



# Forest Tree Notes

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## Woodland Advisor Program Changes to Meet Your Needs

**Eli Sagor, Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension Service, Cloquet Forestry Center**

For many years, the Woodland Advisor program has been a cornerstone of Minnesota forest landowner education. The program brings together University of Minnesota faculty, practicing local natural resources professionals, the Minnesota Forestry Association, and landowners like you to get to know and learn from each other. Woodland Advisors are leaders in their communities, committed to lifelong learning and well-informed stewardship of their forests. If you haven't gotten involved yet, there's never been a better time than now!

In response to the comments of recent graduates and others, the program will be changing in 2003. Here are some highlights of the change:

*More convenient schedule:* In 2003 and beyond, you'll

be able to complete the 45-hour training in a series of short modules. You won't need to commit four (or more) weekends anymore to complete the training sessions. Modules will be offered on a regional basis, where and when local interest is high enough.

*More flexibility in what you learn:* Once you've completed the core concepts, you'll have choose only the elective sessions that are most interesting to you. Some Advisors may specialize in insect and disease issues, others in non-timber forest products, others in a variety of other topics.

The University of Minnesota Extension Service and Minnesota Forestry Association are excited about these changes. We hope that you'll get involved! With general questions about the program, you can contact me at (218) 879-0850 x120. Or, look for program announcements in early spring. To be sure not to miss an announcement, contact Susan Seabury and make sure your name is on our mailing list. You can reach Susan at (218) 879-0850 x108 or [sseabury@umn.edu](mailto:sseabury@umn.edu). See you there!



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# The Classroom Outside: Report on Fall 2002 Forest Management Guidelines Training

**Louise Yount, University of Minnesota College of Natural Resources Center for Continuing Education, Cloquet Forestry Center**

Sometimes the best learning is done outside of the classroom. This fall, more than 800 loggers and resource managers spent a day in the forest at one of 11 sessions held around the state. This workshop, titled “Protecting Site Quality: Forest Management and Timber Harvesting,” was a joint training effort between the UMN College of Natural Resources Center for Continuing Education and Minnesota Logger Education Program. The workshop was designed to support improved understanding of Minnesota’s voluntary timber harvesting and forest management guidelines. Instructors provided field demonstration of key ways to protect soil and water at logging sites.

Overall there is a high level of compliance with the guidelines. Here are a few examples from the logging sites monitored in 2001:

- All landings were located on stable ground;
- Infrastructure, i.e. roads and landings, within a logging site averaged 3.2% as compared to 3% set in the guidelines; and



*Walt Haas, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, at fuel and lubrication spill clean-up field stop.*

- Over 80% of the general harvest areas met recommendations for downed logs.

Three areas of the guidelines had lower compliance, which led to this series of workshops:

- Installation of enough water diversion structures;
- Details of the approaches to and crossings of open water and wetlands; and
- Limitation of soil compaction.



*Loggers and resource managers received and practiced using a new tool – the slope measurement gauge.*

As usual, loggers and resource managers provided good feedback, and asked good questions. During each of the 11 sessions, instructors gathered participants’ verbal comments and questions, as well as comments on worksheets completed during the afternoon exercise. Here is a summary of those points:

1. There is a generally good level of understanding among loggers and resource managers about basic implementation of the guidelines.
2. Workshop participants would like opportunities to learn more about and be more involved in the process of monitoring.
3. The differences between landowners in listing contract specifications, the practice of bidding on sales without having seen the site or sale prospectus, and also the general absence of contracts when working with small private

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landowners, has led to inconsistent implementation of the guidelines.

4. Loggers and resource managers observe that harvesting timber is only one of many activities that impact forests. They feel that other uses and impacts are not equally monitored. Other activities, such as agriculture and ATV riding on closed forest roads significantly impact water and soil quality too.
5. Everyone (the landowner, the contract administrator, and the logger) would benefit from more communication with each other throughout the process. This means pre-sale, during harvest operations, and after the site is closed.

