

Senators Skoe, Dibble, Pappas, Vickerman and Dille introduced--

S.F. No. 1951: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

1 A bill for an act

2 relating to agriculture; appropriating money for a
3 grant to the Agriculture Utilization Research
4 Institute at Crookston for vineyard production
5 research.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

7 Section 1. [APPROPRIATION; GRANT FOR VINEYARD PRODUCTION
8 RESEARCH.]

9 \$125,000 in fiscal year 2006 is appropriated from the
10 Minnesota investment revolving loan account, Minnesota Statutes,
11 section 116J.8731, subdivision 5, for a grant to the Agriculture
12 Utilization Research Institute at Crookston to do field research
13 on the planting and production of cold-hardy grape cultivars.
14 For the purposes of this appropriation, the requirements in
15 Minnesota Statutes, sections 116J.8731, subdivisions 3, 4, 5,
16 and 7; 116J.993; 116J.994; and 116J.995, are waived. This is a
17 onetime appropriation and is available until expended.

18 This vineyard production research project is to select
19 cold-hardy cultivars and cultural practices that can diversify
20 the agricultural landscape of Minnesota and stimulate economic
21 development with subsequent expansion into value-added
22 businesses and the winery industry. Treatments used in this
23 research project must focus on development of cultural and
24 management practices that include trials on planting depths,
25 vine root care, cultivation techniques, mulching, and other

1 methods that will enhance productivity and winter survival in
2 subzero temperatures.

3 An annual report is required, including an economic
4 assessment that compares the input requirements and feasibility
5 of each overwintering technique and its contribution to the
6 success of the vines. The research institute is encouraged to
7 work with the University of Minnesota and the North Dakota State
8 University experiment stations and on-farm sites to evaluate the
9 suitability of regionally developed grape cultivars in areas of
10 harsh winters and short growing seasons.

1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 1951 as follows:

2 Page 1, line 11, delete "Agriculture"

3 Page 1, line 12, delete "Utilization Research Institute at
4 Crookston" and insert "Northwest Regional Development Commission
5 at Warren"

6 Amend the title as follows:

7 Page 1, line 2, after "agriculture" insert "and economic
8 development"

9 Page 1, lines 3 and 4, delete "Agriculture Utilization
10 Research Institute at Crookston" and insert "Northwest Regional
11 Development Commission at Warren"

1 A bill for an act

2 relating to agriculture; directing commissioner of
3 agriculture to conduct a study regarding a rail
4 container load-out facility in or near Willmar.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

6 Section 1. [RAIL CONTAINER LOAD-OUT FACILITY STUDY.]

7 The commissioner of agriculture, in close consultation with
8 the commissioner of transportation, shall conduct a study of the
9 feasibility and desirability of constructing a rail container
10 load-out facility in or near the city of Willmar. The study
11 must include an estimate of the costs and benefits of a facility
12 to the city and region and to the state transportation system.
13 The commissioner shall report to the governor and legislature on
14 the results of the study by January 15, 2006.

SF 787 Johnson, D.E.

Fiscal Note – 2005-06 Session

Bill #: H0540-1E **Complete Date:** 02/24/05

Chief Author: JUHNKE, AL

Title: WILLMAR RAIL CONTAINER LOAD-OUT FAC

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State	X	
Local		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

Agency Name: Agriculture Dept

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Expenditures					
General Fund		55			
Less Agency Can Absorb					
-- No Impact --					
Net Expenditures					
General Fund		55			
Revenues					
-- No Impact --					
Net Cost <Savings>					
General Fund		55			
Total Cost <Savings> to the State		55			

	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Full Time Equivalent					
General Fund		0.10			
Total FTE		0.10			

Bill Description

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, will conduct a study to determine the costs and benefits of building a rail container load out facility in or near the city of Willmar.

Assumptions

This study will need to consider costs to build, maintain and support the facility and benefits to commercial activities and the local economy. It will need to determine whether or not there are enough potential users of the facility to make it self-supporting. Similar studies in recent years have cost \$30,000 to \$60,000.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Expenditure budget is estimated at \$50,000 for contractual services and \$5,000 for internal work/administrative costs.

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

There may be long-term costs if the study shows sufficient net benefit to the region.

Local Government Costs

Potential local costs for support of the facility would have to be determined.

References/Sources

Agency Contact Name: Craig Damstrom 320-762-4903
FN Coord Signature: STEVE ERNEST
Date: 02/23/05 Phone: 215-5770

EBO Comments

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: LEONIE HUANG
Date: 02/24/05 Phone: 296-5779

WILLMAR CONTAINER LOAD-OUT STUDY

Craig Damstrom
MDA Trade Consultant

Background

A Minnesota Port Access Study was done by Global Resource Associates in 2000 in response to a Minnesota statute directing a study of the need for a commercial shipping port where agricultural cooperatives or individual farmers would have access to port facilities and to the Minnesota Department (MDA) of agriculture's growing interest in developing a comprehensive infrastructure for marketing, handling, shipping and certification of Identity preserved (IP) crops

Strategic Direction

Recommendation from the study was that MDA should consider the development of a comprehensive IP crop system that creates significant synergies among the marketing, handling, shipping and customer-focused certification programs support by the Department

Program Strategies

Following implementation program strategies were developed by MDA as a part of a highly synergistic IP crop system for the state:

Shippers Association. Support the creation of a formal shippers' association, consistent with Federal law that serves as an aggressive advocate for individual farmers and small local firms shipping IP crops and other related products.

Handling Facilities. Support the development of IP crop handling facilities at country elevators, other local facilities, and river and lake port facilities that serve individual farmers and small local firms

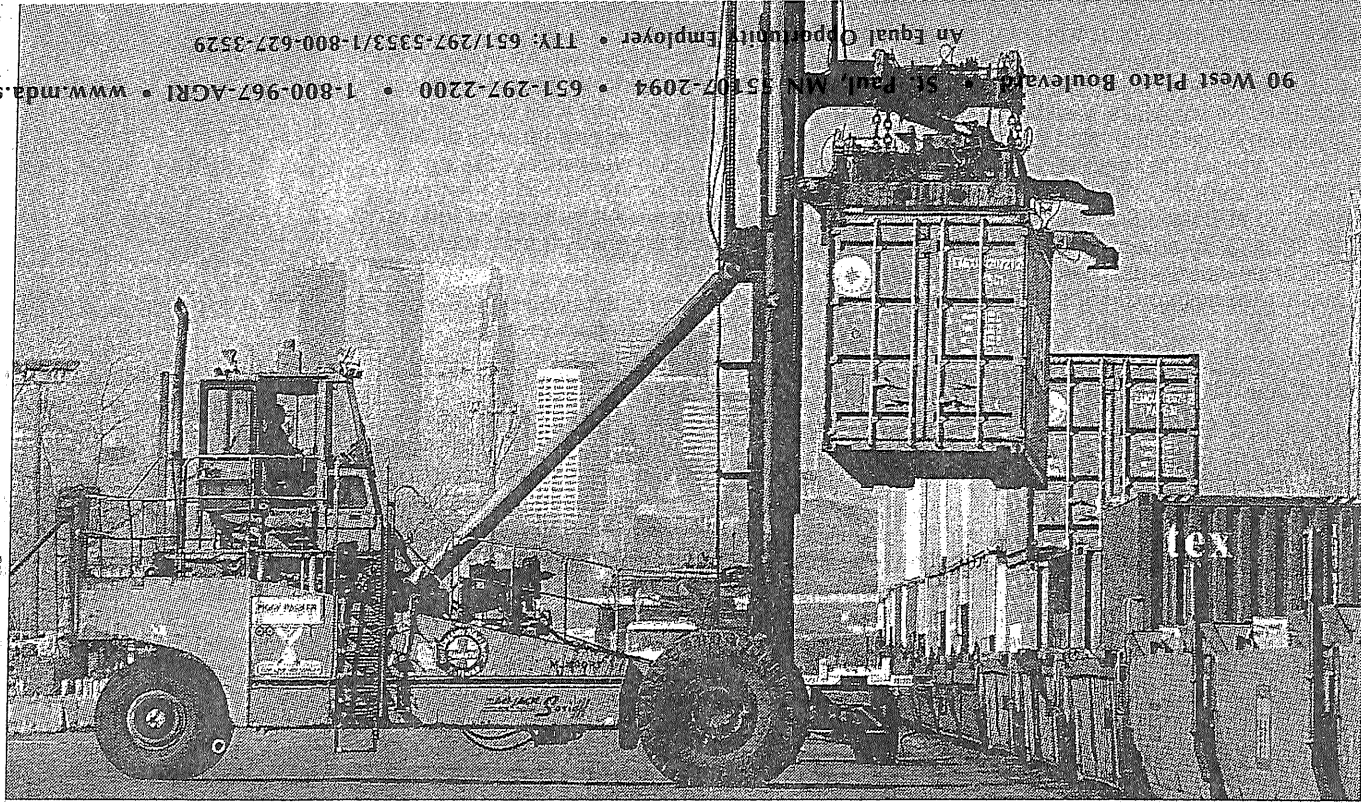
Inter-Departmental/Agency Cooperation. Support and work jointly with MDOT, MTO and river and lake port authorities to stimulate the development of IP crop handling and shipping facilities and services as well as education services for small IP crop shippers.

Legislation. Seek legislative authority to support a shippers' association; a shippers' association guarantee fund for backing the volume contracts entered into by the association on behalf of small agricultural shippers; a grant and loan program for handling shipping facilities and services that serve the needs of individual farmers and small local firms.

Results accomplished to date. Formation of the Midwest Shippers Association (MSA) and lower container rates for members, Midwest Specialty Grain yearly Conference to promote IP crops to world markets, Educational seminars for individual farmers and processors on IP production, sales and marketing assistance to buyers working out transportation issues, Cooperation with the Lake Port Authorities and MDOT on Container transportation logistics.

Results not accomplished to date. Fund volume contracts for container shipments for small agricultural shippers. Grant and loan program for handling shipping facilities and services that serve the needs of small agricultural shippers.

Willmar Rail Container Load-Out Facility- Further study is required to determine if the proposed Willmar Rail Container Load-Out Facility will significantly lower the cost of exporting IP products and add value to this area. Key components that need to be addressed in the study is to update the 2000 Port Access study and then determine costs and benefits for three projected 10 year scenarios for Willmar: 1. Fully dedicated intermodal system, 2. Railrunner system, 3. Present system optimizing back hauls to the present intermodal hubs in Minnesota. The estimated cost for this study by an independent consultant is \$55,000 and similar studies in recent years have cost 30-60 thousand dollars.



CRAIG BORCK

Workers at Burlington Northern Santa Fe's congested rail yard in St. Paul's Midway neighborhood unload shipping containers.

FREIGHT FRACAS

St. Paul rail yard tightens storage rules to move goods faster and ease congestion, drawing objections from cargo shippers and truckers.

BY JENNIFER BJORHUS
Pioneer Press

America's burgeoning imports are literally piling up in a St. Paul rail yard, and attempts by the yard's owner to relieve the congestion are getting freight customers hot under the collar.

The quickening pace of imports is a main driver of the ever-widening U.S. current account deficit — the broadest measure of trade between our country and the rest of the world. That deficit hit a historic high of \$666 billion for all of 2004.

In St. Paul's Midway neighborhood, the screech and boom of rail cars in Burlington Northern Santa Fe's rail yard punctuates the arrival of goods from the Pacific Northwest, many of which originate in China. And all those imports have Fort Worth, Texas-based BNSF increasing shipping rates and working overtime to smooth out the record traffic on its network of rails crisscrossing the United States.

more per container or trailer to transport goods going from the Pacific Northwest to various BNSF destinations, including St. Paul.

Burlington Northern also is trying to relieve congestion at its St. Paul hub. Workers loaded and unloaded containers 210,800 times at the St. Paul hub last year. That's 14 percent more lifts, as they're called, than the year before, according to BNSF. That's at least triple the annual increases of recent years and mirrors BNSF's double-digit sales increase last year to nearly \$11 billion. The Texas rail giant is forecasting another double-digit sales increase this year.

On April 1 and May 2 it plans to implement two controversial new rules aimed at keeping freight moving by forcing users to pick up their big metal containers faster.

BNSF executives say it's all necessary to keep freight moving and increase capacity.

But the changes aren't sitting well with some local freight forwarders, cargo owners and truckers.

"It's so incredibly frustrating," said broker Susie Sullivan, who works in import freight services at Norman G. Jensen Inc. in Minneapolis. "You do not have the choice to choose another rail if you don't like the way they operate," she said. Utilities such as Xcel and

BUSY TIMES AT HUB

210,800

The number of times workers loaded and unloaded containers at Burlington Northern Santa Fe's rail yard in St. Paul last year, a 14 percent increase from the previous year.

\$150

The daily storage charge as of April 1, which is the second hike since last September.

the pipeline for Asian imports entering through Pacific Northwest ports, and the larger of only two intermodal rail yards in the Twin Cities. (Intermodal means containers that move from ship to rail car to truck.)

While soybeans and other grains being exported to Asia make up some of the clank and grind at the St. Paul hub, most of the clatter comes from consumer goods arriving from China and elsewhere in Asia via Seattle, and headed to

OF THE FUTURE

Railroad bottleneck

(continued)

store shelves near you, Burlington Northern says. Target, Wal-Mart, Electrolux, Andersen Windows and roofing material company GAF Materials are top users of the rail yard.

The other main intermodal yard, Canadian Pacific Railway's hub in Northeast Minneapolis, handles containers coming in through the Port of Vancouver. It, too, saw double-digit increases last year. But that yard is less than half the size of BNSF's and hasn't experienced the same kind of congestion, a spokeswoman said.

The brouhaha all started last September when BNSF shortened the time it will store the big metal containers for free from 72 hours to 48 hours, and started including weekends in the 48-hour count. It also raised the daily storage charge from \$85 to \$100. Similar changes took place in California at Stockton, San Bernardino and Los Angeles.

Effective April 1, it's upping the daily storage charge from \$100 to \$150. And starting May 2, it's shortening free storage

again from two days to just one.

Rattled customers say they feel nickel-and-dimed.

"The railroad is getting rich on a lot of little players that don't have a big voice," said David Lehman, whose \$10 million firm, Primary Products Co. in White Bear Lake, imports disposable gloves and apparel from Asia and supplies health care organizations.

Lehman accuses BNSF of tightening container storage policies but not doing enough to get containers unloaded and to a place in the yard where truckers can drive in, pick them up and haul them to warehouses before charges kick in. That's causing costly delays, he and others say. Finding truckers for weekend trips during the peak shipping season can be difficult, making it nearly impossible to avoid getting holding fees tacked onto containers arriving Friday.

"It backs product up through the whole system for me," Lehman said.

Paul Gerou, general manager of Barole Trucking Inc. in Centerville, said traffic at the yard has been lighter recently because of the Chinese New Year and so there have been fewer problems. But congestion during peak season before the holidays was a nightmare, he said.

"I had a couple of guys spend

five hours there trying to get a container dug out of a pile," Gerou said.

BNSF spokeswoman Suanr Lundsberg denies that companies are tangling with stuck containers and unnecessary fees. Companies are not notified for pickup until after a container has been unloaded, she said, and the clock doesn't start ticking on storage until the company is notified. Picking up containers in a timely fashion is an issue between the ocean carrier and the retailer, Lundsberg said.

By changing the rules, BNSF has already substantially boosted the number of lifts, she added.

Other BNSF intermodal customers also say they're irked, but say they have no choice. The Canadian Pacific's yard in Northeast Minneapolis is not an option.

"What's your choice to Seattle? There isn't, you have one road," said Chip Smith, chief executive for Twin Modal Inc. a large national transportation broker in Roseville. Smith chalks up BNSF's crackdown as a symptom of a stressed-out U.S. rail system.

"We can't add trucks fast enough. We can't add rail fast enough."

Jennifer Bjorhus can be reached at bjorhus@pioneerpress.com or 651-228-2146.

Energy sale

(continued)

beneficial to our shareholders and customers," Sandok said.

CenterPoint said it's currently focused on reducing debt and, later, concentrating on improving the performance of its core utility business.

"We have said and do say that we will look for opportunities to accelerate our growth," CenterPoint spokeswoman Leticia Lowe said.

Securities analyst Jake Mercer considers both Xcel and CenterPoint likely bidders for Minnesota Gas, which represents a highly attractive acquisition target for a number of potential buyers because of its size and geography.

"That gives you economies of scale," he said.

Xcel also might bid for Col-

orado Electric because it, too, would add a large number of customers right next to its existing operations.

Economies of scale and geography are critical factors in a renewed wave of utility consolidation that began last year, when merger and acquisition activity in the North American power industry tripled to \$57.9 billion, according to a recent study by the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Minnesota Gas' service territory abuts much of the area served by both Xcel and CenterPoint, while its size would enable either one to buy larger volumes of natural gas without adding much overhead such as dealing with state regulators, thus cutting costs.

"You essentially have a large footprint of Minnesota," Mercer said. Utilities such as Xcel and CenterPoint, which just a few years ago were trying to expand beyond the regulated utility

business, have scaled back to running plain-vanilla gas and electric companies. That business, however, grows slowly and so utility companies are trying to get bigger, while keeping costs low.

"Xcel makes a ton of sense," Mercer said. "Would it make sense for (CenterPoint) to acquire that asset? I think it would."

Other bidders also are likely. PricewaterhouseCoopers has noted that buyout firms also have been dabbling in the utility business, and Mercer said it is likely some will take a look at Minnesota Gas as well. Any buyer would have to pony up a fair bit of cash. Mercer said that at current prices, Minnesota Gas likely would attract a price ranging from \$158 million to \$228 million.

Tim Huber can be reached at thuber@pioneerpress.com or 651-998-5500.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FROM THE FARM TO YOUR FAMILY

Canadian Train Lines Target Chinese Goods

Railways Offer Alternative For U.S.-Destined Exports Amid Glut in Cargo Traffic

By VIVIAN TSE
Dow Jones Newswires

BEIJING—North America's West Coast ports and railways are choked by the exponential growth in China imports, but Canadian railways want to move more of these arrivals to the U.S. Midwest and East Coast.

West Coast ports are struggling to deliver a deluge of goods during what is usually the low season, with cargo from Asia expected to double by 2020. China accounted for 37% of U.S. imports by weight in 2004, up from only 5% in 1989, with shipments for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. accounting for 10% of the U.S. trade deficit with China, a report by Swiss investment bank UBS AG found.

The growing trade has prompted Canadian National Railway Co. and Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. to open offices in China to market their alternative routes to shippers.

"Exports going to the U.S. have another option that is shorter and cheaper," said Willy Wang, Canadian Pacific's chief China representative.

Northern ports in North America are a shorter distance from Asia, and U.S.-destined imports arriving through Canada aren't subject to additional duties at the U.S. border.

Unable to service the Western U.S.—whose rail tracks are owned by American rivals Union Pacific Corp., the largest U.S. railroad, and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp.—the Canadian companies want to move more Chinese exports to the U.S. Midwest and East Coast, Mr. Wang said. They own tracks heading from Canada to Minneapolis and Chicago that connect onward to New

York, Philadelphia and Baltimore and stretching as far south as Texas and New Orleans.

Their shipping gateway through British Columbia's Vancouver Port Authority has the lowest fees on the West Coast, as U.S. operators have raised their own fees to try to stem the overload of goods.

Canada has lower port fees, union salaries and storage fees compared with the U.S., said Jenny Yan, port of Vancouver China representative.

In addition, although security standards are the same at all ports, U.S. ports have greater concerns with stowaways and weapons smuggling and need more investments for technology. These concerns can result in longer holding of goods by customs.

Union Pacific announced rate increases this year after floods and mudslides in Southern California forced it to cut its services by one-third. It said increases are here to stay because of rising oil prices and a lack of investment in new rail cars, and with railroads moving away from signing multiyear agreements with set prices in favor of short-term contracts or spot-market tariffs.

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. has even asked for financial help from the Chinese, South Korean and Japanese governments for infrastructure improvements at the Port of Los Angeles, calculating that delays caused by infrastructure constraints are costing Asian exporters \$1.3 billion annually.

The Los Angeles port, largest in the U.S., is aware of the competition it faces from ports beyond the West Coast and outside the U.S.

"It is a concern that other ports are growing, but there was a significant increase in volume last year, and growth has been seen at all ports," Port of Los Angeles Director of Planning Mike DiBernardo said. He blamed the port's problems last year largely on labor shortages

from inaccurate projections given by shipping lines, which he said have been rectified this year.

Other ports are moving in. Cargo traffic at the port of Vancouver grew 11% year-to-year to 73.9 million metric tons in 2004, the largest gain in more than a decade.

Canada's largest port handled 29 billion Canadian dollars (US\$24.1 billion) in trade in 2004, with 56% of the total volume of Canada's trade with China passing through, Vancouver Port Authority Chairman David Stowe said.

Inland ports are also jockeying for a share of the growing Asian trade. Houston, which handles 65% of containers entering the Gulf of Mexico, saw incoming containers from Asia increase by 28% in two years and will be further boosted by the opening of a Wal-Mart distribution center near the port later this year.

Some shippers are already bypassing the West Coast entirely and heading straight to the East Coast by way of the Panama Canal, to ports such as Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Montreal, despite twice the travel time and a 35% increase in costs.

But Canada's ports have their own problems. Despite a recent announcement that the port of Vancouver will invest C\$1.4 billion to triple its container-terminal capacity by 2020, some people fear these improvements aren't being made quickly enough.

"We get a bum rap for being congested, but the investments needed for infrastructure aren't being made," Mr. Stowe said.

TSI Terminal Systems Inc., the largest container terminal at the port of Vancouver, asked shipping companies to reduce their containers by 25% for one month at the end of February in an effort to clear the backlog at the port. CP's Mr. Wang warned that this sort of request is likely to happen again.

The port blames rail companies for sending too few rail cars, but rail companies say terminals fail to load their cars fast enough.

"More business means more delays, too. Business is too good right now," Mr. Wang said.

The two Canadian rail rivals combined their operations in Vancouver in October in an effort to alleviate congestion.

China Drafts Rules for IPOs in Singapore

A WALL STREET JOURNAL News Roundup

SINGAPORE—China said it is drafting guidelines for companies intending to go public in Singapore after last year's China Aviation Oil (Singapore) Corp. derivatives-trading loss, which nearly bankrupted the mainland's Singapore-listed jet-fuel supplier.

Singapore authorities are conducting a criminal investigation into the company and its former chief executive, Chen Jiulin, following its move to seek court protection from creditors after it racked up \$550 million in losses from risky oil bets. "There was really some misconduct by the company," said Chi-

na's ambassador to Singapore, Zhang Yun. "We are working with IE Singapore to publish some guiding books so they know what procedures and guidelines they have to meet," he said. IE Singapore is one of the government agencies charged with helping foreign companies set up base in Singapore.

CAO Singapore began losing money on its oil trades in the first quarter of 2004, after placing poor bets on the future price of crude. It then increased its purchases in the hope that oil prices would fall and erase the losses. Instead, prices rose to all-time highs in late October.

www.mda.state.mn.us

Soc Sta
NEW
Sucks
Fax-
have
om
Cl
coffee-cl
straight
the
industrial
which
would b
office-b
Long Y
panies t
gamblin
known a
Hax,
includes t
the tax
H
vested i
which a
23. mi
vicepre
Fax l
past eig
great c
sicular,
called S
the env
practice
able gi
seems
stateme
responsi
to be i
know al
The
Coffee I
the coff
consum
grants w
quor stc
and Jim
announ

Senator Kierlin introduced--

S.F. No. 576: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

1 A bill for an act
2 relating to economic development; appropriating money
3 for a theater and arts center in Lanesboro.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
5 Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]
6 \$1,000,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the
7 Fillmore County Board of Commissioners for a grant to the Root
8 River Valley Friends of the Arts to acquire land for, design,
9 and construct a theater and arts center in Lanesboro for lease
10 to the Commonweal Theatre Company and Cornucopia Arts Center.
11 The appropriation is available for the fiscal year ending June
12 30, 2006.

1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 576 as follows:

2 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

3 "Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

4 \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2006 is appropriated from the

5 general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic

6 development for a grant to Fillmore County for the Commonweal

7 Theatre Company to design and construct a theater center in

8 Lanesboro."

9 Amend the title as follows:

10 Page 1, line 3, delete "and arts"

Senators Kierlin and Sparks introduced--
S.F. No. 134: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

1 A bill for an act
2 relating to appropriations; appropriating money for
3 historic Forestville.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
5 Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]
6 \$250,000 is appropriated from the general fund for the
7 biennium ending June 30, 2007, to the Minnesota Historical
8 Society for historic Forestville.

Forestville Fact Sheet

***Historic Forestville's school attendance for the past five years was:**

FY 2000	2,328 students
FY 2001	2,380 students
FY 2002	2,838 students
FY 2003	2,536 students
FY 2004	2,120 students
FY 2005	1,245 students Booked for the spring of 2005 to date.

***Historic Forestville's overall visitation for the past 13 years has averaged 13,916 per year.**

***We currently serve school children from as far away as the Twin Cities metro area, Albert Lea, La Crosse and Decorah.**

***Historic Forestville's annual operating budget for FY2003 (pre-cut) was 199,381.**

***The cost of the Visitor Center was \$517,000.00 with another \$25,000.00 for archaeological investigation. (Less than one year after opening, it and the historic site were scheduled to be shut down.)**

***The Visitor Center was opened June 2, 2002, and is where we have fully accessible restrooms, a gift shop, staff offices, and changing rooms for the interpreters.**

***The entire site (with the exception of one outbuilding) is fully wheel chair accessible. This includes the visitor center, the historic store, house, kitchen, wagon barn, and dairy barn.**

Historic Forestville offers age-appropriate educational programs, tied directly to current curriculum. In other words, a second-grader does not get the same program as a 10th grader. For the past 12 years, young people from all over Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa have been able to not only see history where it happened (a real state historic site), but have been able to take a hands-on approach to learning. Students are able to knead bread dough, bring in firewood, plant the garden, gather fresh eggs, as well as perform a multitude of other 19th Century historical activities. What better way is there to learn about early Minnesota life, than with their own eyes, nose, ears and hands?

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

From a historical perspective, Historic Forestville is a unique site in the Minnesota Historical Society system. Historically, the village was a “company town” that was owned by one man, Thomas Meighen, who employed everyone, paid workers in store credit, and rented them houses that he owned. This story has been interpreted through various mediums since the site became state property in 1966. Although this part of the small village’s history has at times been overly-emphasized, it was and still is a main element in the interpretive program. The site is also unique in the fact that it is portrayed as a town experiencing its economic and population decline. Unlike other sites that are interpreted during their peak, 1899 Forestville was a town undergoing transition from an urban trade center of the mid-1860’s to a farming-based, one-man-owned operation that depended on surrounding towns for its markets.

Since 1992, the main focus of the interpretive program at Forestville has been to show visitors what the town was like through the eyes of the Meighen family and their paid workers. Using the “station” approach to the program, visitors are guided through interpretive stations that include the store, house, kitchen, garden, granary, wagon barn, barn, and cornfield. A new reconstructed barn, although not interpreted historically in the interior, will provide an optional visitor service “station” near the end of the tour.

Tours take approximately 45-60 minutes through these stations, and have traditionally been guided through each area. In each station, the interpreters talk about their character's life, usually using (or talking about) significant artifacts that relate to their area. After a sufficient time (usually 10-15 minutes), the group is directed to the next station.

The site is accessed 4 miles south of Minnesota 16 on County Road 5 and is located in Forestville State Park. Visitors enter the park, pay for their vehicle permit at the Park Contact Station, then drive approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the parking lot just south of the historic site. After orientation at a self-guided interpretive kiosk, they cross an 1899 steel truss bridge and begin their interpretive experience.

Historic Forestville serves all aspects of the public, including school groups, adult educational groups, VIP’s, families, senior citizens, history buffs, researchers, and special interest groups. Visitors come from local rural areas and the urban centers of Rochester, the Twin Cities, LaCrosse, and Decorah. Currently a fee is charged for school and adult groups only. The site has a growing attendance of 16,000 visitors per year.

The site’s current public schedule offers tours six days each week from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. In addition, general public tours continue on the weekends of September and October. Group tours and school tours run during the week during May, September, and October. In addition to the regular program, the site offers four major special events each season. They are *Independence Day at Historic Forestville*, two *Evening of Leisure* programs, and *1899 Harvest Day*.

MISSION AND PROGRAM OBJECTIVES HISTORIC FORESTVILLE

Mission: The mission of Historic Forestville is to foster among visitors an understanding of Forestville town life in the year 1899 through carefully-restored and preserved buildings and landscapes, role-playing living history interpretation, hands-on historical activities, specially-designed school programs, and special program events. The historical characters portrayed came from a wide variety of socio-economic backgrounds and levels of society, and are represented as accurately as possible to give visitors a rich learning experience. Historic Forestville's program objective is for visitors to want to learn more about the village and how it fit into Minnesota's rural economic society, the town's historical workers and owners, turn-of-the-century Minnesota, turn-of-the-century United States, and the other educational opportunities of the Minnesota Historical Society and it's historic sites network.

Specific Goals

1. To preserve and interpret the historic buildings, landscapes, and artifacts of the town of Forestville, 1855-1899.
2. To interpret 1890's town and farm life through living history simulation.
3. To interpret the economic and social decline of Forestville since 1868.
4. To interpret various people who lived in Forestville in 1899, namely Meighen family members and their employees.
5. To interpret change in technology in both the domestic and agricultural spheres through first-person role-playing.
6. To encourage visitors to want to learn more about the site, the people, and activities of Forestville and towns like it during the turn-of-the-century.

HISTORIC FORESTVILLE SCHOOL TOURS 2004

SCHOOL	CONTACT NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
Pine Island Middle School	Carrie Gilbertson	Box 398 Pine Island, Mn. 55963	507-356-2488
Ridgeway Elementary	Kelly Buehler	435 County St. Ridgeway, Ia 52165	563-737-2211
Caledonia Elementary	Pam Heuslein	311 W. Main Caledonia, Mn. 55921	507-725-5206
Stewartville Elementary	David Olson	301 2 nd Street S.W. Stewartville, Mn 55976	507-533-1400
Rushford/Peterson Elementary	Mary Hoiland	102 N. Mill St. Rushford, Mn. 55971	507-864-7787
Chatfield Elementary	Sarah Niemeyer	405 s. Main Chatfield, Mn. 55923	507-867-4521
Cresco Elementary	Paula Galvin	1000 4 th Ave. E. Cresco, IA. 52136	563-547-2340
Dover/Eyota Elementary	Sue Cordes	27 Knowledge Rd. Eyota, Mn. 55934	507-545-2632
Grand Meadow Elementary	Darcy Hanken	710 4 th Ave. N.E. Grand Meadow 55936	507-754-5310
Fairmont Intermediate School	Geri Halbert	714 Victoria St. Fairmont, Mn. 56031	507-238-4661
Kingsland Elementary	Linda Lecy	201 W. Barlett Wykoff, Mn. 55990	507-352-2731
Kingsland Elementary	Jeanne Toew	409 S. Broadway, Spring Valley, Mn 55975	507-346-7358
Kings Christian Academy	Charles Upham	4500 Clinton Ave. S. Mpls., Mn. 55409	612-348-4596
Southland Elementary	Karla Carroll	201 1 st St. N.E. Rose Creek, Mn. 55970	507-437-3214
Immanuel Lutheran	Susan Harstad	22591 Cty Rd 25 Lewiston, Mn. 55952	507-523-3143

Winona Middle School	Margaret Claus	1470 Homer Rd. Winona, Mn.	55987 507-454-1221
Goodhue Elementary	Lori McNamara	310 3 rd Ave. Goodhue, Mn.	55027 612-923-4447
Elgin Millville Elementary	Jackie Hick	210 2 nd St. S.W. Elgin, Mn.	55932 507-876-2213
Nevelyn Elementary	Diane Wangen	1819 Oakland Ave. E. Austin, Mn.	55912 507-437-6669
Folwell Elementary	Steve Washechek	603 15 th Ave. S.W. Rochester, Mn	55902 507-281-6073
St. Pius School	May Kilen	1205 12 th Ave. N.W. Rochester, Mn.	55901 507-282-5161
Marcy Open School	Rhonda Geyette	415 4 th Ave. S.E Mpls. Mn.	55414 612-668-1020
Friedell Middle School		1200 S. Broadway Rochester, Mn.	55904 507-358-9832
Pinewood Elementary	Gerad Gerhler	1900 Pinewood Rd. Rochester, Mn.	55904 507-281-6104
Fairmont Area Home Schools	Cindy Milne	1495 265 th Ave. Granada, Mn	56039 507-447-2607
Home School Group	Sherri Eide	16985 Festal Ave. Farmington, Mn.	55024 952-953-3445
Albert Lea School	Lois Palmer	707 10 th St. Albert Lea, Mn.	56007 507-379-4926
Chosen Valley Middle School	Martha Branum	205 Union St. Chatfield, Mn.	55923 507-867-4210
Bluffview Montessori School	Kate Olson	1321 Gilmore Ave. Winona, Mn.	55987 507-452-2807
Longfellow Middle School	Mary Puza	1900 Denton St. LaCrosse, Wi.	54601 608-789-7670
Victory Christian Academy	Bonnie Waters	900 Northern Hieghts Dr. Roch.	55906 507-289-2966
Houston Elementary	Virginia Thilmany	310 S. Sherman Houston, Mn.	55943 507-896-3708
Immaculate Heart of Mary School	Jennifer Ouverson	34374 Forest Blvd. Stacy, Mn	651-462-24 34

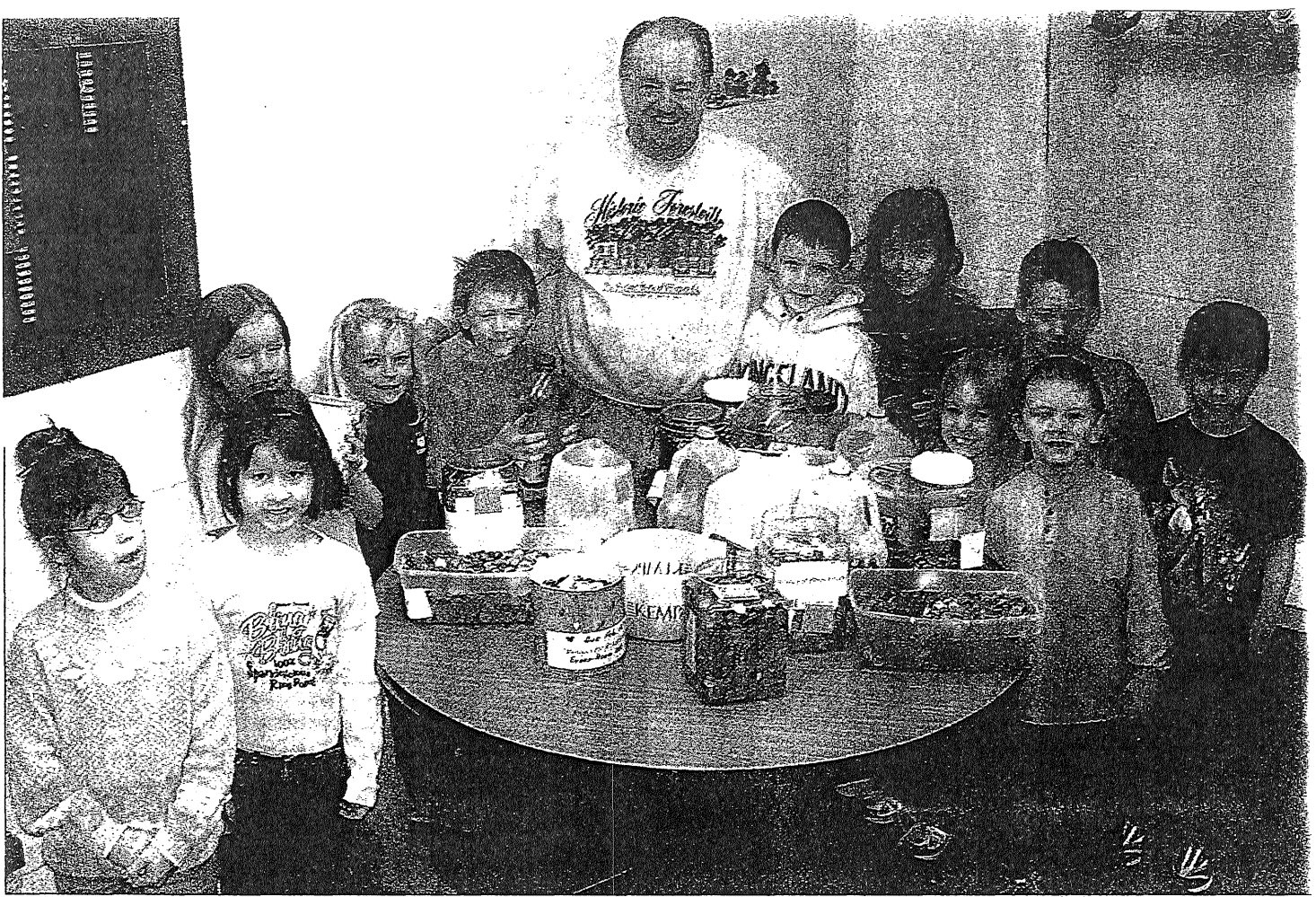
First	Last	School Name	address	city	state	zip	telephone	MARKED
Virginia	Thilmany	Houston Elementary School	310 S Sherman	Houston	MN	55943	507-896-3708	x
Kristy	Flanagan	Bamber Valley School	2001 Bamber Valle	Rochester	MN	55902		
David	Olson	Stewartville Central Elementary	301 2nd Street S.V	Stewartville	MN	55976		x
Mary	Passe	St. Felix School	130 E. 3 rd Street	Wabasha	MN	55981		
Margaret	Claus	Wmona Middle School	1470 Homer Rd	Winona	MN	55987		x
Robert	Pomeroy	Lewiston /Altura Elementary	105 South Fremont S	Lewiston	MN	55952		
Lori	McNamara	Goodhue Elementary	510 3 rd Ave.	Goodhue	MN	55027		
Rhonda	Geyette	Marcy Open School	415 4 th Ave S.E.	Minneapolis	MN	55414		x
Kirk	Thompson	Plainview Summer School	545 1 st Ave. S.W.	Plainview	MN	55964		
Mary	Puza	Longfellow Middle School	1900 Denton Street	LaCrosse,	WI	54601		x
Pauline	Galvin	Cresco Elementary	1000 4th Ave.	Cresco	IA	52136		
Mary	Holland	Rushford/Peterson Elementary	102 N. Mill Street	Rushford	MN	55971		
Sue	Cordes	Dover/Eyota Elementary	27 Knowledge Rd	Eyota	MN	55934		x
Kelli	Buehler	Ridgeway Elementary School	435 County Street	Ridgeway	IA	52165		
Lloyd	Luehmann	Holy Cross Lutheran School	300 16th Street NE	Austin	MN	55912		x
Kayleen	Geiger	Byron High School	601 4th St. NW	Byron	MN	55920		
Mary	Kilen	St. Pius the Tenth	1205 12th Ave. N. W	Rochester	MN	55901		x
Penny	Hogan	Holmen Middle School	502 N. Main P.O. Bc	Holmen	WI	54636		
Kris	Trapp	Southland Elementary School	P.O. Box 157	Rose Creek	MN	55970		
Paulme	Christensen	Winona State	P.O. Box 5838	Winona	MN	55987		
Kate	O'Grady	Riverway Learning Center	115 Iowa Street	Minnesota Cit	MN	55959		
		Fillmore Educators	112 N. Huron Ave.	Spring Valley	MN	55975		
		Dodge County Home School Assn.	610 First Ave. N.W.	Kasson	MN	55944		
Sue	George	Lime Springs Elementary School	Box 56	Lime Springs	IA	52155		
Steve	Washecheck	Folwell Elementary School	603 15th Ave. S.E.	Rochester	MN	55902		
Linda	Lecy	Kingsland Middle School	201 W. Bartlett	Wykoff	MN	55990		
Carrie	Gilbertson	Pine Island Elementary	Box 398	Pine Island	MN	55963		
Pam	Heuslin	Caledonia Elementary	311 W. Main	Caledonia	MN	55921		
Sarah	Niemeyer	Chatfield Elementary	405 S. Main	Chatfield	MN	55923		
Darcy	Hanken	Grand Meadow Elementary	710 4th Ave. N.E.	Grand Meado	MN	55936		
Geri	Halbert	Fairmont Intermediate School	714 Victoria St.	Fairmont	MN	56031		
Jeanne	Toew	Kingsland Elementary	409 S. Broadway	Spring Valley	MN	55975		
Charles	Upham	Kings Christian Academy	4500 Clinton Ave. S	Mpls.	MN	55409		
Karla	Carrol	Southland Elementary School	201 1st St. N.E.	Rose Creek	MN	55970		
Susan	Harstad	Immanuel Lutheran School	22591 Cty Rd. 25	Lewiston	MN	55987		
Jackie	Hick	Elgin/Millville School	210 2nd St. S.W.	Elgin	MN	55932		
Diane3	Wangen	Nevelyn Elementary	1819 Oakland Ave.	Austin	MN	55912		
Andrew	Johnsrud	Friedell Middle School	1200 S. Broadway	Rochester	MN	55904		
Gared	Groehler	Pinewood Elementary	1900 Pinewood Rd	Rochester	MN	55904		
Cindy	Milne	Fairmont Area Home School	1495 265th Ave.	Granada	MN	56039		
Sherri	Eide	Home School Group	16985 Festal Ave.	Farmington	MN	55024		
Lois	Palmer	Albert Lea School	707 10th St.	Albert Lea	MN	56007		
Martha	Branum	Chosen Valley Middle School	295 Union St.	Chatfield	MN	55923		
Kate	Olson	Bluffview Montessori	1321 Gilmore Ave.	Winona	MN	55987		
Bonnie	Waters	Victory Christian Academy	900 N. Hieghts Dr.	Rochester	MN	55906		
Jennifer	Ouverson	Immaculate Heart of Mary School	34374 Forest Blvd	Stacy	MN	55079		
Robert	Hughes	Emla Elementary	319 Oak St.	Elma	IA	50628		
Charles	Kaun	St. John's Lutheran	Box 189	Wykoff	MN	55990		
Joyce	Forster	Lincoln Elementary	1200 N. Park St.	Fairmont	MN	56031		
Norma	Fury	Trinity Lutheran School	501 N. Main	Janesville	MN	56048		
Deb	Fasbender	Sacred Heart School	Box 249	Adams	MN	55909		
Karen	Stenhoff	Spring Grove Elementary	113 2nd Ave. N.W.	Spring Grove	MN	55974		
Crystal	Drenth	Hollandale Christian School	203 Central Ave. S.	Hollandale	MN	56045		
Edie	Schultz	Harriet Bishop Elementary	406 N.W. 36th Ave.	Rochester	MN	55901		
Annmary	Seltz	St. Martin's Lutheran	253 Liberty	Winona	MN	55987		
Amy	Brouers	Bank School	301 3rd Ave. N.W.	Austin	MN	55912		
Pamela	Schmidt	Winona Area Home Schools	Rt. 1 Box 341	Lanesboro	MN	55949		

**Friends of Forestville Fundraisers
2003 through today (2/28/05)**

Sunday, August 3 rd , 2003 Pancake Breakfast Spring Valley Servicemen's Club	\$2,500
Saturday, August 9 th , 2003 Fundraiser – Deer Creek Speedway	\$ 323
Saturday, August 23 rd , 2003 Basket Social Historic Forestville	\$2,300
Saturday, August 30 th , 2003 Fundraiser – Deer Creek Speedway	\$ 636
August – October 2003 Quilt Raffle	\$ 750
Friday, November 7 th , 2003 1940's Veteran's Day Dance Pla-Mor Ballroom, Rochester, MN	\$ 550
Saturday, January 24 th , 2004 Fundraiser Dance/Auction Grumpy's, Grand Meadow, MN	\$6,500
Saturday, April 17 th , 2004 "Playing Dress-Up: The Stories and Clothes of Our Lives" Program and dessert, Wykoff, MN	\$ 708
Saturday, June 12 th , 2004 "Zeno's Carnival of Culture" a traveling medicine show Historic Forestville	\$1,588
4 th of July 2004– Forestville Sold sandwiches & big pickles	\$ 350
Saturday, August 21 st , 2004 Fundraiser – Deer Creek Speedway	\$ 515

**Friends of Forestville Fundraisers - Page 2
2003 through today (2/28/05)**

Saturday, September 4 th , 2004 Basket Social Historic Forestville	\$1,500
August – December 2004 Fundraiser Raffle Original watercolor painting, \$100 cash	\$2,000
Sunday, October 24 th , 2004 Pancake Breakfast Spring Valley American Legion	\$1,617
Tuesday, January 18, 2005 Pizza Night, Homestyle Pizza Spring Valley, MN	\$ 500
Wednesday, January 19 th , 2004 Pizza Night, Homestyle Pizza Chatfield, MN	\$ 325
Saturday, February 5 th , 2005 Spaghetti Supper, Auction, & Dance Grumpy's, Grand Meadow, MN	\$6,390
Late February 2005 Pennies for Preservation (Schoolchildren collection coins for Forestville) Kingsland Elementary School Spring Valley, MN	\$1,328
St. John's Lutheran School Wykoff, MN (about 40 students)	\$55
October 31, 2004 Grant – Chosen Valley Community Foundation Chatfield, MN	\$ 900
December 15, 2004 Grant – Osterud-Winter Foundation Spring Valley, MN (They also awarded \$500 in 2003)	\$1,000



Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson is shown above with KES students and the nearly 400 pounds of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters they raised for Historic Forestville (Tribune photo by Charlie Warner)

Pennies for Historic Forestville

KES students raise over \$1,300

By Charlie Warner
Spring Valley Tribune

There's an old saying that if you gather enough pennies, you will have a dollar. And if you gather enough dollars you will have a fortune.

