

Woodland Advisor
Program's Vision:

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

- **Where do I start?**
- **100 Years**
- **Arbor Celebrations, pg 2**
- **Invasives, continued, pg 2**
- **Volunteer Opportunities, pg 2**
- **Calendar, pg 3**
- **Suggested Reading, pg 4**
- **MyMinnesotaWoods, pg 4**
- **What is WA? Pg 4**

Volume 7 Issue 2

Spring 2011

Where do I Start?! Prioritizing Invasive Plant Control

by Ellen Jacquat

*It's important to think through a plan for managing invasive plants on your land **before** you start the attack. Without a plan, it's easy to underestimate the time and resources it will take to control a species. You can end up overwhelmed and give up in frustration.*

Prioritizing by species.... You walk through your woodlot and wince when you see the garlic mustard, which looks like it's spread considerably since last year. Then you notice the buckthorn in the understory and realize your neighbor's landscaping has made itself at home in your woods. And that vine...those orange berries...gee, where did the oriental bittersweet come from?! Like potato chips, it seems nobody can have just one invasive plant species. There are usually multiple species invading a given area, which can make the job of managing a site much more difficult. Where do you start when you have more than one species to deal with? A lot of us have struggled with this, and fortunately there are some easy rules to help sort out which species to go after first. What follows is a simplified version of a prioritization template created by The Nature Conservancy. Before you start prioritizing, though, you need to know three things:



Photo: Linda Haugen
UGA1600164

Know what you have. Use a good field guide or a knowledgeable botanist friend to double-check that you've identified a real invasive plant rather than an innocent look-alike.

Know how much you have. The priority you place on 50 plants of garlic mustard will be very different from 5 acres of garlic mustard, as you'll see in a moment. Map the invasive plants, circling each area of infestation and estimating what percent within the circled area is invasive species versus native. A handy way to do this is to use Google Earth (check out the MyMinnesotaWoods section about on-line mapping for help) to zoom in on your property and print out an aerial photo. Draw your property boundary on the aerial, then walk through your property in a grid-like fashion and mark what you see. Those of you with GPS units and GIS software on your computers are welcome to do it the high-tech way.

Know what you want. This may be very easy for you, or very difficult. What do you most want to protect on your land? Is it the ovenbirds that nest there? The trillium that bloom each spring? The deer habitat? The ability to walk through the woods without having to fight thorny shrubs? Deciding what you want to manage your land **for** is important. Think this through, and even map the areas you most want to protect against invasive plant species.

Now you're ready. The following four questions will tell you which species should be your top priority. You should already know the answers to number one and two from figuring out above how much you have and what you want to protect. Numbers three and four are answered by reading information about each invasive species or talking to professionals who work with invasive species in your area.

(Continued on page 2)

100 Years and Counting

By Ken Nichols, Woodland Advisor



While I was reading the "Minnesota Conservation Volunteer" I was reminded of a big event. This year the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry will be celebrating its 100 years of existence. In the early 1900's Minnesota's elected officials felt that protecting the state's forest resources was necessary after years of very heavy logging, uncontrolled fires and forest land being clear cut for farms. In 1911 the State Legislature created the Minnesota Forest Service.

The Minnesota Forest Service (after 1931, Division of Forestry) was to help manage the State Forests and reforest those lands that have been clear cut. Prior to the settlement of Minnesota our forests comprised of about 31 million acres. In the 1930's our forests were reduced to 19.5 million acres. Today the Division of Forestry is responsible for management of the State's 58 State Forest areas, education (for example Project Learning Tree), timber sales consultation and providing tree seedlings for continued reforestation.

The Division of Forestry's mission continues to grow and evolve. Because of our global economy our foresters need to deal with invasive species that never plagued their predecessors. Forest fragmentation has become an issue that concerns the foresters. The goal for management is to consider the entire ecosystem for an area. When a forest is chopped up into 5 or 10 acre plots management becomes a challenge. Today's DNR foresters need to be well versed in the science of forestry, but also a technology wizards, public relations persons and negotiators.

