-327-7365, miedt001@umn.edu.



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Dave Parent - Tireless Leader & Volunteer

By Julie Miedtke-Extension



Dave Parent grew up in the south side of Minneapolis, graduating from Roosevelt High School in 1959. Dave attended the University of Minnesota receiving a degree in Forestry and then pursued a career with the Army. While stationed in Mankato, Dave received a MBA in economics. During this time, Dave met his bride Virginia, and began raising two sons, Todd and Joe. The young family enjoyed spending time together at their cabin on the Mississippi River in Cohasset. Dave's military career brought opportunities for travel, and the family lived in Deritter, Louisiana, Pacific Grove California and spent time abroad in the Republic of Panama, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Following a rewarding career in military service, Dave assumed a leadership role in several state organizations including Tree Farm, MFA, Blandin Foundation's Vital Forest/Vital Communities Program. Currently, Dave is a member of Minnesota Forest Resource Council representing non-industrial private landowners and serves on the Site Level

Committee. Locally, many of us best know Dave as the honorable chairman of the Itasca County Private Woodland Committee. In 2002 Dave helped with the Woodland Advisor cohort training in Itasca County. Dave is a tireless volunteer hosting many tours and field events on his land along the banks of the Mississippi. He has done an outstanding job at building partnerships and keeping us all moving in the right direction.

Dave and Virginia have a deep appreciation of forests and ecology. They enjoy watching wildlife and observing changes with the passing of the seasons. They live their lives through their love of plants, trees, and animals with their family.

The Conundrum of a Tree Planter

By Ken Nicolas, Woodland Institute Graduate

Each year people who plant trees are faced with multiple dilemmas. Following are some thoughts as I travel from year to year. If you are reading this, you no doubt have had similar experiences.



The winter months for a forest owner are a time of tree pruning, removing some weed trees and generally enjoying the solitude of the woods, which also causes one to ruminate on what exactly is the purpose of white-tailed deer. They will only eat or rub trees that have been paid for, never a volunteer box elder or buckthorn. How do they know? Winter, especially towards mid-March brings on the excitement that the recently ordered tree seedlings will be arriving soon. How cool is that!?

When our seedlings arrive in spring, we have a great boost of joy and hope for the future of our forest. Each year we have recruited friends to come to a Tree Planting Party. We assure our friends that planting trees on a cold and drizzly day in April is really great fun. As I write this, I have just had the recollection that we have never had friends return for the "opportunity" to plant trees two years in a row. When the last seedling is planted we are guaranteed to vow that we have enough trees and we will never buy another seedling.

Summer and autumn seem to fly by. We spend a good deal of time worrying if our trees are getting enough water, are the deer leaving them alone, did we plant enough, did our "friends" put the trees into the ground correctly and on and on. Then the nursery catalogs start to arrive.... Now we must begin negotiations with our spouse or chief financial officer to purchase seedlings for the coming spring. And the cycle goes on!!

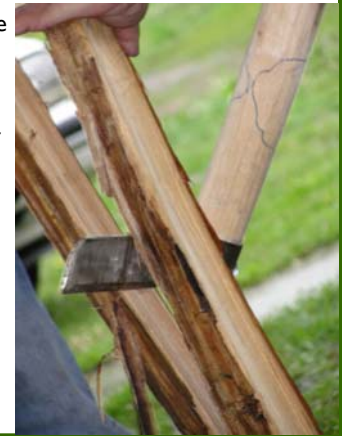
13 Moons

By Dave Wilsey, Extension Educator

There is no certain future for our region's forested landscapes but we have a hunch that understanding people's connections to natural resources and the forested landscape will help us to ensure that future resources align with our collective needs and wants. To learn more about these connections, Extension is making a concerted effort to learn about the full array of forest resources, both timber and non-timber, used and appreciated by people within and around the region. The Thirteen Moons program is one example of this effort.

Thirteen Moons addresses an identified need to fortify connections between Fond du Lac (FDL) community members and traditional natural resources. This program emerged from a 2008 listening session and needs assessment that focused on Band members' perspectives on natural resources and their use. The traditional Ojibwe calendar year follows the 13-moon lunar cycle. Each moon is named for a natural phenomenon – the activity of a seasonally active animal, an important cultural practice or belief, or a prevalent environmental condition. Thirteen Moons taps into this cycle, providing educational content relevant to the community's interests through partnerships with knowledgeable community members.