The students at Kingsland Elementary School proved that old saying to be true. They were asked to gather pennies to help the fund-raising effort to keep Historic Forestville open. The elementary school located in Spring Valley held a two-week fund raiser. In that time, those pennies gathered totaled \$1,328.16!

"I'm absolutely amazed that these kids could come up with that much money," Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson said last week as he surveyed the massive collection of pennies, nickels, dimes,

quarters and paper money that the KES students collected. "If other area schools can each collect even a small portion of what these students collected, we will have enough money to remain open through the end of our fiscal year."

According to Historic Forestville site manager Sandy Scheevel, Friends of Forestville sent out packets to 50 public, private and home schools that had toured the historic site in the past two years. The packets included a cover letter explaining why private funds are needed to keep Historic Forestville open. It also included suggestions as to how to conduct fundraisers and even slips of paper that had pictures of students taking the historic tour that could be wrapped around coffee cans and other containers

used to gather the pennies and other change.

KES Principal Rita Hartert took the fund-raising program one step further. She penned a letter that was sent out to all the parents of KES students explaining the program to them. In the letter to the parents, Hartert recalled how during the 1970s the children of America helped raise \$6 million to restore the Statue of Liberty, which was decaying, being neglected and crumbling. They did this through a national effort by bringing pennies to school.

"Today, our local students can rise to the challenge again," she said in her letter. "Friends of Forestville, a nonprofit organization, needs help in raising money to preserve Historic Forestville for future genera-

tions...and that includes our school children and their children.

"Here at KES, we will hold a fund raiser from Feb. 2-16. I'm asking that if your family wishes to participate, please send pennies with your child to his/her classroom, where their teacher will have a jar for this purpose," Hartert's letter continued. "There will be some type of reward for the classroom collecting the most money. At the end of the campaign we will notify you of the amount received. This is an opportunity for the children to be involved in a great project."

The reward that Hartert spoke about in her letter is a pizza party that will be donated by Homestyle Pizza of Spring Valley. Cheryl Boyd's fifth grade classroom raised the most money. The grand total was \$195.85.

Pennies for Forestville

Continued from page one

either being cut or completely discontinued. Historic Forestville, which is a living history community located on the Root River adjacent to Forestville State Park, is one of seven historic sites in outstate Minnesota that were to be closed. The only way for it to stay open was for an alternative funding source to be found.

The Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) came up with an operation plan that included three financial hurdles. MHS would allow the historic village to remain open three days a week through August of 2003 if approximately \$50,000 could be raised. That announcement was made at a meeting in Preston in June of that year. The support-

ers of the historic village had just 19 days to come up with the money, and they did. The area responded by coming up with over \$50,000 in less than three weeks and Historic Forestville remained open on a limited basis (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays) throughout the summer of 2003.

The operational plan also called for an additional funding transfusion of approximately \$55,000 to keep Historic Forestville open through the end of its fiscal year, which was June 30, 2004. That money was raised by Oct. 15 and the first payment of a challenge gift of \$25,000 from an anonymous donor in the Twin Cities was received.

Historic Forestville supporters needed to come up with \$75,000 by March 1 of this year. Through fund-raising events held earlier this year and the anonymous donor from the Twin Cities, who matched every dollar that FOF raised up to \$25,000, approximately \$69,000 has been raised.

If FOF can raise the \$6,000 by March 1, the historic village will open again this spring for school tours and will operate through June 30. A House bill, authored by Rep. Greg Davids of Preston and a Senate bill authored by State Sen. Bob Kerlin of Winona would appropriate funds to the MHS to keep all seven historic sites open through the next biennium.

-

"We were very pleased with the tremendous response, not only by the students, but by their parents as well," Harert said last week. "This was way beyond our expectations." Harert noted that KES has issued a challenge to the students at the Kingsland middle and high schools to see if they can surpass the amount raised at the elementary school. A challenge has also been issued to all schools to see if they can exceed the \$1,328.16 raised by KES students.

"As far as I know, this is the only fund raiser that has been completed so far," Scheevel said. "But that certainly doesn't mean that some of the other schools we sent packets to don't have fund raisers underway. I think that it's fantastic that the students at KES raised that much money. It will be interesting to see if some of the other schools we contacted will try to meet or beat that amount."

As of last Friday, Friends of Forestville still needed to come up with approximately \$6,000 by March 1 to open the historic village this spring and remain open through the end of the fiscal year which is June 30.

In the spring of 2003, it appeared that one of the historic jewels of southeast Minnesota, Historic Forestville, would be closed — possibly forever. Minnesota lawmakers were forced to come to grips with a \$4.5 billion deficit and programs throughout the state were

Pennies

Continued on page five



About 40 persons turned out for an informational meeting held last Wednesday at the Preston City Hall concerning the proposed closing of Historic Forestville. Seated at the table, from left, are Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson, former

Preston mayor Dick Nelson, Historic Forestville Site Manager Charlie Pautler, Tom Ellig and Bill Keyes of the Minnesota Historic Society, Legislative Liaison David Kelher and Pat McCormick of the MHS.

(Reader photo by Charlie Warner)

Historic Forestville supporters must act fast

\$50,000 must be raised by June 23

By Charlie Warner
Spring Valley Tribune

Area residents who want to see Historic Forestville remain open are going to have to work hard and really fast. Unless supporters of the living history site can somehow come up with approximately \$50,000 by June 23, the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) will close it as of July 1.

About 40 persons who turned out for a public meeting held Wednesday, June 4, at the Preston City Hall with MHS staff, county commissioners and representatives from several area communities, learned of several alternatives to closing the historic village that is located adjacent to Forestville State Park.

According to Bill Keyes of MHS, due to the enormous budget shortfall on the state level, Gov. Tim Pawlenty and the Minnesota Legislature have reduced MHS funding by approximately \$4.3 million for each of the next two years. Those drastic cuts have necessitated the closing of seven historical sites in the state and reductions at all of the sites that will remain open.

Due to the overwhelming support shown by area residents at previous meetings, MHS has come up with several alternatives to closing Historic Forestville after July 1, which is the end of its fiscal year.

In a statement to the group, Keyes stated, "The alternative to closing Historic Forestville is to institute a minimal operating plan for the site. That plan changes the living history interpretive program to a guided, walking tour of the site. The site buildings will be open and tour guides will escort groups of visitors around the site

telling the story of Forestville and answering questions from visitors. The site will be open three days per week from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The site will be closed at all other times. A site manager and a staff of two historic site guides and an historic site technician will operate the site."

To keep the site open using the minimal operating plan, Keyes noted that the cost would be \$110,000 annually. MHS would fund \$18,000, which would leave a \$92,000 funding gap. That gap would have to be made up from gate revenues, sales of items at the site, donations and corporate sponsorships. Historic Forestville Site Manager Charlie Pautler indicated that the site has taken in about \$25,000 annually, but that included spring and fall school tours and the site being open six days a week during the summer months. MHS Director of Planning Pat McCormick said that with the minimal operating plan, site revenues would probably be cut in half. With the minimal operating plan, approximately \$80,000 would have to be raised independently of MHS to keep the site open for the next year.

Keyes went on to explain that MHS came up with a second scenario that would keep the site open in July and August and possibly buy some more time for supporters to find other sources of revenue. If the minimal operating plan was utilized for July and August, MHS figured the operating expenses to be \$64,600. MHS can only budget \$18,000 for the entire year to Historic Forestville, which is \$1,500 per month or \$3,000 for those two months, and leaves a funding gap of about \$61,600. With revenues from gate

and site purchases figured in, the funding gap would still be somewhere between \$55,000 and \$58,000.

Last week, former Preston mayor Dick Nelson approached the Preston City Council with a request to help save Historic Forestville. After much arm twisting, Nelson was able to get a verbal commitment of \$5,000 to be used to help keep the historic site open.

"But," Nelson told the group last Wednesday, "the Preston City Council made it perfectly clear that it will only give this money to Historic Forestville if other cities in the area, such as Spring Valley and Wykoff, follow suit and help."

Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson, who also works as one of the living history actors at the site, encouraged the group to get out and start beating the bushes. "I will personally visit every Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, chamber of commerce, city council, any group that will have me, to explain just how important this facility is to the area and our children," said Colbenson. "If anyone has any questions about what we need, or what Historic Forestville is all about or how they can donate to this cause, they can contact me at (507) 754-5873."

Pautler echoed Colbenson's statement, noting that he, too, would be willing to speak to individuals or groups to solicit support. Pautler can be reached at (507) 765-2785. Persons wishing to help support the historic site can make checks out to Friends of Forestville and send them to Colbenson at 220 First Street SW, Grand Meadow, MN, 55936.

6/9/03
-d / mch

F
r
f
F
i
n
t
a
l
t
C
a
r
d
m

Historic Forestville to remain open for the summer months

By Charlie Warner
Spring Valley Tribune

"It appears as if we have raised sufficient funds to keep Historic Forestville open for the summer, thanks to the generous people of southeast Minnesota," a very happy Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson said Monday morning. "According to the most recent figures, with pledges and donations we have approximately \$50,000, which will be enough money to keep the us open through the summer."

Colbenson added that a press conference has been planned for this Thursday, June 26, at 10 a.m. on the steps of the Meighen Store to announce just how much money has been raised and what needs to be done to keep the historic village open for the next year.

Supporters of the historic village, located adjacent to Forestville State Park, found out less than three weeks ago that they had to somehow raise approximately \$50,000 to keep it open for the next two months on a minimal basis. The news was presented by representatives of the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) during a public meeting held in Preston on June 4.

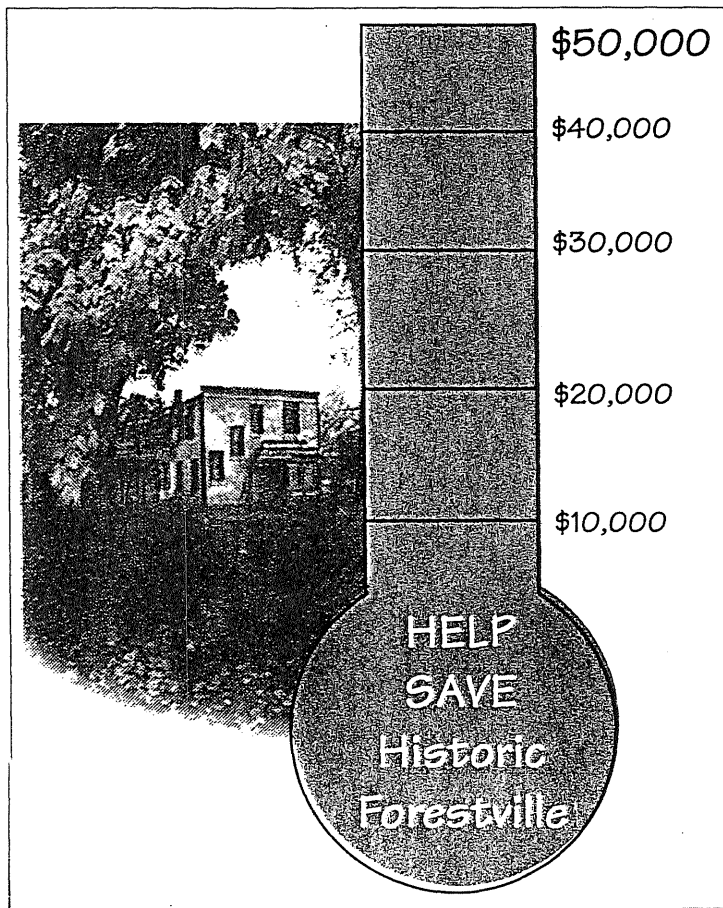
According to Bill Keyes of MHS, who spoke at the June 4 meeting, due to the enormous budget shortfall on the state level, Gov. Tim Pawlenty and the Minnesota Legislature reduced MHS funding by approximately \$4.3 million for each of the next two years. Those drastic cuts necessitated

answering questions from visitors. The site would be open three days per week from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The site would be closed at all other times. A site manager, a staff of two historic site guides and an historic site technician will operate the site.

To keep the site open using the minimal operating plan, Keyes noted that the cost would be \$110,000 annually. MHS

those two months, and leaves a funding gap of about \$61,600. With revenues from gate and site purchases figured in, the funding gap would still be somewhere between \$55,000 and \$58,000.

The City of Preston earmarked \$5,000 for the funding gap and challenged surrounding communities to follow suit, so supporters had to come up with about \$50,000 in less than three



As of Monday morning, the fund raising effort to save Historic Forestville had reached \$50,000.

...ent and Historic Forestville does have an economic impact on Spring Valley, EDA members agreed to call a special meeting Monday morning to discuss the issue.

"The reason the city wasn't able to kick any money in is we are so strapped by the LGA cuts," said EDA member Jim Strzyk, who is also the Spring Valley Mayor. "The Council's feelings were that we were cutting city employees' hours because of the state cuts. How could we justify donating to Historic Forestville to our employees who just had their hours cut?"

It was brought up that the Spring Valley Chamber of Commerce used \$3,000 in city lodging tax money to donate to Historic Forestville, which could be considered Spring Valley city funds. It was also brought up that KING 11 Cable television, which is franchised through the City of Spring

Historic Forestville needs you...and your checkbook

Remember the old posters that were so prevalent decades ago with the picture of a white-bearded Uncle Sam pointing out at the reader and bold lettering proclaiming "Uncle Sam needs you!!"? If an ever-growing group of residents in Fillmore County had a little more time, they'd probably come up with a similar poster that would say "Historic Forestville needs you!!"

Unless approximately \$50,000 is raised by June 23, one of this area's treasures, Historic Forestville, will have to close its doors. A group of supporters of the historic site were apprised of this situation last Wednesday during a meeting at Preston with representatives of the Minnesota Historical Society.

According to Bill Keyes of MHS, due to the enormous budget shortfall on the state level, Gov. Tim Pawlenty and the Minnesota Legislature have reduced MHS funding by approximately \$4.3 million for each of the next two years. Those drastic cuts have necessitated the closing of seven historical sites in the state and reductions at all of



Warner's ramblings

By Charlie Warner

was a stipulation. The \$5,000 would be given only if the other cities located near Forestville State Park, namely Wykoff and Spring Valley, would follow Preston's lead and pony up donations of their own.

Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson, who also works as one of the living history actors at the site, encouraged the group to get out and start beating the bushes. "I will personally visit every Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, chamber of commerce, city council, any group that will have me, to explain just how important this facility is to the area and our children," said Colbenson. "If anyone has any questions about what we need, or what Historic Forestville is all about or how

the sites that will remain open.

Due to the overwhelming support shown by area residents at meetings held during the past two months, the MHS has come up with several alternatives to closing down the historic site completely on July 1. With a very limited budget, the MHS has allotted \$1,500 per month to help keep the facility open. Under a proposed minimal operating plan, Historic Forestville would only be open three days a week and instead of the living history interpretive program that has been so popular (but is very labor intensive) a guided walking tour would be offered. It would cost about \$110,000 a year for this program, with the MHS funding \$18,000. The balance, which is about \$92,000, would have to be raised by local supporters.

A second plan would be similar to the first, but with the facility open for just July and August of this year. That plan would require approximately \$50,000 of local money to work. The \$50,000 is a little more manageable than the \$92,000 figure and although it would be a very short-term solution, it would give supporters more time to find larger donors and possibly some corporate sponsors.

The Preston City Council, thanks to some arm twisting by former mayor Dick Nelson, went on record last week to give \$5,000 to the cause, but there

they can donate to this cause, they can contact me at (507) 754-5873."

David Bishop, owner of Niagara Cave in Harmony and also an active member of the Historic Bluff County Tourism Association, said that Bluff County members could help aid in finding funding for the historic site. Other persons attending last Wednesday's meeting said they would work hard to contact as many civic and service groups in the area as possible to solicit support.

If enough people, groups, organizations and communities get on the bandwagon and donate, Historic Forestville could remain open this summer, and that would buy some time for some longer-term financial help. Representatives of MHS indicated that they would take into consideration the support each historic site on the "to close" list receives from the surrounding area if and when the state's economic picture brightens and additional funding is made available.

So if you belong to a service group, know of a corporation that gets involved in philanthropic projects, or you're looking for a good cause to support financially, Historic Forestville needs you!!!

First they cut LGA, then our historic sites; what's next?

Part of the fallout from the no new taxes pledge, in which entities across the state are required to share the pain, at Greater Minnesota feels a disproportionate share of that pain. It's not necessarily that there is a split between metro and rural legislators, as some have suggested; it's just that when cities have fewer resources, an equal share of the cuts statewide is going to hurt those cities more.

For example, everyone by now should know that local government aid (LGA) to cities and counties is being cut. No one is accusing the Legislature of hammering the small towns more than the suburbs. However, the small towns throughout Greater Minnesota rely more on LGA than the suburbs.

A recent report from the state auditor's office provides evidence that small towns in Minnesota are more dependent on other taxpayers, especially through the LGA program. They also have more debt and higher overhead.

In other words, it takes more money per capita to provide services to a smaller population with fewer resources to pay for these services.

The cuts in LGA have great impacts on the small towns throughout our area. Although the original cuts were scaled back some, small towns are still looking at reducing or eliminating services; some of these services, such as parks and recreation, may not seem essential, but they may be the only one of this type of service in town, thus taking on a greater importance than scaling back on one of dozens of parks or programs in a larger city.

While small towns are planning cuts that have a real effect on local services, suburban Maple Grove is using its \$3 million budget reserve to cushion its loss and some wealthier suburbs, such as North Oaks, will feel little pain from the cuts because they received little money to begin with, according to an analysis in the Star Tribune of Minneapolis.

The problem isn't one that is going to go away. As state agencies deal with



Publisher's notebook

By David Phillips

their cuts, their problems will filter down to the programs that are so much more important to Greater Minnesota.

The best example in our area is the Minnesota Historical Society. The Society, which gets two-thirds of its operating budget from state funds, lost about \$4.3 million per year as a result of cuts by the Legislature. This is a reduction of 16 percent.

That reduction will be hard on the Society, as it plans to reduce 125 full-time equivalent employees, or more than 220 individuals, which represent more than 30 percent of the Society's staff.

It will also have to scale back at its historic sites throughout the state. While it will reduce hours and maybe even days at the History Center Library and Museum in St. Paul, it is also looking at closing seven or more historic sites throughout the state.

The museum in St. Paul is its flagship site, drawing millions of visitors each year. The cuts will inconvenience patrons some and reduce educational programs, but it won't eliminate them.

Of the seven sites slated for closing, six are in Greater Minnesota. The Society has 27 state historic sites, with nine of those in the metro area, including the Mill City Museum, which is just opening this fall.

As readers well know, one of the sites projected to close is Historic Forestville. It will be a big blow to our area economically and culturally if it closes. The site brings in tourists, but also tells the story of our past in a unique way with costumed interpreters.

If it closes, the next closest state historic site is in the metro area. More importantly, Historic Forestville is one of only two sites primarily focusing on

our agricultural heritage. The other agricultural site is also on the list for closing.

Local residents at the sites slated for closing are attempting to come up with money to keep them open. However, it won't be easy as cities are already hurting with the LGA cuts and nonprofit agencies are also scrambling to serve people with less state aid.

In an interview with the Star Tribune, Gov. Tim Pawlenty said there is a growing chasm in terms of attitude, tone and spirit between Greater Minnesota and the metro area. "The degree of geographic parochialism, in my opinion, in the Legislature is at an historic high," he said. "It's almost becoming as profound as the split between Republicans and Democrats."

Pawlenty, who has been accused of favoring the wealthier suburbs that are his electoral base, said he feels that this chasm is not in anyone's best interests. He emphasizes that he is doing his best to maintain a balanced and fair approach in government programs, not only measured by money, but by tone and cooperative spirit.

The problem is that his actions suggest otherwise because we all know money talks and what it is saying is we are all going to have to rely on our own resources, which is no problem for the affluent suburbs, but more of a challenge for the inner cities and rural areas that also make up this great state.

The new reality of state government won't kill off small towns, but it does weaken them by diminishing their history, services and economy. And that's not good for Minnesota because we are all part of this state.

Many people decry the state budget's cuts in social services because they widen the gap between the rich and poor, the haves and have-nots. The same could be said for the growing gap between the affluent suburbs and the rest of the state; this is not a healthy condition for our state officials to foster.

City/Region

Bonnie Lamkin, in the role of Mary Maloney, gives a tour to Verle and Evelyn Nickerson of Osage, Iowa, at Historic Forestville on Monday. For the past two months, Lamkin has volunteered to help keep the feeling of living history alive.

Christina Paolucci
Post-Bulletin



Not out of the woods yet

Historic Forestville raising money to open next year

By John Weiss

weiss@postbulletin.com

The friends group that kept Historic Forestville open and functioning July 1 through Labor Day by collecting about \$50,000 has two more major fund-raising challenges if the site is to be open next summer.

Friends of Forestville needs \$55,000 by Oct. 15 to have the historic village open from Memorial Day through June 30. It needs \$37,300 by March 15 to keep it open from July 1 through Labor Day, said George Colbenson, president of Friends of Forestville, a group that supports the state historic site in Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park.

Thus far, about \$30,000 has been raised for the Oct. 15 deadline, he said.

The fund-raising efforts got a boost recently when the Minnesota Historical Society, which operates and owns the site inside the park, said an anonymous Twin Cities donor has offered to give \$25,000 if the first goal is reached and \$25,000 more for the second.

That \$50,000 could be used to pay the people who dress and act as 1899

Forestville residents, said Colbenson, who volunteered his time the past two months to be a clerk in the Meighen Store. It is that first-person feeling that makes the site special, he said.

Also, the group learned recently that the Historical Society has found the funds to pay re-enactors so they can give tours to school groups early in this school year, he said.

Finally, he said, he hopes the Legislature comes through with some money next year to add more paid staff to the site.

The funding shortfall hit Historic Forestville, and six other state historical sites, July 1. The friends group collected \$50,000 to keep the site open, relying heavily on volunteers — about 500 hours by one estimate. The living history village was open only Fridays through Sundays instead of nearly daily as in past years.

A fee of \$4 per adult was also started this year, said Charlie Pautler, site manager. Despite the fee, attendance was up about 30 percent in July and August compared to last year, he said.

Before the Oct. 15 deadline, Col-

benson said he plans to talk with area legislators and raise funds in other communities.

In the past, the Friends have collected most of their donations in the Spring Valley, Wykoff and Preston area; they'll now go to Harmony, Chatfield, Stewartville and Spring Valley.

Colbenson said all six historical sites that were earmarked for closing stayed open because of local fund-raising efforts.

"That should give a message to the Legislature and the Historical Society that these historical sites are important to the people of Minnesota," he said.

To donate

Donations to Friends of Forestville can be sent to Box 14, Spring Valley, MN 55975, or given to Security State Bank in Wykoff.

All 7 state historic sites will be open

MINNAPOLIS FREE PRESS
JUNE 28, 2003

The Associated Press

ST. PAUL — All seven Minnesota historical sites that were targeted for closure July 1 have now won reprieves that will keep them open at least through Labor Day.

The Minnesota Historical Society said that thanks mostly to last-ditch fund-raising by community groups, the Forest History Center near Grand Rapids and Historic Forestville near Preston will remain open this summer.

Facing a 16 percent cut in its operating budget from the Legislature, the Historical Society had decided to close those two sites and five others: the James J. Hill House in St. Paul, the Oliver Kelley Farm in Elk River, the Comstock House in Moorhead, the Lower Sioux Agency near Redwood Falls and Fort Ridgely near Fairfax.

Reprieves for the five other sites were announced earlier.

"What these groups have accomplished in such a short time is remarkable, and a testament to the high regard Minnesotans have for our state's history," said Nina Archabal, director of the society. "The next challenge will be to find a stable source of funding to ensure the sites will be open for the long term."

Although the sites will remain open this summer, many will have higher admission prices, reduced hours or fewer programs.

And although donors have pledged more than \$14,000 a year for the next few years to keep the Comstock House open, Archabal said it's questionable whether the other sites will be able to reopen next summer.

"Unfortunately, the fight for survival is not over," she said.

At least having the sites remain open this summer will make it easier to raise money to continue operating indefinitely, society officials said.

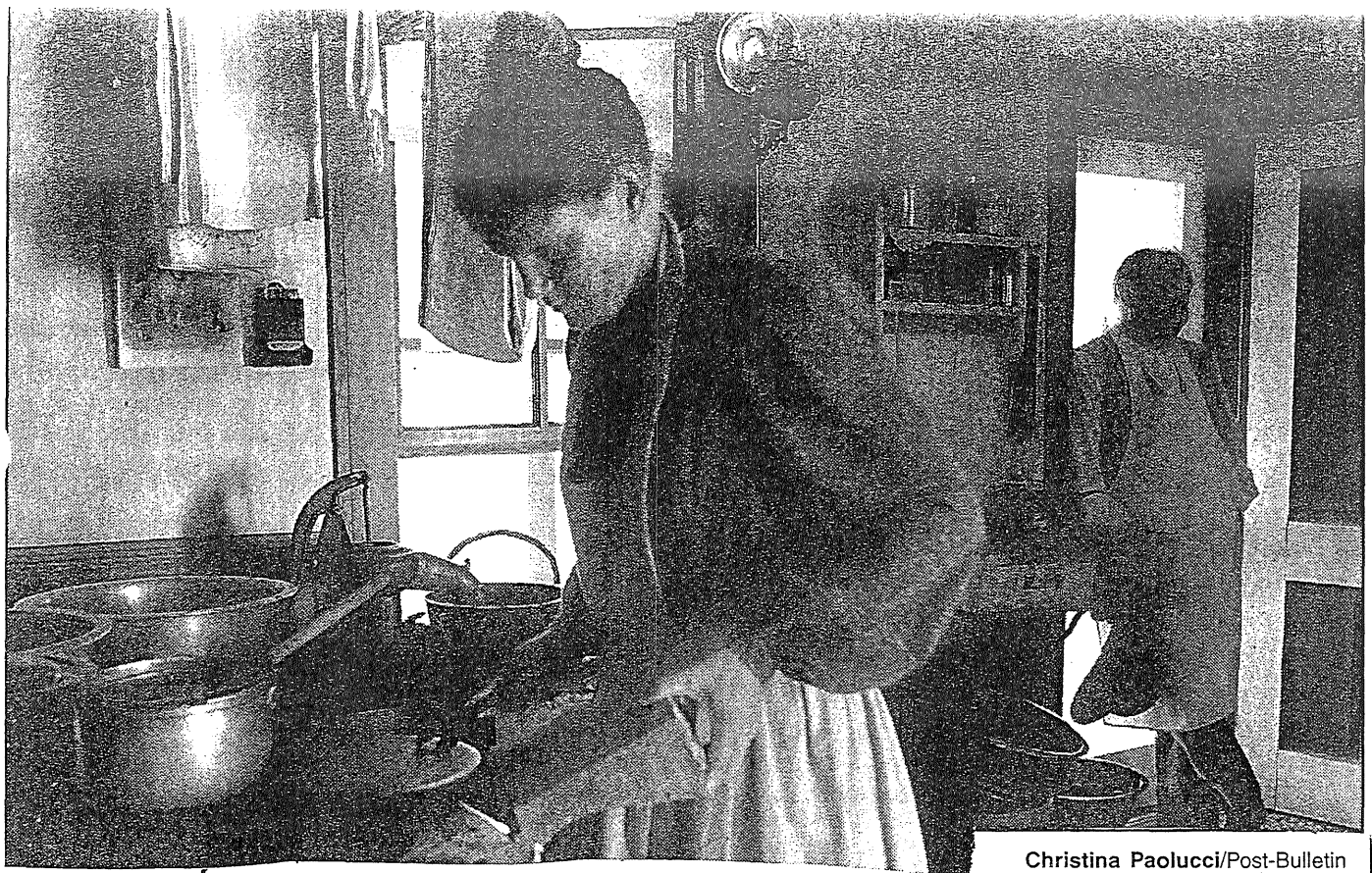
Raising money for a closed site "is so much more difficult ... it's like a train. Once it's stopped it's hard to get it going again," said Dan Fjeld, a technician at the Lower Sioux Agency site.

In southeastern Minnesota, the Friends of Forestville said they also will continue raising money for the site, which features a living history exhibit of an 1890s village on an 18-acre site in Forestville State Park.

The group raised more than \$50,000 the past month to keep the site open through Labor Day, said Katie Colbenson of Grand Meadow, who helped lead the group. Most of the donations came from individuals. "That's how important this site is down here to the people," Colbenson said.

About \$110,000 is needed to keep Forestville open during the fall and next year.

Minneapolis Free Press
June 28, 2003



Christina Paolucci/Post-Bulletin

Mary Schmidt prepares huckleberry pie on a wood-burning stove Monday at Historic Forestville. Schmidt was playing Bertha Martin, and George Colbenson, background, played John Maloney. Schmidt serves as a volunteer at Historic Forestville two to four times a month.

Keeping the past alive

History buffs volunteer, raise money to keep Forestville open

By John Weiss

weiss@postbulletin.com

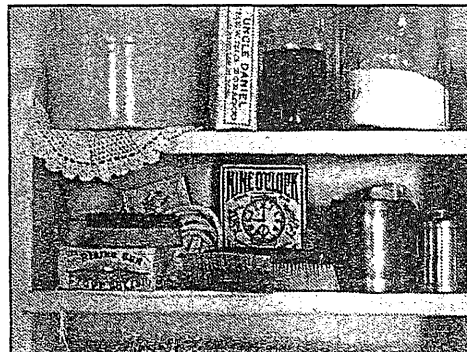
WYKOFF — Mary Schmidt put two quarts of huckleberries into a pot on the wood-burning stove, added lemon, sugar and tapioca, then stirred it and poured it into a crust. Along with her huckleberry pie, she created a slice of history.

For the past dozen years, women at Historic Forestville in Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park south of Wykoff have made pies and baked bread, while men and women chopped wood, tended gardens and acted as if they lived or worked in the Meighen Store or adjacent house in 1899. The living history aspect of the site is one of the things that

Inside

- Friends of Forestville not out of the woods yet.

— Page 4B



A shelf full of period items lends authenticity to the working kitchen at Historic Forestville.

Christina Paolucci Post-Bulletin

make it so special, re-enactors said.

This year, however, the smell of pies is wafting through the kitchen only because volunteers have portrayed the turn-of-the-century villagers. Without their time, which came to at least 500 hours, there would have been no actors at the site July 1 through Labor Day, but it would have remained open.

This year's budget crunch was so bad that Forestville was scheduled to close July 1. Instead, the Friends of Forestville collected enough donations to keep the site open, although on a reduced schedule. July 1 through Labor Day. The Friends only had

enough to pay for two living-history actors so many actors volunteered their time.

It is the re-enactors who make the tours so special, said Schmidt, who portray's Bertha Martin, a cook. "I just love this place," said the woman from Chester, Iowa, on Monday. "I came here as a tourist ... fell in love with it."

Bonnie Lamkin of La Crosse, Wis., who was sweeping the kitchen as part of her role as Mary Maloney, wife of the store clerk, also volunteered during the past two months. "This place is so important

to me," she said.

Those working at Forestville are family, Schmidt and others said. They enjoy each other, say the characters they play and have learned things along the way.

For example, cooking and baking in the era of wood-stoves is a far cry from the culinary science practiced in kitchens today.

"It's not real precise," Schmidt said. "It's all by looking and stirring and touching and tasting."

Besides, she said as she stirred the huckleberries, "it's just plain fun, but don't let that secret out."

Sept 2, 2003 ch P. B

Primly Dancer...
soup and sandwich supper.
Bake sale at 4:30 p.m.; supper at
5 p.m. and auction at 7 p.m. at
Church Fellowship Hall.

*Spring Valley
Tribune / Nov 5 2003*

Swing dance to raise funds to keep Historic Forestville open

The Friends of Forestville are sponsoring a 1940s swing dance at the historic Plamor Ballroom in Rochester on Friday, Nov. 7, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. This is a fund-raiser event and all proceeds will go toward keeping Historic Forestville open.

Historic Forestville is a historic site operated by the Minnesota Historical Society and because of state budget cuts was scheduled to close last summer. However, the Friends of Forestville stepped forward and are raising the necessary funding to keep the site open this coming season. Historic Forestville serves the educational needs of 15,000 local, statewide, national, and international visitors each year with its living history programming.

The dance will have a 1940s

World War II era theme and is to be held the Friday before Veterans Day. All military veterans are welcome and will receive a \$2 discount. Audiences will dance to live music provided by the amazing band "Remembrance," which has been playing dance and swing music for the past 30 years. They will be playing the music of Les Brown, Woody Herman, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, and others, as well as other favorite standards. Go prepared to dance, listen to the music, enjoy period refreshments, and reminisce.

The Plamor Ballroom is located east of Rochester on Highway 14 at 2045 Highway 14 East, just east of Rochester Community and Technical College. The phone number is (507) 282-5244.



A step back in time

Members of the Kingsland seventh grade class intently listen to Historic Forestville living history actor George Colbenson as he tries to sell them some wares at the Meighen Store. The KMS students toured the store and the grounds and hiked the trails in Forestville State Park last Friday. A

public hearing on the possible closing of Historic Forestville will be held this Wednesday evening at the Wykoff Community Center, beginning at 7 p.m. For more photos of the class tour, see page seven.

(Tribune photo by Charlie Warner)

Last attempt to save Historic Forestville

The letter-writing, e-mail, and telephone campaign launched last month in a effort to save the Historic Village of Forestville appears to have made some impact at the Minnesota State Capitol this spring.

Two and a half months ago people across the region were angered when it was announced that the Historical Society was planning to close down Historic Forestville at the end of the current fiscal year as a cost-cutting measure. If that happens on June 30, the artifacts left by Thomas Meighen in the old general store, barn, and family home in 1910 will most likely be packed up, taken to St. Paul and stored at the History Center. Members of Friends of Forestville say they are worried that once the site closes, it will never reopen.

Since that time, letters and phone calls to state lawmakers and to the Historical Society's Twin Cities offices appear to have had the desired effect. Some state lawmakers have now indicated that they want the Society to

make cuts in administration starting at the top and that the historic sites throughout the state should be kept open.

The Friends of Forestville group has also been holding a petition drive with over 15-hundred signatures gathered so far. Those documents are being presented to State Historical Society Director Nina Archabal during a meeting in St. Paul this week.

They say they hope Archibal will reverse the decision she made in response to Governor Tim Pawlenty's request that all state agencies make a 15 percent cut in their budgets to help solve the state's four and a half billion-dollar deficit. At that time, a Friend's spokesman noted, "We could survive a 15 percent cut, but not the 100 percent cut proposed by the Historical Society."

Area lawmakers, county commissioners, local community leaders, and concerned people are now being asked to meet with representatives of the Minnesota State Historical Society to try to work out a

solution to the proposal to close the living history and pioneer agricultural interpretive site near Wykoff. The May 15 meeting comes just days before the end of the 2003 legislative session.

Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson said he thinks this may be the one last chance to save the site. Colbenson said the 7:00 p.m. meeting at the Wykoff Community Center is open to the public, and everyone who cares about the site is needed at the event.

Those who want to see that the historical site remains open should not take it for granted that someone else will make that happen. They are encouraged to attend this special meeting.

"We want the folks from MHS and our state legislators to know just how important Historic Forestville is to this area and to our children." Colbenson stated, concluding, "A strong showing of support can only help our cause."

County promises \$5,000, maybe more to Forestville

By Lisa Brainard
Republican-Leader

The Fillmore County commissioners paid their due to Historic Forestville in the amount of a \$5,000 pledge Tuesday, as well as the potential for more.

The commissioners heard an update on the plight of the local Minnesota State Historical (MHS) site during their weekly meeting from Forestville Site Manager Charlie Pautler and Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson.

The men explained that unless \$50,000 is raised by June 23, the MHS will close the site. It would be closed for at least four years, according to Pautler.

He also explained the state officials asked for local commitment to the site. Keeping the site open would run \$110,000 under a minimal site operation for just three months.

Due to Forestville's fiscal year, that includes July and August of this summer, as well as June of 2004. The funding still needed is beyond gate receipts and sales at the Historic Forestville gift shop. Keeping the site open in 2003 will run \$50,000 with an additional \$40,000 to \$50,000 needed for 2004.

Pautler said Historic Forestville would be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. It did not include money for an educational pr

gram, which currently accounts for 3,000 of the site's 14,500 annual visitors.

It would include a fulltime site manager, an historic site technician, and a staff of two interpreters. Current discussions call for them to operate as tour guides instead of costumed site interpreters.

Colbenson said the guides are willing to volunteer to continue doing their living history interpretations if the site stays open. There would be two paid and three volunteers in that scenario.

Colbenson further added, "I will volunteer every single day in July and August if we raise \$50,000."

He cited the many years of experience the living history interpreters have, which would all be lost if Historic Forestville closed.

"If it closes, I'm greatly fearful it won't re-open," said Colbenson.

EDA funding?

Commissioner Randy Dahl brought up another option. He and Commissioner Chuck Amunrud talked about using funding opportunities through the Fillmore County Economic Development Authority (EDA).

Dahl said, "Part of the EDA program is business retention."

He also mentioned money available for EDA loans. The commissioners said they would look further into this option.

Colbenson and Pautler said

Where to donate

Donations to Friends of Forestville can be made at any office of Phillips Publishing: Spring Valley Tribune, Spring Grove Herald, Harmony and Mabel News-Record offices, and the Preston office of the Republican-Leader of Preston and Lanesboro. Or mail donations to Friends of Forestville, Box 14, Spring Valley, MN. 55975.

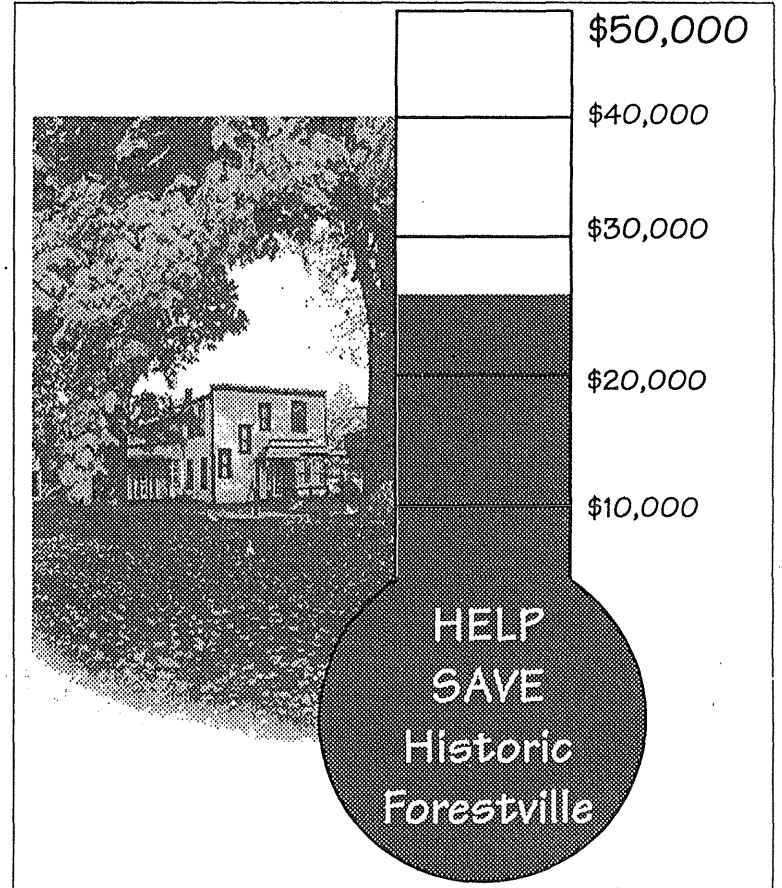
Check www.hometown-pages.com for timely updates on donations.

they had to present their funding total to the MHS by June 23. Commissioner Duane Bakke asked if they thought the MHS officials would give them a little leeway.

Bakke made a motion to pledge \$5,000 to Historic Forestville and invited the site's representatives to return to the commissioner's meeting Tuesday morning, June 24. The commissioners thought they might be able to come up with any last-minute funds needed, or might have more information on EDA loan or grant opportunities.

"This is an absolutely terrific thing," said Colbenson.

Pledges received to date include the City of Preston,



\$5,000; Wykoff, \$1,000; Spring Valley American Legion, \$2,000; and Fillmore County Commissioners, \$5,000. Colbenson estimated current pledges of around \$16,000. He hoped to receive around \$1,000 to \$2,000 in pledges at a Friends of Forestville meeting Thursday night.

Colbenson said he will be contacting cities, government groups, civic organizations, businesses and individuals to continue raising funds. Donations can be made to Friends of Forestville, Security State Bank, Box 126, Wykoff, MN 55990. He also noted if the amount needed is not raised, pledge need not be made.