Connected to Our Roots: *100 Years of Growing Forests in Minnesota*, a book describing the history of the Division of Forestry, is available from Minnesota's Book, www.minnesotasbookstore.com Next time you have a chance to visit with one of our DNR foresters (and U of M Extension Foresters) thank him or her for all they do.

Arbor Day Celebrations

By Angela Gupta, Extension Forester

Spring is a time when folks look at their trees with fresh eyes. It's also when many organizations do special tree related events such as Arbor Day- Friday, April 29 and Minnesota's Arbor Month - May. This is a great opportunity for all of us to tap into that public enthusiasm and remind people of the many benefits of both urban and forest trees. I'm sure we're all aware of the litany of benefits associated with trees and forests: wildlife habitat, water quality, carbon storage, timber and non-timber income, a place for family gatherings and spiritual recharge but these benefits, although of great value, can be hard to express to some. Did you know there's something called the National Tree Benefits Calculator? This is for urban and yard trees but it's amazing. By visiting this website: <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/> and putting in your zip code, and then entering the tree species, diameter, and type of residence, it will calculate the value of THAT TREE. The 4' in diameter elm in my backyard is worth \$363/year! Most of that value is because of the tree's impact on my property, storm water, and energy value - a nice pie chart of benefits is generated for each tree. Not only is it fun to see what your yard trees are worth but it could be a valuable learning opportunity. Imagine putting a price tag on a prominent tree in your local park (after working with the park staff first, of course) or in your yard.



Photo: C.E.L. Public Relations, Inc.

(Continued from page 1)

For each invasive species, answer these questions and add the points:

1. How much do you have?

- 1 pt—I don't have any, but it's near my land
- 2 pt—Just a small amount, but it's spreading
- 3 pt—A fair amount, and it's still spreading
- 4 pt—A LOT! It's covering the whole area completely

2. What's the value of the habitat being invaded?

- 1 pt—It's invading my favorite area that has the stuff I want to protect
- 2 pt—It's invading the disturbed edge or areas that I don't care as much about

3. What impacts is it causing?

- 1 pt—All is lost; it changes the area so much that few species survive
- 2 pt—It invades undisturbed areas and outcompetes native species
- 3 pt—It doesn't outcompete natives, but natives don't regenerate
- 4 pt—It invades disturbed areas like edges

4. How hard is it to control?

- 1 pt—Not too bad; one treatment and it's pretty much gone
- 2 pt—Multiple treatments; eventually it's gone and natives return
- 3 pt—Takes multiple treatments and natives don't come back readily
- 4 pt—No effective treatment has been found

Now add the total points for each species. The lower the score, the higher the priority.

To summarize it another way—*cheap and easy is often your top priority!* It is common to be mesmerized by the acres of garlic mustard in bloom and completely miss the one oriental bittersweet vine that snuck in while you weren't looking.

If you have unlimited time and money, congratulations! Hire a big crew and go after them both. If, like most of us, you have limited time and money, turn your back on the garlic mustard and kill the oriental bittersweet. Nipping it in the bud, so to speak, means you can spend a small amount of time and money and keep it from becoming a huge infestation a few years from now. When it's dead, then go work on the garlic mustard.

Prioritizing at the site.... There's more and a great diagram to help at the site level but I'm out of space, so visit the whole article as it was originally written for the Summer 2009 Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society by Ellen Jacquart at http://www.inpaws.org/Summer09_invasives.pdf or call me, Angie Gupta, at 888-241-4526 and I'll mail you a hard copy.

Volunteer Opportunities

"If you think you are too small to be effective, you've never been in bed with a mosquito."