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) heard this information in a summary report at its November meeting. Council members were interested in participants' comments, and will further discuss them in the MFRC monitoring subcommittee.

If you would like to read the monitoring reports for yourself, they can be found on Council's website at [www.frc.state.mn.us/monitor/comeffct.htm](http://www.frc.state.mn.us/monitor/comeffct.htm).

MLEP and the University of Minnesota continue to work to improve educational programs about the timber harvesting and forest management guidelines. For more information or to comment please call Louise Yount, UMN, at (218) 879-0858; Chris DeRosier, MLEP, at (218) 722-5442, or Jenna Fletcher, MFRC, at (612) 603-0109. 

## Small Community Wastewater Education Seminars: How Your Community Can Find Viable Solutions

**Greg Miller, Program Coordinator, University of Minnesota On-site Sewage Treatment Program**

The University of Minnesota Onsite Sewage Treatment Program is announcing a new Small Community Wastewater Education seminar - 'How Your Community Can Find Viable Solutions'.

This seminar will help to familiarize community members, community leaders - and the professionals they work with - with the principles and processes involved in finding viable solutions to the wastewater needs of "unsewered" communities across Minnesota.

It typically takes a community from 3 to 7 years from the time they get serious about finding a solution, until it becomes a reality. This seminar does not present every detail, but will provide an overview, details on key issues, observations from experience and sources of additional information.

Unsewered communities include the residents of thousands of small towns, hamlets and shore lands currently not served by centralized wastewater collection and treatment systems.

"Viable Solutions" are wastewater treatment options that

1. Protect human and environmental health
2. Have affordable life cycle costs
3. Support the community's long-term plans

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# Minnesota Conservation Corps Supervisors Train at Cloquet

**Nelly Nehring, Public Relations Specialist,  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

"This is the start of my 5th program year as a staff member. Without question, we have the finest Corps Member class that I have been involved with. We have an extremely intelligent and energetic group of members!"

These are Mike Rice's words following two weeks of training that jump-started the MCC program year. Rice, Assistant Director and Region 2 Coordinator, organized supervisor training, held at Cloquet Forestry Center the first week of October. This is the fourth year that MCC has used Cloquet as a training ground, always to the satisfaction of everyone involved! Not only are the classrooms and dorm rooms clean and convenient, but the caterers Jim and Jo do their best to pack a few pounds on every MCCer with their good and plentiful food. A special thanks goes to Cloquet Forestry Center Staff Chuck Kramer, Ron Severs and Phyllis Bakka for their help in preparing and organizing the week of training.

Many of the 15 supervisors involved are veterans, who put their knowledge and experience to work leading workshops and training sessions. "We managed to run a very cost effective training by using 'in-house' DNR and MCC trainers for much of the subject matter," noted Mike Rice.

Some of the skills the supervisors learned were advanced chainsaw techniques, orienteering and use of a GPS, and how to teach the environmental education program Project Learning Tree (PLT). MCC crews will use these skills to complete tasks such as timber stand improvement and forest inventory and analysis this winter for the DNR. Every MCC crew also spends time

doing community service projects such as teaching PLT in local schools.

A natural highlight of the week was the appearance of the aurora borealis (northern lights). Around midnight on Tuesday, some staff left the classroom building after watching a movie to find the northern lights completely filling the sky. For an hour or so, they lay stretched out in the frigid air, watching the most supernatural of natural phenomena.

The Minnesota Conservation Corps is a DNR program that hires young adults ages 18-25 to accomplish needed conservation work throughout the state. Corpsmembers gain hands-on skills, knowledge of Minnesota's natural resources, and can earn an AmeriCorps education award upon completion of their term of service. Unfortunately, due to budget shortfalls, this excellent program is facing elimination from the DNR. To learn more about the program, and to find out how you can help, check out the website WWW.SaveMCC.com, or contact Nelly Nehring at (651) 296-2144, or by email at nelly.nehring@dnr.state.mn.us.