Old Time Basket Social set to raise funds for Forestville

Area businesses are pitching in and helping with the effort to keep the living history program at Historic Forestville Village open for another year.

Wall-Mart South in Rochester, the Spring Valley Bakery, Subway Sandwiches, Preston Apple and Berry Farm, and private donations are sponsoring the first-ever "Old Time Basket Social" on the south lawn of the historic site on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 6 to 9 p.m.

There is no admission charge for the event. Bring your whole family and your lawn chairs. Plan to spend a leisurely evening at Historic Forestville. Enjoy a backyard 1890s garden party atmosphere, complete

with period music and games of checkers, croquet, and horseshoes. Coffee and lemonade will be provided.

As a fund-raising effort to keep the historic site open, visitors can bid on an old-fashioned wicker basket containing a meal for two while they enjoy the music and games. Winning bidders will dine with the likes of Mary Meighen (Thomas Meighen's wife), Catherine Meighen, Eliza Jane McAndress, and Martha Healy (Thomas' sisters), Gotlieb Winter (the gardener), John and Mary Maloney and Mr. and Mrs. Ball (farm laborers and their wives), and Nellie Moyles (the house servant).

All proceeds from the event

will go to keep Historic Forestville open next summer. Money made at this fund-raiser will be matched (up to \$1,000) by Wall-Mart South of Rochester.

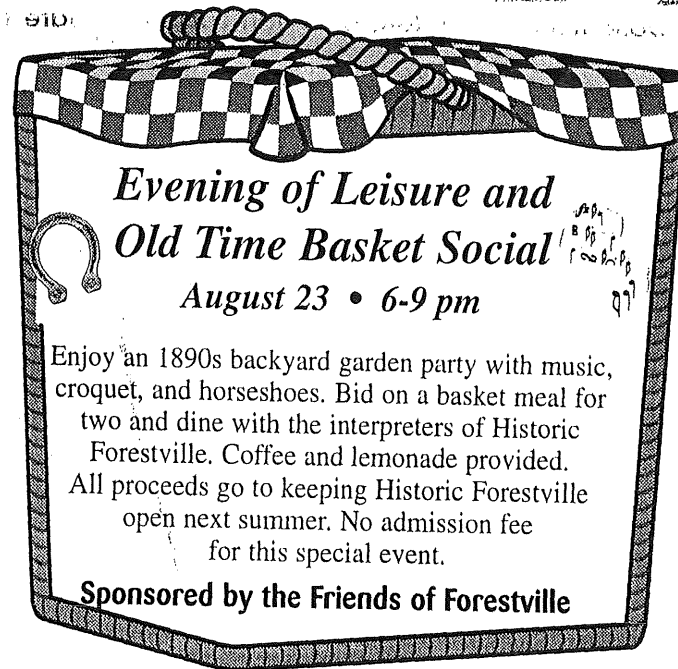
Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson says, tongue in cheek, "We hope people will bid early, bid often and bid recklessly!" Bids and donations made that night will be tax deductible.

If you can't attend and would still like to help keep Historic Forestville open you can send a tax-deductible donation to Friends of Forestville, Security State Bank P.O. Box 126 Wykoff, MN 55990.

Spring Valley Tribune

Aug 2003

Historic Forestville Fundraiser



Public hearing set for Forestville

A public hearing with local officials, Friends of Forestville and representatives of the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) has been scheduled for this Wednesday, June 4. The meeting will take place at 5 p.m. at the Preston City Hall.

MHS Site Director Bill Keyes and MHS Director of Finance Patrick McCormick will meet with local officials and residents to continue the

dialog on the proposed closing of Historic Forestville at Forestville State Park.

Due to the state budget deficit, estimated at approximately \$4.3 billion, MHS is facing a \$4 million cut in state funds for 2004 and 2005 fiscal years. The massive budget cuts have prompted MHS to look at closing seven of the historic sites in Minnesota that MHS manages. Historic Forestville is

one of the seven sites.

Former Preston Mayor Richard Nelson will moderate the meeting. If there is no change in the cuts proposed by the state, local residents will be looking at ways to keep the historic community open through funding-raising efforts, reduced scheduling and volunteer help.

Anyone interested in keeping Historic Forestville open is urged to attend the meeting.

Meeting scheduled to discuss keeping Historic Forestville site open

A public hearing with local officials, Friends of Forestville and representatives of the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) has been scheduled for this Wednesday, June 4. The meeting will take place at 5 p.m. at the Preston City Hall.

MHS Site Director Bill Keyes MHS Director of Finance Patrick McCormick will meet with local officials and residents to continue the dialog on the pro-

posed closing of Historic Forestville at Forestville State Park.

Due to the state budget deficit, estimated at approximately \$4.3 billion, MHS is facing a \$4 million cut in state funds for 2004 and 2005 fiscal years. The massive budget cuts have prompted MHS to look at closing seven of the historic sites in Minnesota that MHS manages. Historic Forestville is one of the seven sites.

Former Preston Mayor Richard Nelson will moderate the meeting. If there is no change in the cuts proposed by the state, local residents will be looking at ways to keep the historic community open through funding-raising efforts, reduced scheduling and volunteer help.

Anyone interested in keeping Historic Forestville open is urged to attend the meeting.

Spring Valley Tribune June 9, 2003

Rockwater Post Bulletin May 8, 2003

Future of Historic Forestville to be discussed

From staff reports

WYKOFF — The Minnesota Historical Society will have a meeting to discuss the proposed closing of Historic Forestville at 7 p.m. May 15 at the Wykoff Community Center.

"We feel it is important to have an open active dialogue with local supporters regarding these proposed cuts," said William Keyes, head of the Minnesota Historical Society's historic sites. "We are prepared to listen to local concerns as well as give an update on what is going on at our state Capitol and how this will affect the Historical

Society and the statewide historic sites network."

Historic Forestville, an 18-acre living-history site inside Forestville State Park near Wykoff, recreates life during the last decades of the 19th century by showcasing actors in restored period buildings.

Earlier this year, the Min-

nesota Historical Society proposed closing Forestville and six other historic sites across the state as a way to cope with the anticipated loss of about \$4 million in funding next year. Forestville, which draws about 14,000 visitors annually, costs about \$235,000 to operate each year.

4th of July activities abound

By Lanier Frush Holt

lholt@postbulletin.com

Fireworks shows will be just one part of the things to do this Fourth of July on Friday.

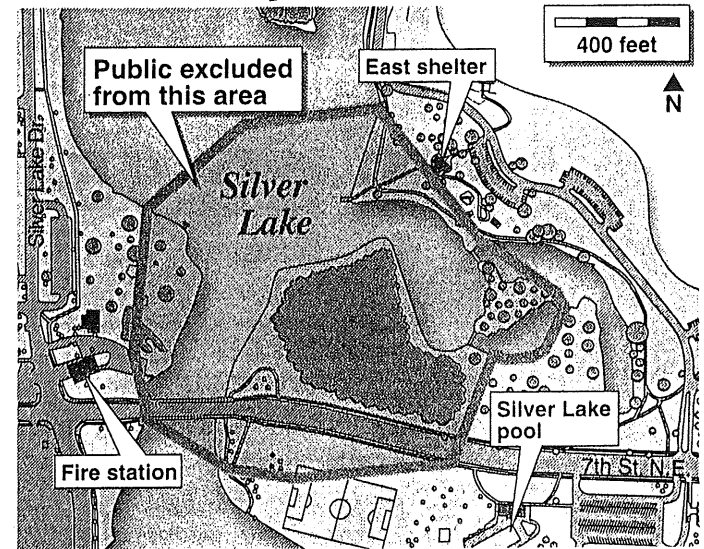
A free water ski show will take place at 6 p.m. at Silver Lake on Friday. A Rochester Civic Music concert starts at 8:30 p.m. and the annual fireworks show, sponsored by Post-Bulletin Charities, will follow at Silver Lake at 10 p.m.

"The show will last between 20 and 25 minutes and will begin after the band plays their last note," said John Withers, promotion director for the Post-Bulletin. "This should be one of our best shows ever."

Earlier in the day, the younger generation will show their patriotic pride. The Fourth of July Kiddie Parade, sponsored by the Rochester Jaycees, will start at 11 a.m. at Central Park. Registration will begin at 10 a.m., and judging will be at 10:30 a.m. Children ages 1 to 13 may decorate their wagon, tricycle or bicycle in patriotic colors and join the parade, which will end in Soldiers Field Memorial Park. There is no entry fee.

Of course Rochester isn't the only place in south-

Fourth of July fireworks



Source: Post-Bulletin Charities

Kristi Berg/P-B graphic

eastern Minnesota to find Fourth-activities.

- Historic Forestville, a "living history" site inside Forestville State Park near Preston, will be re-creating the late 1890s with music, contests and games. Political speeches by actors portraying the Rev. Father McTeague and political orator Ignatius Donnelly also will take place Friday. The event runs from noon to 4 p.m. at the state park. The event costs \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for children between

6 and 12 years old and is free for children younger than 6.

- The 25th annual Austin Youth International Baseball Tournament, which starts at 10:30 a.m. in the north complex of Todd Park, is one of many activities taking place in Austin on Friday. An Independence Day parade will start at 11 a.m. in Horace Austin Park. The Spam Town Belle and Paddle Boat Rides event will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Mill Pond. Fireworks will start at 9:45 p.m. in Horace Austin Park.

FRONT PAGE

Rochester Post Bulletin
July 3, 2003

Spring Valley Tribune June 4, 2003

Historic Forestville program looks at life of Eliza Jane Foster

On June 14, Historic Forestville will focus on an era when the site was a growing community. State park visitors and campers will hear about the life of Eliza Jane Foster, who journeyed up river from Galena, Ill., in 1854 with her husband and two young daughters.

A costumed interpreter portraying Foster will hold conversations with visitors and talk about her life in the 1860s and her role in her family, politics and with the Foster and Meighen families that dominated the town. This special free evening event will be held at the Forestville State Park

amphitheater beginning at 8 p.m. Admission fees to the State Park are required.

The historic village is part of Forestville State Park, between Preston and Spring Valley. Admission to the historic site is \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens and \$2 for children ages 6 to 12 in addition to the state park fee. For more information, call 507-765-2785.

The Society's calendar of events is posted on the Internet at www.mnhs.org. The website also has information about all

of the Society's historic sites.

The Minnesota Historical Society is a nonprofit educational and cultural institution established in 1849 to preserve and share Minnesota history. The Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Minnesota's past through museum exhibits, extensive libraries and collections, historic sites, educational programs and book publishing.

SV EDA discusses Historic Forestville issue

Wed June 25 2003

By Charlie Warner
Spring Valley Tribune

The Spring Valley Economic Development Authority (EDA) held a special meeting Monday, June 23, to discuss the Historic Forestville issue and see if there was any way it could come up with some funding to help save the historic town.

EDA Director Mike Bubany told the Board that he had been contacted by the Spring Valley Public Utilities Commission about the matter. Because the EDA promotes economic development and Historic Forestville does have an economic impact on Spring Valley, EDA members agreed to call a special meeting Monday morning to discuss the issue.

"The reason the city wasn't able to kick any money in is we are so strapped by the LGA cuts," said EDA member Jim Struzyk, who is also the Spring Valley Mayor. "The Council's feelings were that we were cutting city employees' hours because of the state cuts. How could we justify donating to Historic Forestville to our employees who just had their hours cut?"

It was brought up that the Spring Valley Chamber of Commerce used \$3,000 in city lodging tax money to donate to Historic Forestville, which could be considered Spring Valley city funds. It was also brought up that KING 11 Cable television, which is franchised through the City of Spring

Valley, donated \$500.

"Having served on the Friends of Forestville Board and having formerly served on the Spring Valley Tourism Board, I feel this community benefits from Historic Forestville," said EDA member Mark Biermann. "If the money isn't raised and the state closes Historic Forestville down, it will take a very long time to get it going again. I know, I was part of the process the last time it was closed."

Bubany was asked if the EDA had money to make a donation. He replied that they had one of the healthier budgets within the city. "Have we ever made a donation like this before? Not to the best of my knowledge," Bubany said.

EDA member David Phillips said he was concerned that if the EDA made a big donation right now when the city is so financially strapped that maybe next year the City Council would cut down on how much money is budgeted for the EDA.

"I'm concerned about spending EDA money when the city is so short on funds," EDA member Kim Brown added.

Biermann made a motion to donate \$200 to Historic Forestville. His motion was seconded by Phillips. Biermann and Phillips voted in favor of the motion and Brown and Struzyk voted against it. The motion failed due to a lack of a majority vote.

Rain threatens Forestville's celebration

*Clouds similar
to what site faced
during the spring*

By Mike Dougherty

news@postbulletin.com

HISTORIC FORESTVILLE

— Dark clouds and a sprinkle of rain threatened the crowds at Historic Forestville's annual Fourth of July celebration on Friday, but soon the clouds parted and blue sky stretched above nearly 500 visitors to the Minnesota Historic Site, which had been threatened with closure just weeks ago.

The weather on this Fourth of July was much like the storms the Historic Forestville group weathered through the spring during the drawn-out legislative session. A Minnesota Historical Society funding cut led to the proposed closure of Historic Forestville and seven other sites in the state.

But a private group called Friends of Forestville

so ago," Colbenson said. "We hoped the word would get out. It looks like a good crowd. That makes it fun."

Historic Forestville, located within Forestville State Park, is a living history site run by the Minnesota Historical Society. It's a collection of buildings, including a house, a store, a barn and a few other out-buildings owned by Thomas Meighen, who bought up most of the property after the railroad bypassed the town and its fortunes sagged.

Charlie Paulter, site manager of Historic Forestville, played the role of James Foster, a neighbor of Meighen's, during Friday's celebration, reading the Declaration of Independence from the south porch of the Meighen home to a crowd of 150.

Paulter said they are hopeful that people will continue to visit the site on the three days it's open each week. The site will be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through the end of the season.

"We were worried whether we'd still get people here since we weren't sure we'd be open until a week or so ago."

— George Colbenson of the Friends of Forestville

scrambled in a matter of weeks to find donations of \$50,000, enough money to get the attraction through the end of its season.

They'll have to find another \$60,000 to open next spring and operate through June 30, and another \$110,000 to stay open from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

George Colbenson, president of the Friends of Forestville, who plays Ignatius Donnelly during the July 4 celebration, blended in a nod to the site's up-and-down fortunes during his annual Fourth of July oratory, noting that he was "fearing that I might not be able to be here this year."

Forestville's Fourth of July event depicts Independence Day in the late 1890s, with volunteers dressed in period costumes and activities similar to those of that era.

Later, Colbenson was full of smiles as he watched families stroll through the tiny town or stop to watch the old-time baseball game.

"We were worried whether we'd still get people here since we weren't sure we'd be open until a week or

"It's hard to say what the public reaction will be when they come and the site isn't fully staffed," he said.

Colbenson, who's played Donnelly, a Minnesota congressman and political populist, for 11 years, called this year's July 4 event a success.

"Independence Day in this era was very much about freedom, and we hope we can bring that feeling to people who visit today," Colbenson said. "It's as important today as it was back then."

Children gathered for games near the Meighen Store, sliding their legs into itchy gunny sacks for a sack race or finding a sibling or friend to tie a piece of cloth around their legs for the three-legged race.

Later, some of those same kids, and a few adults, gnawed at slices of watermelon without using their hands to see who could eat it the fastest.

Brad Peters of Rochester watched as his two daughters hopped in the sack race event.

"I'd heard about it a lot in the news lately, and I came here as a kid, so I wanted my own children to have this experience as well," Peters said.

Rochester Post Bulletin
SAT July 5, 2003

Fourth of July celebrated the old fashion wa



Forestville Nine manager Steve Tammel, center, of Spring Valley had a few laughs with the umpire at left and the captain of the Rochester Roosters, a 1800s-vintage baseball team. Tammel and a team

made up of Spring Valley-area ballplayers made up the Forestville Nine ball team, which lost to the Roosters by two runs. The game was enjoyed by a crowd of several hundred spectators.



A choir, made up of historic interpreters and members of the large audience, performs a number of patriotic selections

as part of the Fourth of July at Historic Forestville last Friday.

**Photography by
Charlie Warner**

Historic Forestville not relegated to history yet

Community donations keep site open

By Joshua Lynsen

jlynsen@postbulletin.com

WYKOFF — Community donations have stayed the planned closure of Historic Forestville, a living-history site inside Forestville State Park.

Minnesota Historical Society spokeswoman Margorie Nugent said site visitors,

local residents and others donated \$50,000, enough to keep the location open until Labor Day.

"This is really astounding, what they've done," Nugent said. "We're hoping that this will show the Legislature and the governor how important it is to people that these sites stay open."

Nugent said the society had planned to close the 18-acre rural village to help cut expenses. The site was one of seven historic sites across the state slated to be closed July 1.

Nugent said Tuesday that

Historic Forestville will remain open, albeit with reduced hours and programming.

"This is by no means a permanent solution," she said. "We will be working now to see that our (state) funding is restored, but these funds are a stop-gap measure."

George Colbenson, president of Friends of Forestville, said he was overwhelmed by the public show of support. He said the largest donations — two checks for \$5,000 — came from Fillmore County and an unknown group identified only as The Horse

People.

"The support has just been heartwarming," he said.

Historic Forestville recreates life during the last decades of the 19th century by showcasing actors in restored period buildings. Forestville's living-history program started in 1992 and has annually drawn an average 13,900 visitors.

Forestville will remain open each Friday, Saturday and Sunday through the summer.

Nugent said if state legislators restore society funding, Historic Forestville could be



P-B graphic

fully funded again. If the state funding is not restored, local fund-raising efforts would again be necessary.

*River Valley Reader, June 9, 2003
Harmony, Nabel, Preston Spring Grove & Spring Valley*

BRIEFS

Preston to help fund Historic Forestville

Former Preston mayor Richard Nelson approached the Preston City Council Monday evening with a request to help save Historic Forestville, the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) site located at Forestville State Park.

Budget cuts at the state level have left the 1899 buildings, period actors and new visitor center threatened to be closed come June 30.

He asked the City of Preston to step up, be a leader and give \$5,000 to Forestville. Nelson said he also would be making the same request to other area towns and to Fillmore County officials.

Mayor Dave Pechulis said the site has a definite financial impact on Preston.

Councilman Mike Gartner said his family gives money to the site, however, he wanted to make sure Spring Valley and Wykoff also were asked for funding since "they are on the open end and we're on the closed end."

Gartner referred to easy access to Forestville State Park on hard-surfaced roads, while those approaching the park from Preston would need to enter Historic Forestville from a county gravel road.

Pechulis suggested a pledge based on participation of other area towns and entities.

City Attorney David Joerg urged the Council to hold off on a vote until the revised resolution was in front of them in writing. He noted there is a difference between "matching funds and a pledge," and wanted the resolution to state exactly what the Council members wished.

Joerg said, at this point the Council could say the City of Preston would make a substantial

referred to the site, however, he wanted to make sure Spring Valley and Wykoff also were asked for funding since "they are on the open end and we're on the closed end."

Though we had been in the Forestville store numerous times, each time we found something new and Luther was always there to explain what it had been used for and how old it was. We loved hearing his stories and we learned many lessons while browsing through the "merchandise" in this historic store.

When it was closed, many years ago, before the Friends of Forestville fought to get it reopened, I again visited the site and found that the "ghosts" had claimed this site. As we drove through the old town, I felt for the first time that the old town had been abandoned and it had become one of those old ghost towns depicted in films.

Since the site has reopened, I've been there a couple of times and while I have missed Luther's stories, the interpreters who demonstrate different aspects of life in the 1800s have been delightful. Again, I learned many lessons about our history, not only of our own area, but the history of our nation.

Having worked at a nearby campground, I am aware of how many families come to visit Historic Forestville, not to mention the number of schools that utilize the site for educational fieldtrips. If the Forestville site is closed once again, those families may choose to visit other sites throughout the state and our local school children will have to travel greater distances to visit other

his-
torical landmarks and exhibits. Even then, the lessons learned will be different than those one can learn at Historic Forestville, as Forestville is one of only two sites that focuses on agricultural and rural life.

I attend enough city and school board meetings to know that budget constraints are difficult and that sacrifices have to be made to balance a budget. However, cutting out the entire programming at Forestville seems not only unreasonable, but unconscionable.

Instead of cutting entire programming, I would hope the Minnesota Historical Society would instead decide to share the budget cuts across the board. I would expect Historic Forestville to tighten its belt, but to cut the entire program is a detriment to not only the state park itself, but to our local economy and tourism industry.

When working with the local tourism organization, we talk a lot about offering a diverse selection of activities for our visitors in southeastern Minnesota. Having attractions, like Historic Forestville, in our area, in addition to the bike trails, Amish tours and local caves, helps provide activities that will entice visitors to stay longer, and in essence, spend more money, once they are in our area.

While all those economic and educational impacts concern me,

Public meeting on Historic Forestville in Wykoff May 15

By Charlie Warner
Spring Valley Tribune

Two-and-one-half months ago, area residents were angered when it was announced that the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) was planning to close down Historic Forestville at the end of its fiscal year on June 30. The action by the MHS was prompted by Gov. Tim Pawlenty's request that all state agencies make a 15 percent decrease in their budgets to help ease the projected \$4.5 billion state deficit.

An informational meeting, which was attended by about 70 concerned persons, was held on March 4 at Forestville State Park south of Wykoff. MHS representative Tom Ellig and Forestville Historic Site living history actor and interpreter George Colbenson co-facilitated the meeting. A number of persons spoke about the educational value of Historic Forestville and noted that over 3,000 students tour the historical site each school year while on educational field trips.

Those attending the meeting were told that the proposed cuts

were just that — proposed. According to Colbenson, the action to close Historic Forestville isn't a done thing. Constituents have been lobbying state lawmakers to instruct the MHS that if massive cuts in its budget become a reality, the cuts should be made at the top.

"From what I've read, people across the state want the MHS to make cuts in administration, starting at the top and that the historic sites throughout the state should be the last things cut," Colbenson explained.

According to recent newspaper accounts, the State House is looking at making an 18 percent cut in the MHS budget, while the State Senate is leaning more toward a "no cuts, no increases in spending" approach to straightening out the budget deficit.

Regardless of how the state will attempt to straighten out the current budget mess, a meeting has been scheduled for May 15 at 7 p.m. at the Wykoff Community Center to further discuss the Historic Forestville issue. Representatives of the

MHS will be in attendance to solicit additional information concerning the historic site. According to Historic Forestville site manager Charles Pautler, invitations have been sent out to area legislators, county commissioners, local politicians and community leaders, as well as Historic Forestville supporters. Persons interested in keeping Historic Forestville open are urged to attend.

"If we are able to somehow get through this and keep Historic Forestville open, I will be spending the next six months writing thank yous to all of the people who have been writing letters and making phone calls of support," Pautler said. "The support has been tremendous."

Colbenson added that the more people attending the May 15 meeting the better. "We want the folks from the MHS and our state legislators to know just how important Historic Forestville is to this area and to our children. A strong showing of support can only help our cause."

Proposed state funding cuts to close Historic Forestville

Informational meeting March 4 at state park

By Charlie Warner
Spring Valley Tribune

Much has been written and said about the massive budget shortfall the state of Minnesota is experiencing and the possible ways of remedying the problem. Several proposals have surfaced and been reviewed. The last one was issued by Gov. Tim Pawlenty last week.

City, county and state governmental agencies have been scrambling to prepare for the anticipated budget cuts. Many of our local community, school district and county programs will be affected.

The Minnesota Historical Society is also preparing for massive cuts in the funds it receives from the state and those preparations include the closing down of one of Fillmore County's treasures, Historic Forestville.

According to George Colbenson, who works as an interpreter at the historic village and is also a member of the Friends of Forestville organization, the state historical society is planning to close down eight historic sites as of July 1. The Historical Society's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30, so money to continue operating the various historic sites in the state will not run out until June 30.

"We will be opening for the season and will offer the school programs as we have in the past," Colbenson said. "But if the Governor's proposed budget becomes a reality, we won't be in operation come July 1."

Historic Forestville, which is adjacent to Forestville State Park, employs 14 interpreters, a site technician and a site manager. The village is made up of the Meighen Store, the Meighen home, several barns and other outbuildings that were all part of the community of Forestville.

Forestville was founded on

the South Branch of the Root River along the stagecoach line in the mid-1800s. It prospered for nearly three decades, but when the railroad route was established about five miles farther north, the community shriveled up and died. The store, which was the hub of the community, was closed down by Thomas Meighen in 1910. When the door was locked, much of the merchandise was left on the shelves, and the store became a time capsule, as little changed or was disturbed during the next 50 years.

When the DNR purchased the land to create Forestville State Park in 1968, the store, house, barn and other outbuildings were included in the purchase. The DNR included the historic town site as part of the park and let those visiting the park tour the old store. In 1992, the Minnesota Historical Society took over the historic village and turned it into a living museum. Visitors could tour the store, house and other outbuildings, watch the various interpreters go about their work as it was in the 1890s and even sample baked goods produced in the wood cookstoves in the house and fruits and vegetables grown in the gardens.

According to Forestville site manager Charlie Paulter, 12,392 persons toured the historic village last fiscal year. The state's operating budget for 2002 was \$199,382. Additional income to help operate the facility came from donations and admissions.

To help garner public support for Historic Forestville and also to let the public know what the current plans are, a public meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, at 7 p.m. at the Forestville State Park pavilion.

"We need people who wish to see Historic Forestville

remain open to contact their legislators," Paulter said. "Right now, this is only a proposal. But we need to have as many people as we can get this message out to our legislators."

According to Minnesota Historical Society spokesperson Lory Sutton, the Governor's proposed budget would cut \$8.046 million from their budget. And that \$8 million cut is on top of a \$1 million cut the Historical Society experienced this past year.

"This has been a very painful process for us," Sutton said. "Every historic site in Minnesota is important to all of the residents of Minnesota, but we were forced to make cuts."

Sutton explained that the Historical Society established a formula for figuring out what sites would be closed and which would remain open. The formula included the number of visitors to each site annually, the cost to operate each site, recent investments and improvements done at the various sites and where each site is located in the state.

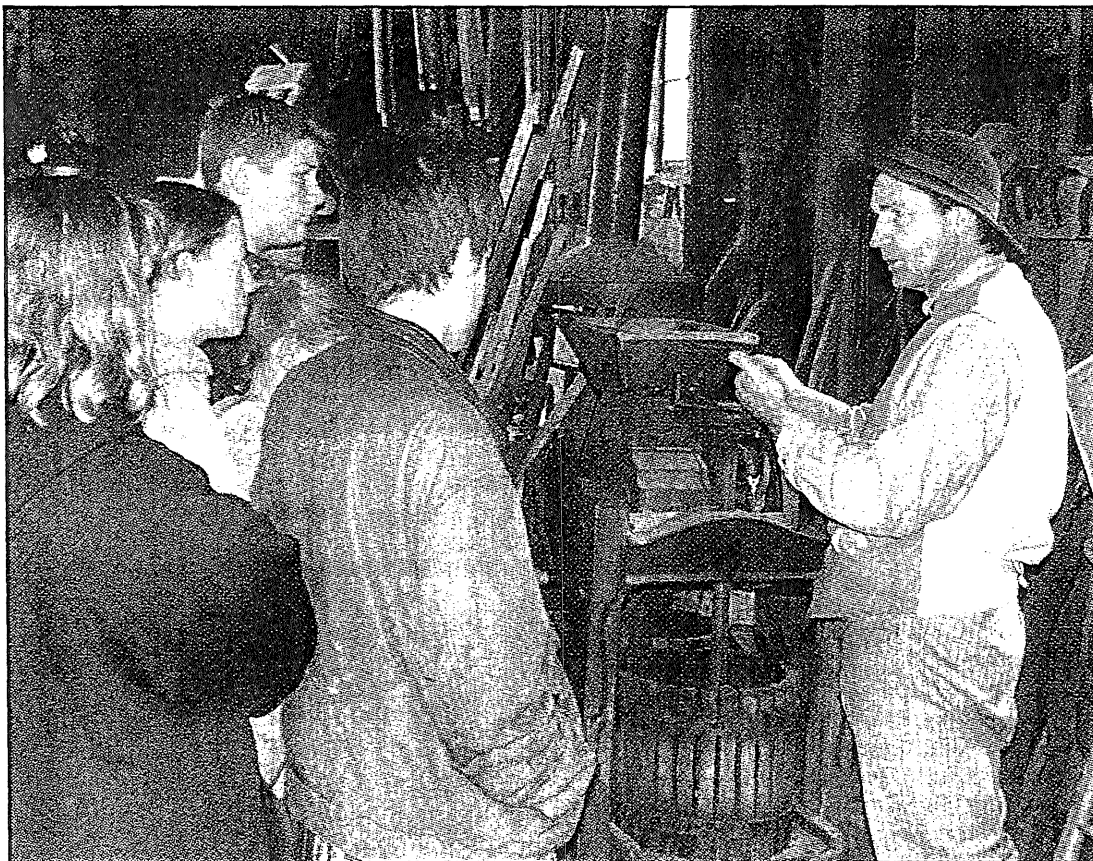
Because the Forestville site has low visitation numbers when compared to many of the other sites in the state and a high cost of operation due to the number of living interpreters, it was one of the sites that ended up in the "close" column when plugged into the formula.

"We hope to reopen the various sites that we are forced to close as soon as the state's economic picture gets better," Sutton said. "The state sets a two-year budget and our hope is that these sites can be reopened as soon as possible."

Anyone interested in Historic Forestville is urged to attend the meeting this coming Tuesday, March 4, at Forestville State Park.

Spring Valley Tribune Wed Feb 26 2003

A fieldtrip to Historic Forestville



Kingsland seventh graders received an excellent history lesson last Friday as they stepped back in time 100 years when they visited Historic Forestville. Living history actor John Grabco explains

some of the century-old tools that were used to make chores a little easier on the farm located in the historic village.

(Tribune photos by Charlie Warner)



Historic Forestville living history actor Lance Tlusty was enlisting the help of some of the KMS seventh graders to help him with his garden-planting chores.

Students helped with gardening chores and even sawed some wood for the cookstove.



Living history actress Shawn Goder, at right, welcomed the students into the kitchen of the Meighen home. She recruited several students to help her

bake cookies in the wood-fired cookstove. According to the students, the cookies turned out great.



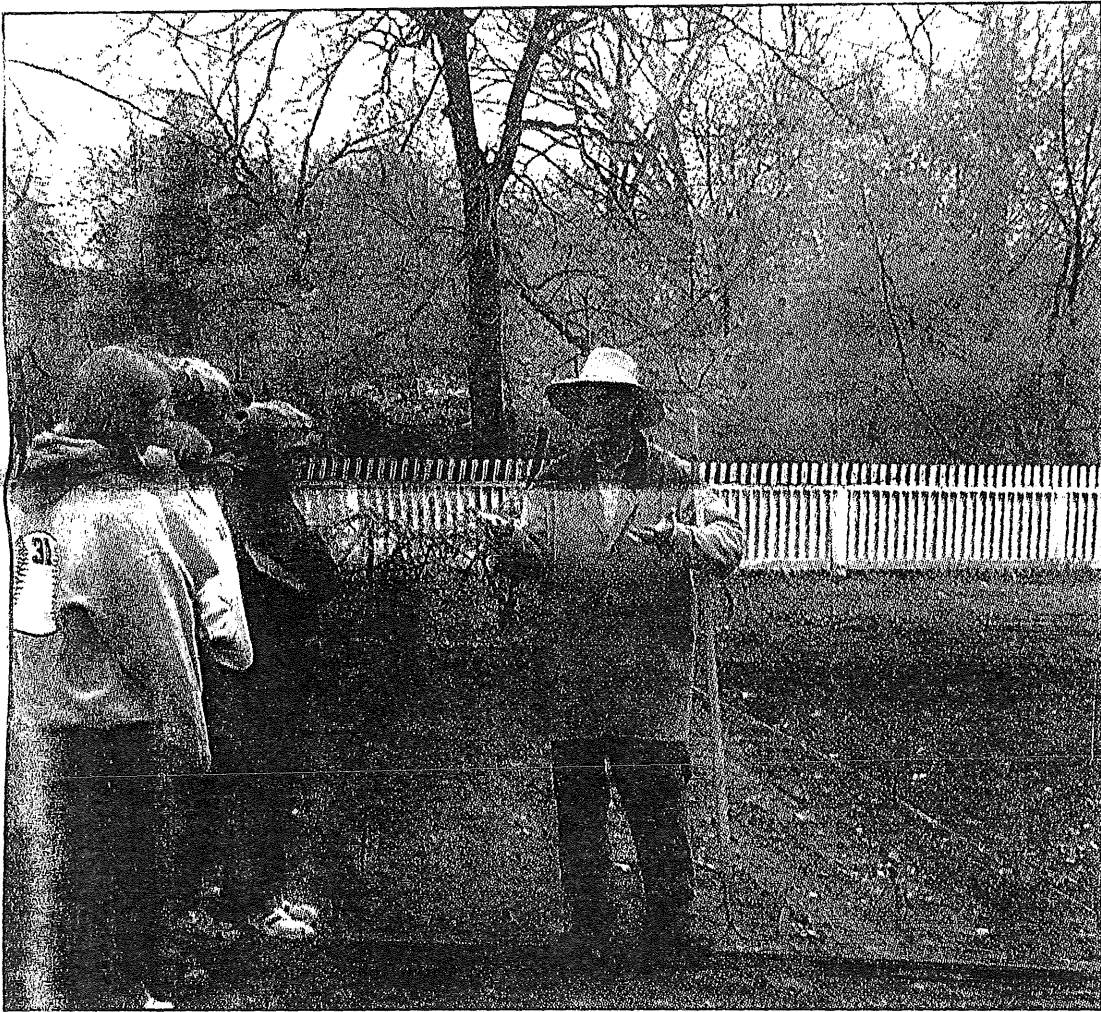
Historic Forestville living history actor Lance Tlusty was enlisting the help of some of the KMS seventh graders to help him with his garden-planting chores.

Students helped with gardening chores and even sawed some wood for the cookstove.



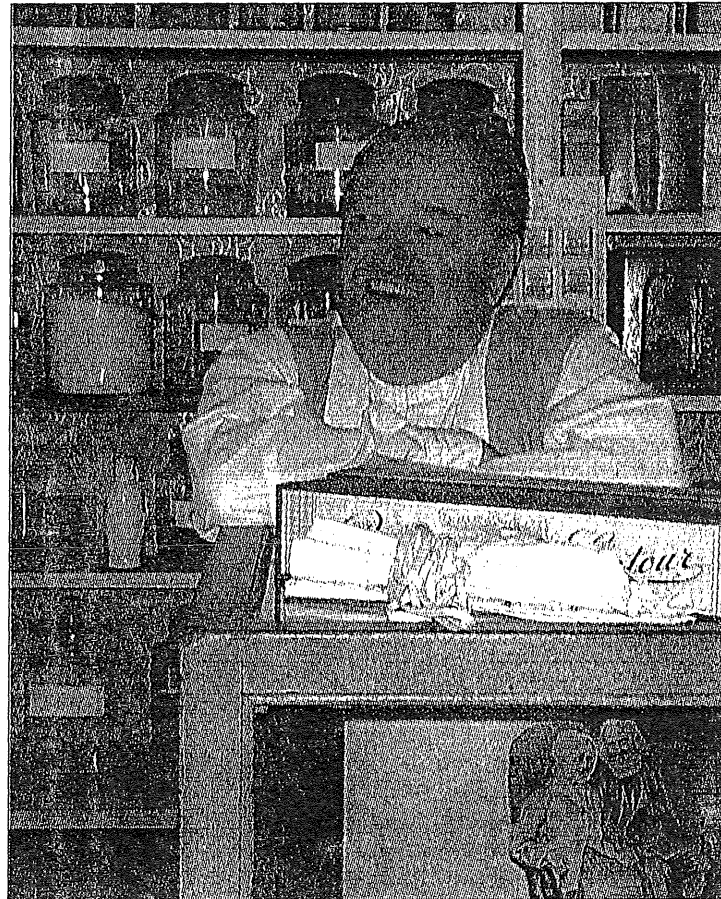
Living history actress Shawn Goder, at right, welcomed the students into the kitchen of the Meighen home. She recruited several students to help her

bake cookies in the wood-fired cookstove. According to the students, the cookies turned out great.



Historic Forestville gardener Lance Tlusty, at right, explained some of the gardening techniques that were used 100 years ago to KMS students.

10- Sept. 3, Tribune, Spring Valley, MN.



Summer season comes to a close

The living interpretive site known as Historic Forestville closed its doors for the summer season this week. Due to state budget cuts, the historic site will not be open to the general public until next spring, if additional private funds can be raised. The Minnesota Historical Society found additional funding to make it possible for the school tour program to continue this fall. At left, Fred Becker (Historic Forestville Site Manager Charlie Pautler) operates a piece of farm machinery. At right, John

Maloney (George Colbenson) keeps the Meighen Store's affairs in order. (Tribune photos by Gretchen Mensink Lovejoy)

Humorous speech contest held in Spring Valley Sept. 13

Spring Valley Tribune
June 9, 2003

Don't let the ghosts come back to Historic Forestville

Forestville site will close without community action

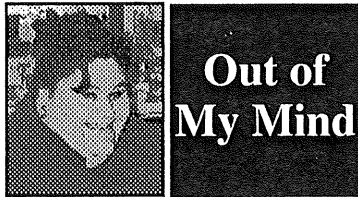
By now most of you have probably seen a lot of publicity about Historic Forestville and the fight to keep it open. Hopefully, by this time, you have decided to help the Friends of Forestville by contributing to the needed \$50,000 to keep the site open for the remainder of this summer.

We, at the newspaper, have had reporters attending the local meetings, have all written columns on the subject and have received a couple of letters from people who believe that the historic site has economical and educational value for this area.

Personally, Historic Forestville holds a lot of memories for me and my family. As a child I spent countless hours riding horse through the state park and each ride consisted of a stop at the historic site.

My brother, sister and I would hop down from our horses, tie them to the hitching post by the barn and run to the store where we would purchase an old-fashioned candy stick from long-time curator Luther Thompson.

In my child's mind, I thought Luther looked so at home there. Dressed in his old-fashioned clothes, it truly was like stepping back in time.



Out of My Mind

By Melissa Vander Plas

I attend enough city and school board meetings to know that budget constraints are difficult and that sacrifices have to be made to balance a budget. However, cutting out the entire programming at Forestville seems not only unreasonable, but unconscionable.

my biggest disappointment is that many families will miss out on the opportunity to create the memories and learn the lessons that I learned there as a child.

I especially dread the day, if the money is not raised, that I once again drive through the historic site and find that the ghosts have returned to claim the property.

So, if you haven't done so yet, I urge you to consider helping save this valuable asset in our greater community. We, at Phillips Publishing, are accepting donations on behalf of the Friends of Forestville and donations can be made at any of our offices, including Spring Valley Tribune, the Spring Grove Herald, Harmony's News-Record office, Mabel's News-Record office and the Republican-Leader office in Preston. One may also check out our website, www.hometown-pages.com, for timely updates on the donations. The treasurer for the Friends is employed by our company.

Donations can also be made directly to the Friends of Forestville, at Security State Bank, Box 126, Forestville, MN 55990.

A total of \$50,000 by June 23 or the Forestville Historical Site will close July 1! That was the message at the June 4 meeting in Preston City Hall between concerned parties and representatives from the State Historical Society. An additional \$30,000 will be needed before Oct. 15 to keep the site open for the first half of 2004. Grim numbers, but The Friends of Forestville are taking on the challenge, as we all should. Historic Forestville is important to the economic well-being of tourism in southeastern Minnesota, as well as to the education of our children.

Field trips to the historical site have become a staple in many school programs. Costumed guides bring to life the daily activities of a farm village in 1899, sparking thought and imagination in old and young. A refreshing change from video games and TV, these are real people, showing what life was like in the "olden times."

My interest in this site is fueled by childhood memories of the Streets of Old Milwaukee. The artifacts and scenes of that attraction inspired me to create count-

From our Readers

less stories and a love for history that is still with me today. I would fight hard to ensure that those exhibits remain to spark the imaginations of future generations as they did in me. Here, now, it is our turn to fight for the survival of Historic Forestville. We need to band together and save this site, for the good of our children, ourselves, and the economic health of this area.

Please contact George Colbenson, president of Friends of Forestville, at (507) 754-5873, 220 1st. Street SW, Grand Meadow, MN 55936 or Charlie Pautler, site manager of Forestville, (507) 765-2785 for information.

Let's make sure that the experiences available at Historical Forestville will be there for the future!

Make it a great day!
Lembke-Harrington
Chatfield

Senators Vickerman, Frederickson, Murphy, Koering and Sams introduced--
S.F. No. 1761: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

1 A bill for an act
2 relating to agriculture; appropriating money for
3 sustainable agriculture grants.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
5 Section 1. [APPROPRIATION; SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
6 GRANTS.]
7 \$200,000 in fiscal year 2006 and \$200,000 in fiscal year
8 2007 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
9 of agriculture for grants to farmers for demonstration projects
10 involving sustainable agriculture as authorized in Minnesota
11 Statutes, section 17.116. Up to \$20,000 of the amount
12 appropriated in each year may be used for dissemination of
13 information about the demonstration projects.

Senator Vickerman and members of the Senate Environment, Agriculture, and Economic Development Budget Division

Dear Senator Vickerman and committee members

My name is Kevin Connolly and I am a farmer in Southern Minnesota and a past recipient of a Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture Sustainable Agriculture Grant .

I am writing to encourage you to support the proposal to restore the funding for the M.D.A. Sustainable Ag Demonstration Grant Program. I would request that you commit \$200,000 for 2006 and \$200,000 for 2007 as an addition to the current baseline.

As I have stated I completed a grant with MDA that dealt with tracking and comparing performance of a hoop type deep-bedded structure to a older confinement type hog finishing building.

I tracked records for 3 years and proved to myself that a hoop barn was a structure that would compete quite well with what I was doing. I shared this information with other producers through some presentations that I gave to other producers at meetings put on by the Alternative Swine Program and the University of Minnesota. The results of my project were also published in the Greenbook put out by the MDA Sustainable Ag Division.

I think that this grant was very helpful not only to me but to other producers who were thinking of using hoopbarns .

Many times research is being done that does not represent what many of us are working with on the farm and that is where I think the MDA Sustainable Ag Grant Program has great value for farmers. In my case all the comparisons that I had seen done of hoop barns to confinement barns only compared new facilities to hoop barns and not to older facilities that many of us were using.

I also want to say that I think that the Greenbook, published by MDA is a very good publication . I have heard many comments from people that upon seeing it for the first time are very impressed with the projects that are detailed in it.

