



A newsletter that gets to
the bottom of things



Minnesota Department
of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry



December 2010
Special Edition

EDITOR'S NOTE

WELCOME! We designed this *Roots* “special edition” to kick off the Division of Forestry’s 100-year anniversary, which we will celebrate in 2011. If the adage, “a photo speaks a thousand words,” rings true, then this issue speaks volumes. The photos herein are a small sample of the thousands of photos that *didn’t* make it into the new book, *Connected to Our Roots: 100 Years of Growing Forests in Minnesota*. Director Dave Epperly writes about the challenges of the next 100 years, and Laura Duffey takes a retrospective peek at how this little newsletter has evolved to keep our forestry family connected.

Your regularly scheduled *Roots*, containing the usual articles on current issues, retirements, and “Forestry Folks,” will appear separately.

100 Years in Forestry: Celebrating the Past and Looking Forward

By Dave Epperly, Division Director

Today, many forestry offices feature portraits of founders such as Gifford Pinchot and John Muir gracing the walls. In 2011, the Division of Forestry will celebrate its 100-year anniversary — whose faces will appear one hundred years from now in 2111?

We build legacies when we address challenges, buck trends, and do things differently from what’s been done before. Legacy-builders focus on what’s truly important to our constituents, and earn their trust

and respect. Often, doing what’s right is not for the faint-hearted. Just as Pinchot faced logging and mining barons with the radical idea of managing forests for the future, today we’re facing a growing global market that demands the most we can get out of the forest resource — timber, recreation, property values, game, water quality, education, and even spiritual renewal.

Change isn’t new. However, the increasing rate of change

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we're seeing now is unprecedented in our lifetimes. Several factors today play into the increased rate of change: a budget crisis, a rise in retirements, climate change, movement of invasive species, and population increases.

Each one of us helps shape the direction and strategies of the future. We all come with different values, perspectives, and backgrounds. We consider all those values when working with partners and planning for the future.

We all need to be personally responsible for ensuring that our work stays relevant, both in reality and in perception. That means speaking in common language about the tangible values that trees, forests, and forest management give to citizens, such as: safety from wildfire, increased property and resale values, clean air and water, lower energy bills, jobs, better hunting and recreation, paper, and lumber. It's important to use words that people understand, and not vagaries or jargon such as "forest health," "forest products," "erosion control," "certification," or even "timber." Stakeholders need to hear tangibles. That's how we stay relevant.

We've learned that the best guidelines are discussed, not dictated, because partners are much



DAVE EPPERLY, DIVISION OF FORESTRY DIRECTOR

more likely to follow guidelines that they understand. We've learned when humility works (working with landowners), and where authority is needed (protecting citizens from wildfire).

Each one of us is a leader in forestry. As leaders, we have a lot on our plates. However, rejoice in the wonderful successes you have created, such as ensuring

state-owned forests are certified, protecting homes and businesses from wildfires, working with other divisions to manage forests for multiple purposes, sharing our expertise to get the most benefit from the resources entrusted to us, and positive relationships with private landowners and other division staff. After all, we manage the forests now and for the future.

The Division of Forestry (which grew from the Minnesota Forest Service, established in 1911) has accomplished a lot in the last century. Be proud of the work you've done! Respect the work and legacies of our predecessors. Celebrate this centennial with joy—we've come a long way from the days of slash and burn. We can be proud of our heritage and our passion to manage healthy forests. Our future is the next 100 years.

DIVISION OF FORESTRY VISION: WE PROTECT AND MANAGE THE TREES, WOODLANDS, AND FORESTS ENTRUSTED TO US FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA.



Editors' Note

Send comments, questions,
or criticisms to:

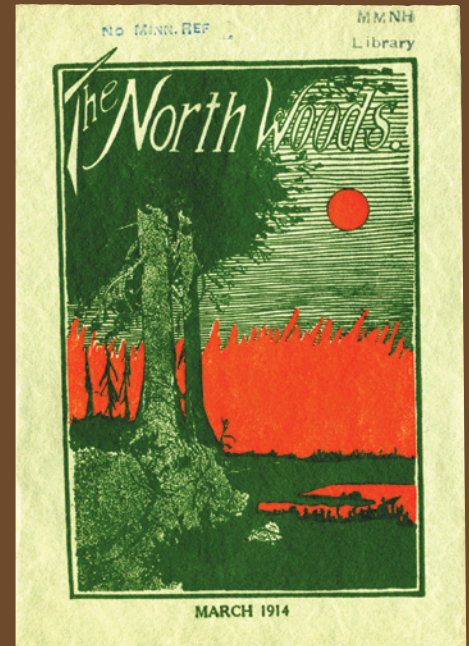
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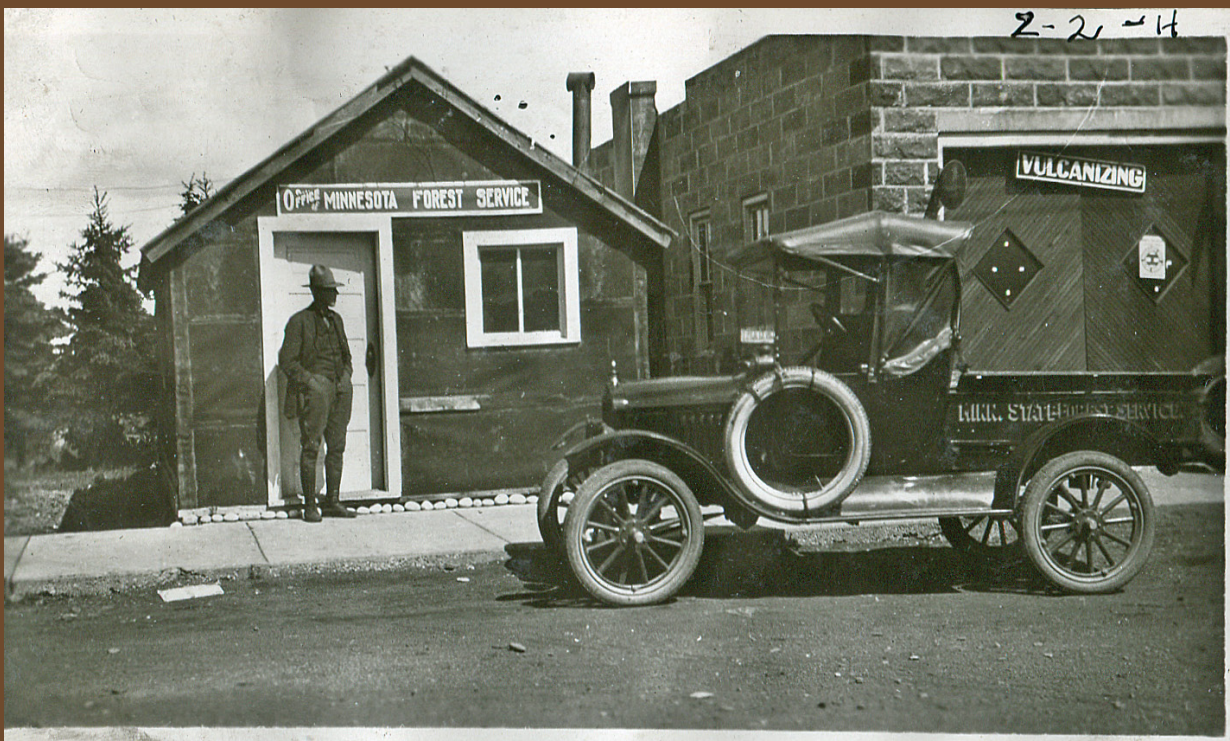
100 Years of... Protecting Managing Educating



THE AFTERMATH OF A WILDFIRE RAVAGES THE LANDSCAPE AROUND THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY. PREVENTING WILDFIRES WAS THE IMPETUS BEHIND CREATING THE MINNESOTA FOREST SERVICE.



THE MARCH 1914 COVER OF "THE NORTHWOODS" MAGAZINE, GENERATED BY THE MINNESOTA FOREST SERVICE. THE DIVISION OF FORESTRY'S 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE HAS ARCHIVED 46 ISSUES OF THIS EARLY MAGAZINE.



AN EARLY MINNESOTA STATE FOREST OFFICE AND VEHICLE.



THREE FORESTERS POSE
NEAR THEIR VEHICLE IN
THE 1930s

"WE'RE TOO YOUNG TO SMOKE":
GUARDS A PLANTED STAND OF
RED PINE (1970s).



BEFORE GIS, GPS, AND OTHER MODERN TECHNOLOGY,
LAND OWNERSHIP WAS HAND-DRAWN WITH COLORED
PENCILS IN LOG BOOKS.

