



Update for annual conference 2006

NOTE: This update was distributed at the Woodland Advisor annual conference at the Cloquet Forestry Center in February. It's included in this newsletter so that those of you unable to attend the conference could still receive the update.

New communication tools: Newsletter, listserv, and class calendar

You should all be receiving the new quarterly Woodland Advisor newsletter. Angie Gupta is the newsletter editor and would love to hear your ideas to make it better, including your own photos or stories for the next issue.

Angie has also created a new email listserv. The listserv is mainly for volunteer projects and other announcements. If you haven't received listserv announcements recently, make sure that Angie has your current email address and she'll add you to the list. No commitment required – you can stop receiving it anytime.

Finally, you're probably familiar by now with the new Woodland Advisor class calendar. This is the 11x17" color listing of upcoming classes. We'd love to have you share these with neighbors, local groups, or other interested folks. To get copies for distribution, contact Eli: 612-624-6948 or esagor@umn.edu.

Advanced class opportunities

Several Woodland Advisors have asked about opportunities to attend advanced classes. We've done two things in response, and would like to hear your impressions.

SFEC membership: As a Woodland Advisory, you're also a member of the Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative. SFEC offers top-notch classes for natural resource professionals. The group membership allows you to register at reduced rates.

Woodland Leadership Institute: In 2005, Mike worked with Wisconsin Extension colleagues to offer this excellent program to Minnesota Woodland Advisors. WLI is focused on leadership training for people who have already completed basic-level Woodland Advisor (or similar) trainings.

So far, participation in these advanced learning opportunities has been low. Are you interested in these advanced learning opportunities? If so, please tell us how we can make these opportunities work better for you.

Forestry Assistance Locator / WA directory

Several of you have told us that you'd like to see a Woodland Advisor directory. Privacy concerns and other factors have kept this from being developed so far.

Now, Extension is working with the DNR, MN Association of Consulting Foresters, and others to develop an online forestry assistance locator. The new website will allow woodland owners to click a map, select the services they need, and quickly see a list of professional foresters, Woodland Advisors, and other service providers in their area. Users can then select service providers to contact.

Woodland Advisors will be important contributors to the site. Many landowners will want to talk first to another landowner, not a professional. We'll ask you to provide your contact information **IF** you want to be listed on the site. The site is expected to go live late in 2006. For questions and ideas, contact Eli 612-624-6948 or esagor@umn.edu.

Wildlife module to hit the web

Jake Donnay is working to make a new series of short video clips available online. These will begin to roll out in April 2006. We're still going to teach the wildlife class face-to-face, but the online content will reach new audiences and also help class participants keep their knowledge current.

The videos will feature leaders of local conservation organizations, wildlife professionals, and others. Topics will include both timeless and current issues. For ideas or to help make this happen, contact Jake Donnay: donn0061@umn.edu or 612-624-1224.

Welcome Diomy Zamora

At some point this weekend, be sure to say hello to Diomy Zamora. Diomy is a Regional Extension Educator based in Brainerd. He joined Extension in November 2005. Diomy's expertise is in agroforestry, including renewable energy, hybrid poplar, and related topics. You'll hear more from Diomy soon, because he's planning some Woodland Advisor classes in the West-Central part of the state for this year 218-828-2332 or zamor015@umn.edu.

Help organize classes in your area!

We can always use local help to plan and deliver classes. If you're willing to help organize classes in your area, we'd love to hear from you. Contact any of us with your ideas.