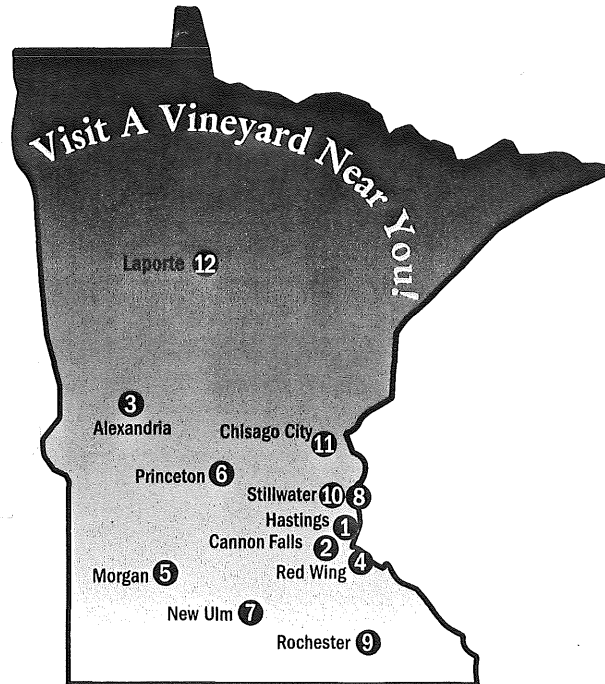
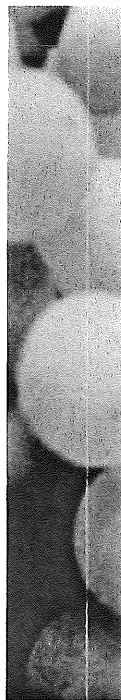
I once again urge you all to support this proposal and this program because I think it is something that can help many Minnesota farmers.

Thank You

Kevin Connolly
33221 245th Ave
LeCenter, Minnesota
56057

Commercial Wineries and Vineyards in Minnesota

- 1. Alexis Bailly Vineyard**
18200 Kirby Avenue, Hastings, MN 55033
Phone 651-437-1413
www.abvwines.com
- 2. Cannon River Winery**
421 Mill Street, Cannon Falls, MN 55009
Phone 507-263-0944
e-mail: reenmaloney@msn.com
Opening Fall 2004
- 3. Carlos Creek Winery**
6693 Cty. Rd. 34 NW, Alexandria, MN 56308
Phone 320-846-5443, Fax 320-763-9290
www.carloscreekwinery.com
- 4. Falconer Vineyards Winery**
3572 Old Tyler Road, Red Wing, MN 55066
Phone 651-388-8849
www.FalconerVineyards.com
- 5. Fieldstone Vineyards**
38577 State Hwy.68, Morgan, MN 56266
Phone 507-249-WINE
www.fieldstonevineyards.com
- 6. Luedke's Winery**
16234 40th Street, Princeton, MN 55371
Phone 763-662-2389
e-mail: mlberry@luedkeswinery.com
- 7. Morgan Creek Vineyards**
23707 - 478th Avenue, New Ulm, MN 56073
Phone 507-947-3547
www.morgancreekvineyards.com
- 8. Northern Vineyards**
223 North Main Street, Stillwater, MN 55082
Phone 651-430-1032
www.northernvineyards.com
- 9. Post Town Vineyard & Winery**
2534 Salem Road SW, Rochester, MN 55902
Phone 507-261-5273
www.posttownwinery.com
Opening Spring 2005



10. Saint Croix Vineyards

PO Box 705, Stillwater, MN 55082
Phone 651-430-3310
www.scvwines.com

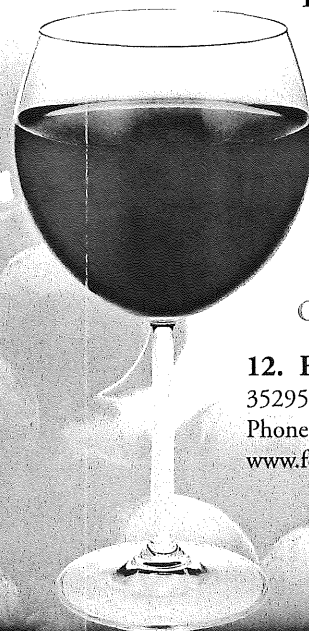
11. WineHaven Winery & Vineyard

9757 292nd St., Chisago City, MN 55013
Phone/Fax 651-257-1017
www.winehaven.com

Other Fruit Wineries

12. Forestedge Winery

35295 State 64, Laporte, MN 56461
Phone 218-224-3535
www.forestedgewinery.com



Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: I didn't know grapes were grown in Minnesota.

A: Grapes have been grown in the state since pioneer times. The Lake Minnetonka area, for example, produced many tons of table grapes for local sale before 1900. It has been only since the late 1970s that any number of wine grapes have been grown in the state.

Q: How many wineries are there in Minnesota?

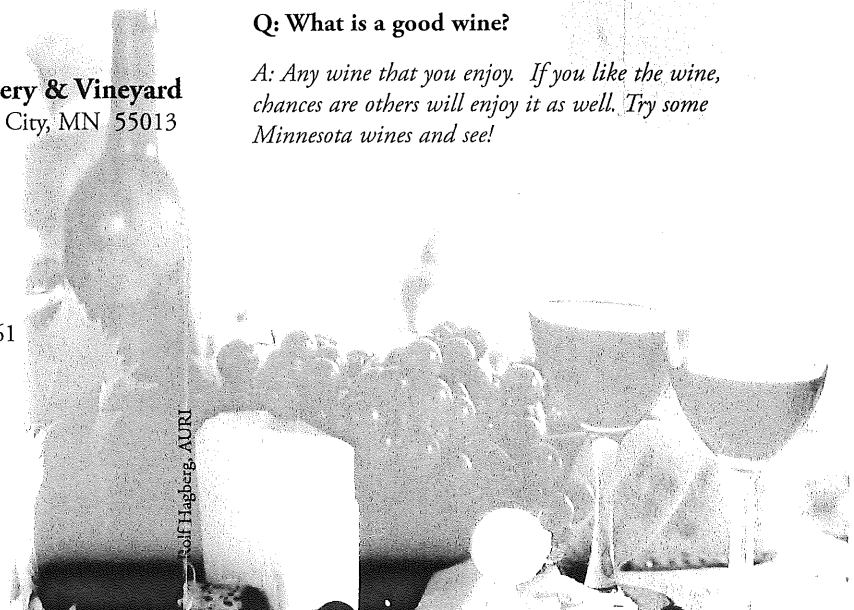
A: At the present time there are 11 wineries producing grape wines in the state with several additional wineries specializing in fruit and honey wines. The first wines were produced in the current era in 1978 but planning for additional wineries is ongoing and planting of vineyards continues at a rapid pace.

Q: Are Minnesota wines like California's wines?

A: No. We grow different varieties and types of grapes here than in California or France or elsewhere. Nevertheless, Minnesota wines have won awards in national competitions for many years and Minnesota winemakers are proud of the quality of their distinctive and unique wines.

Q: What is a good wine?

A: Any wine that you enjoy. If you like the wine, chances are others will enjoy it as well. Try some Minnesota wines and see!



Senator Vickerman and members of the Senate Environment, Agriculture, and Economic Development Budget Division

Dear Senator Vickerman and committee members

My name is Kevin Connolly and I am a farmer in Southern Minnesota and a past recipient of a Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture Sustainable Agriculture Grant .

I am writing to encourage you to support the proposal to restore the funding for the M.D.A. Sustainable Ag Demonstration Grant Program. I would request that you commit \$200,000 for 2006 and \$200,000 for 2007 as an addition to the current baseline.

As I have stated I completed a grant with MDA that dealt with tracking and comparing performance of a hoop type deep-bedded structure to a older confinement type hog finishing building.

I tracked records for 3 years and proved to myself that a hoop barn was a structure that would compete quite well with what I was doing. I shared this information with other producers through some presentations that I gave to other producers at meetings put on by the Alternative Swine Program and the University of Minnesota. The results of my project were also published in the Greenbook put out by the MDA Sustainable Ag Division.

I think that this grant was very helpful not only to me but to other producers who were thinking of using hoopbarns .

Many times research is being done that does not represent what many of us are working with on the farm and that is where I think the MDA Sustainable Ag Grant Program has great value for farmers. In my case all the comparisons that I had seen done of hoop barns to confinement barns only compared new facilities to hoop barns and not to older facilities that many of us were using.

I also want to say that I think that the Greenbook, published by MDA is a very good publication . I have heard many comments from people that upon seeing it for the first time are very impressed with the projects that are detailed in it.

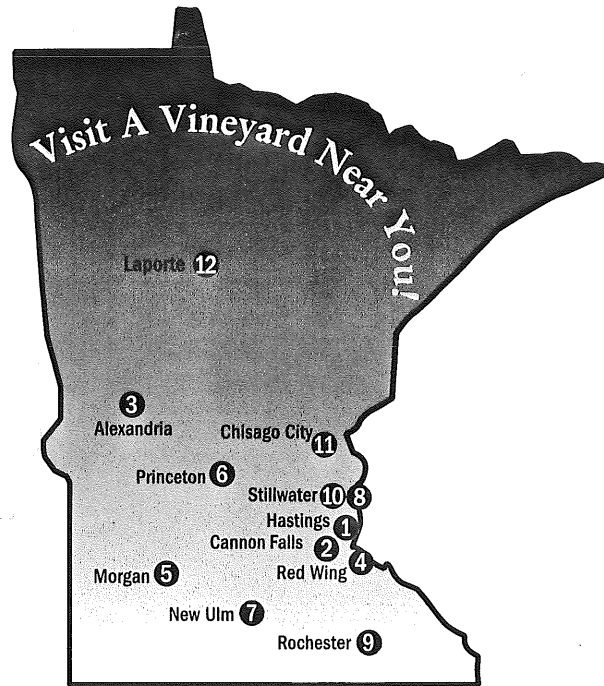
I once again urge you all to support this proposal and this program because I think it is something that can help many Minnesota farmers.

Thank You

Kevin Connolly
33221 245th Ave
LeCenter, Minnesota
56057

Commercial Wineries and Vineyards in Minnesota

- 1. Alexis Bailly Vineyard**
18200 Kirby Avenue, Hastings, MN 55033
Phone 651-437-1413
www.abvwines.com
- 2. Cannon River Winery**
421 Mill Street, Cannon Falls, MN 55009
Phone 507-263-0944
e-mail: reenmaloney@msn.com
Opening Fall 2004
- 3. Carlos Creek Winery**
6693 Cty. Rd. 34 NW, Alexandria, MN 56308
Phone 320-846-5443, Fax 320-763-9290
www.carloscreekwinery.com
- 4. Falconer Vineyards Winery**
3572 Old Tyler Road, Red Wing, MN 55066
Phone 651-388-8849
www.FalconerVineyards.com
- 5. Fieldstone Vineyards**
38577 State Hwy.68, Morgan, MN 56266
Phone 507-249-WINE
www.fieldstonevineyards.com
- 6. Luedke's Winery**
16234 40th Street, Princeton, MN 55371
Phone 763-662-2389
e-mail: mlberry@luedkeswinery.com
- 7. Morgan Creek Vineyards**
23707 - 478th Avenue, New Ulm, MN 56073
Phone 507-947-3547
www.morgancreekvineyards.com
- 8. Northern Vineyards**
223 North Main Street, Stillwater, MN 55082
Phone 651-430-1032
www.northernvineyards.com
- 9. Post Town Vineyard & Winery**
2534 Salem Road SW, Rochester, MN 55902
Phone 507-261-5273
www.posttownwinery.com
Opening Spring 2005



10. Saint Croix Vineyards

PO Box 705, Stillwater, MN 55082
Phone 651-430-3310
www.scvwines.com

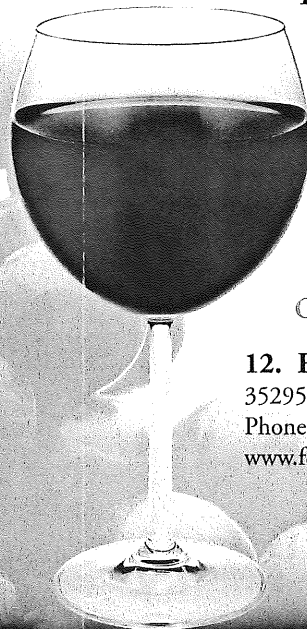
11. WineHaven Winery & Vineyard

9757 292nd St., Chisago City, MN 55013
Phone/Fax 651-257-1017
www.winehaven.com

Other Fruit Wineries

12. Forestedge Winery

35295 State 64, Laporte, MN 56461
Phone 218-224-3535
www.forestedgewinery.com



Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: I didn't know grapes were grown in Minnesota.

A: Grapes have been grown in the state since pioneer times. The Lake Minnetonka area, for example, produced many tons of table grapes for local sale before 1900. It has been only since the late 1970s that any number of wine grapes have been grown in the state.

Q: How many wineries are there in Minnesota?

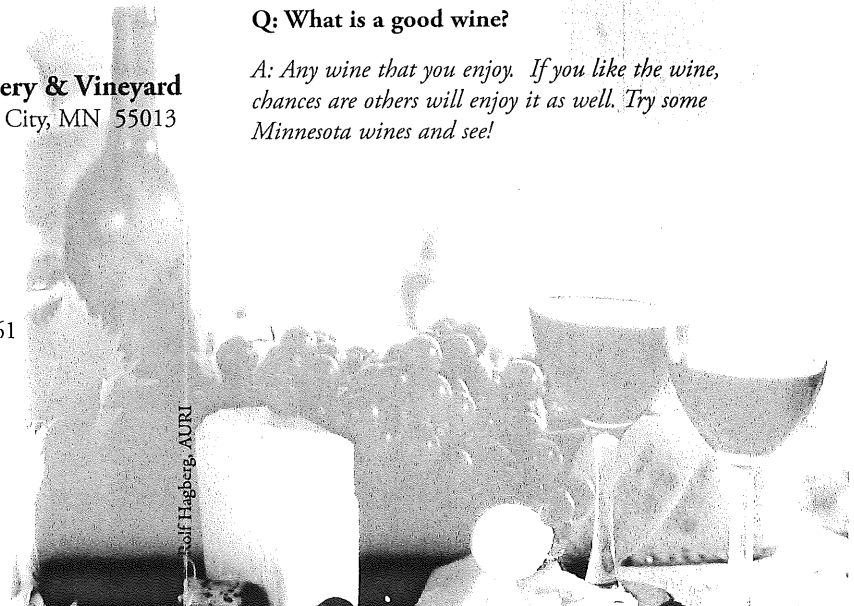
A: At the present time there are 11 wineries producing grape wines in the state with several additional wineries specializing in fruit and honey wines. The first wines were produced in the current era in 1978 but planning for additional wineries is ongoing and planting of vineyards continues at a rapid pace.

Q: Are Minnesota wines like California's wines?

A: No. We grow different varieties and types of grapes here than in California or France or elsewhere. Nevertheless, Minnesota wines have won awards in national competitions for many years and Minnesota winemakers are proud of the quality of their distinctive and unique wines.

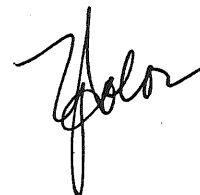
Q: What is a good wine?

A: Any wine that you enjoy. If you like the wine, chances are others will enjoy it as well. Try some Minnesota wines and see!



Sen.Yvonne Prettner_Solon - Fwd: Hearing on Trade Zone bill

From: Matthew Wohlman
To: Sen. Prettner Solon
Date: 4/4/2005 5:13:10 PM
Subject: Fwd: Hearing on Trade Zone bill



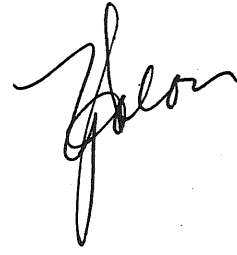
John,

Enclosed is a list of some of the users of the FTZ in the last two years:

Norwood Promotional - Red Wing
Fastenal Co. - Winona
Benchmark Electronics - Winona
Smead Mfg. - Hastings
Bharat Patel Motel - Rochester
Midwest Importers - Cannon Falls
Here Inc. - Red Wing
Department 56 - Eden Prairie
Ergodyne - St. Paul
Rosemount, Inc. - Eden Prairie
Hypro Corp. - New Brighton
Thermo King - Bloomington
Wirsbo Co. - Apple Valley
Mape, Inc. - Minneapolis
Polaris - Medina
3M - St. Paul
Carl Zeiss IMT Corp - Brooklyn Park
Medtronic, Inc. - Fridley
Midwest Automation - Minneapolis
Northern Cap Mfg. - Minneapolis
Rollerblade, Inc. - Eden Prairie
Wagner Spray Tech - Plymouth
Tetra Rex Packaging - Minneapolis
Timesavers, Inc. - Crystal
Telex Communications - Bloomington
Old Peoria Company - Bloomington
Seagate Technology - Bloomington
Tescom Corp. - Elk River
Nash Finch Co. - Edina

This represents about half of the users in the last 2 years. Others were individuals, from another state or not well known.

Steve



The Honorable Yvonne Pretner-Solon
303 State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Solon,

I regret that I will be unable to attend the hearing on the Foreign Trade Zone funding on April 5, 2005. I would, however, like to submit this letter of support for the legislation.

The Port of Duluth is the home of FTZ#51 and has operated continuously since being authorized. The primary use of the zone is by importers bringing in loads of steel products for regional and Canadian distribution. By utilizing the zone, those products being re-exported are not dutiable and the importer/exporter saves time and money, making the Port of Duluth more attractive as a distribution center. This benefits the regional and state economy.

FTZ#51 operates as a benefit to commerce and attempts to charge only enough to break even. As a result, there are no funds generated for promotion.

The legislation under consideration would provide the necessary funding to promote Minnesota Foreign Trade Zones.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ray Skelton
Foreign Trade Zone Manager
Duluth Seaway Port Authority

1 A bill for an act

2 relating to natural resources; modifying the State
3 Timber Act; modifying timber sale requirements on
4 tax-forfeited land; clarifying state forest road
5 designation; modifying standard measurements for wood;
6 amending Minnesota Statutes 2004, sections 89.71,
7 subdivision 1; 90.01, by adding subdivisions; 90.041,
8 subdivision 5; 90.042; 90.101, subdivision 2; 90.121;
9 90.172; 90.173; 90.195; 90.211; 90.301, subdivision 4;
10 239.33; 282.04, subdivision 1; repealing Minnesota
11 Statutes 2004, sections 90.01, subdivision 9; 90.041,
12 subdivisions 3, 4.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

14 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 89.71,
15 subdivision 1, is amended to read:

16 Subdivision 1. [DESIGNATION, INVENTORY, RECORDING.] Forest
17 ~~roads, bridges, and other improvements administered under~~
18 ~~section 89.002, subdivision 3, are designated as state forest~~
19 ~~roads to the width of the actual use including ditches,~~
20 ~~backslopes, fills, and maintained right-of-way, unless otherwise~~
21 ~~specified in a prior easement of record. The commissioner~~
22 may shall designate forest roads by written order published in
23 the State Register. Designated forest roads, bridges, and other
24 improvements administered under section 89.002, subdivision 3,
25 are designated to the width of the actual use including ditches,
26 backslopes, fills, and maintained right-of-way, unless otherwise
27 specified in a prior easement of record. The commissioner may
28 undesignate, by written order published in the State Register,
29 all or part of a state forest road that is not needed to carry

1 out forest resource management policy. Designations and
2 undesignations are not subject to the rulemaking provisions of
3 chapter 14 and section 14.386 does not apply. The commissioner
4 shall maintain and keep current an inventory listing and
5 describing roads in which the state claims a right or property
6 interest for state forest road purposes. The commissioner may
7 file for record with a county recorder or registrar of titles
8 appropriate documents setting forth the state's interest in all
9 or part of any state forest road.

10 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.01, is amended
11 by adding a subdivision to read:

12 Subd. 11. [EFFECTIVE PERMIT.] "Effective permit" means a
13 permit for which the commissioner has on file full or partial
14 surety as required by section 90.161, 90.162, 90.163, or 90.173
15 or, in the case of permits issued according to section 90.191 or
16 90.195, the commissioner has received a down payment equal to
17 the full appraised value.

18 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.01, is amended
19 by adding a subdivision to read:

20 Subd. 12. [RESPONSIBLE BIDDER.] "Responsible bidder" means
21 a person who is financially responsible; demonstrates the
22 judgment, skill, ability, capacity, and integrity requisite and
23 necessary to perform according to the terms of a permit issued
24 under this chapter; and is not currently debarred by another
25 government entity for any cause.

26 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.041,
27 subdivision 5, is amended to read:

28 Subd. 5. [FOREST IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS.] The commissioner
29 may contract as part of the timber sale with the purchaser of
30 state timber at either informal or auction sale for the
31 following forest improvement work to be done on the land
32 included within the sale area: preparation of the site for
33 seeding or planting of seedlings or trees, seeding or planting
34 of seedlings or trees, and other activities relating to forest
35 regeneration. A contract issued under this subdivision is not
36 subject to the competitive bidding provisions of chapter 16C and

1 is exempt from the contract approval provisions of section
2 16C.05, subdivision 2.

3 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.042, is
4 amended to read:

5 90.042 [PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS.]

6 Subdivision 1. [REPORT TO LEGISLATURE.] By July 1 each
7 year, the commissioner must provide a complete description of
8 the public involvement process for timber harvest plans to the
9 chairs of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over
10 natural resources policy and finance. The process must provide
11 public notice and public input in affected areas of proposed
12 annual harvest plans.

13 Subd. 2. [PUBLIC MEETINGS.] By May 1 each year, the
14 commissioner shall hold one or more public meetings in the
15 forested area of the state to inform the public of the manner in
16 which the proposed annual harvest plan for the next fiscal year
17 is proposed to be allocated between informal, intermediate, and
18 regular auction sales. The public shall be afforded an
19 opportunity to provide written and oral comments concerning the
20 proposed allocation.

21 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.101,
22 subdivision 2, is amended to read:

23 Subd. 2. [SALE LIST AND NOTICE.] At least 30 days before
24 the date of sale, the commissioner shall compile a list
25 containing a description of each tract of land upon which any
26 timber to be offered is situated and a statement of the
27 estimated quantity of timber and of the appraised price of each
28 kind of timber thereon as shown by the report of the state
29 appraiser. ~~The commissioner may also list the estimated~~
30 ~~quantity of timber of doubtful market value and the appraised~~
31 ~~price of each kind of such timber within the permit area that~~
32 ~~may be cut at the discretion of the purchaser. --Optional timber~~
33 ~~will not be considered a part of the sale contract until the~~
34 ~~permit holder has advised the commissioner in writing of an~~
35 ~~intent to cut such timber.~~ No description shall be added after
36 the list is posted and no timber shall be sold from land not

1 described in the list. Copies of the list shall be furnished to
2 all interested applicants. A copy of the list shall be
3 conspicuously posted in the forest office or other public
4 facility most accessible to potential bidders at least 30 days
5 prior to the date of sale. The commissioner shall cause a
6 notice to be published once not less than one week before the
7 date of sale in a legal newspaper in the county or counties
8 where the land is situated. The notice shall state the time and
9 place of the sale and the location at which further information
10 regarding the sale may be obtained. The commissioner may give
11 other published or posted notice as the commissioner deems
12 proper to reach prospective bidders.

13 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.121, is
14 amended to read:

15 90.121 [INTERMEDIATE AUCTION SALES; MAXIMUM LOTS OF 3,000
16 CORDS.]

17 (a) The commissioner may sell the timber on any tract of
18 state land in lots not exceeding 3,000 cords in volume, in the
19 same manner as timber sold at public auction under section
20 90.101, and related laws, subject to the following special
21 exceptions and limitations:

22 (1) the commissioner shall offer all tracts authorized for
23 sale by this section separately from the sale of tracts of state
24 timber made pursuant to section 90.101;

25 (2) no bidder may be awarded more than 25 percent of the
26 total tracts offered at the first round of bidding unless fewer
27 than four tracts are offered, in which case not more than one
28 tract shall be awarded to one bidder. Any tract not sold at
29 public auction may be offered for private sale as authorized by
30 section 90.101, subdivision 1, to persons eligible under this
31 section at the appraised value; and

32 (3) no sale may be made to a person having more than 20
33 employees. For the purposes of this subdivision, "employee"
34 means a natural person working for salary or wages on a
35 full-time or part-time basis.

36 (b) The auction sale procedure set forth in this section

1 constitutes an additional alternative timber sale procedure
2 available to the commissioner and is not intended to replace
3 other authority possessed by the commissioner to sell timber in
4 lots of 3,000 cords or less.

5 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.172, is
6 amended to read:

7 90.172 [ANNUAL REPORT REPORTS.]

8 Subdivision 1. [REPORT TO LEGISLATURE.] The commissioner
9 shall file an annual report on or before September 30 of each
10 year with the Legislative Reference Library providing detailed
11 information on all auctions and informal sales made in the
12 previous fiscal year. The report shall include but not be
13 limited to the names and addresses of all purchasers, volumes of
14 timber purchased, species, appraised value and sale price. The
15 commissioner shall make copies of the report available to the
16 public upon request.

17 Subd. 2. [REPORT TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.] The commissioner
18 shall report on or before September 30 of each year or more
19 frequently, as required, to the state Executive Council
20 concerning the status of the state timber sales and timber
21 management program, including any special problems or changes
22 occurring since the previous report.

23 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.173, is
24 amended to read:

25 90.173 [PURCHASER'S OR ASSIGNEE'S CASH DEPOSIT IN LIEU OF
26 BOND.]

27 (a) In lieu of filing the bond required by section 90.161
28 or 90.171, as security for the issuance or assignment of a
29 timber permit, the person required to file the bond may deposit
30 with the commissioner ~~of finance~~ cash₇; a certified check₇; a
31 cashier's check₇; a personal check₇; a postal, bank, or express
32 money order₇ ~~assignable bonds or notes of the United States₇ or~~
33 ~~an assignment of a bank savings account or investment~~
34 ~~certificate~~; or an irrevocable bank letter of credit₇ in the
35 same amount as would be required for a bond. ~~if securities~~
36 ~~listed in this section are deposited₇ the par value of the~~

~~1 securities shall be not less than the amount required for the~~
~~2 timber sale bond, and the person required to file the timber~~
~~3 sale bond shall submit an agreement authorizing the commissioner~~
~~4 to sell or otherwise take possession of the security in the~~
~~5 event of default under the timber sale.~~ All of the conditions
6 of the timber sale bond shall equally apply to ~~the deposit with~~
7 ~~the commissioner of finance~~ the alternatives in lieu of bond.
8 In the event of a default the state may take from the deposit
9 the sum of money to which it is entitled; the remainder, if any,
10 shall be returned to the person making the deposit. When cash
11 is deposited for a bond, it shall be applied to the amount due
12 when a statement is prepared and transmitted to the permit
13 holder pursuant to section 90.181. Any balance due to the state
14 shall be shown on the statement and shall be paid as provided in
15 section 90.181. Any amount of the deposit in excess of the
16 amount determined to be due pursuant to section 90.181 shall be
17 returned to the permit holder when a final statement is
18 transmitted pursuant to that section. All or part of a cash
19 bond may be withheld from application to an amount due on a
20 nonfinal statement if it appears that the total amount due on
21 the permit will exceed the bid price.

22 (b) If an irrevocable bank letter of credit is provided as
23 security under paragraph (a), at the written request of the
24 permittee the state shall annually allow the amount of the bank
25 letter of credit to be reduced by an amount proportionate to the
26 value of timber that has been harvested and for which the state
27 has received payment under the timber permit. The remaining
28 amount of the bank letter of credit after a reduction under this
29 paragraph must not be less than the value of the timber
30 remaining to be harvested under the timber permit.

31 (c) If cash; a certified check; a cashier's check; a
32 personal check; or a postal, bank, or express money order is
33 provided as security under paragraph (a) and no cutting of state
34 timber has taken place on the permit, the commissioner may
35 credit the security provided, less any deposit required by
36 sections 90.14 and 90.163, to any other permit to which the

1 permit holder requests in writing that it be credited.

2 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.195, is
3 amended to read:

4 90.195 [SPECIAL USE PERMIT.]

5 The commissioner may issue a permit to salvage or cut not
6 to exceed 12 cords of fuelwood per year for personal use from
7 either or both of the following sources: (1) dead, down, and
8 diseased trees; (2) other trees that are of negative value under
9 good forest management practices. The permits may be issued for
10 a period not to exceed one year. The commissioner shall charge
11 a fee, not less than \$5 \$25, in an amount up to the stumpage
12 current market value of fuelwood of similar species, grade, and
13 volume that is being sold in the area where the salvage or
14 cutting is authorized under the permit.

15 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.211, is
16 amended to read:

17 90.211 [PURCHASE MONEY, WHEN FORFEITED.]

18 If the ~~purchaser-of-any-timber-or-the-purchaser's~~
19 assignee holder of an effective permit fails to cut any part
20 thereof before the expiration of the permit, the ~~purchaser-or~~
21 assignee permit holder shall nevertheless pay the price
22 therefor; but under no circumstances shall timber be cut after
23 the expiration of the permit or extension thereof.

24 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.301,
25 subdivision 4, is amended to read:

26 Subd. 4. [APPREHENSION OF TRESPASSERS; REWARD.] The
27 ~~following-rewards-shall~~ commissioner may offer a reward to be
28 paid to any a person giving to the proper authorities any
29 information ~~which-shall-lead~~ that leads to the detection-and
30 conviction of ~~any-persons~~ a person violating any-of-the
31 ~~provisions-of~~ this chapter:--\$25-reward,--if-the-value-of-the
32 ~~timber-so-unlawfully-cut-or-removed-shall-not-exceed-the-sum-of~~
33 ~~\$25,-\$50-reward,-if-the-value-of-the-timber-shall-not-exceed~~
34 ~~\$50,-and-\$100-reward,-if-the-value-of-the-timber-shall-exceed~~
35 ~~the-sum-of-\$100,-and-the-court-before-whom-the-person-so~~
36 ~~violating-the-provisions-of-this-chapter-shall-have-been-tried,~~

1 shall, upon application of any person claiming to be entitled to
2 such reward, examine the claim in a summary manner and determine
3 whether or not the person claiming the reward is entitled to the
4 same and, if it should appear to the satisfaction of the court
5 that the person claiming the reward is entitled to the same, a
6 certificate of such facts shall be made by the court and
7 delivered to the person, which shall be deemed evidence of a
8 right to the reward. The reward is limited to the greater of
9 \$100 or ten percent of the single stumpage value of any timber
10 unlawfully cut or removed. The Executive Council commissioner
11 shall pay the same from any funds appropriated for its expenses
12 such purposes or from receipts from the sale of state timber. A
13 reward shall not be paid to salaried forest officers,
14 conservation officers, or licensed peace officers.

15 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 239.33, is
16 amended to read:

17 239.33 [STANDARD MEASUREMENTS OF WOOD.]

18 In all contracts for sale of wood the term "cord" shall
19 mean 128 cubic feet of wood, bark, and air, if cut in four-foot
20 lengths; and if the sale is of "sawed wood," a cord shall mean
21 110 cubic feet when ranked, or 160 cubic feet when thrown
22 irregularly or loosely into a conveyance for delivery to the
23 purchaser; and if the sale is of "sawed and split wood," a cord
24 shall mean 120 cubic feet, when ranked, and 175 cubic feet when
25 thrown irregularly and loosely into a conveyance for delivery.
26 If a measurement is made by weight, the term "cord" or any other
27 term used to describe freshly cut ~~green aspen in 100-inch or~~
28 ~~pole lengths containing 133 1/3 cubic feet of loosely or~~
29 ~~irregularly piled wood for transportation constitutes 4,300~~
30 ~~pounds during the period of May 1 through October 31 and 4,500~~
31 ~~pounds during the period of November 1 through April 30.~~
32 Specified weights are wood shall be based on 74 79 cubic feet of
33 solid wood content per cord. The weight per cord may vary by
34 species or species group. In case of any dispute when the
35 parties have not otherwise agreed in writing to the weight per
36 cord by species or species group, the weight most recently

1 established by the commissioner of natural resources prevails.

2 In all contracts for sale of wood, the term "board foot"
3 means 144 cubic inches of wood measured in any combination of
4 length, thickness, and width. If a measurement or scale is made
5 of logs, Scribner's decimal C rule is the standard rule for
6 determining board feet log scale. When measuring or scaling
7 logs, each log must be scaled individually by the largest number
8 of even feet in its length above eight and under 24 feet. All
9 logs of 24 feet or more in length must be scaled as two or more
10 logs. This section does not apply to finished lumber measured
11 in nominal dimensions.

12 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 282.04,
13 subdivision 1, is amended to read:

14 Subdivision 1. [TIMBER SALES; LAND LEASES AND USES.] (a)
15 The county auditor may sell timber upon any tract that may be
16 approved by the natural resources commissioner. The sale of
17 timber shall be made for cash at not less than the appraised
18 value determined by the county board to the highest bidder after
19 not less than one week's published notice in an official paper
20 within the county. Any timber offered at the public sale and
21 not sold may thereafter be sold at private sale by the county
22 auditor at not less than the appraised value thereof, until the
23 time as the county board may withdraw the timber from sale. The
24 appraised value of the timber and the forestry practices to be
25 followed in the cutting of said timber shall be approved by the
26 commissioner of natural resources.

27 (b) Payment of the full sale price of all timber sold on
28 tax-forfeited lands shall be made in cash at the time of the
29 timber sale, except in the case of oral or sealed bid auction
30 sales, the down payment shall be no less than 15 percent of the
31 appraised value, and the balance shall be paid prior to entry.
32 In the case of auction sales that are partitioned and sold as a
33 single sale with predetermined cutting blocks, the down payment
34 shall be no less than 15 percent of the appraised price of the
35 entire timber sale which may be held until the satisfactory
36 completion of the sale or applied in whole or in part to the

1 final cutting block. The value of each separate block must be
2 paid in full before any cutting may begin in that block. With
3 the permission of the county contract administrator the
4 purchaser may enter unpaid blocks and cut necessary timber
5 incidental to developing logging roads as may be needed to log
6 other blocks provided that no timber may be removed from an
7 unpaid block until separately scaled and paid for. If payment
8 is provided as specified in this paragraph as security under
9 paragraph (a) and no cutting has taken place on the contract,
10 the county auditor may credit the security provided, less any
11 down payment required for an auction sale under this paragraph,
12 to any other contract issued to the contract holder by the
13 county under this chapter to which the contract holder requests
14 in writing that it be credited, provided the request and
15 transfer is made within the same calendar year as the security
16 was received.

17 (c) The county board may require final settlement on the
18 basis of a scale of cut products. Any parcels of land from
19 which timber is to be sold by scale of cut products shall be so
20 designated in the published notice of sale under paragraph (a),
21 in which case the notice shall contain a description of the
22 parcels, a statement of the estimated quantity of each species
23 of timber, and the appraised price of each species of timber for
24 1,000 feet, per cord or per piece, as the case may be. In those
25 cases any bids offered over and above the appraised prices shall
26 be by percentage, the percent bid to be added to the appraised
27 price of each of the different species of timber advertised on
28 the land. The purchaser of timber from the parcels shall pay in
29 cash at the time of sale at the rate bid for all of the timber
30 shown in the notice of sale as estimated to be standing on the
31 land, and in addition shall pay at the same rate for any
32 additional amounts which the final scale shows to have been cut
33 or was available for cutting on the land at the time of sale
34 under the terms of the sale. Where the final scale of cut
35 products shows that less timber was cut or was available for
36 cutting under terms of the sale than was originally paid for,

1 the excess payment shall be refunded from the forfeited tax sale
2 fund upon the claim of the purchaser, to be audited and allowed
3 by the county board as in case of other claims against the
4 county. No timber, except hardwood pulpwood, may be removed
5 from the parcels of land or other designated landings until
6 scaled by a person or persons designated by the county board and
7 approved by the commissioner of natural resources. Landings
8 other than the parcel of land from which timber is cut may be
9 designated for scaling by the county board by written agreement
10 with the purchaser of the timber. The county board may, by
11 written agreement with the purchaser and with a consumer
12 designated by the purchaser when the timber is sold by the
13 county auditor, and with the approval of the commissioner of
14 natural resources, accept the consumer's scale of cut products
15 delivered at the consumer's landing. No timber shall be removed
16 until fully paid for in cash. Small amounts of timber not
17 exceeding \$3,000 in appraised valuation may be sold for not less
18 than the full appraised value at private sale to individual
19 persons without first publishing notice of sale or calling for
20 bids, provided that in case of a sale involving a total
21 appraised value of more than \$200 the sale shall be made subject
22 to final settlement on the basis of a scale of cut products in
23 the manner above provided and not more than two of the sales,
24 directly or indirectly to any individual shall be in effect at
25 one time.

26 (d) As directed by the county board, the county auditor may
27 lease tax-forfeited land to individuals, corporations or
28 organized subdivisions of the state at public or private sale,
29 and at the prices and under the terms as the county board may
30 prescribe, for use as cottage and camp sites and for
31 agricultural purposes and for the purpose of taking and removing
32 of hay, stumpage, sand, gravel, clay, rock, marl, and black dirt
33 from the land, and for garden sites and other temporary uses
34 provided that no leases shall be for a period to exceed ten
35 years; provided, further that any leases involving a
36 consideration of more than \$12,000 per year, except to an

1 organized subdivision of the state shall first be offered at
2 public sale in the manner provided herein for sale of timber.
3 Upon the sale of any leased land, it shall remain subject to the
4 lease for not to exceed one year from the beginning of the term
5 of the lease. Any rent paid by the lessee for the portion of
6 the term cut off by the cancellation shall be refunded from the
7 forfeited tax sale fund upon the claim of the lessee, to be
8 audited and allowed by the county board as in case of other
9 claims against the county.

10 (e) As directed by the county board, the county auditor may
11 lease tax-forfeited land to individuals, corporations, or
12 organized subdivisions of the state at public or private sale,
13 at the prices and under the terms as the county board may
14 prescribe, for the purpose of taking and removing for use for
15 road construction and other purposes tax-forfeited stockpiled
16 iron-bearing material. The county auditor must determine that
17 the material is needed and suitable for use in the construction
18 or maintenance of a road, tailings basin, settling basin, dike,
19 dam, bank fill, or other works on public or private property,
20 and that the use would be in the best interests of the public.
21 No lease shall exceed ten years. The use of a stockpile for
22 these purposes must first be approved by the commissioner of
23 natural resources. The request shall be deemed approved unless
24 the requesting county is notified to the contrary by the
25 commissioner of natural resources within six months after
26 receipt of a request for approval for use of a stockpile. Once
27 use of a stockpile has been approved, the county may continue to
28 lease it for these purposes until approval is withdrawn by the
29 commissioner of natural resources.

30 (f) The county auditor, with the approval of the county
31 board is authorized to grant permits, licenses, and leases to
32 tax-forfeited lands for the depositing of stripping, lean ores,
33 tailings, or waste products from mines or ore milling plants,
34 upon the conditions and for the consideration and for the period
35 of time, not exceeding 15 years, as the county board may
36 determine. The permits, licenses, or leases are subject to

1 approval by the commissioner of natural resources.

2 (g) Any person who removes any timber from tax-forfeited
3 land before said timber has been scaled and fully paid for as
4 provided in this subdivision is guilty of a misdemeanor.

5 (h) The county auditor may, with the approval of the county
6 board, and without first offering at public sale, grant leases,
7 for a term not exceeding 25 years, for the removal of peat from
8 tax-forfeited lands upon the terms and conditions as the county
9 board may prescribe. Any lease for the removal of peat from
10 tax-forfeited lands must first be reviewed and approved by the
11 commissioner of natural resources if the lease covers 320 or
12 more acres. No lease for the removal of peat shall be made by
13 the county auditor pursuant to this section without first
14 holding a public hearing on the auditor's intention to lease.
15 One printed notice in a legal newspaper in the county at least
16 ten days before the hearing, and posted notice in the courthouse
17 at least 20 days before the hearing shall be given of the
18 hearing.

19 (i) Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (c) to the
20 contrary, the St. Louis County auditor may, at the discretion of
21 the county board, sell timber to the party who bids the highest
22 price for all the several kinds of timber, as provided for sales
23 by the commissioner of natural resources under section 90.14.
24 Bids offered over and above the appraised price need not be
25 applied proportionately to the appraised price of each of the
26 different species of timber.

27 (j) In lieu of any payment or deposit required in paragraph
28 (b), as directed by the county board and under terms set by the
29 county board, the county auditor may accept an irrevocable bank
30 letter of credit in the amount equal to the amount otherwise
31 determined in paragraph (b), ~~exclusive of the down-payment~~
32 ~~required for an auction sale in paragraph (b)~~. If an
33 irrevocable bank letter of credit is provided under this
34 paragraph, at the written request of the purchaser, the county
35 may periodically allow the bank letter of credit to be reduced
36 by an amount proportionate to the value of timber that has been

1 harvested and for which the county has received payment. The
2 remaining amount of the bank letter of credit after a reduction
3 under this paragraph must not be less than 20 percent of the
4 value of the timber purchased. If an irrevocable bank letter of
5 credit or cash deposit is provided for the down payment required
6 in paragraph (b), and no cutting of timber has taken place on
7 the contract for which a letter of credit has been provided, the
8 county may allow the transfer of the letter of credit to any
9 other contract issued to the contract holder by the county under
10 this chapter to which the contract holder requests in writing
11 that it be credited.

12 Sec. 15. [REPEALER.]

13 Minnesota Statutes 2004, sections 90.01, subdivision 9; and
14 90.041, subdivisions 3 and 4, are repealed.

15 Sec. 16. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

16 This act is effective the day following final enactment.

APPENDIX
Repealed Minnesota Statutes for S0802-1

90.01 DEFINITIONS.

Subd. 9. **Person.** "Person" means any natural person acting personally, or in any representative capacity, and any corporation, firm, or association of whatever nature or kind.

90.041 COMMISSIONER POWERS AND DUTIES.

Subd. 3. **Annual reports.** The commissioner shall report annually or more frequently, as required, to the state Executive Council concerning the status of the state timber sales and timber management program, including any special problems or changes occurring since the previous report.

Subd. 4. **Public meetings.** Each year, the commissioner shall hold a public meeting in each forest area to inform the public of the manner in which the cutting list for that area for the next fiscal year is proposed to be allocated between informal, intermediate and regular auction sales. The public shall be afforded an opportunity to provide written and oral comments concerning the proposed allocation.

1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 802 as follows:

2 Page 7, line 11, strike ", not less than" and delete the
3 new language and strike ", in an amount up to the stumpage" and
4 insert "for the permit that shall cover the commissioner's cost
5 of issuing the permit and shall not exceed the"

6 Page 14, line 16, delete everything after "effective" and
7 insert " July 1, 2005."

1 To: Senator Cohen, Chair
2 Committee on Finance
3 Senator Sams,

4 Chair of the Environment, Agriculture and Economic
5 Development Budget Division, to which was referred

6 S.F. No. 802: A bill for an act relating to natural
7 resources; modifying the State Timber Act; modifying timber sale
8 requirements on tax-forfeited land; clarifying state forest road
9 designation; modifying standard measurements for wood; amending
10 Minnesota Statutes 2004, sections 89.71, subdivision 1; 90.01,
11 by adding subdivisions; 90.041, subdivision 5; 90.042; 90.101,
12 subdivision 2; 90.121; 90.172; 90.173; 90.195; 90.211; 90.301,
13 subdivision 4; 239.33; 282.04, subdivision 1; repealing
14 Minnesota Statutes 2004, sections 90.01, subdivision 9; 90.041,
15 subdivisions 3, 4.