UNORGANIZED TWP.		
TWP. 62	ROE. 26	
Name	Lives	Tel.
Sam Macafee	NW1W-1	No
Joe Peloquin	SW1W-1	
Joe Hammel	NE1W-1	
Dick McGraw	NW1W-8	
Bruce Gordon	NW1W-17	
Bruce Gordon	SE1E-20	
C. Coolen	SW1W-21	
P. Wray	SW1E-23	
Mrs. J. Rahier	SE1E-23	
Stanley Matthews	23	
Dr. Smith	NE1E-22	
Hels Phillips	SW1W-24	
Mike Rahier	SW1W-24	
Bill Webster	NW1W-25	
Cecil Hill	SW1E-25	
Frank DeShaw	NW1E-26	Yes
John Dahlberg	SW1W-27	No
Len Rahier	NW1E-27	
Earle Poole	SW1E-27	
Len. Knotts	SW1E-27	
W. Johnson	NE1E-28	
John Moore	NW1W-30	
Joe Palmer	SW1W-30	
Amos Johnson	NE1E-31	
Ed. Opal	NE1E-33	Yes
Ole Morris	NE1E-33	No
John Lestrom	NW1W-34	
Mike Bras	NW1E-34	
Carl Dahlberg	SE1E-34	
Harry Bunker	NE1E-34	
Fred Clark	NW1E-34	
Hels Olson	SW1E-34	
Aton Hill	SW1E-35	

They Fight Fire With Fire



PICTURED, front row, Mike Eilers, Backus; Jeff King, Pine River, and Dave Keep, Backus. Back Row, Ron Hamilton, Backus; Dean Horbach, Outing, and Lloyd Fredrickson of

Nimrod, members of a Hot Shot Fire Crew who spent 21 days out west fighting the brush and forest fires this month.

Mike Eilers, Jeff King, Dave Keep, Lloyd Fredrickson, and Dean Horbach from the Backus area forestry office returned August 21 from Nevada where they had been part of a Hot Shot crew fighting Western fires. The crew had been members of several from Michigan and Wisconsin who left the Duluth Airport August 7 for Reno, Nevada.

This year was one of the worst years for fires in the west due to the extreme dryness since 1934, it was reported. The fires were earlier than usual and most of them caused by what is known as "dry lightning." The first fire was 50 miles north of Stead, Nevada, and the men were working at elevations of 5000 to 7000 feet. The areas covered involved about 13,000 acres at Long Valley. The Red Rock Road fire which was considered to be caused by Arson involved about 2000 acres and a fire at Bedill Flats consumed about 7000 acres. Two weeks of fire fighting was spent in the attempt to quell that fire.

The fighting techniques involved building hand constructed fire lines, "fighting fire with fire." Crews of 20 men and women worked on the steep terrain and in the heavy vegetation. They used axes, chainsaws, grub hoes, rakes and shovels and other hand tools. Air Tankers

supported the hand line crews by dropping chemical retardants upon the fire. This slowed down the advance and intensity of the fire so the crews could get close enough to build the fire line.

"One of the most common equipment problems," said Greg Kvale, Backus Forestry Supervisor, "were boots. Due to the steep terrain, the boots would 'blow out' where the uppers join the soles, due to the constant pressure of the foot." Brand new boots could be completely useless in two or three weeks time. This was discovered soon, and one Army Surplus store was alerted and on call almost 24 hours a day getting boots flown in to the men. New crews arriving on the scene were instructed to get their extra boot supply before they fought the fires!

"We averaged 14 hours a day," said Mike Eilers, "and spent about 300 hours in that 21 days out west." Eilers had also been a member of a Hot Shot crew that went to Ashland, North Carolina for a three-day stint at fighting fire in that area. That event was somewhat different as the terrain was different and they were dealing with hardwood. (Story and pictures continued on page 7.)

August 29, 1985

THIS 1985 ARTICLE PRAISES SIX DNR FORESTERS (MIKE ELLERS, JEFF KING, DAVE KEEP, RON HAMILTON, DEAN HORBACH, AND LLOYD FREDERICKSON) WHO FOUGHT FIRES IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES.



MINNESOTA CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT FORESTRY HEADQUARTERS IN BEMIDJI.



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS PLANT TREES IN THE FIVE HAWKS SCHOOL FOREST IN PRIOR LAKE (2006). MINNESOTA NOW HAS MORE THAN 100 SCHOOL FORESTS.



