

Woodland Advisor

Program's Vision:

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

- Volunteering as a Woodland Advisor: Pg. 1
- George Anderson: Active Woodland Advisor: Pg 1 & 3
- Volunteering: Pg. 2
- Volunteer Opportunities: Pg. 2
- School Forests & Woodland Advisors Working Together: Pg. 2
- Upcoming Events: Pg. 3
- Woodland Advisor Conference: Pg. 3
- Suggested Reading for this Quarter: Pg. 4
- Meet a Woodland Advisor Organizer: Pg. 4
- What is the Woodland Advisor Program?: Pg. 5

Woodland Advisor Program Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1

Winter 2006

Volunteering as a Woodland Advisor

by Angie Gupta

Woodland Advisors (WA) and volunteers, first I want to thank you for participating in this program, and second I'd like to send special thanks to all that have taken the time and energy to become an active WA volunteer! Some of you may be thinking you haven't done any volunteering recently; I challenge you to think back to all those times you helped a neighbor with their woodland questions, discussed your forest projects at church functions, or helped a child learn a tree species. These may seem like small things, but you likely taught something new to someone using information you've learned through WA classes. We are dedicating much of this Newsletter to volunteering in the hope that we'll be able to create a community of active WA volunteers. We, the planners and organizers of the WA program, are constantly under pressure to document our successes and failures which include your woodland stewardship and volunteer activities.

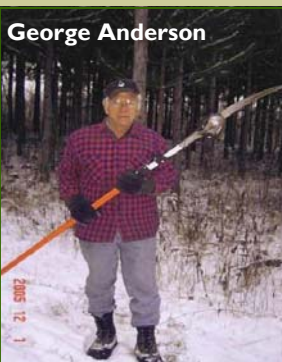
Mike, Eli, and I, the primary Woodland Advisor organizers, have been working on a more structured vision for the volunteer aspect of this program. As a part of that vision, we've defined what we'd like all WA Volunteers to be: individuals that have completed or committed to complete all 15 (10 core and 5 elective) WA courses including the soon to be offered WA Volunteer course and made a commitment to volunteer activities. Currently we highly recommend participants complete the WA courses and then take the Volunteer course when it's available. Please note that there will be a workshop on "How to Teach Forestry to Kids" from 9 AM to 4 PM on Friday, February 9 at the Million Acre II conference in Duluth. This workshop will provide information you need when working with kids, as

well as a WA elective credit. A \$25 fee will be charged for this class and a registration form is available at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/millionacres.html>. Unfortunately those with prepaid credits or coupons will not be able to use them for classes offered through the Million Acre II Conference.

We are scaling back the number of individuals that receive the Newsletter by limiting distribution to those that have completed the program, have paid to complete the program, or are active WA volunteers. The primary way we know you are an active WA is if you complete and turn in a Woodland Working Log, Volunteering Reporting Log or both. These are designed to help us better track the accomplishments of our participants and to better understand the impact of our program. Remember, report even the little things, many people underestimate their contributions! Copies of the logs are included in this newsletter. I realize it's hard to remember back throughout the year, but please try to list the activities you've done in 2005. Once I receive the 2005 logs I'll mail you a new log for 2006 so you can work on it throughout the year. Please e-mail me if you'd like logs electronically. This log is how we intend to track volunteer activity for Newsletter distribution.

For those volunteers interested in having business cards we will provide a small number of cards for your use upon your request. So if you're interested please let me know.

Please enjoy this Newsletter dedicated to volunteering. Thanks for your hard work!



George Anderson

George Anderson: Active Woodland Advisor

We have 80 acres about 20 miles southwest of Duluth near the State Line in Carlton County. We are members of MFA, and I am also a member of the Carlton County Woodland Council and am on the Education Committee. I was enrolled in the Woodland Advisor program in 2004 and 2005.

As a teenager I was always impressed by all the large pine stumps in the woods - some as large as 5 feet or more in diameter. Today, the stumps are fast disappearing. I've always been interested in increasing the presence of pine in our forests. I've planted several thousand Red or Norway pines on our

property, and in the last 10-12 years I've gone more to planting white pine - especially since the State is encouraging the re-establishment of white pine. While red pine is certainly excellent wood, white pine is still a top majestic tree - the monarch of the North Woods.

But my interest is not just in the lumber value of the forest but also the aesthetic value and wildlife habitat. In taking the Woodland Advisor training, I've put much of what I've learned into practice on our own land, and I've also been able to help others to manage their forest lands. For example, I've taught how to bud cap the young pines and also given advice on the use of repellents such as Plantskyd. I've suggested using Plantskyd on the small seedlings rather than bud caps - it's faster and just as effective. I suggest keeping an eye out for off-color or pale green branches, that usually indicates blister rust. I often carry a roll of flagging tape and

Continue on page 3

Volunteering

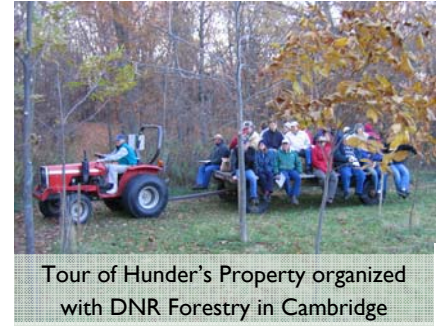
By Judy Hunder

Fifteen years ago Jim and I bought a hilly piece of farmland and planted trees. Although the tree farm has become much more of a passion than we expected, little did we know the added benefits of tree farming. Since volunteering has always been important to us, we often find ourselves saying "sure" when asked and perhaps we have more enthusiasm than good sense. However, volunteering with the various agencies involved in forestry has been so rewarding and we continue to find ourselves in interesting situations.