~ Betty Reese

- **Search for the Rare MN Dwarf Trout Lily & Green Dragon wildflowers,** Help a DNR team search for and collect data on these rare spring wildflowers near Faribault & Kenyon about 1 hour south of the Twin Cities. Volunteers work as part of a supervised crew. Some sites may include rough, very steep terrain or are in wet floodplain forests. Training in identifying the flowers and search methods will be provided in the field at the beginning of each workday. Work will be conducted sometime between April 24-May 8 (dependent on flower development). A full day's commitment is required. For more information contact Derek Anderson, Ecological Services, St Paul, at 651-259-5071 or email Derek.Anderson@state.mn.us
- **Planting Trees on the North Shore,** Help plant and protect trees at Tettegouche and Temperance River State Parks. Starting in May, volunteers can come any day, but need at least 4 hours of work time. Please call ahead. Contact Gary Hoefft, Park Manager, Silver Bay, at 218-226-6365 extension 223, or email gary.hoefft@state.mn.us to schedule a time.
- **MN Loon Monitoring Program,** Volunteers are needed statewide to track Minnesota's loon population. Volunteers will be assigned to a pre-selected lake to count the number of loons seen on one morning between July 1 and July 11, 2011. Detailed instructions, training materials, maps, and a data form will be provided. Time commitment is 2-4 hours per lake. Surveys must be done sometime between 5:00 a.m.-noon. Volunteers must commit to completing assigned lake(s) and be willing to participate in the program for multiple years. Call or e-mail the following DNR Regional Nongame Wildlife staff: Becker or Otter Tail Counties, Contact Sherry Wright, Bemidji, 218-308-2682, sherry.wright@state.mn.us; Cook, Lake, or Itasca Counties, Contact Sarah Verke, Grand Rapids, 218-999-7808, sarah.verke@state.mn.us; Aitkin or Crow Wing Counties, Contact Lori Snider, Brainerd, 218-828-2228, lori.snider@state.mn.us; Kandiyohi County; Contact Dorie Tess, New Ulm, 507-359-6036, dorie.tess@state.mn.us



Photo by Bobcatnorth

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/>

April 2011

- April 1 - **April Fool's Day**
- Fri, April 1, Invasive Species, 1:00-4:00 pm, North Branch Library, 6355 379th St. North Branch, MN, 55056. For info contact Diomy Zamora, 612-626-9272. To register contact Sue Crotty, 218-828-2275 or crott012@umn.edu
- Tues, April 5, Measuring Trees, 1:00-4:00 pm, Preston Forestry Field Station (DNR Office), 912 Houston Street, Preston MN 55965. For info contact Angie Gupta 507-280-2869 or agupta@umn.edu to Mary Jane Stearns 507-536-6310 or mstearns@umn.edu
- Thurs, April 7, Reading & Measuring Your Trees, 1:00-4:00 pm, North Branch Library, 6355 379th St. North Branch, MN, 55056. For info contact Diomy Zamora, 612-626-9272. To register contact Sue Crotty, 218-828-2275 or crott012@umn.edu
- Tues, April 12, Intergenerational Land Transfer, Part 1, 6:30-9:00 pm, North Central Experiment Station, 1861 E US Highway 169, Grand Rapids, contact Julie Miedtke, miedt001@umn.edu
- Thurs, April 14, Recreational Trail Design, 1:00-4:00 pm, New Nature Center, Henderson, MN. For info contact Gary Wyatt, [wyatt@umn.edu](mailto:w Wyatt@umn.edu) to register contact Kathy Eckwright eckwr001@umn.edu or 888-241-3214.
- Sat, April 16, Prescribed Burn Workshop for Landowners, 9:00 am-3:30 pm, Hormel Nature Center, Austin, MN. Sponsored by the DNR contact Emily Hutchins for details: emily.hutchins@state.mn.us
- Tues, April 19, Non-Timber Forest Products, 6:00-9:00 pm, HA 134, Heintz Center, RCTC, 1926 Collegeview Dr. SE, Rochester, MN, 55904. For info contact Angie Gupta 507-280-2869 or agupta@umn.edu to Mary Jane Stearns 507-536-6310 or mstearns@umn.edu
- Sun, April 24 - **Easter**
- Tues, April 26, Intergenerational Land Transfer, Part 2, 6:30-9:00 pm, North Central Experiment Station, 1861 E US Highway 169, Grand Rapids. Contact Julie Miedtke, miedt001@umn.edu for info.
- Fri, April 29 - **Arbor Day!** Talk to someone new about the benefit of trees!



