

Sustainable Forests
Education Cooperative
Member Organizations:

Association of County Land
Commissioners

Blandin Foundation

Boise Cascade

County Land Departments

Aitkin
Beltrami
Carlton
Cass
Clearwater
Crow Wing
Hubbard
Koochiching
Lake
St. Louis

Hedstrom Lumber Company

MN Center for
Environmental Advocacy

MN DNR Division of
Forestry

MN DNR Section of
Wildlife

MN Chippewa Tribes

Fond du Lac
Grand Portage
Leech Lake
White Earth

MN Forest Resources
Council

MN Forest Stewardship
Program

The Nature Conservancy,
Minnesota Chapter

Potlatch

Red Lake Tribal DNR

Sappi Fine Paper

Soil and Water Conservation
Districts

Aitkin County
Carlton County
Crow Wing County
Itasca County

St. John's University
Arboretum

University of Minnesota
College of Natural
Resources
Natural Resources
Research Institute
Minnesota Extension
Service

UPM Kymmene Blandin

USFS National Forests
Superior
Chippewa

Woodland Advisor Program

September 15, 2005

Dear SFEC members,

This initiates the first monthly newsletter for the Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative. At a time of significant changes for the cooperative, and increasing responsibilities for all of us, I feel a need to be in closer and more regular contact with you all.

Enclosed you will find your invoice for fiscal year 2006 membership dues (1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006). Please review your invoice, and submit for payment, or contact me if you have questions, or anticipate not being able to submit the invoice for payment until a later date, such as being on a different fiscal year than the University.

① This summer has brought a big change for the cooperative and its management. Barbara Coffin has physically moved on to the Bell Museum, and as of July 1 is now fully devoted to projects related to the film "Minnesota: A History of the Land" for which she is the executive producer. This marks the start of the second year in a two-year transition for us as Barbara ceases involvement with the Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative. Barbara's vision for and commitment to creating a financially healthy and dynamically responsive continuing education program for natural resource managers in Minnesota has born much fruit since 1997. She will be missed!

Bob Stine, Cloquet Forestry Center coordinator and associate dean, is now my immediate supervisor. The Center for Continuing Education, the "mother company" of the education cooperative, no longer exists.

① By now the merger of the College of Natural Resources into the College of Agriculture and Food Science should be old news for all of you. I am unsure at this point what this means for the education cooperative. The Cloquet Forestry Center will remain the University's research forest, so I will have an office. But there doesn't seem to be a corollary program anywhere in COAFES, and we are currently part of the Dean's office, not a department, so I don't know where we'll end up next July 1st.

① In June we welcomed Stephanie Oberg to the Cloquet Forestry Center to fill a gap left by Phyllis Bakka's December 2004 retirement, and the desire to have SFECs support staff in the same place as its coordinator. Stephanie jumped right into things, helping me summarize FY 05 workshop attendance, and preparing for the first training group of the Certificate Course in Ecosystem Silviculture. Please welcome Stephanie the next time you're in Cloquet!

- ① The Certificate Course in Ecosystem Silviculture, a collaborative effort funded by the Blandin Foundation's Vital Forests Vital Communities program, is up and running. This has been a huge effort of SFEC over the past year, and has its roots in conversations and planning between Barbara Coffin, John Almendinger, and others as long ago as three or more years. The development team consists of me; Beth Jacquain – assistant land commissioner Aitkin Co Land Department; Cheryl Adams – forest ecologist UPM Kymmene; John Almendinger, Dan Hanson, and Alaina Berger, MN DNR Forestry Resource Assessment; and Julie Ernst, UMD. Beth has been the lead curriculum and evaluation developer and done a fantastic job.

In the first group there are 19 trainees from the following agencies:

- St Louis Co Land Department– 8
- Aitkin Co Land Department – 2
- Aitkin Co SWCD – 1
- Superior National Forest – 1
- The Nature Conservancy – 1
- Potlatch – 1
- Fond du Lac Tribal Forestry – 2
- Leech Lake Tribal Forestry – 1
- MN DNR Office of Mgmt and Budget – 1
- Private consulting forester – 1

We plan to start the second and third groups (each with up to 20 trainees) in July 2006. Space in these groups can be reserved now by submitting a registration form and payment. You can see the detailed agendas for the modules, and some of the course material, at the SFEC website:

www.cnr.umn.edu/CCE/featured.html

- ① The Winter Spring 2006 Calendar of Events is coming together, with some interesting programs on the schedule. Terry Weber, executive director for the Forest Resources Partnership, approached the cooperative in the spring to collaborate on a day-long workshop focused on the latest technology in field data collection and measurement tools. The North Central Landscape coordination group expects to hold a workshop in early spring 2006 to highlight their landscape planning work. The 5th Annual Forest and Wildlife Research Review will take place January 2006 with the proposed theme of Northern Hardwoods. Plans are in the works for training on the revised Forest Management Guidelines, possibly for spring 2006. As always, input from you is critical to the continued quality programming of the education cooperative. If you have ideas about any of these workshops, or another topic, please call me.
- ① We have several new members already for fiscal year 2006: Aitkin County Land Department and Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District. We've lost a few members over the past couple of years, as well, but overall support remains strong.

Thanks again for your support, and for another productive year!

Sincerely,

Louise Levy
Coordinator