

Woodland Advisor
Program's Vision:

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

Inside this Edition:

- **Ice Storm = Tax Implications?**
- **Katie Dudley, Woodland Advisor Connections**
- **Certification of Building Materials: Important or Not?, pg 2**
- **Volunteer Opportunities, pg 2**
- **Upcoming Events, pg 3**
- **Suggested Reading, pg 4**
- **WA Family, pg 4**
- **About WA Program, pg 4**

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Ice Storm = Tax Implications? Adapted by Angela Gupta



Photo by jaywood uk

Have your trees been impacted by extreme weather recently, maybe by an ice or thunder storm, or severe winds? If so, you might be able to claim "casualty losses" on your federal taxes.

Careful consideration must be given to the costs of hiring a professional to establish the required information and records, but if it seems the savings will outweigh the costs then it's time to investigate further. First, the amount of casualty loss must be determined and then the adjusted basis must be calculated. **If the base is zero there is no deduction allowed.** Establishing an accurate adjusted basis is very important and will depend on the original basis, usually the cost of the property, and reduced or increased due to adjustments during property ownership. If the basis was not originally determined when the property was acquired, it can be retroactively established by using the current volume, growth over years, and timber prices at the time of acquisition. These can be figured with the help of a consulting forester.

After you've crunched the numbers and established there is a gain to report, "casualty losses" should be reported on IRS Form 4684. Where the information is reported depends on how your land and timber are treated within your taxes. There are additional considerations if a salvage logging job is performed.

For additional information and to see the complete article from which this adaptation was made, read "Income Tax Deduction for Timber Casualty Loss" by Dr. Linda Wang, Forest Taxation Specialist, USDA Forest Service, www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/feop/Agenda2009/forum/casualtyloss.pdf



Katie Dudley—Making Woodland Advisor Volunteer Connections



Katie Dudley is a dedicated Woodland Advisor. Her day jobs as a mother to two young children and a consulting forester for the MN DNR occupy most of her time, but she also devotes a lot of time and energy to volunteering as a Woodland Advisor. Katie recently spent three Saturdays helping the local Gamehaven Boy Scout Council of SE Minnesota during their Polar Cubs Winter Day Camp events in Rochester. She engaged Scouts in nature hikes and spoke with them about becoming a forester. Furthermore, Katie regularly presents forestry topics during the annual Ag in the Classroom events around southeast Minnesota, works with 4-H around forestry and tree issues, and is an annual speaker at Pine Island Elementary School during their Earth Day festivities.

Additionally, Katie serves on the Zumbro Watershed Partnership Board of Directors - a group that promotes the protection and improvement of the Zumbro River. She is on the Lake Shady Advisory Group - a group of county and state employees as well as concerned citizens that make technical decisions and will offer recommendations to the Olmsted County Board, Oronoco City Council, and the MN DNR regarding future management of Lake Shady in Oronoco, MN near Rochester. Katie is also the chairperson for the Lake Shady Committee - a group of Oronoco citizens concerned with the management of Lake Shady. To add to this exhausting list, Katie serves on the statewide steering committee focused on developing a program to target forestry education to female forest landowners. She is also a member of the Zumbro Valley Woodland Council, a sub-chapter of MFA.

Between watching her kids, doing school drop off, and taking kids to gymnastic classes, she manages to make this wonderful commitment to volunteering for the good of our youth and natural resources. Thanks for all your great work, Katie!

Certification of Building Materials: Important or Not?

By Jim Bowyer



Photo by thingermejjg

A constant theme in green building programs of North America is certification of wood. There appears to be a near consensus that “green” credits should only be awarded when it can be demonstrated that any wood used in a structure has been responsibly produced.

The meaning of the term “responsibly produced” varies, but in the forest certification program most often specified in North American green building programs – the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification program – critical elements of responsible production are identified as basic principles and are reflected in program requirements. Among these principles are compliance with laws; operation under a management plan that ensures appropriate protection of flora, fauna, water quality, soil productivity, historic areas, old trees, and more; maintenance of high conservation value forests; attention to indigenous people’s rights and to tenure and use rights and responsibilities;

attention to rights of workers and to the well-being of local communities; attention to who receives benefits from the forest, with the objective of ensuring that benefits are not siphoned off by large corporations or others to the detriment of local peoples and communities.