Last spring we joined the University Extension Service at the Cabin Show at the Convention Center when one of their members fell ill. We were to discuss tree planting and care but found we learned a great deal. This fall Jim and I volunteered at the fair and showed up on a chilly, rainy morning to answer questions. Having dressed very warmly for the cold morning we found that by noon we were much too warm and decided to wear the tee shirts we were given for our afternoon of touring the fair. The tee shirts were emblazoned with "Ask me, I'm a tree expert" and while we certainly do not think ourselves tree experts, we found ourselves answering numerous questions as we wandered around the fairgrounds.

Two years ago we hosted our first field day with the U of M Extension Service and recently Alan Olson of the DNR asked to host a field day in October. This was the first Annual Landowners Field Day and Meeting for East Central Minnesota. The meeting covered pruning of hard woods, buck thorn and prickly ash control and pine thinning. They also discussed wind generation with a wind generator on site that produces electricity for the farm and for sale to the local coop. Forty five people attended and had a dinner meeting following at Ney Nature Cr. in Maple Lake.

Volunteering continues to reinforce for us the necessity of encouraging conservation and good forestry practices and the rewards of helping are certainly many.



Tour of Hunder's Property organized with DNR Forestry in Cambridge

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://www.cnr.umn.edu/cfc/lwa/>

"It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference."

Tom Brokaw

- Fri., Feb. 10, Duluth: Need individuals who have taken the WA GPS course and are interested in helping others learn during the GPS class being taught at the Million Acres II Conference. Contact Angie (info above).
- Fri. evening & Sat., Feb. 10 & 11: The WA program needs 8 volunteers to help staff the WA booth at the Million Acre II Conference in Duluth. Volunteers are needed for one 2-hour shift. Contact Angie.
- Fri. & Sat., Feb. 10 & 11: Million Acres II, sponsored by the DNR, needs volunteers to help with registration, as hall monitors, and room moderators during the conference. Volunteers may get a reduced registration fee. For more information and a Partner Volunteer Application please contact Larry Himanga, DNR, at 651-345-4924.
- Tues.-Sun., March 28– April 2, Minneapolis Convention Center: If you're interested in speaking at the Northwest Sportshow as a WA. Contact Angie for details.

Congratulations to John O'Reilly for receiving the Forest Steward Award from the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts & and the DNR Forestry Division. Keep up the great work!

School Forests & Woodland Advisors Working Together

By Amy Kay Kerber

Are you looking for a volunteer project working with children in a forest, assisting a school with trail work, or presenting a forestry info session at a school field day? The School Forest Program has 105 sites throughout the state and many of the sites are looking for solid volunteers to assist with a variety of projects. So far, Woodland Advisors have established volunteer relationships with Ramsey and Finlayson School Forests. In fact, Dave Davis, Jim & Judy Hunder, and Bob Nobis have guided several of their own Walks in the Woods for the teachers at the Ramsey School Forest. Their efforts are helping to increase the quality of forestry information shared with students through classroom instruction and outdoor School Forest activities.

John O'Reilly assisted Finlayson School Forest with a field day. He helped lead forestry education activities for the students. He has also provided support to school staff regarding ideas for use of their forest.

Many of the School Forests are in need of knowledgeable volunteers to help the sites with planning, trail development, bench & sign building, maintenance, connections to local resources, support for outdoor field days, education assistance (for teachers and students), and general support. It is a great way to get involved with a positive community activity and is a guaranteed source of projects to be done! For a listing of School Forest statewide, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/schoolforests If you are interested in working with a School Forest, fill out the enclosed form and return it to Angie Gupta.

WA Dave Davis leads group



Upcoming Events

Activities: Woodland Advisor Program Classes are underlined. For more information or to register please see the web-site www.cnr.umn.edu/cfc/wal or call (888) 241-0724 ext. 6466. Please mark these dates!