16 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill
17 be amended as follows:

18 Page 7, delete section 10

19 Page 8, line 11, strike "same" and insert "reward" and
20 strike "any"

21 Page 8, line 12, delete "such purposes" and insert "that
22 purpose"

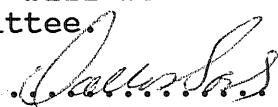
23 Page 14, line 16, delete everything after "effective" and
24 insert "July 1, 2005."

25 Renumber the sections in sequence

26 Amend the title as follows:

27 Page 1, line 9, delete "90.195;"

28 And when so amended that the bill be recommended to pass
29 and be referred to the full committee.

30 
31 (Division Chair)

32
33 April 5, 2005.....
34 (Date of Division action)

Consolidated Fiscal Note – 2005-06 Session

Bill #: S0802-1E **Complete Date:** 04/05/05

Chief Author: BAKK, THOMAS

Title: MODIFY FOREST PROVISIONS

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State	X	
Local	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings	X	
Tax Revenue		X

Agencies: Natural Resources Dept (04/05/05)

Administration Dept (04/01/05)

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Net Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Revenues					
Forest Management Investment Fund		2	2	2	2
Natural Resources Dept		2	2	2	2
Misc Special Revenue Fund		1	1	1	1
Natural Resources Dept		1	1	1	1
Permanent School Fund		3	3	3	3
Natural Resources Dept		3	3	3	3
Net Cost <Savings>					
Forest Management Investment Fund		(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Natural Resources Dept		(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Misc Special Revenue Fund		(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Natural Resources Dept		(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Permanent School Fund		(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Natural Resources Dept		(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Total Cost <Savings> to the State		(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)

	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Full Time Equivalents					
-- No Impact --					
Total FTE					

Consolidated EBO Comments

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: MARSHA BATTLES-JENKS

Date: 04/05/05 Phone: 296-8510

Fiscal Note – 2005-06 Session

Bill #: S0802-1E Complete Date: 04/05/05

Chief Author: BAKK, THOMAS

Title: MODIFY FOREST PROVISIONS

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State	X	
Local	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings	X	
Tax Revenue		X

Agency Name: Natural Resources Dept

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Less Agency Can Absorb					
-- No Impact --					
Net Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Revenues					
Forest Management Investment Fund		2	2	2	2
Misc Special Revenue Fund		1	1	1	1
Permanent School Fund		3	3	3	3
Net Cost <Savings>					
Forest Management Investment Fund		(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Misc Special Revenue Fund		(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Permanent School Fund		(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Total Cost <Savings> to the State		(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)

	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Full Time Equivalents					
-- No Impact --					
Total FTE					

Bill Description

This bill amends Minn. Stat. § 90.195 to raise the minimum fee for special fuelwood permits from \$5 to \$25.

The Commissioner of Natural Resources may issue permits to salvage or cut a maximum of 12 cords of fuelwood for personal use from state-administered forest lands per year. This wood can be cut from either or both of the following sources: (1) dead, down, and diseased trees; (2) other trees that are of negative value under good forest management practices. Currently, fees are charged that are not less than \$5 and not more than the current market value of the fuelwood. DNR Division of Forestry offices issue 750 to 850 fuelwood permits each year.

Assumptions

It is estimated that approximately \$6,000 will be generated each year by increasing special fuelwood permits to a minimum of \$25 per permit. (The amount of \$6,000 was reached by taking each \$5, \$10, \$15, and \$20 permit out of the total of 820 permits sold in FY04 and adding together the differences between them and a \$25 minimum permit—for example, a \$5 permit sold in FY04 would bring in \$25 in FY06, an additional income of \$20.) This \$6,000 / year is a small portion of the DNR Division of Forestry’s annual “base” direct appropriation of \$33 million in FY06. However, the increase in the minimum charge of a permit from \$5 to \$25 is important in helping the DNR Division of Forestry recoup the administrative costs of issuing special fuelwood permits.

The \$6,000 of additional revenues will be split accordingly: approximately 50% will go to the Permanent School Trust Fund, 30% to the Forest Management Investment Account (FMIA) in the Natural Resources Fund, and 20% to the Consolidated Conservation Account (Con-Con) in the Special Revenue Fund.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Based on FY04 data, the average fee charged for special fuelwood permits was \$22; however, 520 of the 820 permits issued in this fiscal year were for less than \$20 each. The costs of issuing these permits averaged out to \$24 per permit.

Average revenue from a permit in FY04: \$17,913.28 (total revenue brought in by special fuelwood permits) ÷ 820 permits (total permits issued in FY04) = \$21.85 / permit or \$22 / permit rounded off.

Average cost of issuing a permit in FY04: \$10.74 (one-half hour of clerical time) + \$10.54 (one-half hour of appraiser time) + \$3 (form and processing fees) = \$24.28 / permit or \$24 / permit rounded off. (Note: Salary costs are based on class midpoints and include fringe benefits.)

Local Government Costs

Counties receive one-half of Con-Con funds each year. If the anticipated \$1,000 of Con-Con revenues are generated each year by increasing the minimum price of a special fuelwood permit to \$25, the counties will receive \$500 each year from this initiative.

References and Sources

Increasing the minimum fee for special fuelwood permits from \$5 to \$25 is included in the Governor’s 2006-07 Biennial Budget.

Source of information: DNR Forestry Division Timber Sale Records

Agency Contact Name: Meg Hanisch, Forestry (651) 296-5958

FN Coord Signature: BRUCE NASLUND

Date: 04/05/05 Phone: 297-4909

EBO Comments

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: MARSHA BATTLES-JENKS

Date: 04/05/05 Phone: 296-8510

Fiscal Note – 2005-06 Session

Bill #: S0802-1E Complete Date: 04/01/05

Chief Author: BAKK, THOMAS

Title: MODIFY FOREST PROVISIONS

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State		X
Local		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

Agency Name: Administration Dept

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Less Agency Can Absorb					
-- No Impact --					
Net Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Revenues					
-- No Impact --					
Net Cost <Savings>					
-- No Impact --					
Total Cost <Savings> to the State					

	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Full Time Equivalents					
-- No Impact --					
Total FTE					

Bill Description

Section 4 of this bill indicates that Forest Improvement Contracts are exempt from competitive bidding requirements and from approval by the Commissioner of Administration.

Assumptions

Admin has never devoted any significant resources to Forest Improvement Contracts. Consequently, the anticipated change will not require new resources or free up existing resources and will have no fiscal impact on Admin.

Agency Contact Name: Kent Allin (651-296-1442)

FN Coord Signature: LARRY FREUND

Date: 03/31/05 Phone: 296-5857

EBO Comments

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: TIM JAHNKE

Date: 04/01/05 Phone: 296-6237

**Senators Anderson, Jungbauer, Dibble, Metzen and Pariseau introduced--
S.F. No. 1429: Referred to the Committee on Finance.**

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

A bill for an act

relating to appropriations; appropriating money for
the operation and maintenance of the Metropolitan
Regional Parks System.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

\$4,500,000 in fiscal year 2006 and \$4,500,000 in fiscal
year 2007 are appropriated to the Metropolitan Council for
maintenance and operation of the metropolitan area regional
parks in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 473.351.

Operations and Maintenance Funds for the Metropolitan Regional Park System

HF 1665 and SF 1429

1974 Metropolitan Parks Act

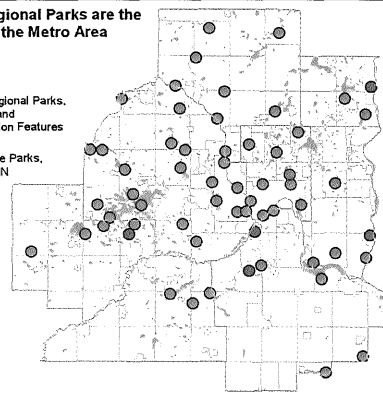
The Metropolitan Council should identify land and grant funds to cities, counties and special park districts to acquire, develop and manage park land, which together with state parks and trails will serve metro area residents and visitors (MS 473.145)

What is the Metropolitan Regional Parks System?

- 52,000 acres (31,000 in 1974)
- 46 regional parks and park reserves (200 to 5,000 acres per park)
- 6 special recreation features
- 22 regional trails (200 miles currently open to the public)
- 30.5 million visits annually (2003)

Metropolitan Regional Parks are the "State Parks" in the Metro Area

- Metropolitan Regional Parks, Park Reserves and Special Recreation Features
- State Land (State Parks, State Zoo and MN Arboretum)

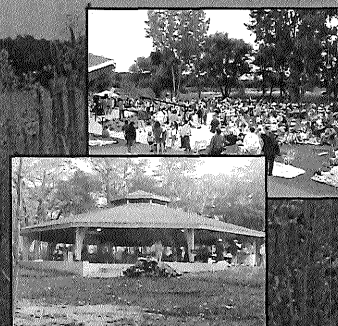


Who operates and maintains the Metropolitan Regional Parks System

- Anoka County
- Carver County
- Dakota County
- Ramsey County
- Washington County
- City of St. Paul
- Three Rivers Park District
- Scott County
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
- City of Bloomington

Regional Parks

- 100 to 500 acres
- 36 regional parks
- Provide wide array of outdoor recreation opportunities



Regional Park Reserves

- 1,000 to 5,000 acres
- 10 park reserves
- Protect major landscape types
- Outdoor recreation and education



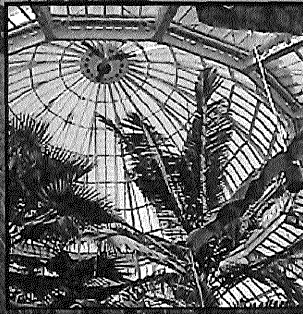
Regional Trails

- 22 regional trails link parks and park reserves
- 200 miles open to the public
- 525,000 commuting trips annually

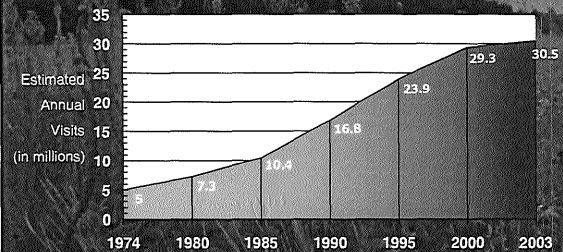


Special Recreation Features

- Unique outdoor recreation facilities
- Como Zoo
- Como Conservatory
- Noerenberg Floral Gardens
- Square Lake
- Silver Lake

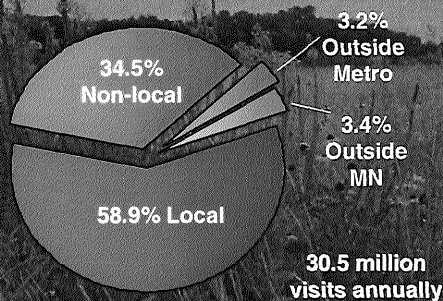


Metro Regional Park System: Visitation Growth 1974 to 2003



Visitor Origin

Metro Regional Parks serve State and Region

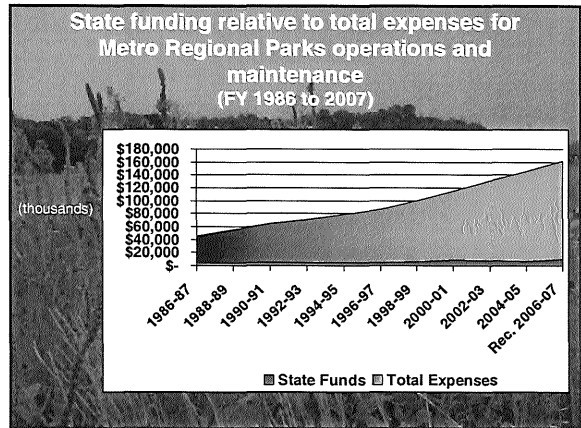


Why State funds are needed for Metropolitan Regional Parks operations and maintenance

- MS 473.351 recognizes non-local use of Metro Regional Park System
- 40% of visitors come from outside park agency's tax jurisdiction
- State appropriations for operations and maintenance are intended to pay for the non-local use of the park system.

Funds for Operations and Maintenance

- MS 473.351: Goal for state to finance 40% of regional park system operations and maintenance
- Actual General Fund appropriations: 10.5% (1985) to 4.6% (2004)



Comparison of State General Appropriation Funds and Total Expenses – Metropolitan Regional Parks

Year	Total Operating Budgets	State General Funds	% State Funding
2001	59,526,000	4,500,000	7.6%
2002	63,590,000	4,000,000	6.3%
2003	66,825,000	4,000,000	6.0%
2004	71,494,000	3,300,000	4.6%
2005 (projected)	74,800,000	3,201,000	4.3%
2006 (projected)	77,000,000	4,500,000	5.8%

Outcomes of HF 1665 and SF 1429

- Increases state funding for regional parks operations and maintenance by \$1.2 million per year
- Increases share of state general fund support to 5.8% of total operating costs (currently 4.3%)

Outcomes

Increased management of natural resources.

Outcomes

Restoration of building and facility maintenance.

Outcomes



Reinstatement of mowing and grounds maintenance services.

Outcomes



Restoration of lifeguard and beach services.

Outcomes



Added special events and community gatherings.

Outcomes



Restoration of interpretive and recreational programs.

Outcomes



Improved playground safety and maintenance.

Outcomes



Enhanced volunteerism and youth programs.

1 A bill for an act
2 relating to agriculture; expanding the definition of
3 shade tree; appropriating money; amending Minnesota
4 Statutes 2004, section 18G.16, subdivision 1.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
7 subdivision 1, is amended to read:

8 Subdivision 1. [DEFINITIONS.] (a) The definitions in this
9 subdivision apply to this section.

10 (b) "Metropolitan area" means the counties of Anoka,
11 Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington.

12 (c) "Municipality" means a home rule charter or statutory
13 city or a town located in the metropolitan area that exercises
14 municipal powers under section 368.01 or any general or special
15 law; a special park district organized under chapter 398; a
16 special-purpose park and recreation board organized under the
17 city charter of a city of the first class located in the
18 metropolitan area; a county in the metropolitan area for the
19 purposes of county-owned property or any portion of a county
20 located outside the geographic boundaries of a city or a town
21 exercising municipal powers; and a municipality or county
22 located outside the metropolitan area with an approved disease
23 control program.

24 (d) "Shade tree disease" means ~~Dutch-elm-disease, oak-wilt,~~
25 or any disorder affecting the growth and life of shade trees.

1 (e) "Wood utilization or disposal system" means facilities,
2 equipment, or systems used for the removal and disposal of
3 diseased shade trees, including collection, transportation,
4 processing, or storage of wood and assisting in the recovery of
5 materials or energy from wood.

6 (f) "Approved disease control program" means a municipal
7 plan approved by the commissioner to control shade tree disease.

8 (g) "Disease control area" means an area approved by the
9 commissioner within which a municipality will conduct an
10 approved disease control program.

11 (h) "Sanitation" means the identification, inspection,
12 disruption of a common root system, girdling, trimming, removal,
13 and disposal of dead or diseased wood of shade trees, including
14 subsidies for trees removed pursuant to subdivision 4, on public
15 or private property within a disease control area.

16 (i) "Reforestation" means the replacement of shade trees
17 removed from public property and the planting of a tree as part
18 of a municipal disease control program. For purposes of this
19 paragraph, "public property" includes private property within
20 five feet of the boulevard or street terrace in a city that
21 enacted an ordinance on or before January 1, 1977, that
22 prohibits or requires a permit for the planting of trees in the
23 public right-of-way.

24 (j) "Shade tree" means a woody perennial grown primarily
25 for aesthetic or environmental purposes.

26 Sec. 2. [APPROPRIATION.]

27 \$15,000,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the
28 commissioner of agriculture for the shade tree pest and disease
29 control program under Minnesota Statutes, section 18G.16.

1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 1580 as follows:

2 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

3 "Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
4 subdivision 1, is amended to read:

5 Subdivision 1. [DEFINITIONS.] (a) The definitions in this
6 subdivision apply to this section.

7 (b) "Metropolitan area" means the counties of Anoka,
8 Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington.

9 (c) "Municipality" means a home rule charter or statutory
10 city or a town located in the metropolitan area that exercises
11 municipal powers under section 368.01 or any general or special
12 law; a special park district organized under chapter 398; a
13 special-purpose park and recreation board organized under the
14 city charter of a city of the first class located in the
15 metropolitan area; a county in the metropolitan area for the
16 purposes of county-owned property or any portion of a county
17 located outside the geographic boundaries of a city or a town
18 exercising municipal powers; and a municipality or county
19 located outside the metropolitan area with an approved disease
20 control program.

21 (d) "Shade tree disease pest" means ~~Dutch-elm-disease, oak~~
22 ~~wilt, or any disorder~~ pests or pathogens affecting the growth
23 and life of shade trees.

24 (e) "Wood utilization or disposal system" means facilities,
25 equipment, or systems used for the removal and disposal of
26 diseased or pest-infested shade trees, including collection,
27 transportation, processing, or storage of wood and assisting in
28 the recovery of materials or energy from wood.

29 (f) "Approved disease pest control program" means a
30 municipal plan approved by the commissioner to control or
31 eradicate a shade tree disease pest.

32 (g) "Disease Pest control area" means an area approved by
33 the commissioner within which a municipality will conduct an
34 approved disease pest control program.

35 (h) "Sanitation" means the identification, inspection,
36 disruption of a common root system, girdling, trimming, removal,

1 and disposal of dead, pest-infested or diseased wood of shade
2 trees, including subsidies for trees removed pursuant to
3 subdivision 4, on public or private property within a disease
4 control area.

5 (i) "Reforestation" means the replacement of shade trees
6 removed from public property and the planting of a tree as part
7 of a municipal disease control program. For purposes of this
8 paragraph, "public property" includes private property within
9 five feet of the boulevard or street terrace in a city that
10 enacted an ordinance on or before January 1, 1977, that
11 prohibits or requires a permit for the planting of trees in the
12 public right-of-way.

13 (j) "Shade tree" means a woody perennial grown primarily
14 for aesthetic or environmental purposes.

15 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
16 subdivision 2, is amended to read:

17 Subd. 2. [COMMISSIONER TO ADOPT RULES.] The commissioner
18 may adopt rules relating to shade tree pest and disease control
19 in any municipality. The rules must prescribe control measures
20 to be used to prevent the spread of shade tree pests and
21 diseases and must include the following:

- 22 (1) a definition of shade tree;
- 23 (2) qualifications for tree inspectors;
- 24 (3) methods of identifying diseased or pest-infested shade
25 trees;
- 26 (4) procedures for giving reasonable notice of inspection
27 of private real property;
- 28 (5) measures for the removal of any shade tree which may
29 contribute to the spread of shade tree pests or disease and for
30 reforestation of pest or disease control areas;
- 31 (6) approved methods of treatment of shade trees;
- 32 (7) criteria for priority designation areas in an approved
33 pest or disease control program; and
- 34 (8) any other matters determined necessary by the
35 commissioner to prevent the spread of shade tree pests or
36 disease and enforce this section.

1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
2 subdivision 3, is amended to read:

3 Subd. 3. [DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY.] The commissioner shall
4 operate a diagnostic laboratory for culturing diseased or pest-
5 infested trees for positive identification of diseased or pest-
6 infested shade trees.

7 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
8 subdivision 4, is amended to read:

9 Subd. 4. [COOPERATION BY UNIVERSITY.] The University of
10 Minnesota College of Natural Resources shall cooperate with the
11 department in control of shade tree disease, pests, and
12 disorders and management of shade tree populations. The College
13 of Natural Resources shall cooperate with the department to
14 conduct tree inspector certification and recertification
15 workshops for certified tree inspectors. The College of Natural
16 Resources shall also conduct research into means for identifying
17 diseased or pest-infested shade trees, develop and evaluate
18 control measures, and develop means for disposing of and using
19 diseased or pest-infested shade trees.

20 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
21 subdivision 5, is amended to read:

22 Subd. 5. [EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS.] The commissioner may
23 establish experimental programs for sanitation or treatment of
24 shade tree diseases and for research into tree varieties most
25 suitable for municipal reforestation. The research must include
26 considerations of disease resistance, energy conservation, and
27 other factors considered appropriate. The commissioner may make
28 grants to municipalities or enter into contracts with
29 municipalities, nurseries, colleges, universities, or state or
30 federal agencies in connection with experimental shade tree
31 programs including research to assist municipalities in
32 establishing priority designation areas for shade tree disease
33 pest control and energy conservation.

34 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
35 subdivision 6, is amended to read:

36 Subd. 6. [REMOVAL OF DISEASED OR PEST-INFESTED TREES.]

1 After reasonable notice of inspection, an owner of real property
2 containing a shade tree that is diseased, infested, or may
3 contribute to the spread of pests or disease, must remove or
4 treat the tree within the period of time and in the manner
5 established by the commissioner. Trees that are not removed in
6 compliance with the commissioner's rules must be declared a
7 public nuisance and removed or treated by approved methods by
8 the municipality, which may assess all or part of the expense,
9 limited to the lowest contract rates available that include wage
10 levels which meet Minnesota minimum wage standards, to the
11 property and the expense becomes a lien on the property. A
12 municipality may assess not more than 50 percent of the expense
13 of treating with an approved method or removing or pest-infested
14 diseased shade trees located on street terraces or boulevards to
15 the abutting properties and the assessment becomes a lien on the
16 property.

17 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
18 subdivision 7, is amended to read:

19 Subd. 7. [RULES; APPLICABILITY TO MUNICIPALITIES.] The
20 rules of the commissioner apply in a municipality unless the
21 municipality adopts an ordinance determined by the commissioner
22 to be more stringent than the rules of the commissioner. The
23 rules of the commissioner or the municipality apply to all state
24 agencies, special purpose districts, and metropolitan
25 commissions as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 5a, that
26 own or control land adjacent to or within a shade tree ~~disease~~
27 pest control area.

28 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
29 subdivision 8, is amended to read:

30 Subd. 8. [GRANTS TO MUNICIPALITIES.] (a) The commissioner
31 may, in the name of the state and within the limit of
32 appropriations provided, make a grant to a municipality with an
33 approved ~~disease~~ pest control program for the partial funding of
34 municipal sanitation and reforestation programs to replace trees
35 lost to pest, disease or natural disaster. The commissioner may
36 make a grant to a home rule charter or statutory city, a special

1 purpose park and recreation board organized under a charter of a
2 city of the first class, a nonprofit corporation serving a city
3 of the first class, or a county having an approved disease
4 control program for the acquisition or implementation of a wood
5 use or disposal system.

6 (b) The commissioner shall adopt rules for the
7 administration of grants under this subdivision. The rules must
8 contain:

9 (1) procedures for grant applications;

10 (2) conditions and procedures for the administration of
11 grants;

12 (3) criteria of eligibility for grants including, but not
13 limited to, those specified in this subdivision; and

14 (4) other matters the commissioner may find necessary to
15 the proper administration of the grant program.

16 (c) Grants for wood utilization and disposal systems made
17 by the commissioner under this subdivision must not exceed 50
18 percent of the total cost of the system. Grants for sanitation
19 and reforestation must be combined into one grant program.

20 Grants to a municipality for sanitation must not exceed 50
21 percent of sanitation costs approved by the commissioner
22 including any amount of sanitation costs paid by special
23 assessments, ad valorem taxes, federal grants, or other funds.

24 A municipality must not specially assess a property owner an
25 amount greater than the amount of the tree's sanitation cost
26 minus the amount of the tree's sanitation cost reimbursed by the
27 commissioner. Grants to municipalities for reforestation must
28 not exceed 50 percent of the wholesale cost of the trees planted
29 under the reforestation program; provided that a reforestation
30 grant to a county may include 90 percent of the cost of the
31 first 50 trees planted on public property in a town not included
32 in the definition of municipality in subdivision 1 and with less
33 than 1,000 population when the town applies to the county.

34 Reforestation grants to towns and home rule charter or statutory
35 cities of less than 4,000 population with an approved disease
36 pest control program may include 90 percent of the cost of the

1 first 50 trees planted on public property. The governing body
2 of a municipality that receives a reforestation grant under this
3 section must appoint up to seven residents of the municipality
4 or designate an existing municipal board or committee to serve
5 as a reforestation advisory committee to advise the governing
6 body of the municipality in the administration of the
7 reforestation program. For the purpose of this subdivision,
8 "cost" does not include the value of a gift or dedication of
9 trees required by a municipal ordinance but does include
10 documented "in-kind" services or voluntary work for
11 municipalities with a population of less than 1,000 according to
12 the most recent federal census.

13 (d) Based upon estimates submitted by the municipality to
14 the commissioner, which state the estimated costs of sanitation
15 and reforestation in the succeeding quarter under an approved
16 program, the commissioner shall direct quarterly advance
17 payments to be made by the state to the municipality commencing
18 April 1. The commissioner shall direct adjustment of any
19 overestimate in a succeeding quarter. A municipality may elect
20 to receive the proceeds of its sanitation and reforestation
21 grants on a periodic cost reimbursement basis.

22 (e) A home rule charter or statutory city, county outside
23 the metropolitan area, or any municipality, as defined in
24 subdivision 1, may submit an application for a grant authorized
25 by this subdivision concurrently with its request for approval
26 of a disease pest control program.

27 (f) The commissioner shall not make grants for sanitation
28 and reforestation or wood utilization and disposal systems in
29 excess of 67 percent of the amounts appropriated for those
30 purposes to the municipalities located within the metropolitan
31 area, as defined in subdivision 1.

32 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
33 subdivision 9, is amended to read:

34 Subd. 9. [SUBSIDIES TO CERTAIN OWNERS.] A municipality may
35 provide subsidies to nonprofit organizations, to owners of
36 private residential property of five acres or less, to owners of

1 property used for a homestead of more than five acres but less
2 than 20 acres, and to nonprofit cemeteries for the approved
3 treatment or removal of diseased or pest-infested shade trees.

4 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, an owner of
5 property on which shade trees are located may contract with a
6 municipality to provide protection against the cost of approved
7 treatment or removal of diseased or pest-infested shade trees or
8 shade trees that will contribute to the spread of shade tree
9 diseases or pest infestations. Under the contract, the
10 municipality must pay for the removal or approved treatment
11 under terms and conditions determined by its governing body.

12 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
13 subdivision 14, is amended to read:

14 Subd. 14. [MUNICIPAL OPTION TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM.]
15 The term "municipality" shall include only those municipalities
16 which have informed the commissioner of their intent to continue
17 an approved disease pest control program. Any municipality
18 desiring to participate in the grants-in-aid for the partial
19 funding of municipal sanitation and reforestation programs must
20 notify the commissioner in writing before the beginning of the
21 calendar year in which it wants to participate and must have an
22 approved disease pest control program during any year in which
23 it receives grants-in-aid. Notwithstanding the provisions of
24 any law to the contrary, no municipality shall be required to
25 have an approved disease control program after December 31, 1981.

26 Sec. 11. [APPROPRIATION.]

27 \$15,000,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the
28 commissioner of agriculture for the shade tree pest and disease
29 control program under Minnesota Statutes, section 18G.16. This
30 appropriation is available until expended."

31 Amend the title as follows:

32 Page 1, line 4, after "subdivision 1" insert ", 2, 3, 4, 5,
33 6, 7, 8, 9, 14"

1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 1951 as follows:

2 Page 1, line 11, delete "Agriculture"

3 Page 1, line 12, delete "Utilization Research Institute at
4 Crookston" and insert "Northwest Regional Development Commission
5 at Warren"

6 Amend the title as follows:

7 Page 1, line 2, after "agriculture" insert "and economic
8 development"

9 Page 1, lines 3 and 4, delete "Agriculture Utilization
10 Research Institute at Crookston" and insert "Northwest Regional
11 Development Commission at Warren"

The CAREER Collaborative

(made possible by the Minnesota State Legislature)

The Need

There are over 260,000 immigrants in Minnesota, and recent increases in legal immigration and refugee resettlement may add about 20,000 this year. New arrivals to Minnesota come from 160 countries: major populations include Hmong, Vietnamese, people from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, Latinos, Indians, and East and West Africans.

Many refugees and immigrants are willing workers, but need assistance because of lack of English language skills, cultural barriers, little or no formal education, or lack of confidence in the workplace.

Investing in immigrants pays. Influxes of new Americans can stretch community and state resources. And they bring opportunity for growth. Helping refugees and immigrants assimilate into the workforce provides immediate returns on investment: new workers reduce or terminate need for public assistance (MFIP), earn wages, pay taxes, and invest in their communities, both with purchasing power and through entrepreneurship. Immigration provides new markets, new customers, revenue growth, and new jobs to our economy. Successful integration attracts others to Minnesota's economy. Following a nationwide trend, Minnesota will continue to see an influx of immigrants, and will benefit from them for decades to come.

The Solution

The CAREER Collaborative consists of organizations with proven track records in helping refugees and immigrants achieve employment: Hmong American Partnership, Vietnamese Social Service of Minnesota, Jewish Family Service, and Lifetrack Resources. Since 1997, with \$2.55 million from the Minnesota state legislature, we've offered unique services tailored to the needs of communities in Minnesota. Our culturally appropriate multilingual employment services include an orientation to work in the U.S., job seeking and work-related skills, job development and placement, English language training and work-related English classes, job retention follow-up and flexible services to meet the needs of employers and job seekers.

Our Results

CAREER has

- Served almost 3000 immigrants and refugees
- Placed more than 1600 in employment
- Placements have an overall average wage of \$8.74 and
- 81% 90-day retention rate

This year, our clients who have become employed and exited the welfare system have saved \$234,000 in welfare dollars for the state investment of only \$100,000. These same clients have also contributed \$1.08 million in earnings to Minnesota's economy. Our cost per placement is \$898, which is very cost-efficient for employment services in a need-intensive population.

CAREER Collaborative – Historical View

Since 1997, the CAREER Collaborative (Lifetrack Resources, Vietnamese Social Services, Hmong American Partnership, and Jewish Family Services) has been allocated \$2.55 million from the Minnesota State Legislature to provide pre-employment and intensive job placement services to immigrants and refugees. Working together they have served over 2900 people and placed 1635 in employment in these past 5 years.

1997-1999 biennium funding:
(**\$1 million allocated by legislature**)
480 placed in 2 years
\$7.50 average wage
83% job retention over 90 days
\$2083 average cost per placement

2000 special appropriation funding:
(**\$450,000 allocated by legislature**)
374 placed in 1 year
\$9.68 average wage
86% job retention over 90 days
\$1203 average cost per placement

2001-2003 biennium funding:
(**\$900,000 allocated by legislature**)
1064 enrolled (762 was goal)
614 placed in employment
\$9.02 average wage (goal: \$7.50)
78% 90-day retention
\$1465 average cost per placement

Current 2003-2005 biennium funding:
(**\$200,000 allocated by legislature**)
300 enrolled (107% of goal (280))
167 placed (128% of goal (130))
\$9.15 average wage (goal: \$7.50)
71% 90-day retention
\$898 average cost per placement

Number of CAREER Collaborative Participants served in 2004 = 274

Senate Districts in which Participants Preside:

District 35	District 47	District 59
District 37	District 48	District 60
District 38	District 49	District 61
District 39	District 50	District 62
District 40	District 53	District 63
District 42	District 54	District 64
District 43	District 55	District 65
District 44	District 56	District 66
District 45	District 57	District 67
District 46	District 58	

Employers That Hired CAREER Collaborative Participants in 2004

Company Name	Job City
4 Points Sheraton	St. Paul
Abbott Northwestern	Minneapolis
ABM Janitorial Services	Bloomington
Add On Staffing Solutions	St. Paul
Adecco Employment Services	St. Paul
Aerotek Commercial Staffing	Maple Grove
AmericInn	Brooklyn Center
AmeriPride	Minneapolis
Aramark Uniform Services	Fridley
Arby's	Roseville
Assembly Services & Packaging	Hudson, Wisconsin
Atlas Staffing	Minneapolis
Augustina Home Care	Brooklyn Park
Baret	St. Paul
Beck's	St. Paul
Bodeker Fixtures	Eagan
BRO-TEX, Inc	St. Paul
Buddy's Kitchen Inc.	Burnsville
Burns Temporary	Minneapolis
CDI Incorporated	Bloomington
Central Staffing Services, Inc	St. Paul
Children's Hospital	Minneapolis
Chocolat Celeste	St. Paul
ComCast	Shoreview
Common Bond	St. Paul
Communication Mailing	St. Paul
ConAgra	Edina
Co-Op Grocery Store	St. Paul
Co-operative Plating Co.	St. Paul
C-Pak	St. Paul
Cub Foods	Roseville
DAHL-TECH, Inc.	Stillwater
Diversified Bindery & Packaging Inc.	Blaine
Dorghy Staffing	Plymouth
Embassy Suites Hotel	St. Paul
Fairview Hospital	Minneapolis
Goodwill Store	St. Paul
H & H Aircraft Services	Bloomington
H.H.H Job Corps Food Service	St. Paul
Hampton Inn	St. Paul
Harvest Foods	St. Paul
Hennepin County	Minneapolis
Hennepin County Child Care	Minneapolis
Highland Nursery	St. Paul
Hilton Hotel	Minneapolis
Holtkotter Leuchten Inc.	Fridley
Icon Security	Minneapolis
ICS Shipping	Minneapolis
International Health Care Services	Golden Valley
Kim's Temporary Services, Inc.	Fridley
Linier Parking Systems	Minneapolis
Lunds	St. Paul
Lyngblomsten	St. Paul
Mackay Envelope Company	Minneapolis
Maintenance Express	St. Paul
Maplewood Health Care Center	Maplewood
Marsden Inc.	St. Paul

Marshall Fields deli	Roseville
Masterson Personnel	St. Paul
MCTC	St. Paul
Midwest Staffing Group, Inc.	St. Paul
Minneapolis Supervan Bus	Minneapolis
Modern Manufacturing & Engineering, Inc.	Minneapolis
Moscow on the Hill	St. Paul
National Choice Bakery	South St. Paul
Nordstrom Rack	Bloomington
Oromo Community	Minneapolis
Paquette Maintenance	Minneapolis
Parakeet Temporary Services	St. Paul
Porous Media	St. Paul
PrimeNet Direct Marketing	St. Paul
Regions Hospital	St. Paul
Sam's Club	Woodbury
Schroeder Company	Maplewood
Sheraton Bloomington	Bloomington
Smart One Staffing, Inc.	Minneapolis
Spectrum Staffing	St. Paul
Spherion	Arden Hills
Spherion (GML)	Vandais Heights
St. Joseph's Hospital	St. Paul
St. Odelia's School	Shoreview
SuperValue	St. Paul
TEAM Personnel Inc.	St. Paul
Team Personnel Services	St. Paul
The Work Connection	St. Paul
Travel Tags/Xtreme Graphics	Inver Grove Heights
University of Minnesota	Minneapolis
US Bank	St. Paul
Wal-mart (Midway)	St. Paul
Wells Fargo	Minneapolis
Wells Fargo	St. Paul
Work Connection	St. Paul

**Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Overview of the Minnesota Shade Tree Program
1974 to 1982**

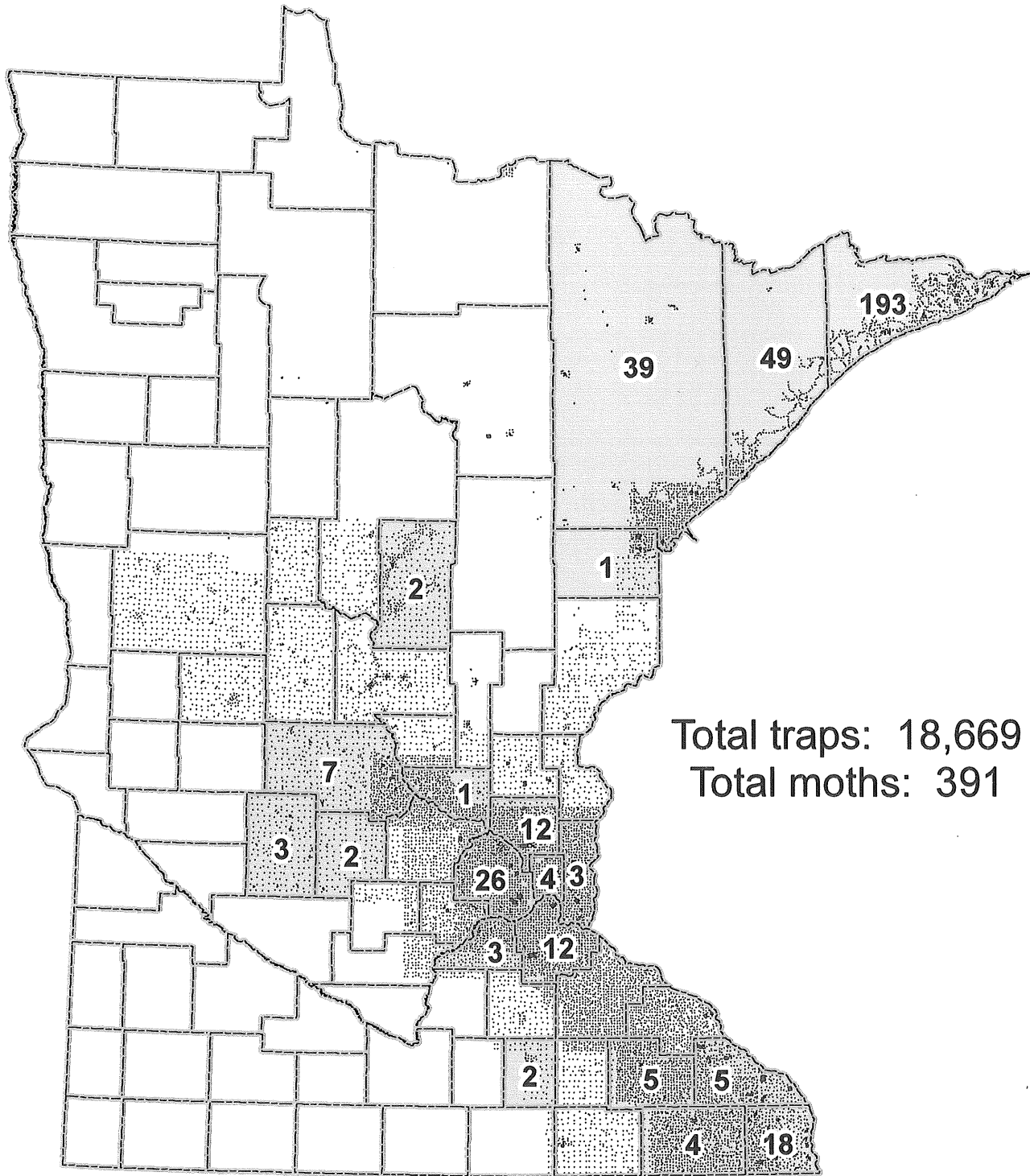
- 1961- Dutch Elm Disease caused by the fungus *Ceratostomella ulmi* and carried by elm bark beetles is first discovered in St. Paul
- The Shade Tree Program at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture was initiated in 1974 in response to the increase in Dutch Elm Disease (DED).
- The enabling statute provided funds to eligible cities (both metro and outside the metro area) for removing and disposing dead and dying elm trees as well as reforestation efforts.
- In addition to municipal grants, the statute also created the framework for the Tree Inspector certification program, grants for waste wood utilization and grants for shade tree disease research.
- This statute and associated rules are still on the books.
- Approximately 430 communities participated in the Shade Tree Grants program. The majority of grant funds were spent for "Sanitation" vs. "Reforestation" efforts. A lesser amount was directed toward waste wood utilization and disease research (approximately 1\$ million each). At it's height, 14 FTE were assigned to this program. These staff were assigned to grants administration, provided technical expertise and implemented a number of outreach and education programs.

- Total grants awarded were as follows, in millions -

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Metro</u>	<u>Non-Metro</u>
1977	\$24.7	\$21	\$3.7
1978	\$29.7	\$25.2	\$4.5
1979	\$23.1	\$18.1	\$5.0
1980	\$21.4	\$15.7	\$5.7
1981	\$19.3	\$14.2	\$5.1
1982	\$9.2	\$6.7	\$9.

- Initial 50% cost share was reduced to < 18% in 1981 and < 16% in 1982. All funding ceased on July 1, 1982.
- The Tree Inspector Program continues and is a well-received program with training provided by the University of Minnesota.

2004 Minnesota Gypsy Moth Survey Results by County



Total traps: 18,669
Total moths: 391



Tower Gypsy Moth Cooperative Project Area

Superior National Forest
Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Trap Placement and Moth Count

○ 0

1 1

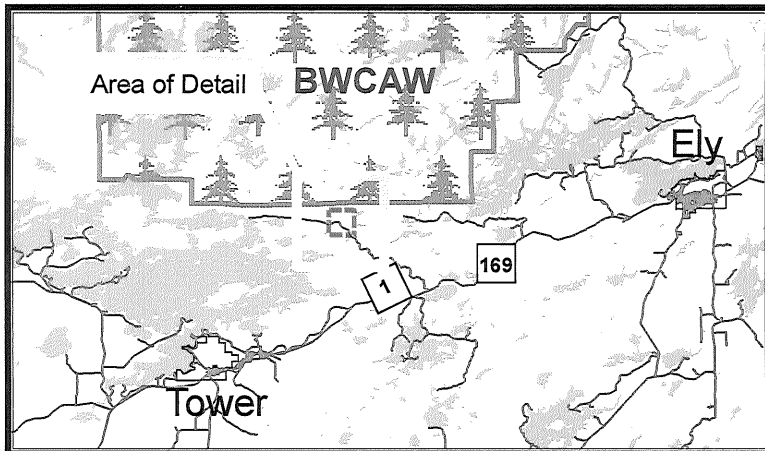
2 2

4 4

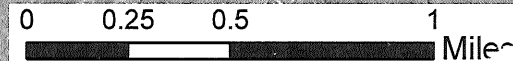
28 28

Proposed Treatment Boundary

Boundary Waters Canoe Area
Wilderness



12/01/05



Quantifying the Benefits of Trees

Trees Improve Air Quality

- "Trees are the lungs of the land," said Franklin Delano Roosevelt. They absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen into the atmosphere.
- A single tree can absorb 48 pounds of CO₂ per year and release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support two human beings.
- One acre of trees absorbs enough CO₂ per year to match that emitted by a car driven 26,000 miles and produces enough oxygen for 18 people every day.

Trees Reduce Pollution

- Large trees remove 60-70 times more pollution than small trees.
- One mature sugar maple (12" diameter) along a roadway removes, in one growing season, 60 mg cadmium, 140 mg chromium, 820 mg nickel, and 5200 mg lead from the environment.

Trees Increase Property Values

- Property values increase 5 to 20% compared to properties without trees.

Trees Save Energy Costs

- A tree is a natural air conditioner. The net cooling effect of a healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30% and can save 20 – 50% in energy used for heating. - USDA Forest Service
- One mature tree can provide savings of up to \$274 per year in air-conditioning costs.
- Properly placed trees can provide shade that would reduce our nation's consumption of oil by 50,000 barrels per day.

Trees Reduce Road-Maintenance Costs

- Asphalt streets that are shaded by trees last 5 to 10 years longer and have fewer potholes than non-shaded streets.

Trees Protect Water Quality

- A 32-foot-tall tree can reduce storm-water runoff by 327 gallons.
- Trees act as natural pollution filters. Their canopies, trunks, and roots filter nitrogen, phosphorus, and polluted particulate matter out of storm-water runoff.