It is time for those involved in the green building movement to seriously consider whether the elements of responsible production are important or not. For example, is it really important that materials used in building construction in North America be sourced such that indigenous people’s rights are protected? Such that workers are fairly paid and that child or slave labor are not used in procuring or processing raw materials? Such that local peoples and communities are not unfairly treated as local resources are extracted for use elsewhere? Such that forests, wildlife, waters, and other aspects of the environment are managed and protected with long-term sustainability in mind? If so, then it is time to ask why such assurances of responsible production, and everything that responsible production has come to mean, are not expected for building materials in general.

If steel used to frame a house is sourced from a mining operation that has obliterated millions of acres of tropical forests, including old-growth forests, over the past decade in accessing the iron ore, is it OK to use that steel in a “green” building? What if that ore was reduced in a blast furnace fueled by charcoal that came from the clearcutting of vast areas of tropical trees and by an industry characterized by the pervasive use of slave labor? Suppose that the cement used in an ICF wall originated in a mining operation known for excessive consumption of energy and ground water, and air and water pollution well beyond international norms. Can that cement be viewed as a green material? What if the aggregate used in making the concrete in that wall came from a river in which extraction of gravel is devastating salmon populations and increasing the incidence of flooding of river communities? Can that be considered a “green” material?

The answer to all of the questions posed above is that today it is a virtual certainty that high environmental impact, high social cost products are routinely finding their way into buildings certified as “green.” There are no requirements or incentives of any kind that a purveyor of steel, aluminum, concrete, plastic, glass, bamboo, or any material other than wood demonstrate environmental and social responsibility in management or resource extraction, despite the fact that substantial environmental and social impacts are associated with production of all of these materials.

Change is long overdue. The responsibility for initiating that change lies squarely with the leaders of green building programs, executives of the largest building materials distributors, environmental organizations, and environmentally concerned citizens.

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The miracle is this - the more we share, the more we have.

- Leonard Nimoy

Volunteer Opportunities

Angela Gupta is the Woodland Advisor Volunteer coordinator. To contact her call (888) 241-4536 . To follow up on the opportunities below please contact the person listed. For more detail and additional opportunities please check our website: <http://cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wa/volunteer.htm>



Minnesota Tree Trust

Opportunities: For more details, please check their website: <http://www.treetrust.org/>

- Tree Planting with Students - Fri, May 1, Minneapolis
- Tree Planting Coach - Sat, May 2, 9 am-noon, Minneapolis
- Tree Sale Helpers - Sat, May 2, 10 am - 2 pm, St. Louis Park
- Tree Distribution Helpers - Sat, May 9, 7 am - 3 pm;
Sun, May 10, 7 am - 3 pm; & Mon, May 11, 3 pm - 7 pm, Minneapolis
- Tree Planting with Students - Fri, May 15, Cambridge
- Tree Planting - Sat, May 16, Spring Park
- Tree Planting with Students - Mon, May 18, Mankato
- Tree Planting with Students - Thurs, May 21 & Fri, May 22, Two Harbors
- Tree Planting with Students - Thurs, May 28, Coon Rapids
- Tree Planting with Students - Fri, May 29, Apple Valley



MN DNR Volunteer Resources:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteering/index.html>

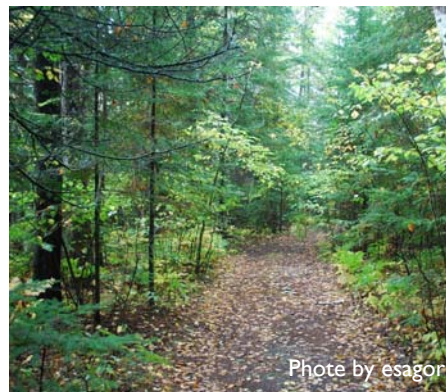
The DNR has far more state wide Woodland Advisor appropriate volunteer opportunities available now than I have space to mention. So please go to their website, above.