RETIRED FORESTERS RICHARD KNOX AND SID ROMMEL POSE FOR THE CAMERAS AT THE DIVISION'S 75-YEAR ANNIVERSARY IN GRAND RAPIDS IN 1986.

Celebrating Our *Roots*

By *Laura Duffey, Roots co-editor*

One of the nicer side effects of celebrating a 100-year anniversary is a dedicated effort to locate and archive important documents of the past, including old folders of *Roots*. While *Roots* doesn't go back 100 years, it appears that in August 1969 Dorothy Ewert typed and mimeographed the "Vol. X, No. 8" issue (the oldest issue we have in custody), one month after astronaut Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.

This early issue, ingloriously named the "Minnesota Conservation Department, Division of Lands and Forestry NEWS LETTER" listed staff appointments, transfers, promotions, resignations, deaths, births, thank you's, meeting minutes, whose kids won ribbons at the State Fair, and other day-to-day musings. Pre-dating e-mail and intranet, the "News Letter" was the only way to communicate across the state. Consequently, it read a bit more like one of those small-town newspapers that reported whose grandkids came to visit. Written before the culture of privacy or political-correctness, the newsletter reported staff injuries in compelling detail, such as staff who suffered from poison ivy rashes on certain body parts, or injuries

incurred when hammers and cement contacted abruptly with someone's hand. Also reflecting the pre-ERA culture, notices appeared such as "Mrs. Dean Parmeter passed away," never indicating that Mrs. Parmeter ever had a first name.

Of course, "serious" stories were also mixed in, such as Messages From the Director, reports on harvesting, changes in wildlife populations, and essays on trees as a "renewable resource." Apparently, the newsletter editor wrote everything, because there were no bylines in these early years.

Safety equipment and standards, or at least the enforcement of standards, have seemed to change. Forestry has always contained its fair share of strenuous work. However, without hard hats, steel-toed boots, work gloves, seat belts, safety goggles, or proper lifting techniques, injuries racked up. Even though nearly every issue contained some statement of existing safety rules, the lists of monthly field injuries sometimes took up an entire page. Today, most injuries (sticks poking eyes, head bumps, vehicle injuries, and crunched toes) are rare.

Over the years, one thing stays the same: our sense of humor. Given our overwhelming workloads and the passion we have always nurtured for

forestry, humor provides the release valve. The editors liberally sprinkled in limericks, news from recent poker parties, poetry, quips, embarrassing field stories, and jokes. An example from 1969:

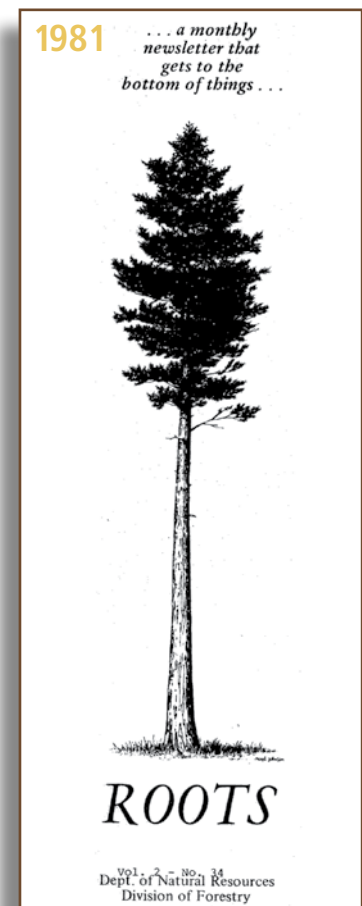
Special radio code to be used on forestry lookout tower at Minnesota State Fair:

- 10-1 On duty but not really awake
- 10-2 Look out below—kid sliding down banister
- 10-4 Don't quite understand, but too tired to care
- 10-7 Will be slight delay while throwing wise kid out the window
- 10-8 Look out below (To be used in addition to 10-7)
- 10-25 Permission to leave tower—wise kid is back again

MINNESOTA CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF LANDS AND FORESTRY