January 2006

- Sun., Jan. 1: New Year's Day! Please drive safely!
- Thurs., Jan. 12: Nontimber Forest Products, 6:00-9:00 pm, Carlton Country Transportation Building, Carlton
- Mon., Jan. 16: Martin Luther King, J. Day (some offices closed)
- Thurs., Jan. 19: Shelterbelts & Living Snow Fences: Agroforestry and Productive Conservation, 6:00-8:30 pm, Snell Motors, Mankato
- Thurs., Jan. 19: Growing and Tending Your Forest, 6:00-9:00 pm, Rainy River Community College, International Falls

February 2006

- Thurs., Feb. 9: Woodland Advisor Conference, 6:00-10:00 pm, Cloquet Forestry Center, Cloquet
- Fri. -Sat., Feb. 10-11: Million Acre II Conference, 8:30 am-5:00 pm, DECC, Duluth
- Fri., Feb. 10: How to Teach Forestry to Kids, 9 am-4 pm, DECC, Duluth
- Tues., Feb. 14: Valentine's Day! Don't forget to send your sweetheart flowers!
- Thurs., Feb. 16: Controlling Forest Weeds and Competing Vegetation, 6:00-9:00 pm, Location TBD, International Falls
- Sat., Feb. 18: Forestry Filed Tour: Growing and Tending Your Forest II, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Location TBD, International Falls
- Mon., Feb. 20: President's Day (some offices closed)
- Sat., Feb. 25: Maple Syrup Workshop, 12:30-3:30 pm, Lowry Nature Center, Victoria (SW Metro), contact Barb Spears for info: (651) 644-5800 x 113

Land Stewardship Options



March 2006

- Wed., March 1: Ash Wednesday
- Sat., March 4: Horse Logging Demonstration, time TBD, UMore Park, Dakota County (S Metro), Contact Barb Spears for info: (651) 644-5800 x 113
- Sat. March 11: How to Use a GPS Receiver, 8:00 am-4:00 pm, Izaak Walton League Lodge, Rochester
- Fri., March 17: St. Patrick's Day. Don't forget to wear green!
- Mon., March 20: Spring Equinox
- Sat., March 25: How to Use a GPS Receiver, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Southern Research & Outreach Center, Waseca
- Sat., March 25: Managing for White Pine & Ecological Classification System Tour, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Sugarloaf Cove Interpretive Center, Schroeder

Woodland Advisor Conference

Cloquet Forestry Center; Thursday, February 9, 2006, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.; Cost: \$10

Mark your calendars for the Woodland Advisor conference. This year it will be an open discussion on topics of woodland management for private forest owners. Our guests will include experts in wildlife, forest certification, logging, private consulting, and more. Anticipate your questions getting answered and learning more about the interests and concerns of other Woodland Advisors. The conference will start with a dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by a panel discussion.

This event, worth one WA credit, will also include a short discussion about volunteer opportunities around the state, sources for more information, and your thoughts on the Woodland Advisor Program. Lodging is available at the Cloquet Forestry Center for Thursday night: \$30 per person plus tax (double occupancy is encouraged as it will increase the number of other WA that get beds). More information will be sent and you will be contacted before this event. Direct questions to Phil Monson at 888-241-0724 ext. 6471 or e-mail: monso044@umn.edu. To register or reserve a room contact Susan Seabury: 888-241-0724 or sseabury@umn.edu.

Continued from page watch for ribes, and when I find ribes, I flag them and get my herbicide (Accord).

Another advantage of the Woodland Advisor classes is the opportunity to meet other people with similar interests, to exchange ideas and experiences, the mistakes we've made, and the things we've learned the hard way! I'm planning to take a few refresher classes in the Advisor program.

Two years ago, I collected some white pine seed from our property (and adjacent land) with the idea that maybe the pine in this location is more adapted genetically to this area. I took the seed to a private nursery in Cohasset. Well, there were more

seeds than I thought! So next spring, I will have 3500 to 4000 seedlings to plant - by hand!

While there are some really nice forest areas in Northern Minnesota and Wisconsin, there are many areas where there is very little value. Can one person make a difference? Yes! On our 80 acres there were 2 red pines and 2 dozen or so white pines. Today, there are thousands of both red and white pines.

In closing, I must tell about my chipmunk friends. One comes and sits on my lap while I give her peanuts (unsalted). The other one doesn't sit on my lap, but when he (I think it's a he) sees me, he runs up to me and stands on his hind legs begging.



Woodland Advisor Program



Extension Regional Center, 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 for this Quarter:



As energy costs rise many people are thinking of new ways to be more energy efficient. Don't

forget trees! This quarter's reading is "Save Energy with Trees" http://www.state.mn.us/mn/externalDocs/Commerce/Energy_Saving_Landscapes_110802040030_Landscaping.pdf These ideas aren't likely to change your heating bill this winter but they'll certainly help over the long run.



Woodland Advisor Program

Meet a Woodland Advisor Organizer



Angie Gupta is a Regional Extension Educator based in the Rochester Regional Center where she does forestry education. She joined

Extension a year ago when she moved from Michigan where she was a procurement forester. Within Woodland Advisors she is responsible for this Newsletter and for organizing the WA volunteers. Additionally she is involved in a large project to increase the value of hardwood logs using a new software program.

Angie lives in Rochester with her husband Ash. They are expecting their first child in April so she'll be easy to spot at the Woodland Advisor and Million Acres II Conferences as she'll be 7 1/2 months pregnant! Please stop and say hi.

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. Minnesota Forestry Association Members may pre-pay for 10 core and 5 elective classes for \$240—a 20% discount. Only those classes where registration is handled through the University of Minnesota Extension Service are eligible for this 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 www.cnr.umn.edu/cfc/wa.