There are two components to the program. The first component is a monthly feature in the Fond du Lac tribal newspaper running under the Thirteen Moons banner. Each feature centers thematically on the month's moon and contains educational content related to culture, ecology, and management. The second component is a thirteen-workshop series, each workshop based upon the corresponding Ojibwe moon and offered as closely as possible to its cycle. The workshops both feature and target FDL community members. Upcoming workshop announcements and highlights can be found at madeintheshade.ning.com



Volunteer Opportunities

*"Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer."
~unknown*

- **Protect white pine seedlings from deer in central MN** - Help the DNR establish white pine on state land near Brainerd, Cross Lake and Backus, MN. Volunteers are needed to re-install tree nets and put in new support stakes for nets. Training will be provided. For more information contact Bud Bertschi, Brainerd Area Silviculture Program Forester, 218-833-8695, or email bud.bertschi@dnr.state.mn.us
- **Transcribe Historical Forestry Interviews** - Learn about the early days of DNR forestry by using your listening and typing skills to assist in creating typed transcriptions from oral interviews of retired Division of Forestry personnel. For more information contact Jennifer Teegarden, Forestry Outreach Specialist, St. Paul, at 651-259-5285 or email jennifer.teegarden@dnr.state.mn.us
- **Trail Brushing and Bud Capping Trees** - Remove dead and leaning brush from trails and help protect white pine trees from deer browse at Tettegouche and Temperance River State Parks this fall. Using bow saws, cut dead and leaning brush along park trails and drag off brush into the woods. Install fence posts and install wire fencing hoops around them. Budcap white pines by placing a piece of paper over the terminal (top) buds and staple them to the needles to stop deer from eating them. Training and instructions will be provided. For more information contact Gary Hoefl, Assistant Park Manager, Tettegouche/Temperance River State Parks, Silver Bay at (218) 226-6365x223, or email Gary.hoefl@dnr.state.mn.us
- **Make 110 Tree Cookies** - PLT needs volunteers to create "tree cookies" for teachers to use with their students. Tree cookies are slices of branches or trunks that show the rings of a tree. Check out this DNR website for details: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteering/statewide.html>

Angela Gupta is the Woodland Advisor Volunteer coordinator. To contact her call (888)241-4536 or agupta@umn.edu

Upcoming Events

Activities: Woodland Advisor Program Classes are underlined. For more information please see the web-site cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wa/

October 2009

- Sat, Oct 10, Walk in the Woods, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM, tour will begin at the Billstrom property, 2248 150th Ave, Mora, to register contact Jan Anderson, Jan.Anderson@mn.nacdn.net or 320-679-3781x102
- Sat, Oct 10, Log Forwarder and Portable Sawmill Demo, 1:00-3:00 PM, Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center, preregistration required, boulder@d.umn.edu or 218-721-3731
- Tues, Oct 20, Intergenerational Land Transfer Part 1, (Part 2: Nov 5), 6:00-9:00 PM, Land Services Building, Brainerd, to register contact Diomy Zamora, 218-828-2332 or zamor015@umn.edu
- Thurs, Oct 22, Harvesting & Selling Timber, 6:00-8:30 PM, RCTC Heintz Center, Rochester, to register contact Mary Jane Stearns, 888-241-4536 or mstearns@umn.edu
- Thurs, Oct 22, Tax Relief and Incentive Payments for Woodland Owners, 6:00-8:00 PM, Hovland Community Hall, Hovland, to register contact Bette Vichore 218-726-6464 or bvichore@umn.edu
- Fri, Oct 23, Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve Tour, 1:00-5:00 PM, 2660 Fawn Lake Dr. NE, Bethel, to register contact Barb Spears, 651-928-0463 or bjspears@q.com
- Sat, Oct 24, How to Use a GPS Receiver, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, Cloquet Forestry Center, Cloquet, to register contact Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center, 218-721-3731 or boulder@d.umn.edu
- Sat, Oct 24, Landview for Loggers, Foresters, and Landowners, 12:30-3:30 PM, to register contact Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center, 218-721-3731 or boulder@d.umn.edu
- Tues, Oct 27, Small Woodland Management, 6:30-9:00 PM, North Central Research and Outreach Center, Grand Rapids, to register contact Julie Miedtke at 218-327-7486 or miedt001@umn.edu
- Fri, Oct 30, Harvest Demo-Field Trip to See a Cut to Length Harvester, 1:00-4:00 PM, meet at the North Central Research and Outreach Center, Grand Rapids, to register contact Julie Miedtke at 218-327-7486 or miedt001@umn.edu
- Sat, Oct 31—Happy Halloween!



Photo by esgaor

November 2009

- Thurs, Nov 5, Intergenerational Land Transfer Part 2, 6:00-9:00 PM, Land Services Building, Brainerd, to register contact Diomy Zamora, 218-828-2332 or zamor015@umn.edu
- Thurs, Nov 26—Happy Thanksgiving!