Tree Improve Health and Quality of Life

- Along with their more easily quantifiable benefits, trees make our towns and cities better places to live.
- Surgical patients who could see trees outside their windows shortened their hospital stays by 8%, received fewer negative comments in nursing reports, and took fewer pain killers than patients who had no views.
- Trees can even decrease police calls for domestic violence and child abuse, according to University of Illinois research.

2004 Costs for Response to Invasive Exotic Forest Pests

Emerald Ash Borer :

Michigan	\$14 million (\$40 million in 2003)
Ohio	\$ 3.8 million
Indiana	\$ 3.0 million

Note: Most costs paid by APHIS*, but USDA will be requiring states to provide a 20% cost share, due to federal budget cuts.

Gypsy Moth : Wisconsin

Pest suppression on 27,000 acres

USFS**	\$387,000
State of Wisconsin	\$455,000

“Slow the Spread” treatments

Bt spray on 51,000 ac	\$1.02 million
Pheromone flakes on 268,000 ac	\$5.36 million

Note: Breakdown of State vs. Federal cost-share for STS not available

Asian Longhorned Beetle :

Eradication costs since 1996 for states of New York & Illinois: \$217 million

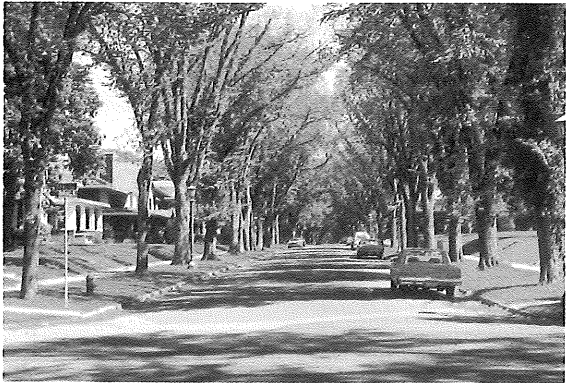
*APHIS = Animal and Plant Health Inspection (US Dept. of Agriculture)

**USFS = US Forest Service (US Dept. of Agriculture)

Source: USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry

EMERGENCY!

Public Alarmed Over Loss of Trees!



Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board



Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Minnesota neighborhood before trees
lost to Dutch elm disease.

Same neighborhood after trees lost to
Dutch elm disease.

*"Keeping our community forests
healthy costs money and local
governments are bearing the brunt
of it, even as unfunded mandates
continue. We need help!
If we don't protect the resources we
currently have, the ultimate cost
increases exponentially."*

*— Judy Johnson, Mayor,
City of Plymouth*

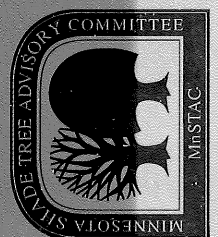
*"I find it disheartening to pay
for someone to remove my trees
when I want to take care of them
but can't get the information
I need to do so."*

*— Trevor Miyamoto,
Resident of Minnetonka*

MINNESOTA DUTCH ELM DISEASE FACTS

- Tree loss in 2004 was the worst in 30 years!
- Losses in 2005 and 2006 are expected to be twice as high!

MnSTAC Forestry Alert 2005
Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee



*"Beautification be damned,
it's economics!"*

—Don Willeke, Founding Chair, MnSTAC

Value of trees at risk in Minnesota:

- The 128 million trees in Minnesota communities have a total compensatory value of \$80 billion*
- Forest products manufactured in Minnesota exceed \$7 billion per year**

It's economics:

- Jobs
- Property Values
- Forest Industry
- Clean Water and Air
- Tourism
- Recreation
- Energy Conservation
- Wildlife Habitat
- Safety
- Health
- Neighborhoods



Deborah Rose, MnDNR

No trees = No benefits!

* Nowak, D.J., D.E. Crane, and J.F. Dwyer. 2002. Compensatory Value of Urban Trees in the United States. *Journal of Arboriculture* 28(4):194-199.

** MN DNR. 2004 Minnesota Forest Health Highlights.

*The Bad One
The Worst One*

Trees are being lost and threatened of devastating insect



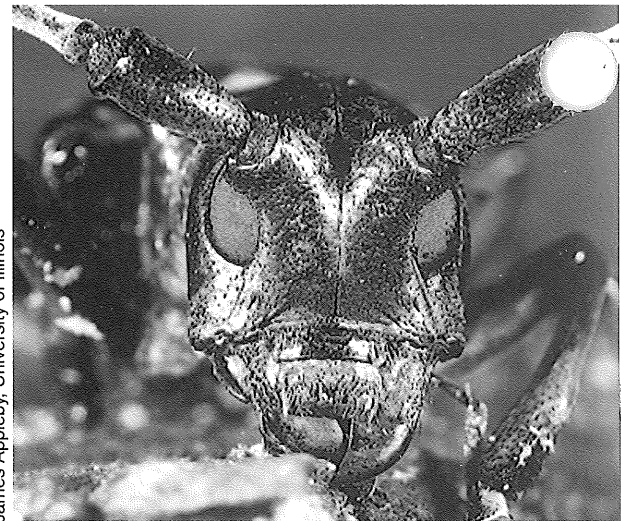
Gypsy moth is established in Michigan and is approaching Minnesota.



Emerald ash borer was first found in Michigan in 2002 and has been carried by wind to Ohio.



Asian longhorned beetle was first found in Chicago in 1998. Early detection is key to the current successful control efforts.



James Appleby, University of Illinois

Asian longhorned beetle

Trees be
infestati

*s Are Here...
s Are Coming!*

**Threatened by increasing numbers
and disease problems!**

Wisconsin and the leading front is

found in the Detroit metropolitan area in
humans to other locations in Indiana,

found in New York City in 1996 and in
on and rapid response in Chicago was
eradication program.



Larry R. Barber, USDA Forest Service

ing cut due to Asian longhorned beetle
n in Chicago.

ACTION IS NEEDED NOW!

The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee recommends that the Minnesota Legislature and Governor act to:

- ✦ Establish dedicated funds for forest health to implement Minnesota Statute 18G.16, Subd. 8. Grants to municipalities. "... for partial funding of municipal sanitation and reforestation programs to replace trees lost to disease or natural disaster ... and for acquisition or implementation of a wood use or disposal system."
- ✦ Fund LCMR's 2005-2007 recommendation for Minnesota ReLeaf, to leverage local funding and citizen volunteer support.
- ✦ Provide emergency bonding funds to protect communities' capital investments in their urban forest from the current outbreak of Dutch elm disease and other devastating insect and disease problems, established and coming, to control tree loss in 2005-2007.
- ✦ Support and direct the Minnesota Forest Resources Council to help create, with funding, a 7-County Metro Area Forest Landscape Plan that would include strategies for forest health.

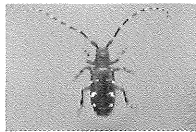


Tree Trust

Don't let a devastating pest take away their quality of life!

THREATS TO MINNESOTA'S TREES

Asian Longhorned Beetle—an exotic wood borer that poses an enormous threat to urban and rural forests killing hardwoods—primarily maples, elms and willows. Early detection is critical. <http://www.uvm.edu/albeetle/>



Donald Duerr, USDA Forest Service

Sap Beetle—native and exotic sap beetles spread the oak wilt fungus affecting all species of oak. There are active infection centers in 21 counties. Prompt identification, removal and disposal of dead and dying oaks is critical. <http://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/zoning/enviro/oakwilt.htm>



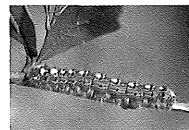
USDA Forest Service, NCRS

Gypsy Moth—an exotic defoliator of hardwoods that prefers oaks and is spreading into Minnesota. Benefits of slowing the rate of spread exceeds the costs of treatment and monitoring by 3 to 1. <http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/morgantown/4557/gmoth/>



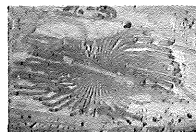
John H. Ghent, USDA Forest Service

Forest Tent Caterpillar—a native cyclic defoliator that can kill oak, aspen, and birch if stressed by drought. It is a major pest in urban and rural forests. In 2004, identified 27,500 acres of dead aspen and 22,900 acres of dying aspen. Birch had 3,200 acres of mortality. Strong forestry programs can reduce the impact. <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG7563.html>



Ronald F. Billings, Texas Forest Service

Elm Bark Beetle (larval galleries)—spreads Dutch elm disease. Native and exotic elm bark beetles are serious pests to American, Siberian, and red elms. Prompt identification, removal and disposal of dead and dying elms is critical. <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/delmdisease/default.htm>



Missoula Archives, USDA Forest Service

Pine Bark Beetle (larvae in galleries)—a native beetle killing red pine stands and plantations during drought periods. Awareness and prevention is critical. http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/forest_health/barkbeetles/index.html



Scott Tunnock, USDA Forest Service

Emerald Ash Borer—an exotic wood borer that kills all species of ash, a major component of our urban and rural forests. At least 8 million ash trees have been killed in IN, MI, and OH. The potential for spread to Minnesota is high. Early detection is critical. <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

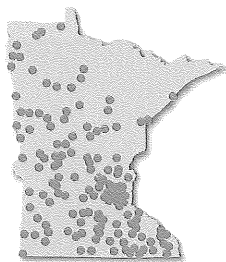


David Cappaert, Michigan State University

Bulldozers—represent negative human impacts to urban and rural forest health. Urban sprawl and improper construction techniques impact forest health. Awareness, land-use planning, and best management practices are critical. http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/maintenance/construction_damage.html



Kate Drewry, MnDNR



Minnesota ReLeaf is a matching grant program that provides funding to local units of government, non-profits, and schools to incorporate a more comprehensive approach in planning and managing their community forest resource. MN ReLeaf has helped over 200 communities throughout the state.

Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee

The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MnSTAC) was established in 1974 to address the health and well-being of Minnesota's community forests, initially focusing on Dutch elm disease. Today, the organization has a diverse membership of over 420 representing a broad spectrum of tree-related interests. MnSTAC is recognized throughout Minnesota and the nation for its expertise, innovation, counsel, coordination, and support relative to urban and community forestry issues.

For More Information Related web sites:

2004 Minnesota Forest Health Highlights—http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/fhm/fhh/fhh-04/mn/mn_04.pdf

MN Dept. of Agriculture—<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/>

MN Dept. of Natural Resources—www.dnr.state.mn.us

MN Shade Tree Advisory Committee—www.mnstac.org

TreeLink—www.treelink.org/

Tree Trust—www.treetrust.org

USDA Forest Service—www.na.fs.fed.us/

University of MN-Extension—www.extension.umn.edu/



Ken Simons, President
Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee
c/o Tree Trust
2350 Wycliff Street,
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55114
763-717-9366
or visit: www.mnstac.org



Printed on recycled paper
©2005, MnSTAC
MnSTAC Forestry Alert
2005

MINNESOTA

Shade Tree Advocate

Speaking Out For Community Forests

VOL. 7, NO. 2

Spring 2005

COMMUNITY FOREST PROFILE

Counting Trees in Hutchinson, Minnesota

By Mark Schnobrich

OK. So you have a small town and you want to inventory your trees because the experts say that is what you need to do. How can you manage your trees unless you truly know what you have out there? Do you have sick trees, dead trees, trees in need of pruning?

So what do you do? Where do you begin? You have no money. Your supervisor says you can inventory the trees if you can come up with some money or people to assist you. Here's a brief history of what Hutchinson, Minnesota did over the last 13 years to get a workable tree inventory system into our community.

Grants. They are out there and we utilized them. Hutchinson could not have completed what we have today without grants. Over the last 13 years, we received two grants from the Minnesota DNR and one from the US Forest Service. One thing to note is that over 13 years, tools and techniques and equipment have all changed. The result is that data is collected and stored and then, over time, made incompatible with present or future tree inventory programs. The lesson to learn here is to collect your data and utilize it as quickly as possible.

How can a small town forester and staff fit all this inventory collection into their work duties? Well, sometimes you don't. This is another lesson to learn. You must figure out how you are going to incorporate your daily activities into your inventory program so that data collection and utilization of the inventory is just second nature. If your community is fortunate enough to have an Information Technology Director, (a computer programmer person) you will find that it is crucial that you involve this person as early as possible.

Counting Trees in Hutchinson, Minnesota continued on p. 3

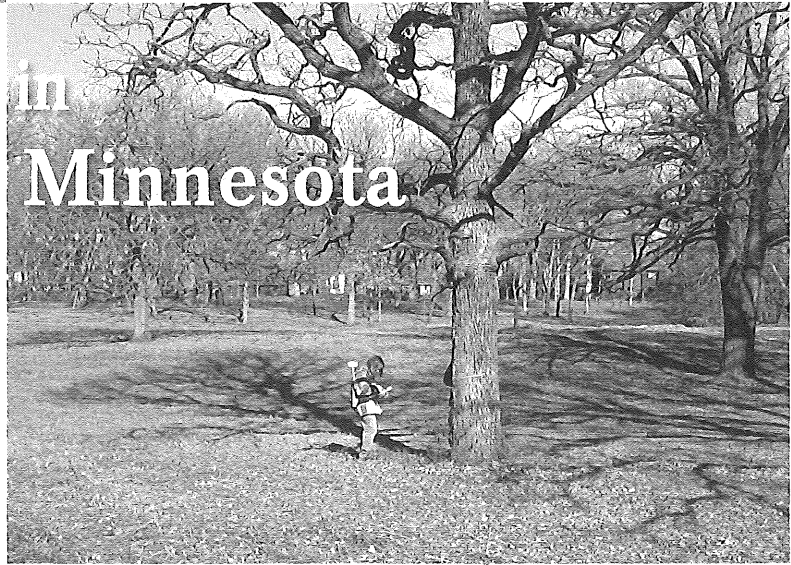


PHOTO: CITY OF HUTCHINSON

Inside THIS ISSUE

- 2 Perspectives Column
- 4 Urban Forest Health: Dutch Elm Disease—It's Back!!!
- 8 Dispel-A-Myth: Do Not Prune Trees that "Bleed" in Spring
- 9 Clip & Save: Engineered Soils for an Urban Environment Filled with Trees
- 12 Green Roofs
- 15 STAC Info and Calendar
- 16 MNtrees.org

Visit MnSTAC on the Web at
www.mnstac.org

The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee's mission is to advance Minnesota's commitment to the health, care and future of all community forests.



Mn/DOT's Response to the Resurgence in Dutch Elm Disease

By Paul Walvatne

It's my pleasure to use this column to communicate with all readers of this newsletter. First of all, I would like to take a look at Mn/DOT's response to the explosion of Dutch elm disease in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and in many other areas throughout the state. I will also provide some tree and other natural resource information that may be accessed on Mn/DOT's web site. Hopefully this information will be useful for you.

In late July 2004, Don Willeke lit my fire on Dutch elm disease. In a very terse e-mail he said, "Paul, if you have not already done so, would you 'raise the dickens' about Dutch elm disease as soon as possible." Furthermore, he said, "If I don't hear from you in the near future, I will call my contacts in the media and accuse Mn/DOT of ruining the city's programs."

Within an hour, I had communicated Don's message to the highest levels within Mn/DOT. Don's message more than perplexed Bob Wryk, our Mn/DOT Metro District Maintenance Superintendent, because Bob's two tree crews said they were staying up with city notices of diseased elm marked on highway right-of-way.

Over the next few weeks, I shifted my priorities and started spreading the "dickens" on Dutch elm disease. Mn/DOT went from reactive to pro-active. Historically, Mn/DOT counted on city tree inspectors to mark all the trees on highway right-of-way just as they would mark trees on other public property or on private property. Now, we find that is not the case. This left us with the dilemma of which cities were marking trees on right-of-way and which ones were not. For a couple of days, I called Twin Cities metropolitan area cities to see what kind of DED program they had, who was their contact person, and if they do mark diseased trees on highway right-of-way. We needed this information to determine our next course of action.

With the downturn in the economy over the last four years, many cities have cut staff and dollars for care of the green infrastructure. Cities that used to mark state highway right-of-way trees, have quit doing so as a cost-saving measure, or in some cases, they stopped marking highway trees due to safety concerns

associated with stopping on the shoulder of busy highways.

When Mn/DOT went out to mark all the diseased trees on a long stretch of metro freeway, we found lots of trees that had been dead for quite some time. Many of the volunteer Siberian and American elms that had popped up over the last two decades along the freeway fence lines and noise walls were also infected.

With the list of cities and DED status in-hand, we embarked on the next phase to determine who is going to mark the trees and how we can muster up the forces to remove large numbers of diseased trees. Mn/DOT's small group of foresters is fully booked on other duties to protect our roadside green infrastructure. Therefore, we decided to train the Mn/DOT maintenance staff on how to identify diseased elms and the importance of setting up a systematic tree marking scheme.

So how are we doing? In the metro area, Mn/DOT has two, 2-person crews working non-stop on DED and oak wilt (except for a few stints when they must plow snow). With the low amount of snow this winter, their ranks have been beefed up by other maintenance personnel. In addition, a crew supervisor and a nine-person Institutional Corrections Work Crew (ICWC), has been working with us. So far, well over two thousand trees have been cut down and chipped up.

We anticipate a lot more activity in the next couple of years. Our goal is to hire a student intern to assist in marking trees this spring and summer. We intend to systematically mark and timely dispose of diseased elm trees in cities with active DED control programs.

For readers in rural Minnesota communities, please let me know if you are having problems getting timely removal of diseased elm trees. We can connect you with local Mn/DOT maintenance staff.

Our goal is to be a "Good Neighbor" as we continue the uphill fight against Dutch elm disease. ❁

Paul Walvatne is the Forestry Unit Supervisor at the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He can be reached at 651-284-3793 or paul.walvatne@dot.state.mn.us

"over two thousand trees have been cut down and chipped up"

Mn/DOT Web Sites for Natural Resource Information

www.plantselector.dot.state.mn.us

Find lots of information on plants.

www.dot.state.mn.us/tecsup/find Mn/DOT Specifications and other info:

- Tree protection and clearing and grubbing (Spec #2572, 2101, 2031)
- Plant installation (Spec #2571) and plant stock inspection (Spec #3861)
- Topsoil (Spec #3877) and Compost (Spec #3890)
- Typical landscape treatments for roadsides
- Roadside landscape partnership application

and training manuals

- Look for the "Inspection and Contract Administration Guidelines for Mn/DOT Landscape Contracts" to be posted in the near future

www.dot.state.mn.us/environment

Find information on the following:

- Mn/DOT Herbicide Policy
- Mn/DOT Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program
- Mn/DOT Turf Seed Mixes

Counting Trees in Hutchinson, Minnesota from p. 1

Hutchinson started to pursue a tree inventory by first contacting our computer people and asking them for assistance. It is natural, of course, that they had the expertise to put together a raw data collection program. By that I mean they set up a system to collect (by Global Positioning Equipment or marking on a map) and store and even retrieve that data when you need it. But when it came time to having them help set up an easy point and click, add and subtract, tree information system, that was a different story. Hutchinson needed to hire an independent tree inventory programmer.

We chose a consultant and purchased a beta site option. By being a beta site, we were able to interject our specific needs into the inventory system. We not only wanted to monitor tree data, we also wanted to log into the program each day, stay there and

- keep track of daily phone logs and conversations.
- write and send weed notices and track weed locations and lots.
- input current tree data such as pruning, removal and planting.
- include tree data collected from Hutchinson High School students and utilize these students to help update city trees.
- keep track of crown spread.
- have a quick reference to tree values.
- have the program accessible to other departments
- access owners names and addresses and property ID numbers for legal notifications for diseased trees, weeds etc.

One negative aspect of the beta site scenario was the fact that we were part of a developmental process. As a result, there was a very slow turn around from the time of completing our collaboration with the consultant to the point of receiving our final useable product.

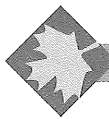
Where does that leave Hutchinson in its tree inventory program? We have collected lots of tree data for our inventory. Each year, we add to the inventory as trees get planted and removed. We have worked closely with our consultant to put together a very usable, friendly, hands-on, everyday program. Now what has to be accomplished is the need to make that data function for us to complete our community forestry management plan.

Tree inventory systems are a marvelous asset to any community tree program. However, keep in mind that in addition to all the other things your community hired you to complete in regards to their trees, it takes a really strong commitment to initiate and keep up with a tree inventory system. If the system we have in Hutchinson is going to serve our needs, we must make it part of our normal daily forestry functions. Otherwise, the inventory will not be used and will disappear into the many chores that are part of our workday.

My recommendation is that you make your inventory one that you will use everyday. When a tree inventory becomes one part of all of your forestry activities, then you know that it is truly a functioning and valuable part of your community forest. 🌳

Mark Schnobrich is a Forester with the City of Hutchinson.

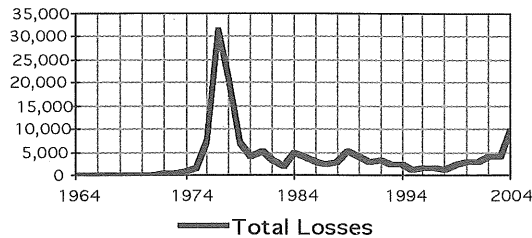
"it takes a really strong commitment to initiate and keep up with a tree inventory system"



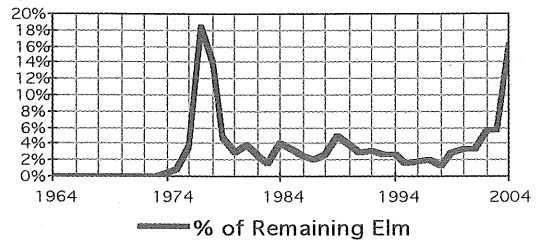
DUTCH ELM DISEASE—IT'S BACK!!!

By Susan Burks

Number of Elms Lost to DED in Minneapolis by Year



Percentage of Remaining Elms Lost to DED in Minneapolis by Year



“Clearly, DED is on the rise.”

According to Minneapolis records, 2004 was the third worst year in the city’s history in terms of the number of trees lost to Dutch elm disease (DED). By September, over 9,500 trees had been marked for removal with the season yet incomplete. Only 1977 and 1978 saw more elm trees cut down—a total of 31,475 and 20,813 trees respectively (public- and privately-owned trees). While the total number of trees lost in 2004 seems moderate in comparison, it becomes more remarkable when represented as the percent of the total elm population. In 1997, the city lost 18.47% of the elm population. In 1978, another 13.92% was lost. By September 2004, the city had lost 16% of the remaining elm—the second highest loss in history with the annual count not yet complete. That’s a huge loss, given the importance of these trees to the urban landscape.

So is Minneapolis an exception, or is DED on the rise elsewhere? To help describe disease occurrence and community responses across central Minnesota, a survey was conducted in August. The survey points out that after several years of steadily increasing numbers of infected trees, 2004 saw a decided jump in the occurrence of DED in almost all communities keeping such records.

The survey was sent to 194 communities in central Minnesota, including all incorporated cities and many townships. Of the 76 who responded (a 39% response), 56 communities reported the number of trees lost during the last four years. Among them, a total of 36,537 trees had been cut down or marked for removal as of late August 2004. Several communities reported they were still marking an average of 20-30 trees per day, adding an estimated 1000-2000 trees lost by the end of the 2004 season. This compares to a total of 16,617 trees lost in 2003—an increase of 220% in one year. In 2002 and 2001, 10,869 and 9,706 trees were cut down, an increase of 53% and 12% respectively. Clearly, DED is on the rise.

Number of Elms Removed by 56 Responding Communities

Year	Number of trees removed	% increase between years
2001	9,706	
2002	10,869	12%
2003	16,617	53%
2004	36,537	220%
Total	73,729	295%**

** Percent increase between 2001 and 2004

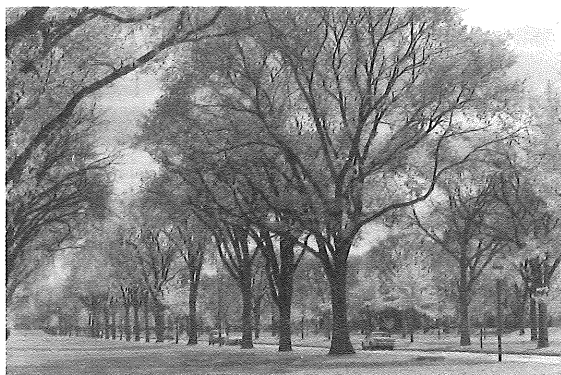


PHOTO: MINNESOTA DNR



PHOTO: MINNESOTA DNR

Contributing Factors

While survey responses varied, weather patterns and sanitation practices were most commonly cited as key factors in the current outbreak. One specifically said weather patterns were not involved and two specifically said the level of sanitation was not involved. Other factors contributing to the outbreak commonly mentioned include insufficient staff and/or funds to manage local programs, lack of public awareness and/or interest in disease management, and an increase in the number of volunteer elms in unmanaged or abandoned areas.

Sanitation

Although sanitation is by far the most effective method of disease management, there are many instances where it is not applied consistently, even in communities with active programs. The ongoing costs associated with disease management in native parks and woodlands often make it impractical. So many communities fail to address the large reservoir of beetle-infested wood in these areas. Sanitation of infected ornamental trees (i.e. street, park and privately owned yard trees) may also be inadequate. Once diseased trees are marked, private landowners may not remove them, particularly where minimal city staffing limits follow-up inspections or where city ordinances do not enforce compliance. Seasonal staff, often college students, may return to school before all marked trees have been removed. So some may be left standing until the next summer when the inspector returns to report for duty. Another problem is the number of townships and/or communities without a disease management program. These areas can maintain large reservoirs of infested trees that can contribute to high rates of disease in the surrounding area. This can make it difficult for the communities next door to stay on top of local enforcement.

Volunteer and Siberian elms are another part of the equation. All elm species are capable of producing seed that generate young trees, often where they are not maintained. Many of these young trees are now reaching the size at which they become susceptible to infection. When they occur in unmanaged areas, they can greatly add to the reservoir of beetle-infested wood. More so than other species, Siberian elms are notorious invaders of fencerows, windbreaks, alleyways, ditches, and other areas under minimal care. Siberian elms are more resistant to DED than are American elm, but they are not immune. They can become infected and when they do, they add to the disease reservoir. Because many people confuse resistance with immunity, Siberian elms (as well as other reportedly "resistant" elms) are often ignored. Other people confuse Siberian

elms with Chinese elms, an entirely different species which rarely gets DED. As a result, they attribute DED symptoms to other problems, such as weather-related stress. The end result is DED-infected Siberian elms left standing to further contribute to the reservoir of beetle-infested wood.

A more recent problem is the current level of funding going into urban forestry. In response to relatively low DED incidences through out the 1990s and recent cuts in state aid to local units of governments, many communities diverted funds previously going into tree care into other management areas. When the outbreak hit this year, they were unable to respond in an effective manner due to limited funds and staffing. As a result, a large number of diseased trees were either removed late or not removed at all. This means additional tree losses are likely to be high again next year.

Tree health

Three of the last five years have seen late-season droughts that have stressed trees going into the winter. Three of the last five years have seen little if any snow cover. The winter of '02-03 in particular, had a huge impact on tree health. Drought the previous summer left soils extremely dry and water levels dangerously low going into the winter. Prolonged cold spells and no snow cover drove frost lines far below normal. Many tree species, including ash, hackberry, catalpa, honey locust and elm showed signs of severe stress the following spring. Many elms leafed out late and had small undersized leaves, sparse crowns, poor color, reduced growth and heavy seed crops. Survey results in 2003, demonstrated that 60% of the elms had some sign of winter injury, with 16% showing severe damage. At the time, the obvious question was how that level of stress was going to impact the future incidence of DED. The outbreak of 2004 answered that question. This year, we may be facing continued stress because as of January 10, 2005, the Twin Cities had yet to see a single snowfall event of 1" or greater in the driest winter ever recorded.

Beetle populations

Over-wintering beetle populations also seem to be paying a large role in the current outbreak.

Several years of wild winter temperatures has lead to an increase in population numbers among several insect species, such as the native larch and spruce bark beetles, among others. The elm bark beetles also seem to be surviving in large numbers. Lax sanitation has increased the number of dead, standing elm trees available as brood wood for these beetles. The additional brood wood has kept the population high, looking for suitable

"Although sanitation is by far the most effective method of disease management, there are many instances where it is not applied consistently..."



material for maturation feeding and reproduction. The large population of stressed elms seems to have met that need.

There is also a new elm bark beetle in town. The banded elm bark beetle (BEBB) was identified in the United States this year and in Fridley early this fall. At this point it is not known whether or not the beetles are capable of spreading DED and if so, what role they might be playing in the current outbreak. Even if they are playing a significant role, the situation would not likely change the current management strategy, i.e. aggressive sanitation. However, additional research is needed before we can determine the implications for Minnesota.

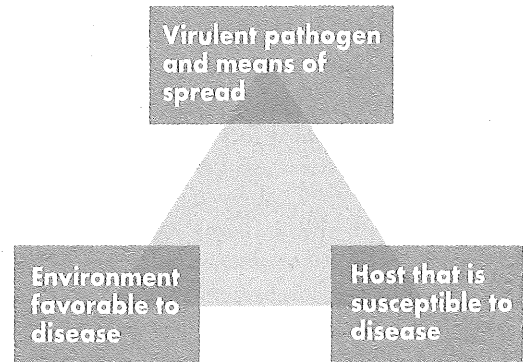
Wood disposal

A last factor mentioned by only a few survey respondents, but frequently observed by DNR staff, is the question of proper wood disposal. A lack of staff and/or funding to enforce compliance, a lack of suitable disposal sites and a general lack of understanding among landowners and firewood dealers are contributing to the storage and/or distribution of diseased wood. Particularly this year, when there is such an abundance of infected wood and limited means to dispose of it, landowners are struggling to find appropriate solutions. City

staff are barely keeping up with the large increase in tree removals, so are giving scant attention to the accumulating piles of infected wood. Along with the infected trees left standing, these piles will likely help maintain high levels of disease over the next few years.

The disease triangle

A model often used to help describe factors contributing to tree diseases is the disease triangle. In it, a virulent pathogen along with an insect vector or other means of spread, a favorable environment and a susceptible host combine



to produce disease. Remove any one of these factors and disease incidence is greatly reduced if not completely eliminated. But when all three come together at the same time, tree health can become a serious problem. That seems to be what happened in 2004. Inadequate sanitation increased the reservoir of fungal spores and brood wood. Increased brood wood and mild winters seem to have increased the beetle population. Weather-related stress left the elm population more susceptible to attack. The combination dramatically increased in the number of dead and dying elm. The situation parallels that described in "History of Dutch elm disease in Minnesota" (French, 1993), which resulted in the 1977 outbreak. And like 1977, the 2004 outbreak has overwhelmed many of those in urban forestry.

The outbreak of Dutch elm disease in the 1970's served to foster considerable interest in our community forests. That interest fostered the birth of many local forestry programs and put Minnesota on the map with the first Statewide Advisory Council in the country—the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Council (MNSTAC). In many ways, Minnesota has set the national standard in community forest and disease management. The current DED outbreak has people alarmed, but because of today's financial picture, they're discouraged and confused. However, tree care need not be an either/or proposition. We have an opportunity to tap into people's natural love of trees and the creativity they've shown in the past to again show how we can make a difference when we work together. It will take courage, dedication and open-mindedness. Fortunately, these are already strong Minnesotan traits.

So how do we respond?

Tree losses are likely to drop back down to manageable levels IF the source of inoculum and brood wood is eliminated. That means aggressive sanitation. Sanitation has been shown to reduce both tree losses and management costs when implemented effectively. Doing so also preserves the very real financial benefit of a mature community forest, benefits that far outweigh the costs of tree protection. But to be successful, disease management through sanitation has to be a long-term commitment. It can't be something we do one year and skip the next. That approach is largely what got us into this predicament in the first place. But how do we protect our natural resources and balance other financial needs? There are no good answers. It will take creativity, hard work, and a willingness to work together.

Here are some things to consider in our search for solutions.

In the short term:

- Short-term funding options, like the MN Releaf grant program. Communities that can demonstrate a long-term commitment may be eligible for funds specifically aimed at disease management. Other communities may be eligible for funds to conduct tree inventories, forest health assessments or tree replacements.
- Positive ways to encourage timely removals. For those that administer pruning contracts, citizen discounts or contractor awards based on prompt removals may help increase the level of cooperation. Prompt removals are more important early in the season than they are late in the season, so incentives could vary with the season to offset associated costs.
- Bid and contract procedures that may increase the level of competition and/or the number of contractors operating in an area. Relying on only a few contractors tends to slow response times as workloads increase, and often raises the price.
- Ways to assist private landowners facing expensive tree removals—for example, deferred property taxes or rebates for large tree removals.
- Ways to utilize the wood being removed to offset the costs associated with tree removals and wood disposal. Potting mixes, building materials, hiking trails, and energy production are among the many uses for wood chips that may provide some cost savings if not actual income.
- Where local resources are limited, opportunities to partner with neighboring communities. Cooperative agreements to oversee the care and/or use of shared resources may ease the burden on smaller communities. Such agreements need not be limited to issues of tree care. For instance, shared recreational services might free monies that could be used in other programs.

“to be successful, disease management through sanitation has to be a long-term commitment”

Long-term considerations:

- New ordinances or revisions in existing ordinances needed to ensure effective disease management, tree protection and natural resource conservation.
- Natural resource assessment to identify areas at high risk of disease and/or other disturbance. Keep in mind the continual influx of new exotic pests, like the emerald ash borer and gypsy moth. Develop guidelines to encourage species suitable for your area and discourage those that aren't.
- Long-range management plans addressing areas at risk of damage or loss. Effective management plans recognize financial and logistical realities, and provide the flexibility needed to respond to changing situations.
- Waste disposal and recycling programs that encourage citizen participation.
- Ways to strengthen the green industry in your area, so there are enough trained professionals to support community objectives.
- Ways to involve local citizens. Master Gardeners and Tree Care Advisors can be used to supplement limited city staff. Local programs to care for specific resources can be modeled after the Illinois TreeKeepers, Missouri Forestkeepers or local “Adopt-a-highway” programs.
- Methods of outreach and education. Citizen support starts with awareness.
- Partnerships to facilitate a regional approach to resource protection. 🌿

Susan Burks is a Forest Health Specialist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.



Myth: Do Not Prune Trees That "Bleed" in Spring

By Jeff Rick

"prune with care,
make proper
cuts, and each
cut for a reason"

Sap flow from a wound is a defense mechanism in trees. Trees produce copious quantities of sap, which is mostly water. This is quite different from a human being, with a limited blood supply in our system, and a limited ability to replenish quickly. Maple and birch trees are two examples of trees that may have a lot of sap flow from wounds made in the spring.

Many of the old recommendations for the time to prune were based on the time of wounding, because the flush cut caused a trunk wound. The old recommendations really were aimed at the least or most injurious time to wound a tree.

The purpose for pruning is to prevent or reduce problems:

- Remove a co-dominant leader to prevent a split in the main stem
- Remove a branch with included bark to prevent splitting off in a storm
- Remove deadwood to reduce internal decay and hazards
- Remove branches and watersprouts which will rub on the interior of the crown
- Remove lower branches to increase ground clearance
- Directionally prune to train away from obstacles

This information draws attention to the significance of making proper cuts, taking into consideration the branch collar and branch angles to allow for proper compartmentalization, or wound sealing.

Most trees go through a short phase each spring when the bark is loosely attached because of activity in the cambium. While young trees may be pruned from the ground, climbing a larger tree to prune during this period may lead to large surface wounds as the bark slips from foot pressure. Timing of this period varies not only from species to species, but from tree to tree. A tree should not be climbed during its spring period of bark slip.

Regardless of timing, prune with care, make proper cuts, and each cut for a reason. 🌿

Jeff Rick is a Certified Arborist with Rainbow Treecare.

For more information about proper pruning techniques, visit these web sites:

International Society of Arboriculture
www.isa-arbor.com

Tree Care Industry Association
www.natlarb.com



PHOTO: MINNESOTA DNR

Engineered Soils for an Urban Environment Filled with Trees

By Dwayne L. Stenlund

Trees planted in 'urban' soils after construction is not an ideal growing medium. It is typically devoid (at least reduced) of beneficial fungi and bacteria, organic matter, pore space and low bulk densities. The description of soils using agricultural textural classifications probably does not apply either due to mixing of the layers, and using equipment to recreate soil layers rather than chemical and biological processes. Is the soil on the top layer after spreading with a dozer topsoil by definition or due to its location in the soil profile? While it is impossible to create perfect topsoil, it is possible to engineer soils for a particular function.

We use soils for many things, all the while taking it for granted. Trees and other plants use soils for many things, not all of which we understand. It is the interactions of the physical, chemical and biological properties of soils and environmental inputs that should be examined in our designs. Providing a house (shelter) for microbes, and including food (nutrients) and opportunities to breathe will also benefit the trees. My designs focus on engineering soils that allow air and water exchange, limit compaction, retain nutrients and store a percentage of water. The original local soils are always incorporated into the designs due to base conditions that are not likely to change: salt loading, high urban temperatures, and existing microbes (some of which are adapted to the harsh environment).

The following discussion will focus on establishing rooting soils for planting beds adjacent to roadways and sidewalks, and improving storm water quality. By changing the soils, it is possible that the trees will operate as biological factories and remediate some the urban materials that are not ideal, and hopefully grow to their genetic potential. The designs include adding sand to change the pore space to allow water drainage, detention, or retention depending on the design requirements, and adding compost to provide the habitat for microbes and nutrient retention and cycling in the root zone.

Raised plant beds, concrete coffins, and other root restricted areas.

Soil in restricted areas must be able to withstand compaction pressures of foot traffic and snow loading. They must be able to provide both macro- and micronutrients over time, buffer pH, and overcome problems of drainage, sodium and carbon loading due to human activities. In my opinion, the best way to create soils capable to provide the neces-

Clip and Save continued on p. 10

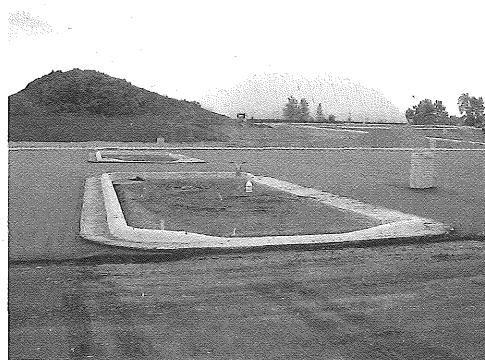


Figure 1. Base rooting soil applied and tested for sustained water infiltration exceeding 0.5 inches per hour.

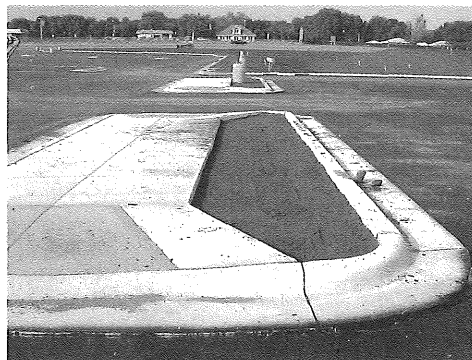
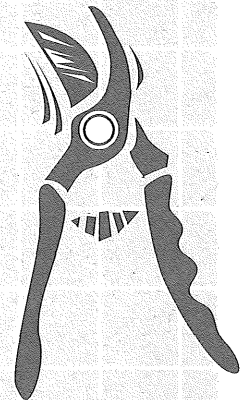


Figure 2. Finished topsoil filled planting bed. The next step is to apply the weed barrier and trees, and either rock or wood mulch.



Clip and Save

Engineered Soils

Engineered Soils continued from p. 9

sary tree essentials is the application of natural carbon. It would be ideal to have one percent carbon per inch of soil for the top 12 inches of soil, in a decompacted depth to 18 inches. Two types of soils are recommended. These two soil types should mimic the 'A and B' horizons, and can be created on site. The rooting soil base fill is blended into the existing soil at a rate of 30 percent compost to 70 percent existing. This can be done by excavating the soil from the area and 'bucket' blending in the compost. The other method that is successful is to use a tractor mounted spading machine to incorporate 4 to 6 inches of compost, done in two tillage lifts. This represents the 'B' horizon soil, and allows deeper root penetration and excess water drainage. In heavy soils, an additional 2 to 4 inches of sand may need to be spaded into the base soil, with one or more radial drainage trenches spaded away from the tree planting bed. This is a form of a drain tile using weeper soils. Drain tile is assumed in concrete coffin designs.

The top 6 to 12 inches of soil is a blended combination of three soil materials. The soil materials are inspected for design conformance prior to mixing, and consist of equal parts by volume of existing loam topsoil, sand, and compost. In Mn/DOT projects, if loam type topsoil does not exist, 3877 Topsoil Borrow is specified, along with J sand (Mn/DOT 3149), and leaf and grass clipping feedstock compost (Mn/DOT 3890). In absence of a soil test (which should be performed prior to planting) apply 200 pounds per acre equivalent of an organic origin 18-1-10, slow release fertilizer, and ectomycorrhizal fungal inoculum from verified sources like Mycorrhizal, Inc. A wood mulch layer of 4 inches will, over time, create the 'O' horizon. In areas with storm water flows, a slash rather than chip mulch would be appropriate to hold in place.

Under roadways, sidewalks and drivable structures.

Pavements and other poured surfaces of concrete or bituminous are leaky. When trees are planted in highly restricted rooting areas (i.e. between roadways and sidewalks), the roots inevitably radiate outward under or through structures to find water, nutrients, or structural support. Examples are everywhere there are trees and adjacent buckled sidewalks and heaved road surfaces. It is possible to engineer soils to allow root growth and penetration equal to the expected crown diameter by using structural soils. These soils are compacted to meet the structural bearing requirement of pavements (95 percent Procter densities) while allowing certain species root migration. One name for this structural soil is CU Soil™. CU Soil™ is a proprietary material patented by Cornell University (US Patent #5,849,069). To ensure that the highest standards are followed, only licensed producers are allowed to supply this material, meeting the specifications partially described in this text. For a list of licensed CU-Soil™ producers in your area, call AMEREQ, INC. at 1-800-832-8788.

Because road or other structural support is a critical issue, structural soil specification must be included in the plan. I can provide special provisions of what has been included in Mn/DOT projects. In general, the special provision describes when samples are to be submitted (30 days)

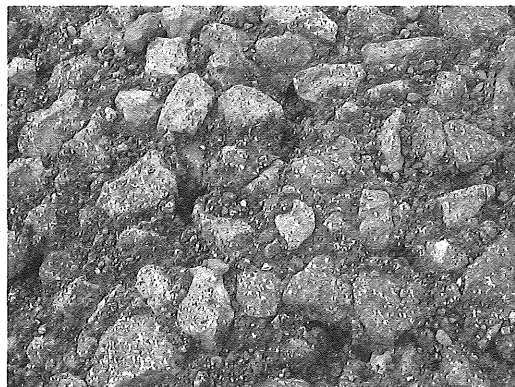
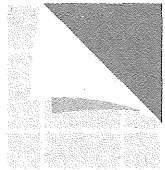


Figure 3. Close-up of structural soil. The void spaces between the angular rocks consists of a hydrogel and clay.



