

Visioning the future of the North Shore forests

By Mike Reichenbach

Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association is restoring the forests along the North Shore of Lake Superior through its *Lost Forest* Program. To facilitate restoration Mike Reichenbach, Extension Educator at U of M Extension will be providing classes and Jan Bernu, a forestry consultant will be hired to develop Stewardship plans for landowners.

The coniferous forest found along the North Shore in the early 1900's has changed over time into a birch and aspen forest. Logging, fires, and development in the early 1900's were initial contributors to this change. Two factors influencing the growth of North Shore forests today are the deer population and a native grass because deer browse and, bluejoint, the native grass, prevents the establishment of new trees by choking off young conifer seedlings. Dying birch forests provide excellent growing conditions for this grass. The birch forest continues to decline and was especially hard hit by an ice storm in the spring of 2009. Original coniferous forest still exist at several state parks, including native white cedar and North Shore spruce-fir forests.

Participants in the program will receive more than 40 hours of Woodland Advisor classes, with an additional 30 hours of discussion between October 2010 and December 2011. This will prepare them for restoring forests on their land and working with others to encourage additional restoration. A forester will visit with each participant to prepare a forestry plan. In 2005, program participants restored more than 300 acres and planted more than 2000 conifers. To learn more visit <http://www.sugarloafnorthshore.org/>

Contact Mike Reichenbach, University of Minnesota Extension 218-726-6470, reich027@umn.edu or Molly Thompson 218-525-0001, sugarloaf@boreal.org for more information.



Ash Management Guide For Family Forest Landowners



Photo by esazor

We know that Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a significant invasive forest pest. EAB has the potential to cause extensive tree mortality in ash and seriously alter forest stand composition in stands with ash. EAB may also negatively impact traditional forest product economies, plant communities, wildlife, and water quality. In May 2009, EAB was discovered in St. Paul, MN with subsequent detections in Minneapolis and Houston County-making it a very real threat to Minnesota's forests. Currently, there are several joint efforts between agencies to make educating the public and communities throughout Minnesota on EAB.

During the Black Ash Symposium held in Bemidji in May 2010, many people learned the ash genus (*Fraxinus*) is a significant component of Minnesota's landscape with nearly 1 billion trees. Minnesota's wetland hardwood forests are more than 50% ash. Land managers recognize the variability and complexities among native plant communities, especially in relation to hydrology. There is also general consensus among forestry professionals on the lack of silvicultural knowledge to manage ash stand with regard to EAB. Currently, natural resource professionals are working to address this issue on public lands. Researchers are now launching ash management research projects that will help us learn more about the ash resource and develop strategies to maintain the resiliency of our forests.

But how do we help Minnesota's Family Forest Landowners who own approximately one third of Minnesota's forest when we aren't really sure ourselves?

This fall, we will be sending out a survey to an expert panel (DNR, University of Minnesota, US Forest Service and many others) to develop recommendations for family forest landowners. The experts will settle on content and preliminary recommendations and a publication will be written and distributed next Spring. More information will be available at <http://MyMinnesotaWoods.umn.edu>

By Julie Miedtke & Angie Gupta, UMN Extension and Mike Albers, DNR-Forestry

Volunteer Opportunities

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

- Elizabeth Edward

- **Building Blocks out of Trees**—The DNR needs volunteers to create sets of 50 building blocks. Instructions available on-line (http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteering/tree_building_blocks.pdf). No training or reimbursement is available for this project. For more information contact Laura Duffey, Forestry Education Specialist, St Paul, at 651-259-5263 or email laura.duffey@state.mn.us
- **Creative Art Projects at McCarthy Beach State Park**—The DNR needs volunteers to draw, paint, or use a variety of medium in expressing park experiences in an artistic form for display at the park, and to design and create a series of outdoor figures for display throughout the park. This project requires a person(s) experienced in sculpture work. For more information on any of these projects contact David Ellis Hollenhorst, Assistant Park Manager, McCarthy Beach State Park, Side Lake, MN at 218-254-7979 or email dave.ellishollenhorst@state.mn.us



Photo from the MN DNR

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 <http://woodlandadvisor.org/>
As is normal during his time of year, few classes are offered as we gear-up for next fall. Enjoy your land and the good weather.