N E W S L E T T E R

1969

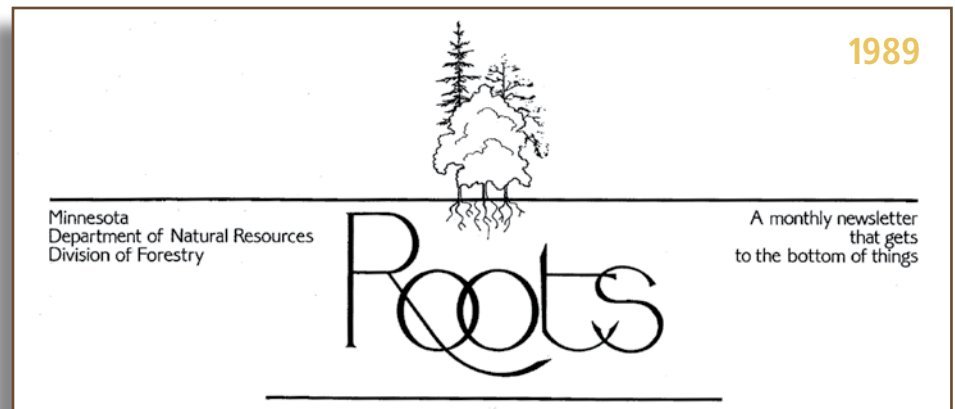


Changes in Appearance and Format

Before 1981, all text appeared in the typewriter's standby font, Courier. A more refined Courier font (no doubt generated from an IBM Selectric typewriter) appeared in the early '80s. Graphics first appeared in 1970. A tribute to safety, one of the first graphics appears to be a pencil-drawn cartoon of what happens when a forester doesn't wear a helmet. Photographs began



appearing in 1984. In 1987, a new masthead appeared, along with the feature “Stems and Seeds,” designed to highlight a hot topic or technical information. In 1989, the masthead changed again, and a table of contents appeared. In the '80s, the title, *Roots*, first appeared, along with the subtitle, “...a monthly newsletter that gets to the bottom of things...” Each issue began with an editorial from either the director, the commissioner, or someone else willing to stick out their neck. Personal news still peppered the pages, but moved slowly toward the



back of the issue. In the '90s, *Roots* articles took on a more professional layout, an indication of advancing computer technology.

It's a Little Known Fact That...

While the recently released book, *Connected to Our Roots: 100 Years of Forestry* captures many of the major events over time, paging through old copies of *Roots*, I found a few interesting historic discoveries that didn't quite make it to the book:

- Emil Kukachka planted the 5 millionth red (Norway) pine on October 21, 1969, in White Bear Lake. (Lt. Governor Joanell Drystad planted the 8 millionth tree seeding in May 1991 in Nevis.)
- In 1967, Chris Larson found a blown-down bur oak in the Chippewa National Forest that he estimated to be 580 years old.
- In 1971, Howard Wagoner, District Forester at Tower, successfully delivered a fawn from a vehicle-killed doe via Caesarean.
- In 1972, there were 51 School Forests. (Today there are more than 100, and counting.)

- In 1972, part of a forgettable movie, *It Ain't Easy*, was filmed in Beltrami Island State Forest. The tagline: He Came Home to Minnesota Looking for Peace... And Found Something Else.
- Governor Rudy Perpich signs the proclamation designating June 22, 1986, as the division's Diamond Anniversary (75 years).
- Gypsy moths first reared their fuzzy heads in Minnesota in 1983.
- The first cases of Lyme disease were found in Minnesota in 1981.
- In 1981, Tom Kroll wrote an article about using hand-held calculators in the field. He mentioned that you could now find them for under \$40.

Roots still remains the tie that binds the family and passions of foresters together. A long list of editors helped compile our history, and will continue to do so.

Alas, issues of *Roots* newsletters between 1971 and 1981 seem to be missing. Perhaps they are languishing in a dark corner in someone's office. If you find them, please alert either Mimi Barzen or Laura Duffey, *Roots'* current editors and caretakers.



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If you like old photos and historic documents, be sure to check out the Division's latest book, *Connected to Our Roots: 100 Years of Growing Forests in Minnesota*. Available through Minnesota's Bookstore for \$10.95. Call 651-297-3000 or 800-657-3757.



The book is mostly pictorial, containing nearly 200 photos (predominantly black and white) that are enhanced with descriptive captions. Narratives, maps, quotes, documents, and firsthand accounts from early foresters describe four eras of forestry: Pre 1911, 1911-1930, 1931-1970, and 1971-present. The book also includes a timeline depicting events that molded forestry and how the original Minnesota Forest Service evolved into the current Division of Forestry.



The Division is also releasing a 2011 commemorative forestry calendar. Copies will be shipped to Areas.