Figure 4. Structural soils are installed in a circle under the concrete pavement to the right and future bituminous surfacing to the left, about a 15-foot radius.

"While it is impossible to create perfect topsoil, it is possible to engineer soils for a particular function."



prior to ordering materials, and testing for quality control and assurance. It also describes delivery, storage and handling as the product must maintain optimum compaction moisture content as per AASHTO T99 until placed. The structural soil is composed of a clay loam, fertilizer, sulfur or lime (if needed), specified rock type, hydrogel and water. Lastly, the special provisions describe construction methods of site preparation, installation, grading, compaction and cleanup (hydrogels can be slippery). The price of structural soil is determined by the compacted volume placed, per cubic yard. After the material is installed, topsoil as listed above is applied 6 to 12 inches thick.

Rainwater gardens

One of the new developments in the management of storm water quality is the convergence of biotechnical engineering of detention and retention ponding and plant function. The most powerful plant types for water quality are trees. There are many published reports of the power of trees to phytoremediate storm water, and new designs are showing up all over the country. One of the new developments for Mn/DOT is the construction of rainwater gardens, although we do not call them that. We use terms like bioretention cells, micro storm water depressions and infiltration basins. In this case, we balance the requirement for storm water draw down in 48 hours, to not losing the water prior to utilization. This is achieved by paying close attention to the drainage characteristics of the soil, and selecting more xeric plant materials, and strong contractor language that includes notes like "the contractor is reminded that at all times during this process the infiltration basin soils are to be protected from compaction and sedimentation" during bidding and construction phases. These systems typically need to have long-term, sustained infiltration of 0.52 inches per hour. As these systems plug over time from rainwater itself (ever wash and wax your car followed by a rain event?), peoples trash, and plant organic debris, I try to start with 7 inches per hour of initial drainage. This means that the rooting soil is high in granular composition (sands), typically 50 to 70 percent as sand sized particles. The rest of the final product will be compost and organic fertilizer. Like all modern storm water systems, the developed maintenance plan for the NPDES permit details plant nutrient applications based on plant symptoms. 🌱

"The most powerful plant types for water quality are trees."



Figure 5. Rainwater garden composed of 70 percent sand, and 30 percent compost.



Figure 6. Rainwater garden after one year of establishment.

Dwayne L. Stenlund is with the Office of Environmental Services at the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He can be reached at dwayne.stenlund@dot.state.mn.us

GREEN ROOFS



by Corrie Zoll

“Green roofs can be used to manage stormwater or boost a building’s energy efficiency.”

Rooftop greening will become much more common in Minnesota over the next few years. The state is already home to at least 20 green rooftops (mostly in Minneapolis and Saint Paul), and this number will likely double in five years. In ten years, we may have 100 or more buildings that take advantage of their rooftops to create green space.

Elsewhere in the world, green roofs are quite common. In Germany, green rooftops cover one in eight flat roofs. Closer to home, the City of Chicago is boasting one million square feet of green roofs. And progressive cities like Toronto, Vancouver, Atlanta, and Portland, Oregon have programs encouraging green roof development.

Why install a green roof?

Green roofs have a wide range of applications. In dense areas, green roofs provide valuable green space when little is available on the ground. Green roofs can be used to manage stormwater or boost a building’s energy efficiency. Green roofs can be used many stories high, or can be installed at ground level to cover below-ground parking and create public plazas. In Europe, green roofs are even used to keep poultry barns cooler to increase egg production.

In any of these applications, green roofs have several benefits:

- **Doubling the life span of a roof membrane.** Generally in Minnesota, you can expect a roof membrane to last for 15–20 years. Roof membranes deteriorate due to exposure to heat and cold extremes as well as UV radiation from sunlight. A green roof’s layers of plants and growing medium insulate the roof membrane from these elements, and a membrane under a green rooftop can be expected to last 35–50 years.
- **Decreasing heating and cooling costs.** Heating costs for buildings under green rooftops are lower simply due to the green roof’s additional layer of insulation value. But cooling cost reductions are even greater. Plants taking up and evaporating moisture actually reduce a building’s temperature (this process is called evapotranspiration, and it’s the same thing that happens when you sweat). Chicago’s City Hall has a 10,000-square foot green rooftop adjacent to a black asphalt rooftop. On hot summer days, the temperature difference between the two rooftops is nearly 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Managing stormwater.** A green roof with a four-inch layer of growing medium can be expected to hold most rainfall events (up to one-inch) before storm water runs off the rooftop. Even when water does run off a green

roof, this runoff is delayed by hours, and this reduces stress on aging municipal storm sewers.

- **Improving Air Quality.** A 1998 study called "Greenbacks from Green Roofs" suggested that if six percent of the rooftop space in Toronto were covered with green roofs, the additional green space would remove 30 tons of particulate matter from urban air annually.
- **Providing a Green Space Amenity.** The green space created on a green roof can have a number of benefits. Hospitals are beginning to install green roofs because patients with a view of green space heal faster. Similarly, productivity increases where workers can access or even view green space. Green roofs can beautify dense urban areas where little green space is visible.



PHOTO: GREEN INSTITUTE

Other benefits include:

- Reduction of noise pollution (think airport noise)
- Increased income (higher rental rates and real estate values)

What about leaks?

Understandably, some people question what happens when a roof membrane leaks under a green roof. The truth is that any roof might develop a leak. Some people have heard stories of spectacular green roof failures where hundreds of square feet of landscaping were removed at great expense to find an elusive membrane leak.

This sort of failure is generally due to improper installation. Properly installed, a green roof should make the roof membrane LESS prone to leakage. This is why it's important to work with a qualified green roof installer. And most roof membranes have warranties to protect against unforeseen problems.

Leak detection systems can be installed without great expense. One technology that has been installed locally is Electronic Field Vector Monitoring (EFVM). The roof deck is charged with a negative electrical charge. A wire run along the perimeter of the rooftop on top of the mem-

brane receives a positive electrical charge. Any water passing through the membrane will make an electrical connection that can be precisely located with electrical probes. This system costs only a few thousand dollars to install and can locate a membrane leak to within a few inches.

Types of Green Roofs

Green roofs are generally divided into two types: Extensive and Intensive.

Extensive Green Roofs

Extensive green rooftops are generally designed to be lightweight and to maximize their energy efficiency and stormwater management benefits. These green roofs are thin (less than six inches of growing medium), and generally low-maintenance (planted with sedums or native plants). Extensive green rooftops are generally not accessible to the public.

Good local examples of extensive green rooftops include the visitor's center at Lebanon Hills Regional Park and The Green Institute's Phillips Eco-Enterprise Center (PEEC). The PEEC's green rooftop is more accessible than one would usually expect. Visitors can walk out onto the rooftop, and thousands of transit passengers can see the PEEC green roof from the Hiawatha LRT Line.

Intensive Green Roofs

Intensive green rooftops are generally, thicker, heavier, and designed as a public ame-

Green Roofs continued from p. 13

nity. Brit's Pub in Downtown Minneapolis, for example, features a green roof lawn bowling court over a parking garage. Management at Brit's says this green roof has more than paid for itself in increased business, lawn bowling court fees and private events like wedding receptions. As you can imagine, though, a building needs much more structural support to hold up the weight of the thicker layer of growing medium that is needed to grow turf grass (not to mention holding up wedding reception guests). And maintenance costs are much higher, too, when you're maintaining an emerald-green, weed-free lawn.

Most of the green roofs we will see developed in Minnesota over the next several years will be extensive green roofs. This is partially due to the lower installation cost of extensive green roofs, but also because air and water quality concerns are coming to the fore in Minnesota.

Corrie Zoll directs the Green Institute's GreenSpace Partners program. GreenSpace Partners addresses a wide range of urban greening issues, including community gardening, urban forestry, roof gardens, rain gardens, boulevard gardens, composting projects and rain barrel projects. Contact Corrie Zoll at 612-278-7119 or czoll@greeninstitute.org.

Incentives

In March of 2005, the City of Minneapolis is planning to implement a new storm sewer utility fee. Property owners will be assessed a stormwater fee based on their square footage of impervious surface. For a single family homeowner, this includes your house's roof, your garage roof, your driveway and your sidewalk (this averages out to about 1600 square feet for a single-family home. Don't worry—city staff will not be out measuring your concrete). The big rate payers under this new plan will be commercial developments like big-box retail—hundreds of thousands of square feet of rooftop plus acres and acres of parking.

Property owners in Minneapolis will be eligible for credits on their storm sewer utility bill for incorporating green space that decreases the volume or improves the quality of storm water running off a property. And so green rooftops, rain gardens and other features will literally reduce the monthly utility bills for these properties.

Upcoming Projects

Keep your eyes open for new green roof projects in the region. The Minneapolis Central Library is currently under construction and will feature an 18,000 square foot extensive green rooftop. A section of the Minneapolis City Hall will be re-roofed in 2006, and a green roof is being considered for that project as well. Condo developments, schools, retail settings and redevelopment projects are also considering green rooftops.



PHOTO: GREEN INSTITUTE

Learn More

The Green Institute facilitates the Twin Cities Green Roofs Council (TCGRC), a group of local green roof advocates. The group meets quarterly, generally in a location with a green roof. The group has met at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, where a former helipad has been converted into rooftop green space, as well as at Lebanon Hills Regional Park, where the visitor's center incorporates several sustainable building strategies, including a green rooftop.

The TCGRC works closely with Toronto-based Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (GRHC). TCGRC has co-hosted with GRHC a day-long introduction to green rooftops in April 2004, followed by a day-long Green Roofs Design 101 training course in December. Members of the TCGRC steering committee have been invited to present a paper on Twin Cities green rooftops at GRHC's May 2005 International Green Roofs Conference in Washington DC.

TCGRC is scheduled to hold its next quarterly local green roofs meeting on March 4, 2005 and this meeting will focus on the Minneapolis Central Library's green rooftop. For more information, contact The Green Institute's Corrie Zoll at 612-278-7119 or czoll@greeninstitute.org. ❁

More information on green roofs is available on The Green Institute's web site at www.greeninstitute.org. Go to the "GreenSpace Partners" section of the site to see photos of several green rooftops.

About MnSTAC

The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MnSTAC) was established in 1974 by a group of concerned citizens to address the health and well being of community forests. MnSTAC is recognized throughout Minnesota and the country for its expertise, advice, coordination and support for community trees. It is an organization of diverse individuals who represent a broad spectrum of tree-related interests. It fosters and supports local community tree programs across the state so healthy community forests are fully integrated into community development, infrastructure, education and management.

MNSTAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Ken Simons—763/717-9366

Vice President: Michael Max, EnvironMentor Systems, Inc.—763/753-5505

Valerie Cervenka, Minnesota Department of Agriculture—651/296-0591

Jim Hermann, Mpls Park & Rec Board/Forestry—612/370-4900

Ken Holman, DNR/Forestry—651/296-9110

Steve Nicholson, Kunde Company—651/484-0114

Gary R. Johnson, U of M/Forest Resources—612/625-3765

Robert Slater, MN Dept. of Transportation—507/529-6145

Kirk Brown, Tree Trust—651/644-5800

Regional MnSTAC Committees

Southeast STAC

Chair: Henry Sorensen—651/388-3625 or 651/385-3674

Sec./Treas.: Katie Himanga, Heartwood Forestry, Lake City—651/345-4976

Headwaters-Agassiz STAC (HASTAC)

Chair: John Johnson, City Forester, City of Thief River Falls—218/681-1835

Sec./Treas.: Jeff Edmonds, DNR Forestry, Bemidji—218/755-2891

West Central STAC

Chair: Bob Fogel, Director of Parks, City of Moorhead—218/299-5340

Sec./Treas.: Dave Johnson, DNR Forestry, Detroit Lakes—218/847-1596

Northeast STAC

Chair: Kelly Morris, City Forester, City of Grand Rapids—218/326-7481

Secretary/Treasurer/Technical Advisor: Dan Jordan, IRRRA Mineland Reclamation—218/254-7967

Calendar

Events

April 18-20, 2005, **Trees & Utilities National Conference**, Omaha, Nebraska, www.arborday.org

May 23-25, 2005, **Urban Wildlife Management**, Omaha, Nebraska, www.arborday.org

June 12-15, 2005, **The Association for Temperate Agroforestry, North American Agroforestry Conference**, Rochester, Minnesota. <http://cinram.umn.edu/afta2005/>

June 14-16, 2005, **Trees, People and Towns—Frontiers in Community Forestry**, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Contact Mark Hughes, 307-777-7586 or mhughe@state.wy.us

August 6-10, 2005, **International Society of Arboriculture's Annual Conference**, Nashville, Tennessee, www.isa-arbor.com

September 19-21, 2005, **Building for Greener Communities**, Nebraska City, Nebraska, www.arborday.org

October 19-23, 2005 **Society of American Foresters National Convention**, Fort Worth, Texas, www.safnet.org

November 7-8, 2005 **The Practice of Restoring Native Ecosystems**, Nebraska City, Nebraska, www.arborday.org

November 17-18, 2005, **National Urban Forest Conference**, Charlotte, North Carolina. Contact: www.americanforests.org/conference

New Publications

100 Years of Wisconsin Forestry. Wisconsin Woodland Owner's Association. 2004. Trails Custom Publishing

Every Root an Anchor: Wisconsin's Famous and Historic Trees. R. Bruce Allison. 2005. University of Wisconsin Press

Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest. Elizabeth J. Czarapata. 2005. University of Wisconsin Press

Small Trees. Little Plant Library. 2004. Southwater Publishing

The Sustainable Forestry Handbook (Second Edition). James Mayers. 2005. Earthscan Publications.

Trees in the Urban Landscape. Nina L. Bassuk and Peter J. Trowbridge. 2004. Wiley

Web Sites

Arbor Day
www.arborday.org

Arbor Month
www.dnr.state.mn.us/arbormonth/index.html

Arctic Climate Impact Assessment
www.acia.uaf.edu

American Nursery and Landscape Association
www.anla.org

Forest Health Monitoring
<http://fhm.fs.fed.us/>

Forest Stewardship Council
www.fsc.org/en

Licensed Minnesota Nurseries
www.mda.state.mn.us/lis/default.htm

Minnesota Forest Resources Council
www.frc.state.mn.us

National Roadside Vegetation Management Association
<http://www.nrvma.org/>

Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute
www.ufe.calpoly.edu

For handy up-to-date links to web sites of interest, be sure to visit
www.mnstac.org

EMERALD ASH BORER

A THREAT TO MINNESOTA ASH TREES - COULD MY TREE HAVE IT?

ADULT

Because of its size and short period of activity, the metallic green adult is often difficult to detect even in areas of high infestation.



GROWN DECLINE

The typical pattern of crown decline caused by EAB is the top 1/3 dying first and then progressing down the tree.

LARVA

The distinctly segmented larva is relatively easy to locate by peeling back loose bark of infested trees.

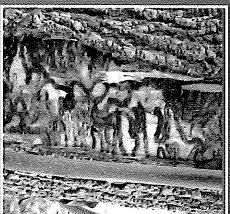


EPICORMIC SPROUTS

As the top of the tree declines, new shoots may be produced lower on the tree.

S-SHAPED GALLERIES

Even after larvae have matured and exited the tree, the distinct S-shaped galleries under the bark are diagnostic of EAB.

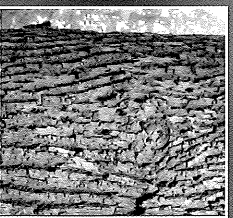


SYMPTOMS ON MULTIPLE TREES

Detectable levels of EAB infestation will almost always include a number of declining ash in an area. Always look for other ash nearby with similar symptoms.

D-SHAPED EXIT HOLES

Although they are difficult to find, D-shaped exit holes are diagnostic of EAB activity.



WOODPECKER HOLES

Woodpeckers love EAB larvae and woodpecker holes may indicate the presence of EAB. However, not all EAB infested trees are attacked by woodpeckers and other insect larvae may also attract woodpeckers.

For more information on the EAB threat in Minnesota or to report a possible EAB-infested ash tree: (651) 296-6684, www.mda.state.mn.us / keyword: ash borer



In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, an alternative format of communication is available upon request. (TTY) 1-800-627-3529

Senators Skoe, Dibble, Pappas, Vickerman and Dille introduced--
S.F. No. 1951: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

1 A bill for an act

2 relating to agriculture; appropriating money for a
3 grant to the Agriculture Utilization Research
4 Institute at Crookston for vineyard production
5 research.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

7 Section 1. [APPROPRIATION; GRANT FOR VINEYARD PRODUCTION
8 RESEARCH.]

9 \$125,000 in fiscal year 2006 is appropriated from the
10 Minnesota investment revolving loan account, Minnesota Statutes,
11 section 116J.8731, subdivision 5, for a grant to the Agriculture
12 Utilization Research Institute at Crookston to do field research
13 on the planting and production of cold-hardy grape cultivars.
14 For the purposes of this appropriation, the requirements in
15 Minnesota Statutes, sections 116J.8731, subdivisions 3, 4, 5,
16 and 7; 116J.993; 116J.994; and 116J.995, are waived. This is a
17 onetime appropriation and is available until expended.

18 This vineyard production research project is to select
19 cold-hardy cultivars and cultural practices that can diversify
20 the agricultural landscape of Minnesota and stimulate economic
21 development with subsequent expansion into value-added
22 businesses and the winery industry. Treatments used in this
23 research project must focus on development of cultural and
24 management practices that include trials on planting depths,
25 vine root care, cultivation techniques, mulching, and other

1 methods that will enhance productivity and winter survival in
2 subzero temperatures.

3 An annual report is required, including an economic
4 assessment that compares the input requirements and feasibility
5 of each overwintering technique and its contribution to the
6 success of the vines. The research institute is encouraged to
7 work with the University of Minnesota and the North Dakota State
8 University experiment stations and on-farm sites to evaluate the
9 suitability of regionally developed grape cultivars in areas of
10 harsh winters and short growing seasons.

1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 1951 as follows:

2 Page 1, line 11, delete "Agriculture"

3 Page 1, line 12, delete "Utilization Research Institute at
4 Crookston" and insert "Northwest Regional Development Commission
5 at Warren"

6 Amend the title as follows:

7 Page 1, line 2, after "agriculture" insert "and economic
8 development"

9 Page 1, lines 3 and 4, delete "Agriculture Utilization
10 Research Institute at Crookston" and insert "Northwest Regional
11 Development Commission at Warren"

SF 787 Johnson, D.E.

Fiscal Note – 2005-06 Session

Bill #: H0540-1E **Complete Date:** 02/24/05

Chief Author: JUHNKE, AL

Title: WILLMAR RAIL CONTAINER LOAD-OUT FAC

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State	X	
Local		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

Agency Name: Agriculture Dept

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Expenditures					
General Fund		55			
Less Agency Can Absorb					
-- No Impact --					
Net Expenditures					
General Fund		55			
Revenues					
-- No Impact --					
Net Cost <Savings>					
General Fund		55			
Total Cost <Savings> to the State		55			

	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Full Time Equivalents					
General Fund		0.10			
Total FTE		0.10			

Bill Description

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, will conduct a study to determine the costs and benefits of building a rail container load out facility in or near the city of Willmar.

Assumptions

This study will need to consider costs to build, maintain and support the facility and benefits to commercial activities and the local economy. It will need to determine whether or not there are enough potential users of the facility to make it self-supporting. Similar studies in recent years have cost \$30,000 to \$60,000.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Expenditure budget is estimated at \$50,000 for contractual services and \$5,000 for internal work/administrative costs.

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

There may be long-term costs if the study shows sufficient net benefit to the region.

Local Government Costs

Potential local costs for support of the facility would have to be determined.

References/Sources

Agency Contact Name: Craig Damstrom 320-762-4903
FN Coord Signature: STEVE ERNEST
Date: 02/23/05 Phone: 215-5770

EBO Comments

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: LEONIE HUANG
Date: 02/24/05 Phone: 296-5779

WILLMAR CONTAINER LOAD-OUT STUDY

Craig Damstrom
MDA Trade Consultant

Background

A Minnesota Port Access Study was done by Global Resource Associates in 2000 in response to a Minnesota statute directing a study of the need for a commercial shipping port where agricultural cooperatives or individual farmers would have access to port facilities and to the Minnesota Department (MDA) of agriculture's growing interest in developing a comprehensive infrastructure for marketing, handling, shipping and certification of Identity preserved (IP) crops

Strategic Direction

Recommendation from the study was that MDA should consider the development of a comprehensive IP crop system that creates significant synergies among the marketing, handling, shipping and customer-focused certification programs support by the Department

Program Strategies

Following implementation program strategies were developed by MDA as a part of a highly synergistic IP crop system for the state:

Shippers Association. Support the creation of a formal shippers' association, consistent with Federal law that serves as an aggressive advocate for individual farmers and small local firms shipping IP crops and other related products.

Handling Facilities. Support the development of IP crop handling facilities at country elevators, other local facilities, and river and lake port facilities that serve individual farmers and small local firms

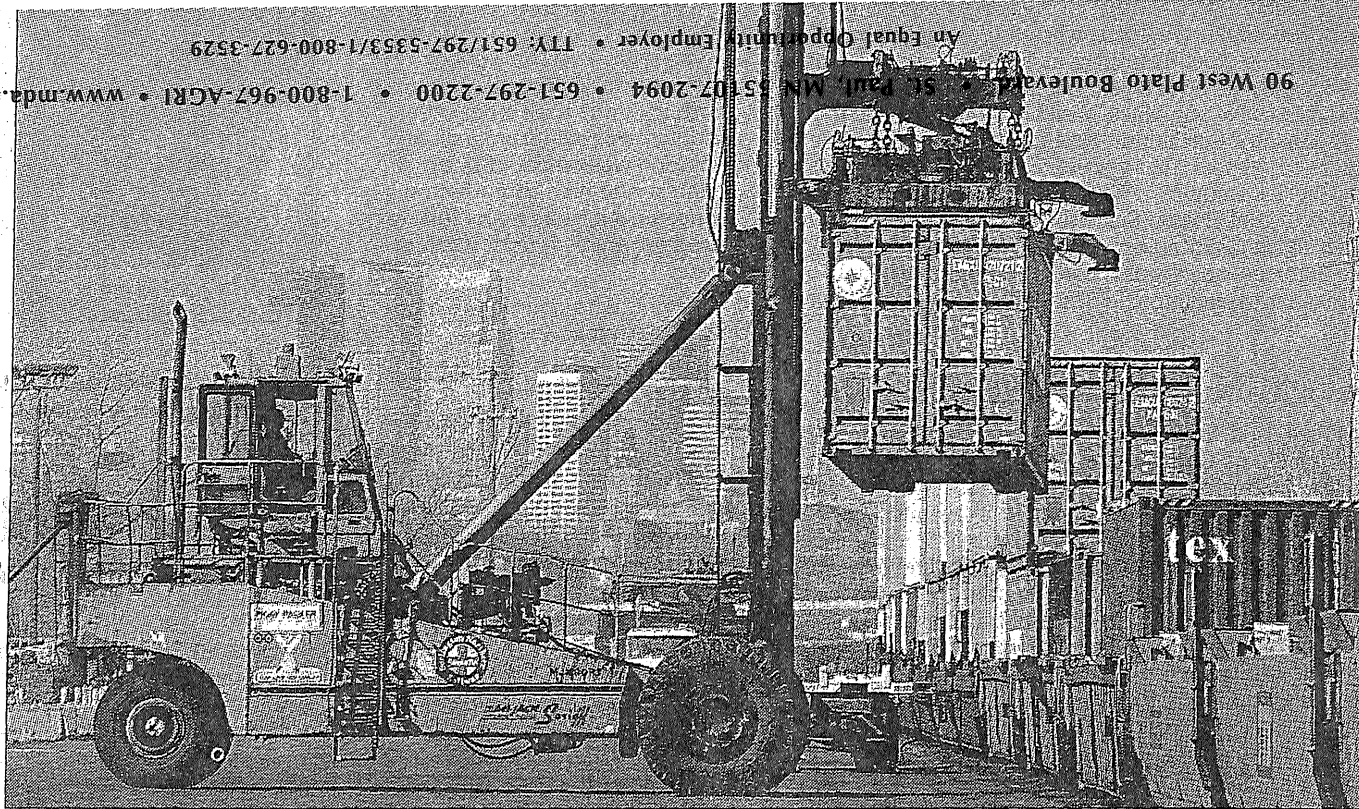
Inter-Departmental/Agency Cooperation. Support and work jointly with MDOT, MTO and river and lake port authorities to stimulate the development of IP crop handling and shipping facilities and services as well as education services for small IP crop shippers.

Legislation. Seek legislative authority to support a shippers' association; a shippers' association guarantee fund for backing the volume contracts entered into by the association on behalf of small agricultural shippers; a grant and loan program for handling shipping facilities and services that serve the needs of individual farmers and small local firms.

Results accomplished to date. Formation of the Midwest Shippers Association (MSA) and lower container rates for members, Midwest Specialty Grain yearly Conference to promote IP crops to world markets, Educational seminars for individual farmers and processors on IP production, sales and marketing assistance to buyers working out transportation issues, Cooperation with the Lake Port Authorities and MDOT on Container transportation logistics.

Results not accomplished to date. Fund volume contracts for container shipments for small agricultural shippers. Grant and loan program for handling shipping facilities and services that serve the needs of small agricultural shippers.

Willmar Rail Container Load-Out Facility- Further study is required to determine if the proposed Willmar Rail Container Load-Out Facility will significantly lower the cost of exporting IP products and add value to this area. Key components that need to be addressed in the study is to update the 2000 Port Access study and then determine costs and benefits for three projected 10 year scenarios for Willmar: 1. Fully dedicated intermodal system, 2. Railrunner system, 3. Present system optimizing back hauls to the present intermodal hubs in Minnesota. The estimated cost for this study by an independent consultant is \$55,000 and similar studies in recent years have cost 30-60 thousand dollars.



CRAIG BORCK

Workers at Burlington Northern Santa Fe's congested rail yard in St. Paul's Midway neighborhood unload shipping containers.

FREIGHT FRACAS

St. Paul rail yard tightens storage rules to move goods faster and ease congestion, drawing objections from cargo shippers and truckers.

BY JENNIFER BJORHUS
Pioneer Press

America's burgeoning imports are literally piling up in a St. Paul rail yard, and attempts by the yard's owner to relieve the congestion are getting freight customers hot under the collar.

The quickening pace of imports is a main driver of the ever-widening U.S. current account deficit — the broadest measure of trade between our country and the rest of the world. That deficit hit a historic high of \$666 billion for all of 2004.

In St. Paul's Midway neighborhood, the screech and boom of rail cars in Burlington Northern Santa Fe's rail yard punctuates the arrival of goods from the Pacific Northwest, many of which originate in China. And all those imports have Fort Worth, Texas-based BNSF increasing shipping rates and working overtime to smooth out the record traffic on its network of rails crisscrossing the United States.

more per container or trailer to transport goods going from the Pacific Northwest to various BNSF destinations, including St. Paul.

Burlington Northern also is trying to relieve congestion at its St. Paul hub. Workers loaded and unloaded containers 210,800 times at the St. Paul hub last year. That's 14 percent more lifts, as they're called, than the year before, according to BNSF. That's at least triple the annual increases of recent years and mirrors BNSF's double-digit sales increase last year to nearly \$11 billion. The Texas rail giant is forecasting another double-digit sales increase this year.

On April 1 and May 2 it plans to implement two controversial new rules aimed at keeping freight moving by forcing users to pick up their big metal containers faster.

BNSF executives say it's all necessary to keep freight moving and increase capacity.

But the changes aren't sitting well with some local freight forwarders, cargo owners and truckers.

"It's so incredibly frustrating," said broker Susie Sullivan, who works in import freight services at Norman G. Jensen Inc. in Minneapolis. "You do not have the choice to choose another rail if you don't like the way they operate."

BUSY TIMES AT HUB

210,800

The number of times workers loaded and unloaded containers at Burlington Northern Santa Fe's rail yard in St. Paul last year, a 14 percent increase from the previous year.

\$150

The daily storage charge as of April 1, which is the second hike since last September.

the pipeline for Asian imports entering through Pacific Northwest ports, and the larger of only two intermodal rail yards in the Twin Cities. (Intermodal means containers that move from ship to rail car to truck.)

While soybeans and other grains being exported to Asia make up some of the clank and grind at the St. Paul hub, most of the clatter comes from consumer goods arriving from China and elsewhere in Asia via Seattle, and headed to

Railroad bottleneck

(continued)

store shelves near you, Burlington Northern says. Target, Wal-Mart, Electrolux, Andersen Windows and roofing material company GAF Materials are top users of the rail yard.

The other main intermodal yard, Canadian Pacific Railway's hub in Northeast Minneapolis, handles containers coming in through the Port of Vancouver. It, too, saw double-digit increases last year. But that yard is less than half the size of BNSF's and hasn't experienced the same kind of congestion, a spokeswoman said.

The brouhaha all started last September when BNSF shortened the time it will store the big metal containers for free from 72 hours to 48 hours, and started including weekends in the 48-hour count. It also raised the daily storage charge from \$85 to \$100. Similar changes took place in California at Stockton, San Bernardino and Los Angeles.

Effective April 1, it's upping the daily storage charge from \$100 to \$150. And starting May 2, it's shortening free storage

again from two days to just one.

Rattled customers say they feel nickel-and-dimed.

"The railroad is getting rich on a lot of little players that don't have a big voice," said David Lehman, whose \$10 million firm, Primary Products Co. in White Bear Lake, imports disposable gloves and apparel from Asia and supplies health care organizations.

Lehman accuses BNSF of tightening container storage policies but not doing enough to get containers unloaded and to a place in the yard where truckers can drive in, pick them up and haul them to warehouses before charges kick in. That's causing costly delays, he and others say. Finding truckers for weekend trips during the peak shipping season can be difficult, making it nearly impossible to avoid getting holding fees tacked onto containers arriving Friday.

"It backs product up through the whole system for me," Lehman said.

Paul Gerou, general manager of Barole Trucking Inc. in Centerville, said traffic at the yard has been lighter recently because of the Chinese New Year and so there have been fewer problems. But congestion during peak season before the holidays was a nightmare, he said.

"I had a couple of guys spend

five hours there trying to get a container dug out of a pile," Gerou said.

BNSF spokeswoman Suann Lundsberg denies that companies are tangling with stuck containers and unnecessary fees. Companies are not notified for pickup until after a container has been unloaded, she said, and the clock doesn't start ticking on storage until the company is notified. Picking up containers in a timely fashion is an issue between the ocean carrier and the retailer, Lundsberg said.

By changing the rules, BNSF has already substantially boosted the number of lifts, she added.

Other BNSF intermodal customers also say they're irked, but say they have no choice. The Canadian Pacific's yard in Northeast Minneapolis is not an option.

"What's your choice to Seattle? There isn't, you have one road," said Chip Smith, chief executive for Twin Modal Inc. a large national transportation broker in Roseville. Smith chalks up BNSF's crackdown as a symptom of a stressed-out U.S. rail system.

"We can't add trucks fast enough. We can't add rail fast enough."

Jennifer Bjorhus can be reached at jbjorhus@pioneerpress.com or 651-228-2146.

Energy sale

(continued)

beneficial to our shareholders and customers," Sandok said.

CenterPoint said it's currently focused on reducing debt and, later, concentrating on improving the performance of its core utility business.

"We have said and do say that we will look for opportunities to accelerate our growth," CenterPoint spokeswoman Leticia Lowe said.

Securities analyst Jake Mercer considers both Xcel and CenterPoint likely bidders for Minnesota Gas, which represents a highly attractive acquisition target for a number of potential buyers because of its size and geography.

"That gives you economies of scale," he said.

orado Electric because it, too, would add a large number of customers right next to its existing operations.

Economies of scale and geography are critical factors in a renewed wave of utility consolidation that began last year, when merger and acquisition activity in the North American power industry tripled to \$57.9 billion, according to a recent study by the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Minnesota Gas' service territory abuts much of the area served by both Xcel and CenterPoint, while its size would enable either one to buy larger volumes of natural gas without adding much overhead such as dealing with state regulators, thus cutting costs.

"You essentially have a large footprint of Minnesota," Mercer said. Utilities such as Xcel and CenterPoint, which just a few years ago were trying to expand beyond the regulated utility

business, have scaled back to running plain-vanilla gas and electric companies. That business, however, grows slowly and so utility companies are trying to get bigger, while keeping costs low.

"Xcel makes a ton of sense," Mercer said. "Would it make sense for (CenterPoint) to acquire that asset? I think it would."

Other bidders also are likely. PricewaterhouseCoopers has noted that buyout firms also have been dabbling in the utility business, and Mercer said it is likely some will take a look at Minnesota Gas as well. Any buyer would have to pony up a fair bit of cash. Mercer said that at current prices, Minnesota Gas likely would attract a price ranging from \$158 million to \$228 million.

Tim Huber can be reached at thuber@pioneerpress.com or 651-228-5500.

FROM THE FARM TO YOUR FAMILY
AGRICULTURE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FROM THE FARM TO YOUR FAMILY

Canadian Train Lines Target Chinese Goods

Railways Offer Alternative For U.S.-Destined Exports Amid Glut in Cargo Traffic

By VIVIAN TSE
Dow Jones Newswires

BEIJING—North America's West Coast ports and railways are choked by the exponential growth in China imports, but Canadian railways want to move more of these arrivals to the U.S. Midwest and East Coast.

West Coast ports are struggling to deliver a deluge of goods during what is usually the low season, with cargo from Asia expected to double by 2020. China accounted for 37% of U.S. imports by weight in 2004, up from only 5% in 1989, with shipments for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. accounting for 10% of the U.S. trade deficit with China, a report by Swiss investment bank UBS AG found.

The growing trade has prompted Canadian National Railway Co. and Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. to open offices in China to market their alternative routes to shippers.

"Exports going to the U.S. have another option that is shorter and cheaper," said Willy Wang, Canadian Pacific's chief China representative.

Northern ports in North America are a shorter distance from Asia, and U.S.-destined imports arriving through Canada aren't subject to additional duties at the U.S. border.

Unable to service the Western U.S.—whose rail tracks are owned by American rivals Union Pacific Corp., the largest U.S. railroad, and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp.—the Canadian companies want to move more Chinese exports to the U.S. Midwest and East Coast, Mr. Wang said. They own tracks heading from Canada to Minneapolis and Chicago that connect onward to New

York, Philadelphia and Baltimore and stretching as far south as Texas and New Orleans.

Their shipping gateway through British Columbia's Vancouver Port Authority has the lowest fees on the West Coast, as U.S. operators have raised their own fees to try to stem the overload of goods.

Canada has lower port fees, union salaries and storage fees compared with the U.S., said Jenny Yan, port of Vancouver China representative.

In addition, although security standards are the same at all ports, U.S. ports have greater concerns with stowaways and weapons smuggling and need more investments for technology. These concerns can result in longer holding of goods by customs.

Union Pacific announced rate increases this year after floods and mudslides in Southern California forced it to cut its services by one-third. It said increases are here to stay because of rising oil prices and a lack of investment in new rail cars, and with railroads moving away from signing multiyear agreements with set prices in favor of short-term contracts or spot-market tariffs.

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. has even asked for financial help from the Chinese, South Korean and Japanese governments for infrastructure improvements at the Port of Los Angeles, calculating that delays caused by infrastructure constraints are costing Asian exporters \$1.3 billion annually.

The Los Angeles port, largest in the U.S., is aware of the competition it faces from ports beyond the West Coast and outside the U.S.

"It is a concern that other ports are growing, but there was a significant increase in volume last year, and growth has been seen at all ports," Port of Los Angeles Director of Planning Mike DiBernardo said. He blamed the port's problems last year largely on labor shortages

from inaccurate projections given by shipping lines, which he said have been rectified this year.

Other ports are moving in. Cargo traffic at the port of Vancouver grew 11% year-to-year to 73.9 million metric tons in 2004, the largest gain in more than a decade.

Canada's largest port handled 29 billion Canadian dollars (US\$24.1 billion) in trade in 2004, with 56% of the total volume of Canada's trade with China passing through, Vancouver Port Authority Chairman David Stowe said.

Inland ports are also jockeying for a share of the growing Asian trade. Houston, which handles 65% of containers entering the Gulf of Mexico, saw incoming containers from Asia increase by 28% in two years and will be further boosted by the opening of a Wal-Mart distribution center near the port later this year.

Some shippers are already bypassing the West Coast entirely and heading straight to the East Coast by way of the Panama Canal, to ports such as Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Montreal, despite twice the travel time and a 35% increase in costs.

But Canada's ports have their own problems. Despite a recent announcement that the port of Vancouver will invest C\$1.4 billion to triple its container-terminal capacity by 2020, some people fear these improvements aren't being made quickly enough.

"We get a bum rap for being congested, but the investments needed for infrastructure aren't being made," Mr. Stowe said.

TSI Terminal Systems Inc., the largest container terminal at the port of Vancouver, asked shipping companies to reduce their containers by 25% for one month at the end of February in an effort to clear the backlog at the port. CP's Mr. Wang warned that this sort of request is likely to happen again.

The port blames rail companies for sending too few rail cars, but rail companies say terminals fail to load their cars fast enough.

"More business means more delays, too. Business is too good right now," Mr. Wang said.

The two Canadian rail rivals combined their operations in Vancouver in October in an effort to alleviate congestion.

China Drafts Rules for IPOs in Singapore

A WALL STREET JOURNAL News Roundup

SINGAPORE—China said it is drafting guidelines for companies intending to go public in Singapore after last year's China Aviation Oil (Singapore) Corp. derivatives-trading loss, which nearly bankrupted the mainland's Singapore-listed jet-fuel supplier.

Singapore authorities are conducting a criminal investigation into the company and its former chief executive, Chen Jiulin, following its move to seek court protection from creditors after it racked up \$550 million in losses from risky oil bets. "There was really some misconduct by the company," said Chi-

na's ambassador to Singapore, Zhang Yun. "We are working with IE Singapore to publish some guiding books so they know what procedures and guidelines they have to meet," he said. IE Singapore is one of the government agencies charged with helping foreign companies set up base in Singapore.

CAO Singapore began losing money on its oil trades in the first quarter of 2004, after placing poor bets on the future price of crude. It then increased its purchases in the hope that oil prices would fall and erase the losses. Instead, prices rose to all-time highs in late October.

www.mda.state.mn.us

Soc Sta

NEW Spilled S...
Fax— that inve...
1-800-967-AGRI • www.mda.state.mn.us
Ducks Co...
coffee-cl...
straight...
the (and dist...
which re...
CP's Mr. Wang warned that this sort of request is likely to happen again.
The port blames rail companies for sending too few rail cars, but rail companies say terminals fail to load their cars fast enough.
"More business means more delays, too. Business is too good right now," Mr. Wang said.
The two Canadian rail rivals combined their operations in Vancouver in October in an effort to alleviate congestion.
St. Paul, MN 55107-2094
World H...
rested i...
which a...
23.3 mi...
vice pre...
Dix I...
past eig...
great c...
cicular...
call An S...
the env...
practice...
able gi...
seems f...
state me...
responsibl...
to be in...
know at...
The...
Coffee I...
the coff...
consum...
ants w...
quor stc...
and Jir...
announ...

Senator Kierlin introduced--

S.F. No. 576: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

1 A bill for an act
2 relating to economic development; appropriating money
3 for a theater and arts center in Lanesboro.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
5 Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]
6 \$1,000,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the
7 Fillmore County Board of Commissioners for a grant to the Root
8 River Valley Friends of the Arts to acquire land for, design,
9 and construct a theater and arts center in Lanesboro for lease
10 to the Commonweal Theatre Company and Cornucopia Arts Center.
11 The appropriation is available for the fiscal year ending June
12 30, 2006.

1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 576 as follows:

2 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

3 "Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

4 \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2006 is appropriated from the

5 general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic

6 development for a grant to Fillmore County for the Commonweal

7 Theatre Company to design and construct a theater center in

8 Lanesboro."

9 Amend the title as follows:

10 Page 1, line 3, delete "and arts"

Senators Kierlin and Sparks introduced--
S.F. No. 134: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

1 A bill for an act
2 relating to appropriations; appropriating money for
3 historic Forestville.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
5 Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]
6 \$250,000 is appropriated from the general fund for the
7 biennium ending June 30, 2007, to the Minnesota Historical
8 Society for historic Forestville.

Forestville Fact Sheet

***Historic Forestville's school attendance for the past five years was:**

FY 2000	2,328 students
FY 2001	2,380 students
FY 2002	2,838 students
FY 2003	2,536 students
FY 2004	2,120 students
FY 2005	1,245 students Booked for the spring of 2005 to date.

***Historic Forestville's overall visitation for the past 13 years has averaged 13,916 per year.**

***We currently serve school children from as far away as the Twin Cities metro area, Albert Lea, La Crosse and Decorah.**

***Historic Forestville's annual operating budget for FY2003 (pre-cut) was 199,381.**

***The cost of the Visitor Center was \$517,000.00 with another \$25,000.00 for archaeological investigation. (Less than one year after opening, it and the historic site were scheduled to be shut down.)**

***The Visitor Center was opened June 2, 2002, and is where we have fully accessible restrooms, a gift shop, staff offices, and changing rooms for the interpreters.**

***The entire site (with the exception of one outbuilding) is fully wheel chair accessible. This includes the visitor center, the historic store, house, kitchen, wagon barn, and dairy barn.**

Historic Forestville offers age-appropriate educational programs, tied directly to current curriculum. In other words, a second-grader does not get the same program as a 10th grader. For the past 12 years, young people from all over Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa have been able to not only see history where it happened (a real state historic site), but have been able to take a hands-on approach to learning. Students are able to knead bread dough, bring in firewood, plant the garden, gather fresh eggs, as well as perform a multitude of other 19th Century historical activities. What better way is there to learn about early Minnesota life, than with their own eyes, nose, ears and hands?

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

From a historical perspective, Historic Forestville is a unique site in the Minnesota Historical Society system. Historically, the village was a “company town” that was owned by one man, Thomas Meighen, who employed everyone, paid workers in store credit, and rented them houses that he owned. This story has been interpreted through various mediums since the site became state property in 1966. Although this part of the small village’s history has at times been overly-emphasized, it was and still is a main element in the interpretive program. The site is also unique in the fact that it is portrayed as a town experiencing its economic and population decline. Unlike other sites that are interpreted during their peak, 1899 Forestville was a town undergoing transition from an urban trade center of the mid-1860’s to a farming-based, one-man-owned operation that depended on surrounding towns for its markets.

Since 1992, the main focus of the interpretive program at Forestville has been to show visitors what the town was like through the eyes of the Meighen family and their paid workers. Using the “station” approach to the program, visitors are guided through interpretive stations that include the store, house, kitchen, garden, granary, wagon barn, barn, and cornfield. A new reconstructed barn, although not interpreted historically in the interior, will provide an optional visitor service “station” near the end of the tour.

Tours take approximately 45-60 minutes through these stations, and have traditionally been guided through each area. In each station, the interpreters talk about their character’s life, usually using (or talking about) significant artifacts that relate to their area. After a sufficient time (usually 10-15 minutes), the group is directed to the next station.

The site is accessed 4 miles south of Minnesota 16 on County Road 5 and is located in Forestville State Park. Visitors enter the park, pay for their vehicle permit at the Park Contact Station, then drive approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the parking lot just south of the historic site. After orientation at a self-guided interpretive kiosk, they cross an 1899 steel truss bridge and begin their interpretive experience.