October 2010

- Fri, Oct 1, Sawmill Tour: Etter's Mill, 1:00-4:00 pm, meet at DNR-Forestry Office, 403 Division St, Deer River. Contact Julie Miedtke for info and to register, 218-327-7468 or Julie.Miedtke@co.itasca.mn.us
- Tues, Oct 7, Woods and Wildlife Field Trip, 1:00-3:00 pm, NRCS office, 1889 East Hwy 2, Grand Rapids. Contact Julie Miedtke for info and to register, 218-327-7468 or Julie.Miedtke@co.itasca.mn.us
- Sat, Oct 9, MN Women's Woodland Network meeting about Property Taxes, 1:00-2:30 pm, Holyoke Town Hall. Contact Julie Miedtke for info and to register, 218-327-7468 or Julie.Miedtke@co.itasca.mn.us
- Mon, Oct 11, Columbus Day
- Mon, Oct 11, MN Women's Woodland Network meeting to hear Mary Shideler about One Women-One Kayak-1007 lakes. 10:00 am - noon, potluck to follow, Sand Lake Community Center. Contact Julie Miedtke for info and to register, 218-327-7468 or Julie.Miedtke@co.itasca.mn.us
- Thurs, Oct 14, Intergenerational Land Transfer, Part 2, 6:00-9:00 pm. Cloquet Forestry Center, Cloquet. For information contact Mike Reichenbach 218-726-6470 or reich027@umn.edu
- Tues, Oct 19, Native Tree ID, 1:00-4:00 pm, Beaver Creek Valley State Park. For information contact Angie Gupta, 507-280-2869 or agupta@umn.edu to register contact Mary Jane Stearns, 507-536-6310 or mstearns@umn.edu
- Tues, Oct 19, Identifying and Controlling Buckthorn, 6:30-9:00 pm, 1861 U.S. 169, Grand Rapids. Contact Julie Miedtke for info and to register, 218-327-7468 or Julie.Miedtke@co.itasca.mn.us
- Wed, Oct 20, Your Land, Your Legacy: Deciding the Future of Your Land (Online), for more information visit www.ForestConnect.com
- Fri, Oct 29, Managing Habitat for Birds of Brushland and Young Forest, 1:00-4:00 pm, Forest History Center, Grand Rapids. Contact Julie Miedtke for info and to register, 218-327-7468 or Julie.Miedtke@co.itasca.mn.us
- Sun, Oct 31, Happy Halloween!

What tree
is this?



Photo by esagor



Photo by Paul Wray

November 2010



Photo by Jeffrey B

- Nov. 8-10, Minnesota-Wisconsin Invasive Species Conference, Crowne Plaza, St. Paul. For information visit http://www.minnesotaswcs.org/2010_mn_wi_invasive_species_conference.htm
- Sun, Nov 7, Daylight Savings Time Ends—Fall Back!
- Thurs, Nov 11, Veterans' Day
- Sun, Nov 21, Beaver Moon (full moon)
- Thurs, Nov 25, Thanksgiving Day—have a safe holiday weekend!

December 2010

- Tues, Dec 2-9, Chanukah
- Tues, Dec 14, Measuring Trees, 1:00-4:00 pm, meet at Preston Field Station (DNR office), 912 Houston St, Preston. For information contact Angie Gupta, 507-280-2869 or agupta@umn.edu to register contact Mary Jane Stearns, 507-536-6310 or mstearns@umn.edu
- Tues, Dec. 21, Cold Moon (full moon), Eclipse, & Winter Solstice
- Sat, Dec 25, Christmas Day—Have a wonderful holiday season!



Photo by esagor

Woodland Stewardship Short-course On-line

Extension faculty in Minnesota and Wisconsin are developing a web-based short-course for family forest landowners in the Lake States. It's primary content will be the book, Woodland Stewardship: a Practical Guide for Midwestern Landowners, 2nd Edition. Each chapter will have activities and additional references aimed at helping landowners apply content from the book to their woodlands. More photos are being added to help readers recognize forest pest problems and other forest resources. Several landowners will be recruited to preview the course and provide feedback before we finalize it. We expect to have the course available for use early in 2011.

By Mel Baughman, Extension Forester and Program Leader, U of M Extension



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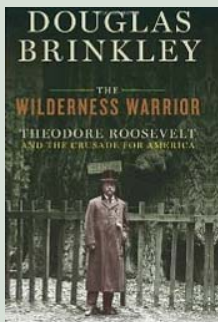
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We're on the web!
<http://woodlandadvisor.org/>

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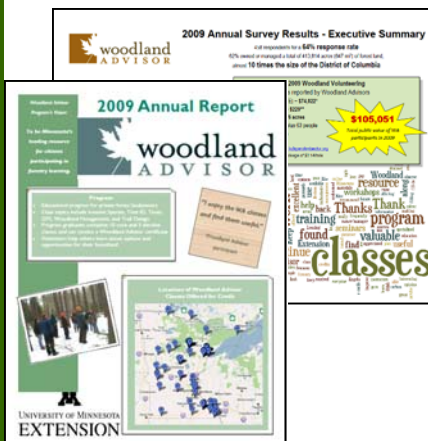
Suggested Reading

This *Wilderness Warrior*, by Douglas Brinkley was suggested by Ken Nichols, one of our active Woodland Advisors. Brinkley draws on never-before-published materials to write this epic biography of Theodore Roosevelt, our "naturalist president." This is available at my local library, but if it's not at yours find it at Amazon.com.



Woodland Advisor

Woodland Advisor Reports



The Woodland Advisor team collects evaluation and program information throughout the year from various sources and issues one Annual Report, and occasionally other programmatic reports.

If you are interested in any of these reports contact Angela Gupta, 507-280-2869 or agupta@umn.edu directly and she'll get you the copies.

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/.