Upcoming Events

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

April 2009

- Thurs, April 2, Biomass Field Day/Workshop, 9:00 am-2:30 pm, Baxter, for info contact Diomy Zamora, zamor015@umn.edu, 888-241-0720 to register call the Crow Wing SWCD, 218-829-3272
- Thurs, April 2, Forest Pest First Detectors, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Farmington, for information and to register go to: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eabtraining.htm>
- Tues, April 7, Forest Pest First Detectors, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Farmington, for information and to register go to: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eabtraining.htm>
- Tues, April 7, Intergenerational Land Transfer, 6:00-9:00 pm, Cloquet Forestry Center, Info and to Register contact Denise Volk, 888-241-0724, volkx005@umn.edu
- Wed, April 8, Trees and Shrubs of MN, 3:00-4:30 pm, North Central Research and Outreach Center, Grand Rapids, for info and to register contact Julie Miedtke, 218-327-7365
- Thurs, April 9, Invasive Species, 6:00-8:00 pm, Morris, for information contact Gary Wyatt, 507-389-6748 to register contact Kathy Eckwright, 888-241-3214
- Fri, April 17, Nuts and Bolts of Timber Sales, 6:00-9:00 pm, Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center, for info and to register contact Boulder Lake, 218-721-3731
- Sat, April 18, Measuring & Reading Your Forest, 9:00 am-noon, Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center, for info and to register contact Boulder Lake, 218-721-3731
- Sat, April 18, Recreational Trail Design, 1:00-4:00 pm, meet at the Ridgeway Community School in Houston, for info and to register contact Mary Jane Stearns, 888-241-4536.
- Thurs, April 23, Small Woodland Management, 6:00-9:00 pm, Heintz Center, Rochester, for info and to register contact Mary Jane Stearns, 888-241-4536
- Fri, April 24, Sharp-tailed grouse & brushland management, 8:00 am-4:00 pm, Long Lake Conservation Center, Palisade, contact Jodie Provost, 218-927-2982
- Sat, April 25, Growing & Tending Your Woodlot, 9:00 am-noon, TBD near Altura, for info and to register contact Mary Jane Stearns, 888-241-4536
- Wed, April 29, Biomass Field Day/Workshop, 8:30 am-3:30 pm, St. Cloud, for info contact Diomy Zamora, zamor015@umn.edu, 888-241-0720 to register contact the Stearns County SWCD: dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net



May 2009



- Mon, May 4, Controlling Runoff & Erosion around Your Property, 6:00-9:00 pm, Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center, for info and to register contact Boulder Lake, 218-721-3731
- Tues, May 5, Intro to GPS, 8:30 am-3:30 pm, Heintz Center, Rochester, for info and to register contact Mary Jane Stearns, 888-241-4536
- Tues, May 12, Finding Airphotos & Mapping Your Land, 6:00-9:00 pm, TBD near Twin Cities, for info and to register contact Eli Sagor, esagor@umn.edu
- Thurs, May 14, Finding Airphotos & Mapping Your Land, 6:00-9:00 pm, Cloquet Forestry Center, Cloquet, for info and to register contact Eli Sagor, esagor@umn.edu
- Fri, May 15, Finding Airphotos & Mapping Your Land, 8:00 am-noon, Cloquet Forestry Center, Cloquet, for info and to register contact Eli Sagor, esagor@umn.edu
- Wed, May 20, Tree ID, 1:00-4:00 pm, Human Services Building, Detroit Lakes, for info and to register contact Diomy Zamora, zamor015@umn.edu, 888-241-0720 or Sue Crotty, 888-241-0720
- Sat, May 30, Tree Marking for Timber, 9:00 am-noon, TBD near Winona, for info and to register contact Mary Jane Stearns, 888-241-4536

June 2009

- Sat, June 12, Direct Seeding, 1:00-4:00 pm, TBD near Spring Grove, for info and to register contact Mary Jane Stearns, 888-241-4536
- Thurs, June 18, Growing Bio-Energy Crops, 6:00-9:00 pm, SROC, Waseca, to register contact Kathy Eckwright, 888-241-3214
- Tues, June 23, Growing & Tending Your Forest, 5:30-8:30 pm, Rochester, for info contact Mary Jane Stearns, 888-241-4536
- Wed, June 24, Intergenerational Land Transfer, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, TBD near International Falls, for info and to register contact Justin Berg, SWCD Koochiching County, 218-283-1175



Woodland Advisor Program



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

Regional Office — Rochester
863 30th Avenue SE
Rochester, MN 55904-4915

Phone: (888) 241-4536
Fax: (507) 280-2872
E-mail: agupta@umn.edu

Return Service Requested

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

Suggested Reading

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

The 10 Myths about Sustainability

This interesting article from Scientific American discusses the history of sustainability and the movement it created.

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=top-10-myths-about-sustainability>

Woodland Advisor Program

New Member of the WA Family



On February 23, Eli Sagor, a Woodland Advisor coordinator, stood by in awe as his wife, Amy Kay Kerber, delivered a baby girl. The little one, named Catherine Elizabeth Sagor, is much more calm and patient than either parent or her 2 1/2 year old sister, Evelyn. All of the family are doing 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.fans.umn.edu/wa/.