**Print Version of Newsletter  
May Be Discontinued**

**The print version of this newsletter has been funded through donations, the support of the Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership and the University of Minnesota Extension Service.**

**The print version of the newsletter will continue through June 2003. If funding is not available after that time, the newsletter will be available only on our website at <http://www.cnr.umn.edu/cfc/outreach/ftn/index.html>**

**To subscribe, visit the website at <http://lists.extension.umn.edu/mailman/listinfo/agrofor>. Fill out the section entitled *Subscribing to Agrofor* and submit your information. You will receive a notification of a successful subscription in your email shortly thereafter.**

## Event Calendar:



### **2003 Community Forest Workshop for Northeast Minnesota**

February 20, 2003, Cloquet Forestry Center, Cloquet, MN

This is the seventh annual Community Forest Workshop to be held in northeastern Minnesota featuring topics for community forest advocates. This workshop is for individuals who plan, plant and maintain community forests whether they are public employees or private citizens. Cost: \$30.00. For information or to register, call (218) 879-0850.

### **Fire Ecology**

March 5, 2003, Cloquet Forestry Center, Cloquet, MN.

This one-day workshop will cover several topics: (1) Fires and tree mortality; (2) Population and evolutionary responses to fire with emphasis on plants; (3) Six fire regimes, their geographical distribution in the Midwest, and relationship to climate and physiography; (4) Methods for calculating rotation periods from field data; (5) Landscape patterns caused by fire, including spatial patterns and maintenance of diversity; and (5) Fragmentation of the forest landscape and fire. For information, contact Louise Yount at [lyount@umn.edu](mailto:lyount@umn.edu) or (218) 879-0858. To register, contact Mary Ann Hellman at [mhellman@umn.edu](mailto:mhellman@umn.edu) or (612) 624-7222.

### **Woodland Management Workshop**

March 8, 2003, Becker, MN

Landowners are invited to attend an education workshop focusing on Woodland Management and how to make the most of your woodlot. The program will address many different topics for managing large and small woodlots and look closely at the forest management options that exist to landowners. Basic information on tree selection and planting; timber harvesting, marketing, and utilization; and timber stand improvement will be covered. Another topic to be covered will include a summary of the forest health problems that have affected Sherburne County's forests such as oak wilt and pine bark beetles and how to be proactive in preventing and/or restoring sites affected. An in-depth history of local land forms and natural variations of vegetation from past to present will also be covered. Other topics at the workshop will include identifying and controlling buckthorn and other exotic species, and how to manage woodlands for wildlife. A question and answer session is scheduled for the end of the workshop. Cost: \$8 per person. For

information, contact Karen Sherper-Rohs at (763) 241-2720 or (800) 433-5236. Space is limited.

### **Understanding Wood I, II, and III**

March 18–20, 2003

University of Minnesota Kaufer Lab, St. Paul, MN

For information, contact Jim Bowyer at (612) 624-4292 or [jbowyer@umn.edu](mailto:jbowyer@umn.edu); or visit [www.cnr.umn.edu/WPS/exten/](http://www.cnr.umn.edu/WPS/exten/).

### **Perspective on Forest Management Practices in the United States and Canada: A Regional Conference**

March 20, 2003, Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, St. Paul, MN

The Canadian Consulate General in Minneapolis, in partnership with the University of Minnesota, College of Natural Resources, will hold this one-day conference to address comparative Canadian/U.S. forest management practices. Sessions will focus on land and forest management tenure arrangements, forest policy, industry economics, environmental regulation, the role of government and the significance of the Canadian-U.S. softwood lumber trade issues within a forestry management context. For information, contact Mary Ann Hellman at (612) 624-7222 or [mhellman@umn.edu](mailto:mhellman@umn.edu).

### **Environmental Aspects of Forestry, Timber Harvest, and Wood Use**

March 21, 2003

University of Minnesota Kaufer Lab, St. Paul, MN

For information, contact Jim Bowyer at (612) 624-4292 or [jbowyer@umn.edu](mailto:jbowyer@umn.edu); or visit [www.cnr.umn.edu/WPS/exten/](http://www.cnr.umn.edu/WPS/exten/).