December 2009

- Tues, Dec 1, Tax Relief and Incentive Payments for Woodland Owners, 6:00-8:00 PM, North Central Research and Outreach Center, Grand Rapids, to register contact Julie Miedtke at 218-327-7486 or miedt001@umn.edu
- Fri, Dec 4, Carbon Credits Payments on Wooded Property, 2:00-4:00 PM, Alexandria, for details and to register contact Diomy Zamora, 218-828-2332 or zamor015@umn.edu
- Mon, Dec 7, Carbon Credits Payments on Wooded Property, 2:00-4:00 PM, Cloquet for details and to register contact Diomy Zamora, 218-828-2332 or zamor015@umn.edu
- Thurs, Dec 10, Invasive Species & Forest Health & Disease: Control & Management, 1:00-4:00 PM, Park Rapids, for details and to register contact Diomy Zamora, 218-828-2332, zamor015@umn.edu
- Happy Holidays! Dec 12—Chanuka begins & Dec 25—Christmas

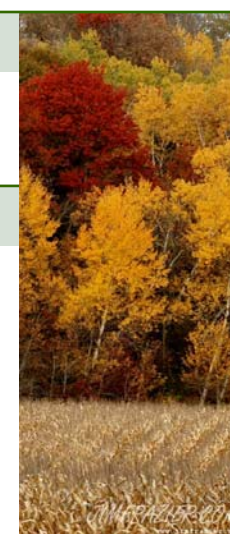


Photo by Steve Wampler

New Federal Program May Provide Financial Assistance to Biomass Producers

Reprinted from the **Biomass Crop Assistance Announcement for Marketplace Newsletter 6.30.09**

The US Department of Agriculture is moving forward to fully implement the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) later this year. BCAP will provide financial assistance to producers, such as farmers, landowners or loggers that deliver eligible biomass material to designated biomass conversion facilities for use as heat, power, bio-based products or biofuels. Bio-based products will include intermediary products such as wood pellets. Initial assistance will be a dollar per dollar match, up to \$45 per dry ton, for biomass that is delivered to a designated biomass conversion facility. A wide range of forest biomass will be eligible for the program. Producers, such as loggers, will be eligible for payments for up to two years as part of the farm bill. The program will also assist landowners with the planting of energy crops. The amount of funding this program will receive, as well as various program specifics have not yet been determined.

The USDA has begun taking applications from biomass conversion facilities. For producers to access the BCAP payments they must sell biomass to a qualified facility. Please check <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/energy> (click on the Biomass Crop Assistance Link) regularly for updates regarding registration and eligibility. A fact sheet, application documents and a list of participating facilities will be added in the coming weeks to this website. FSA county offices will assist producers, such as landowner and loggers, with registering and eligibility requirements. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Anna Robertson, Biomass Coordinator, at 651-259-5253.

By Anna Robertson, Biomass Coordinator, DNR



Photo by Steve Wampler



We're on the web!
<http://www.cnr.umn.edu/cfc/wa/>

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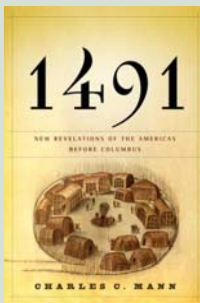
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Suggested Reading

1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus
by Charles C. Mann

I haven't read 1491 but it received a good review in the Journal of Forestry. The book focuses on North America before Columbus arrived; particularly on how manipulated and managed the landscape was before the first Europeans arrived.



Behind the Scenes of Woodland Advisor

At a recent Woodland Advisor team meeting, program leadership positions and roles were redefined. Angela Gupta agreed to serve as team leader. Mike Reichenbach and Diomy Zamora round out the Leadership Team. Additional team members include: Mel Baughman, Charlie Blinn, John Geissler, Julie Miedtke, Eli Sagor, Dave Wilsey, and Gary Wyatt.



The Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA), the MN DNR, and various other local partners continue to contribute much to program management, organization, and ability.

Thanks everyone for doing such a great job keeping the Woodland Advisor program alive and well!

What is the Woodland Advisor Program?

The Woodland Advisor Program is your opportunity to learn about forests and forestry. Classes are generally 3 hours in length. Participants who complete 45 hours of woodland ecology and management classes receive a certificate of completion. Classes also provide foresters and Stewardship Plan preparers with continuing education credit. Participants who are interested in ongoing educational opportunities after completing 45 hours of classes and want to participate as a volunteer can become a Woodland Advisor Volunteer. Woodland Advisor Volunteers are leaders in their communities. They help their neighbors learn more about the options and opportunities that exist for their forestland. This helps all Minnesota's citizens by helping to maintain the health, beauty, and productivity of Minnesota's forest land.

Classes are open to anyone on a pay-as-you-go basis. Costs may vary, but most 3-hour sessions cost \$20. A discount may be available for Minnesota Forestry Association Members on classes where registration is handled through the University of Minnesota Extension. Inquire when you register about a discount.

For class times and locations, registration information, or more about the Woodland Advisor program, contact the Cloquet Forestry Center at 888-241-0724 or visit cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wa/.

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