May 2011



Know these trees? Can you find the invasive species?
Picture from Flickr by jntiplys

- Thurs, May 5, Invasive Species, 1:00- 4:00 pm, Holzinger Lodge, Winona. For info contact Angie Gupta 507-280-2869 or agupta@umn.edu to Mary Jane Stearns 507-536-6310 or mstearns@umn.edu
- Sun, May 8 - **Mother's Day!**
- Fri, May 13, Managing Woodland Ash in the EAB era, 12:00-1:30 pm, webinar. Get more detail on the content at <http://z.umn.edu/2011> webinars . Register at <http://z.umn.edu/2011/webinarreg> and we'll send you connection instructions.
- Thurs, May 19, Tree & Shrub ID, 1:00-4:00 pm, Linneaus Arboretum, St. Peter. For info contact Gary Wyatt, [wyatt@umn.edu](mailto:w Wyatt@umn.edu) to register contact Kathy Eckwright eckwr001@umn.edu or 888-241-3214.
- Fri & Sat, May 20-21, Minnesota Forestry Association's Family Spring Field Day, Bunker Hills Activity Center, Andover. Details at <http://www.minnesotaforestry.org/Home/spring-field-day-2011>
- Thurs, May 26, Wildlife Management & Biodiversity, 4:00-6:00 pm, Stearns Co. Extension - Midtown Office Complex; 3400 First St. N, Suite 108, St. Cloud, 56303. For info contact Diomy Zamora, 612-626-9272. To register contact Sue Crotty, 218-828-2275 or crott012@umn.edu
- Fri, May 27, Tree & Shrub ID, 1:00-5:00 pm, St. John's University, 31802 Cty Rd 159, New Science Center 140, Collegeville, MN, 56321. For info contact Diomy Zamora, 612-626-9272. To register contact Sue Crotty, 218-828-2275 or crott012@umn.edu
- Mon, May 30 - **Memorial Day**

June 2011

- Thurs, June 2, Ash Management in the Era of EAB, 6:30-8:00 pm, Toner Center, President's Room, Winona State University, 700 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN. For info contact Angie Gupta 507-280-2869 or agupta@umn.edu to Mary Jane Stearns 507-536-6310 or mstearns@umn.edu
- Fri, June 10, Growing Bioenergy Feedstock, 1:00-4:00 pm, CLC Ag Center, 1830 Airport Rd, Staples, 56479. For info contact Diomy Zamora, 612-626-9272. To register contact Sue Crotty, 218-828-2275 or crott012@umn.edu
- Tues, June 14, Harvesting Birch Bark, all day, location TBD. Contact Julie Miedtke, miedt001@umn.edu for info.
- Tues, June 14 - **Flag Day**
- Sun, June 19 - **Father's Day**



Picture from Flickr by ozvoldjj



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

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Extension is an equal opportunity
educator and employer.

Suggested Reading

A hint of spring is finally coming to the north woods which means it's time to tap trees and boil sap to make that home grown delight: maple syrup. Those that tap trees are likely tapping and boiling right now, which is a great time to think about your system, ways in improve for next year, and learn from others with active sugar bushes. If that's the case for you be sure to check out the new **Minnesota maple blog series** on the MyMinnesotaWoods.umn.edu



**Woodland
Advisor**

Woodland Advisor Program



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Return Service Requested

MyMinnesotaWoods website

If you're not familiar with the MyMinnesotaWoods.umn.edu website check it out. It's a wealth of timely information on many subject important to family forest landowners, including: Agroforestry, Legal & Financial, - including new tax info, Woodland Care and many other topics. To receive a monthly e-mail about new website information visit: <http://z.umn.edu/MMW2>

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 cfcfans.umn.edu/wa/.