### **Forest Trail Design for Recreation and Aesthetics**

March 22, 2003, Morris, MN

Recreation is one of the most important values for many forest landowners. This course will discuss trail construction techniques, layout and maintenance. Special emphasis will be placed on problems that can occur with trails and how to avoid them. This is a Woodland Advisor elective session. For information, call Mike Demchik at (218) 894-5167 or [demch001@umn.edu](mailto:demch001@umn.edu) or Bob Stommes at (320) 634-5735 or [stomm001@umn.edu](mailto:stomm001@umn.edu).

### **Dealing with Weeds in Your Tree Plantings**

March 22, 2003, Morris, MN

The best time to think about weed control is before you plant your seedlings, but whether you are new to tree

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planting or have hundreds of acres, this class is for you. This class will cover the basics of vegetation control, why some weeds dominate and when and how to treat the weeds. Chemical and non-chemical methods will be discussed. For information, call Mike Demchik at (218) 894-5167 or demch001@umn.edu or Bob Stommes at (320) 634-5735 or stomm001@umn.edu.

### **Growing and Tending Your Forest**

April 5, 2003, New York Mills, Minnesota

Learn some of the tools that foresters use to keep forests healthy and productive. This class will discuss basic forest silviculture, "the art of producing and tending a forest," forest management systems and management options. For information, call Mike Demchik at (218) 894-5167 or demch001@umn.edu.

### **Birch Sap Is Arisin' - Let's Tap!**

May 5, 2003, Fergus Falls, MN

Birch trees bring a beauty to the northwoods that we all enjoy. But have you ever thought about harvesting birch sap? People in Russia, Japan, Korea and Finland have collected sap for many centuries and drink it as is or boiled down to a syrup. This spring join us for a hike in the northwoods to tap birch trees, collect and boil the sap, and enjoy the sweet results. Cost: \$35. To register,

contact North House Folk School at (888) 387-9762 or info@northhouse.org.

### **Forest Taxation Issues**

February 7, 2003, Best Western Midway Motor Lodge, Wausau, WI

February 21, 2003, Herreman's Supper Club, Sun Prairie, WI

March 7, 2003, Campus Area Holiday Inn, Eau Claire, WI

March 28, 2003, Country Inn & Suites, Hayward, WI

April 24, 2003, Holiday Inn, Tomah, WI

May 1, 2003, Belvedere Supper Club, Marshfield, WI

Although these meetings are scheduled in Wisconsin they will provide Minnesota landowners an opportunity to learn about Federal tax code.

A learning adventure for woodland owners and their advisors. These meetings will offer an informal gathering for exploring how the Internal Revenue Code applies to forest investments. The sessions and cover a variety of taxation topics of interest to forest landowners.

Sponsored by the Wisconsin Forest Productivity Council under a grant from the Wisconsin Forest Stewardship Committee. To register, call (715) 369-3475 or email wfpc@newnorth.net.

**For additional events please refer to the following websites:**

**University of Minnesota Extension Service:**  
[www.extension.umn.edu/programs/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/programs/)

**University of Minnesota Center for Continuing Education:** [www.cnr.umn.edu/CCE](http://www.cnr.umn.edu/CCE)

**Cloquet Forestry Center's Extension and Outreach:** [www.cnr.umn.edu/cfc/outreach/workshops.html](http://www.cnr.umn.edu/cfc/outreach/workshops.html)

***The Status of Timber Resources in the North Central United States***, published by the USDA Forest Service, North Central Research Station in St. Paul, MN, provides an excellent summary of forest conditions, growth, removals, consumption, and opportunities for the seven-state region including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Interesting and thought-provoking comparisons with other regions of the United States are also provided in the text and through the use of colorful graphics. The publication is available online at [www.ncrs.fs.fed.us](http://www.ncrs.fs.fed.us) or copies can be obtained from the Forest Products Laboratory (608) 231-9200.

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“Connecting Community Needs and University Resources”