Historic Forestville serves all aspects of the public, including school groups, adult educational groups, VIP’s, families, senior citizens, history buffs, researchers, and special interest groups. Visitors come from local rural areas and the urban centers of Rochester, the Twin Cities, LaCrosse, and Decorah. Currently a fee is charged for school and adult groups only. The site has a growing attendance of 16,000 visitors per year.

The site’s current public schedule offers tours six days each week from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. In addition, general public tours continue on the weekends of September and October. Group tours and school tours run during the week during May, September, and October. In addition to the regular program, the site offers four major special events each season. They are *Independence Day at Historic Forestville*, two *Evening of Leisure* programs, and *1899 Harvest Day*.

MISSION AND PROGRAM OBJECTIVES HISTORIC FORESTVILLE

Mission: The mission of Historic Forestville is to foster among visitors an understanding of Forestville town life in the year 1899 through carefully-restored and preserved buildings and landscapes, role-playing living history interpretation, hands-on historical activities, specially-designed school programs, and special program events. The historical characters portrayed came from a wide variety of socio-economic backgrounds and levels of society, and are represented as accurately as possible to give visitors a rich learning experience. Historic Forestville's program objective is for visitors to want to learn more about the village and how it fit into Minnesota's rural economic society, the town's historical workers and owners, turn-of-the-century Minnesota, turn-of-the-century United States, and the other educational opportunities of the Minnesota Historical Society and it's historic sites network.

Specific Goals

1. To preserve and interpret the historic buildings, landscapes, and artifacts of the town of Forestville, 1855-1899.
2. To interpret 1890's town and farm life through living history simulation.
3. To interpret the economic and social decline of Forestville since 1868.
4. To interpret various people who lived in Forestville in 1899, namely Meighen family members and their employees.
5. To interpret change in technology in both the domestic and agricultural spheres through first-person role-playing.
6. To encourage visitors to want to learn more about the site, the people, and activities of Forestville and towns like it during the turn-of-the-century.

HISTORIC FORESTVILLE SCHOOL TOURS 2004

SCHOOL	CONTACT NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
Pine Island Middle School	Carrie Gilbertson	Box 398 Pine Island, Mn. 55963	507-356-2488
Ridgeway Elementary	Kelly Buehler	435 County St. Ridgeway, Ia 52165	563-737-2211
Caledonia Elementary	Pam Heuslein	311 W. Main Caledonia, Mn. 55921	507-725-5206
Stewartville Elementary	David Olson	301 2 nd Street S.W. Stewartville, Mn 55976	507-533-1400
Rushford/Peterson Elementary	Mary Hoiland	102 N. Mill St. Rushford, Mn. 55971	507-864-7787
Chatfield Elementary	Sarah Niemeyer	405 s. Main Chatfield, Mn. 55923	507-867-4521
Cresco Elementary	Paula Galvin	1000 4 th Ave. E. Cresco, IA. 52136	563-547-2340
Dover/Eyota Elementary	Sue Cordes	27 Knowledge Rd. Eyota, Mn. 55934	507-545-2632
Grand Meadow Elementary	Darcy Hanken	710 4 th Ave. N.E. Grand Meadow 55936	507-754-5310
Fairmont Intermediate School	Geri Halbert	714 Victoria St. Fairmont, Mn. 56031	507-238-4661
Kingsland Elementary	Linda Lecy	201 W. Barlett Wykoff, Mn. 55990	507-352-2731
Kingsland Elementary	Jeanne Toew	409 S. Broadway, Spring Valley, Mn 55975	507-346-7358
Kings Christian Academy	Charles Upham	4500 Clinton Ave. S. Mpls., Mn. 55409	612-348-4596
Southland Elementary	Karla Carroll	201 1 st St. N.E. Rose Creek, Mn. 55970	507-437-3214
Immanuel Lutheran	Susan Harstad	22591 Cty Rd 25 Lewiston, Mn. 55952	507-523-3143

Winona Middle School	Margaret Claus	1470 Homer Rd. Winona, Mn.	55987 507-454-1221
Goodhue Elementary	Lori McNamara	310 3 rd Ave. Goodhue, Mn.	55027 612-923-4447
Elgin Millville Elementary	Jackie Hick	210 2 nd St. S.W. Elgin, Mn.	55932 507-876-2213
Nevelyn Elementary	Diane Wangen	1819 Oakland Ave. E. Austin, Mn.	55912 507-437-6669
Folwell Elementary	Steve Washechek	603 15 th Ave. S.W. Rochester, Mn	55902 507-281-6073
St. Pius School	May Kilen	1205 12 th Ave. N.W. Rochester, Mn.	55901 507-282-5161
Marcy Open School	Rhonda Geyette	415 4 th Ave. S.E Mpls. Mn.	55414 612-668-1020
Friedell Middle School		1200 S. Broadway Rochester, Mn.	55904 507-358-9832
Pinewood Elementary	Gerad Gerhler	1900 Pinewood Rd. Rochester, Mn.	55904 507-281-6104
Fairmont Area Home Schools	Cindy Milne	1495 265 th Ave. Granada, Mn	56039 507-447-2607
Home School Group	Sherri Eide	16985 Festal Ave. Farmington, Mn.	55024 952-953-3445
Albert Lea School	Lois Palmer	707 10 th St. Albert Lea, Mn.	56007 507-379-4926
Chosen Valley Middle School	Martha Branum	205 Union St. Chatfield, Mn.	55923 507-867-4210
Bluffview Montessori School	Kate Olson	1321 Gilmore Ave. Winona, Mn.	55987 507-452-2807
Longfellow Middle School	Mary Puza	1900 Denton St. LaCrosse, Wi.	54601 608-789-7670
Victory Christian Academy	Bonnie Waters	900 Northern Hieghts Dr. Roch.	55906 507-289-2966
Houston Elementary	Virginia Thilmany	310 S. Sherman Houston, Mn.	55943 507-896-3708
Immaculate Heart of Mary School	Jennifer Ouverson	34374 Forest Blvd. Stacy, Mn	651-462-24 34

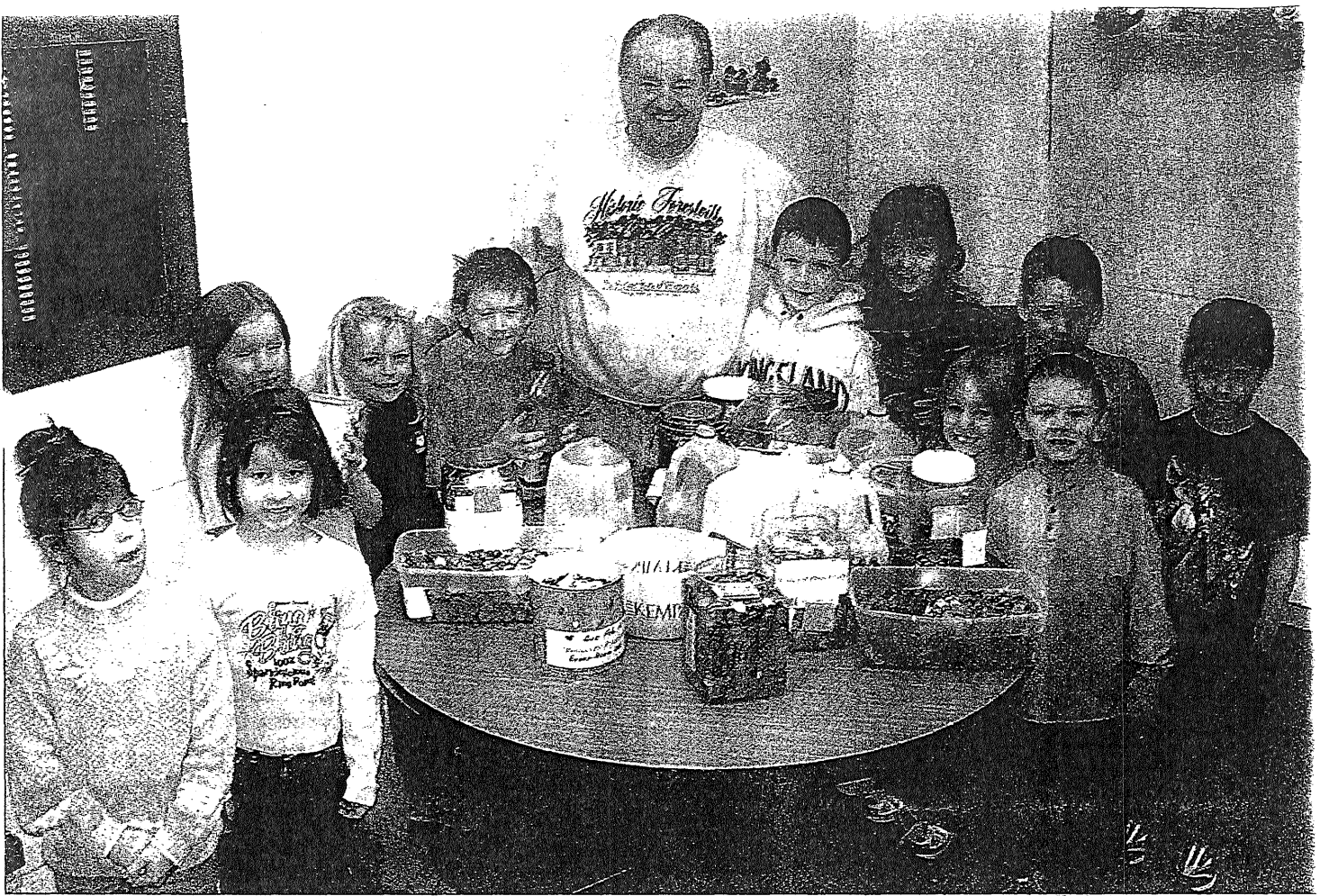
First	Last	School Name	address	city	state	zip	telephone	MARKED
Virginia	Thilmany	Houston Elementary School	310 S Sherman	Houston	MN	55943	507-896-3708	x
Kristy	Flanaghan	Bamber Valley School	2001 Bamber Valle	Rochester	MN	55902		
David	Olson	Stewartville Central Elementary	301 2nd Street S.V	Stewartville	MN	55976		x
Mary	Passe	St. Felix School	130 E. 3 rd Street	Wabasha	MN	55981		
Margaret	Claus	Winona Middle School	1470 Homer Rd	Winona	MN	55987		x
Robert	Pomeroy	Lewiston /Altura Elementary	105 South Fremont S	Lewiston	MN	55952		
Lori	McNamara	Goodhue Elementary	510 3 rd Ave.	Goodhue	MN	55027		
Rhonda	Geyette	Marcy Open School	415 4 th Ave S.E.	Minneapolis	MN	55414		x
Kirk	Thompson	Plainview Summer School	545 1 st Ave. S.W.	Plainview	MN	55964		
Mary	Puza	Longfellow Middle School	1900 Denton Street	LaCrosse,	WI	54601		x
Pauline	Galvin	Cresco Elementary	1000 4th Ave.	Cresco	IA	52136		
Mary	Hoiland	Rushford/Peterson Elementary	102 N. Mill Street	Rushford	MN	55971		
Sue	Cordes	Dover/Eyota Elementary	27 Knowledge Rd	Eyota	MN	55934		x
Kelli	Buehler	Ridgeway Elementary School	435 County Street	Ridgeway	IA	52165		
Lloyd	Luehmann	Holy Cross Lutheran School	300 16th Street NE	Austin	MN	55912		x
Kayleen	Geiger	Byron High School	601 4th St. NW	Byron	MN	55920		
Mary	Kilen	St. Pius the Tenth	1205 12th Ave. N. W	Rochester	MN	55901		x
Penny	Hogan	Holmen Middle School	502 N. Main P.O. Bc	Holmen	WI	54636		
Kris	Trapp	Southland Elementary School	P.O. Box 157	Rose Creek	MN	55970		
Pauline	Christensen	Winona State	P.O. Box 5838	Winona	MN	55987		
Kate	O'Grady	Riverway Learning Center	115 Iowa Street	Minnesota Cit	MN	55959		
		Fillmore Educators	112 N. Huron Ave.	Spring Valley	MN	55975		
		Dodge County Home School Assn.	610 First Ave. N.W.	Kasson	MN	55944		
Sue	George	Lime Springs Elementary School	Box 56	Lime Springs	IA	52155		
Steve	Washecheck	Folwell Elementary School	603 15th Ave. S.E.	Rochester	MN	55902		
Linda	Lecy	Kingsland Middle School	201 W. Bartlett	Wykoff	MN	55990		
Carrie	Gilbertson	Pine Island Elementary	Box 398	Pine Island	MN	55963		
Pam	Heuslin	Caledonia Elementary	311 W. Main	Caledonia	MN	55921		
Sarah	Niemeyer	Chatfield Elementary	405 S. Main	Chatfield	MN	55923		
Darcy	Hanken	Grand Meadow Elementary	710 4th Ave. N.E.	Grand Meado	MN	55936		
Geri	Halbert	Fairmont Intermediate School	714 Victoria St.	Fairmont	MN	56031		
Jeanne	Toew	Kingsland Elementary	409 S. Broadway	Spring Valley	MN	55975		
Charles	Upham	Kings Christian Academy	4500 Clinton Ave. S	Mpls.	MN	55409		
Karla	Carrol	Southland Elementary School	201 1st St. N.E.	Rose Creek	MN	55970		
Susan	Harstad	Immanuel Lutheran School	22591 Cty Rd. 25	Lewiston	MN	55987		
Jackie	Hick	Elgin/Millville School	210 2nd St. S.W.	Elgin	MN	55932		
Diane3	Wangen	Nevelyn Elementary	1819 Oakland Ave.	Austin	MN	55912		
Andrew	Johnsrud	Friedell Middle School	1200 S. Broadway	Rochester	MN	55904		
Gared	Groehler	Pinewood Elementary	1900 Pinewood Rd	Rochester	MN	55904		
Cindy	Milne	Fairmont Area Home School	1495 265th Ave.	Granada	MN	56039		
Sherri	Eide	Home School Group	16985 Festal Ave.	Farmington	MN	55024		
Lois	Palmer	Albert Lea School	707 10th St.	Albert Lea	MN	56007		
Martha	Branum	Chosen Valley Middle School	295 Union St.	Chatfield	MN	55923		
Kate	Olson	Bluffview Montessori	1321 Gilmore Ave.	Winona	MN	55987		
Bonnie	Waters	Victory Christian Academy	900 N. Hieghts Dr.	Rochester	MN	55906		
Jennifer	Ouverson	Immaculate Heart of Mary School	34374 Forest Blvd	Stacy	MN	55079		
Robert	Hughes	Emla Elementary	319 Oak St.	Elma	IA	50628		
Charles	Kaun	St. John's Lutheran	Box 189	Wykoff	MN	55990		
Joyce	Forster	Lincoln Elementary	1200 N. Park St.	Fairmont	MN	56031		
Norma	Fury	Trinity Lutheran School	501 N. Main	Janesville	MN	56048		
Deb	Fasbender	Sacred Heart School	Box 249	Adams	MN	55909		
Karen	Stenhoff	Spring Grove Elementary	113 2nd Ave. N.W.	Spring Grove	MN	55974		
Crystal	Drenth	Hollandale Christian School	203 Central Ave. S.	Hollandale	MN	56045		
Edie	Schultz	Harriet Bishop Elementary	406 N.W. 36th Ave.	Rochester	MN	55901		
Annamary	Seltz	St. Martin's Lutheran	253 Liberty	Winona	MN	55987		
Amy	Brouers	Bank School	301 3rd Ave. N.W.	Austin	MN	55912		
Pamela	Schmidt	Winona Area Home Schools	Rt. 1 Box 341	Lanesboro	MN	55949		

**Friends of Forestville Fundraisers
2003 through today (2/28/05)**

Sunday, August 3 rd , 2003 Pancake Breakfast Spring Valley Servicemen's Club	\$2,500
Saturday, August 9 th , 2003 Fundraiser – Deer Creek Speedway	\$ 323
Saturday, August 23 rd , 2003 Basket Social Historic Forestville	\$2,300
Saturday, August 30 th , 2003 Fundraiser – Deer Creek Speedway	\$ 636
August – October 2003 Quilt Raffle	\$ 750
Friday, November 7 th , 2003 1940's Veteran's Day Dance Pla-Mor Ballroom, Rochester, MN	\$ 550
Saturday, January 24 th , 2004 Fundraiser Dance/Auction Grumpy's, Grand Meadow, MN	\$6,500
Saturday, April 17 th , 2004 "Playing Dress-Up: The Stories and Clothes of Our Lives" Program and dessert, Wykoff, MN	\$ 708
Saturday, June 12 th , 2004 "Zeno's Carnival of Culture" a traveling medicine show Historic Forestville	\$1,588
4 th of July 2004– Forestville Sold sandwiches & big pickles	\$ 350
Saturday, August 21 st , 2004 Fundraiser – Deer Creek Speedway	\$ 515

**Friends of Forestville Fundraisers - Page 2
2003 through today (2/28/05)**

Saturday, September 4 th , 2004 Basket Social Historic Forestville	\$1,500
August – December 2004 Fundraiser Raffle Original watercolor painting, \$100 cash	\$2,000
Sunday, October 24 th , 2004 Pancake Breakfast Spring Valley American Legion	\$1,617
Tuesday, January 18, 2005 Pizza Night, Homestyle Pizza Spring Valley, MN	\$ 500
Wednesday, January 19 th , 2004 Pizza Night, Homestyle Pizza Chatfield, MN	\$ 325
Saturday, February 5 th , 2005 Spaghetti Supper, Auction, & Dance Grumpy's, Grand Meadow, MN	\$6,390
Late February 2005 Pennies for Preservation (Schoolchildren collection coins for Forestville) Kingsland Elementary School Spring Valley, MN	\$1,328
St. John's Lutheran School Wykoff, MN (about 40 students)	\$55
October 31, 2004 Grant – Chosen Valley Community Foundation Chatfield, MN	\$ 900
December 15, 2004 Grant – Osterud-Winter Foundation Spring Valley, MN (They also awarded \$500 in 2003)	\$1,000



Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson is shown above with KES students and the nearly 400 pounds of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters they raised for Historic Forestville (Tribune photo by Charlie Warner)

Pennies for Historic Forestville

KES students raise over \$1,300

By Charlie Warner
Spring Valley Tribune

There's an old saying that if you gather enough pennies, you will have a dollar. And if you gather enough dollars you will have a fortune.

The students at Kingsland Elementary School proved that old saying to be true. They were asked to gather pennies to help the fund-raising effort to keep Historic Forestville open. The elementary school located in Spring Valley held a two-week fund raiser. In that time, those pennies gathered totaled \$1,328.16!

"I'm am absolutely amazed that these kids could come up with that much money," Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson said last week as he surveyed the massive collection of pennies, nickels, dimes,

quarters and paper money that the KES students collected. "If other area schools can each collect even a small portion of what these students collected, we will have enough money to remain open through the end of our fiscal year."

According to Historic Forestville site manager Sandy Scheevel, Friends of Forestville sent out packets to 50 public, private and home schools that had toured the historic site in the past two years. The packets included a cover letter explaining why private funds are needed to keep Historic Forestville open. It also included suggestions as to how to conduct fundraisers and even slips of paper that had pictures of students taking the historic tour that could be wrapped around coffee cans and other containers

used to gather the pennies and other change.

KES Principal Rita Hartert took the fund-raising program one step further. She penned a letter that was sent out to all the parents of KES students explaining the program to them. In the letter to the parents, Hartert recalled how during the 1970s the children of America helped raise \$6 million to restore the Statue of Liberty, which was decaying, being neglected and crumbling. They did this through a national effort by bringing pennies to school.

"Today, our local students can rise to the challenge again," she said in her letter. "Friends of Forestville, a nonprofit organization, needs help in raising money to preserve Historic Forestville for future genera-

tions...and that includes our school children and their children.

"Here at KES, we will hold a fund raiser from Feb. 2-16. In asking that if your family wishes to participate, please send pennies with your child to his/her classroom, where their teacher will have a jar for this purpose," Hartert's letter continued. "There will be some type of reward for the classroom collecting the most money. At the end of the campaign we will notify you of the amount received. This is an opportunity for the children to be involved in a great project."

The reward that Harter spoke about in her letter is a pizza party that will be donated by Homestyle Pizza of Spring Valley. Cheryl Boyd's fifth grade classroom raised the most money. The grand total was \$195.85.

Pennies for Forestville

Continued from page one

either being cut or completely discontinued. Historic Forestville, which is a living history community located on the Root River adjacent to Forestville State Park, is one of seven historic sites in outstate Minnesota that were to be closed. The only way for it to stay open was for an alternative funding source to be found.

The Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) came up with an operation plan that included three financial hurdles. MHS would allow the historic village to remain open three days a week through August of 2003 if approximately \$50,000 could be raised. That announcement was made at a meeting in Preston in June of that year. The support-

ers of the historic village had just 19 days to come up with the money, and they did. The area responded by coming up with over \$50,000 in less than three weeks and Historic Forestville remained open on a limited basis (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays) throughout the summer of 2003.

The operational plan also called for an additional funding transfusion of approximately \$55,000 to keep Historic Forestville open through the end of its fiscal year, which was June 30, 2004. That money was raised by Oct. 15 and the first payment of a challenge gift of \$25,000 from an anonymous donor in the Twin Cities was received.

Historic Forestville supporters needed to come up with \$75,000 by March 1 of this year. Through fund-raising events held earlier this year and the anonymous donor from the Twin Cities, who matched every dollar that FOF raised up to \$25,000, approximately \$69,000 has been raised.

If FOF can raise the \$6,000 by March 1, the historic village will open again this spring for school tours and will operate through June 30. A House bill, authored by Rep. Greg Davids of Preston and a Senate bill authored by State Sen. Bob Kerlin of Winona would appropriate funds to the MHS to keep all seven historic sites open through the next biennium.

"We were very pleased with the tremendous response, not only by the students, but by their parents as well," Harert said last week. "This was way beyond our expectations." Harert noted that KES has issued a challenge to the students at the Kingsland middle and high schools to see if they can surpass the amount raised at the elementary school. A challenge has also been issued to all area schools to see if they can exceed the \$1,328.16 raised by KES students.

"As far as I know, this is the only fund raiser that has been completed so far," Scheevel said. "But that certainly doesn't mean that some of the other schools we sent packets to don't have fund raisers underway. I think that it's fantastic that the students at KES raised that much money. It will be interesting to see if some of the other schools we contacted will try to meet or beat that amount."

As of last Friday, Friends of Forestville still needed to come up with approximately \$6,000 by March 1 to open the historic village this spring and remain open through the end of the fiscal year which is June 30.

In the spring of 2003, it appeared that one of the historic jewels of southeast Minnesota, Historic Forestville, would be closed — possibly forever. Minnesota lawmakers were forced to come to grips with a \$4.5 billion deficit and programs throughout the state were

Pennies

Continued on page five



About 40 persons turned out for an informational meeting held last Wednesday at the Preston City Hall concerning the proposed closing of Historic Forestville. Seated at the table, from left, are Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson, former

Preston mayor Dick Nelson, Historic Forestville Site Manager Charlie Pautler, Tom Ellig and Bill Keyes of the Minnesota Historic Society, Legislative Liaison David Kelher and Pat McCormick of the MHS.

(Reader photo by Charlie Warner)

Historic Forestville supporters must act fast

\$50,000 must be raised by June 23

By Charlie Warner
Spring Valley Tribune

Area residents who want to see Historic Forestville remain open are going to have to work hard and really fast. Unless supporters of the living history site can somehow come up with approximately \$50,000 by June 23, the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) will close it as of July 1.

About 40 persons who turned out for a public meeting held Wednesday, June 4, at the Preston City Hall with MHS staff, county commissioners and representatives from several area communities, learned of several alternatives to closing the historic village that is located adjacent to Forestville State Park.

According to Bill Keyes of MHS, due to the enormous budget shortfall on the state level, Gov. Tim Pawlenty and the Minnesota Legislature have reduced MHS funding by approximately \$4.3 million for each of the next two years. Those drastic cuts have necessitated the closing of seven historical sites in the state and reductions at all of the sites that will remain open.

Due to the overwhelming support shown by area residents at previous meetings, MHS has come up with several alternatives to closing Historic Forestville after July 1, which is the end of its fiscal year.

In a statement to the group, Keyes stated, "The alternative to closing Historic Forestville is to institute a minimal operating plan for the site. That plan changes the living history interpretive program to a guided, walking tour of the site. The site buildings will be open and tour guides will escort groups of visitors around the site

telling the story of Forestville and answering questions from visitors. The site will be open three days per week from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The site will be closed at all other times. A site manager and a staff of two historic site guides and an historic site technician will operate the site."

To keep the site open using the minimal operating plan, Keyes noted that the cost would be \$110,000 annually. MHS would fund \$18,000, which would leave a \$92,000 funding gap. That gap would have to be made up from gate revenues, sales of items at the site, donations and corporate sponsorships. Historic Forestville Site Manager Charlie Pautler indicated that the site has taken in about \$25,000 annually, but that included spring and fall school tours and the site being open six days a week during the summer months. MHS Director of Planning Pat McCormick said that with the minimal operating plan, site revenues would probably be cut in half. With the minimal operating plan, approximately \$80,000 would have to be raised independently of MHS to keep the site open for the next year.

Keyes went on to explain that MHS came up with a second scenario that would keep the site open in July and August and possibly buy some more time for supporters to find other sources of revenue. If the minimal operating plan was utilized for July and August, MHS figured the operating expenses to be \$64,600. MHS can only budget \$18,000 for the entire year to Historic Forestville, which is \$1,500 per month or \$3,000 for those two months, and leaves a funding gap of about \$61,600. With revenues from gate

and site purchases figured in, the funding gap would still be somewhere between \$55,000 and \$58,000.

Last week, former Preston mayor Dick Nelson approached the Preston City Council with a request to help save Historic Forestville. After much arm twisting, Nelson was able to get a verbal commitment of \$5,000 to be used to help keep the historic site open.

"But," Nelson told the group last Wednesday, "the Preston City Council made it perfectly clear that it will only give this money to Historic Forestville if other cities in the area, such as Spring Valley and Wykoff, follow suit and help."

Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson, who also works as one of the living history actors at the site, encouraged the group to get out and start beating the bushes. "I will personally visit every Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, chamber of commerce, city council, any group that will have me, to explain just how important this facility is to the area and our children," said Colbenson. "If anyone has any questions about what we need, or what Historic Forestville is all about or how they can donate to this cause, they can contact me at (507) 754-5873."

Pautler echoed Colbenson's statement, noting that he, too, would be willing to speak to individuals or groups to solicit support. Pautler can be reached at (507) 765-2785. Persons wishing to help support the historic site can make checks out to Friends of Forestville and send them to Colbenson at 220 First Street SW, Grand Meadow, MN, 55936.

v
a
f
r
f
f
i
r
t
a
l
t
t
i
C
a
d
m

6/19/03
sd, wik

Historic Forestville to remain open for the summer months

By Charlie Warner
Spring Valley Tribune

"It appears as if we have raised sufficient funds to keep Historic Forestville open for the summer, thanks to the generous people of southeast Minnesota," a very happy Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson said Monday morning. "According to the most recent figures, with pledges and donations we have approximately \$50,000, which will be enough money to keep the us open through the summer."

Colbenson added that a press conference has been planned for this Thursday, June 26, at 10 a.m. on the steps of the Meighen Store to announce just how much money has been raised and what needs to be done to keep the historic village open for the next year.

Supporters of the historic village, located adjacent to Forestville State Park, found out less than three weeks ago that they had to somehow raise approximately \$50,000 to keep it open for the next two months on a minimal basis. The news was presented by representatives of the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) during a public meeting held in Preston on June 4.

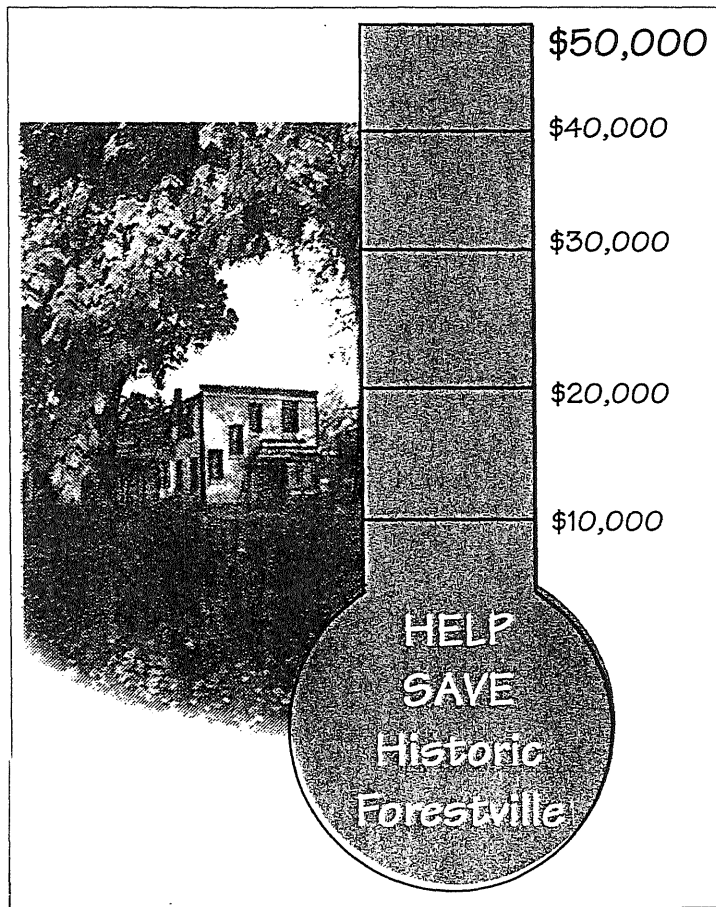
According to Bill Keyes of MHS, who spoke at the June 4 meeting, due to the enormous budget shortfall on the state level, Gov. Tim Pawlenty and the Minnesota Legislature reduced MHS funding by approximately \$4.3 million for each of the next two years. Those drastic cuts necessitated

answering questions from visitors. The site would be open three days per week from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The site would be closed at all other times. A site manager, a staff of two historic site guides and an historic site technician will operate the site.

To keep the site open using the minimal operating plan, Keyes noted that the cost would be \$110,000 annually. MHS

those two months, and leaves a funding gap of about \$61,600. With revenues from gate and site purchases figured in, the funding gap would still be somewhere between \$55,000 and \$58,000.

The City of Preston earmarked \$5,000 for the funding gap and challenged surrounding communities to follow suit, so supporters had to come up with about \$50,000 in less than three



As of Monday morning, the fund raising effort to save Historic Forestville had reached \$50,000.

ment and Historic Forestville does have an economic impact on Spring Valley. EDA members agreed to call a special meeting Monday morning to discuss the issue.

"The reason the city wasn't able to kick any money in is we are so strapped by the LGA cuts," said EDA member Jim Struzyk, who is also the Spring Valley Mayor. "The Council's feelings were that we were cutting city employees' hours because of the state cuts. How could we justify donating to Historic Forestville to our employees who just had their hours cut?"

It was brought up that the Spring Valley Chamber of Commerce used \$3,000 in city lodging tax money to donate to Historic Forestville, which could be considered Spring Valley city funds. It was also brought up that KING 11 Cable television, which is franchised through the City of Spring

Historic Forestville needs you...and your checkbook

Remember the old posters that were so prevalent decades ago with the picture of a white-bearded Uncle Sam pointing out at the reader and bold lettering proclaiming "Uncle Sam needs you!!"? If an ever-growing group of residents in Fillmore County had a little more time, they'd probably come up with a similar poster that would say "Historic Forestville needs you!!"

Unless approximately \$50,000 is raised by June 23, one of this area's treasures, Historic Forestville, will have to close its doors. A group of supporters of the historic site were apprised of this situation last Wednesday during a meeting at Preston with representatives of the Minnesota Historical Society.

According to Bill Keyes of MHS, due to the enormous budget shortfall on the state level, Gov. Tim Pawlenty and the Minnesota Legislature have reduced MHS funding by approximately \$4.3 million for each of the next two years. Those drastic cuts have necessitated the closing of seven historical sites in the state and reductions at all of



Warner's ramblings

By Charlie Warner

was a stipulation. The \$5,000 would be given only if the other cities located near Forestville State Park, namely Wykoff and Spring Valley, would follow Preston's lead and pony up donations of their own.

Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson, who also works as one of the living history actors at the site, encouraged the group to get out and start beating the bushes. "I will personally visit every Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, chamber of commerce, city council, any group that will have me, to explain just how important this facility is to the area and our children," said Colbenson. "If anyone has any questions about what we need, or what Historic Forestville is all about or how

the sites that will remain open.

Due to the overwhelming support shown by area residents at meetings held during the past two months, the MHS has come up with several alternatives to closing down the historic site completely on July 1. With a very limited budget, the MHS has allotted \$1,500 per month to help keep the facility open. Under a proposed minimal operating plan, Historic Forestville would only be open three days a week and instead of the living history interpretive program that has been so popular (but is very labor intensive) a guided walking tour would be offered. It would cost about \$110,000 a year for this program, with the MHS funding \$18,000. The balance, which is about \$92,000, would have to be raised by local supporters.

A second plan would be similar to the first, but with the facility open for just July and August of this year. That plan would require approximately \$50,000 of local money to work. The \$50,000 is a little more manageable than the \$92,000 figure and although it would be a very short-term solution, it would give supporters more time to find larger donors and possibly some corporate sponsors.

The Preston City Council, thanks to some arm twisting by former mayor Dick Nelson, went on record last week to give \$5,000 to the cause, but there

they can donate to this cause, they can contact me at (507) 754-5873."

David Bishop, owner of Niagara Cave in Harmony and also an active member of the Historic Bluff County Tourism Association, said that Bluff County members could help aid in finding funding for the historic site. Other persons attending last Wednesday's meeting said they would work hard to contact as many civic and service groups in the area as possible to solicit support.

If enough people, groups, organizations and communities get on the bandwagon and donate, Historic Forestville could remain open this summer, and that would buy some time for some longer-term financial help.

Representatives of MHS indicated that they would take into consideration the support each historic site on the "to close" list receives from the surrounding area if and when the state's economic picture brightens and additional funding is made available.

So if you belong to a service group, know of a corporation that gets involved in philanthropic projects, or you're looking for a good cause to support financially, Historic Forestville needs you!!!

First they cut LGA, then our historic sites; what's next?

Part of the fallout from the no new taxes pledge, in which entities across the state are required to share the pain, Greater Minnesota feels a disproportionate share of that pain. It's not necessarily that there is a split between metro and rural legislators, as some have suggested; it's just that when cities have fewer resources, an equal share of the cuts statewide is going to hurt those cities more.

For example, everyone by now should know that local government aid (LGA) to cities and counties is being cut. No one is accusing the Legislature of hammering the small towns more than the suburbs. However, the small towns throughout Greater Minnesota rely more on LGA than the suburbs.

A recent report from the state auditor's office provides evidence that small towns in Minnesota are more dependent on other taxpayers, especially through the LGA program. They also have more debt and higher overhead.

In other words, it takes more money per capita to provide services to a smaller population with fewer resources to pay for these services.

The cuts in LGA have great impacts on the small towns throughout our area. Although the original cuts were scaled back some, small towns are still looking at reducing or eliminating services; some of these services, such as parks and recreation, may not seem essential, but they may be the only one of this type of service in town, thus taking on a greater importance than scaling back on one of dozens of parks or programs in a larger city.

While small towns are planning cuts that have a real effect on local services, suburban Maple Grove is using its \$3 million budget reserve to cushion its loss and some wealthier suburbs, such as North Oaks, will feel little pain from the cuts because they received little money to begin with, according to an analysis in the Star Tribune of Minneapolis.

The problem isn't one that is going to go away. As state agencies deal with



Publisher's notebook

By David Phillips

their cuts, their problems will filter down to the programs that are so much more important to Greater Minnesota.

The best example in our area is the Minnesota Historical Society. The Society, which gets two-thirds of its operating budget from state funds, lost about \$4.3 million per year as a result of cuts by the Legislature. This is a reduction of 16 percent.

That reduction will be hard on the Society, as it plans to reduce 125 full-time equivalent employees, or more than 220 individuals, which represent more than 30 percent of the Society's staff.

It will also have to scale back at its historic sites throughout the state. While it will reduce hours and maybe even days at the History Center Library and Museum in St. Paul, it is also looking at closing seven or more historic sites throughout the state.

The museum in St. Paul is its flagship site, drawing millions of visitors each year. The cuts will inconvenience patrons some and reduce educational programs, but it won't eliminate them.

Of the seven sites slated for closing, six are in Greater Minnesota. The Society has 27 state historic sites, with nine of those in the metro area, including the Mill City Museum, which is just opening this fall.

As readers well know, one of the sites projected to close is Historic Forestville. It will be a big blow to our area economically and culturally if it closes. The site brings in tourists, but also tells the story of our past in a unique way with costumed interpreters.

If it closes, the next closest state historic site is in the metro area. More importantly, Historic Forestville is one of only two sites primarily focusing on

our agricultural heritage. The other agricultural site is also on the list for closing.

Local residents at the sites slated for closing are attempting to come up with money to keep them open. However, it won't be easy as cities are already hurting with the LGA cuts and nonprofit agencies are also scrambling to serve people with less state aid.

In an interview with the Star Tribune, Gov. Tim Pawlenty said there is a growing chasm in terms of attitude, tone and spirit between Greater Minnesota and the metro area. "The degree of geographic parochialism, in my opinion, in the Legislature is at an historic high," he said. "It's almost becoming as profound as the split between Republicans and Democrats."

Pawlenty, who has been accused of favoring the wealthier suburbs that are his electoral base, said he feels that this chasm is not in anyone's best interests. He emphasizes that he is doing his best to maintain a balanced and fair approach in government programs, not only measured by money, but by tone and cooperative spirit.

The problem is that his actions suggest otherwise because we all know money talks and what it is saying is we are all going to have to rely on our own resources, which is no problem for the affluent suburbs, but more of a challenge for the inner cities and rural areas that also make up this great state.

The new reality of state government won't kill off small towns, but it does weaken them by diminishing their history, services and economy. And that's not good for Minnesota because we are all part of this state.

Many people decry the state budget's cuts in social services because they widen the gap between the rich and poor, the haves and have-nots. The same could be said for the growing gap between the affluent suburbs and the rest of the state; this is not a healthy condition for our state officials to foster.

City/Region

Bonnie Lamkin, in the role of Mary Maloney, gives a tour to Verle and Evelyn Nickerson of Osage, Iowa, at Historic Forestville on Monday. For the past two months, Lamkin has volunteered to help keep the feeling of living history alive.

Christina Paolucci
Post-Bulletin



Not out of the woods yet

Historic Forestville raising money to open next year

By John Weiss

weiss@postbulletin.com

The friends group that kept Historic Forestville open and functioning July 1 through Labor Day by collecting about \$50,000 has two more major fund-raising challenges if the site is to be open next summer.

Friends of Forestville needs \$55,000 by Oct. 15 to have the historic village open from Memorial Day through June 30. It needs \$37,300 by March 15 to keep it open from July 1 through Labor Day, said George Colbenson, president of Friends of Forestville, a group that supports the state historic site in Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park.

Thus far, about \$30,000 has been raised for the Oct. 15 deadline, he said.

The fund-raising efforts got a boost recently when the Minnesota Historical Society, which operates and owns the site inside the park, said an anonymous Twin Cities donor has offered to give \$25,000 if the first goal is reached and \$25,000 more for the second.

That \$50,000 could be used to pay the people who dress and act as 1899

Forestville residents, said Colbenson, who volunteered his time the past two months to be a clerk in the Meighen Store. It is that first-person feeling that makes the site special, he said.

Also, the group learned recently that the Historical Society has found the funds to pay re-enactors so they can give tours to school groups early in this school year, he said.

Finally, he said, he hopes the Legislature comes through with some money next year to add more paid staff to the site.

The funding shortfall hit Historic Forestville, and six other state historical sites, July 1. The friends group collected \$50,000 to keep the site open, relying heavily on volunteers — about 500 hours by one estimate. The living history village was open only Fridays through Sundays instead of nearly daily as in past years.

A fee of \$4 per adult was also started this year, said Charlie Pautler, site manager. Despite the fee, attendance was up about 30 percent in July and August compared to last year, he said.

Before the Oct. 15 deadline, Col-

benson said he plans to talk with area legislators and raise funds in other communities.

In the past, the Friends have collected most of their donations in the Spring Valley, Wykoff and Preston area; they'll now go to Harmony, Chatfield, Stewartville and Spring Valley.

Colbenson said all six historical sites that were earmarked for closing stayed open because of local fund-raising efforts.

"That should give a message to the Legislature and the Historical Society that these historical sites are important to the people of Minnesota," he said.

To donate

Donations to Friends of Forestville can be sent to Box 14, Spring Valley, MN 55975, or given to Security State Bank in Wykoff.

All 7 state historic sites will be open

The Associated Press

ST. PAUL — All seven Minnesota historical sites that were targeted for closure July 1 have now won reprieves that will keep them open at least through Labor Day.

The Minnesota Historical Society said that thanks mostly to last-ditch fund-raising by community groups, the Forest History Center near Grand Rapids and Historic Forestville near Preston will remain open this summer.

Facing a 16 percent cut in its operating budget from the Legislature, the Historical Society had decided to close those two sites and five others: the James J. Hill House in St. Paul, the Oliver Kelley Farm in Elk River, the Comstock House in Moorhead, the Lower Sioux Agency near Redwood Falls and Fort Ridgely near Fairfax.

Reprieves for the five other sites were announced earlier.

"What these groups have accomplished in such a short time is remarkable, and a testament to the high regard Minnesotans have for our state's history," said Nina Archabal, director of the society. "The next challenge will be to find a stable source of funding to ensure the sites will be open for the long term."

Although the sites will remain open this summer, many will have higher admission prices, reduced hours or fewer programs.

And although donors have pledged more than \$14,000 a year for the next few years to keep the Comstock House open, Archabal said it's questionable whether the other sites will be able to reopen next summer.

"Unfortunately, the fight for survival is not over," she said.

At least having the sites remain open this summer will make it easier to raise money to continue operating indefinitely, society officials said.

Raising money for a closed site "is so much more difficult ... it's like a train. Once it's stopped it's hard to get it going again," said Dan Fjeld, a technician at the Lower Sioux Agency site.

In southeastern Minnesota, the Friends of Forestville said they also will continue raising money for the site, which features a living history exhibit of an 1890s village on an 18-acre site in Forestville State Park.

The group raised more than \$50,000 the past month to keep the site open through Labor Day, said Katie Colbenson of Grand Meadow, who helped lead the group. Most of the donations came from individuals. "That's how important this site is down here to the people," Colbenson said.

About \$110,000 is needed to keep Forestville open during the fall and next year.

Mankato Free Press
June 28, 2003

Mankato Free Press
June 28, 2003



Christina Paolucci/Post-Bulletin

Mary Schmidt prepares huckleberry pie on a wood-burning stove Monday at Historic Forestville. Schmidt was playing Bertha Martin, and George Colbenson, background, played John Maloney. Schmidt serves as a volunteer at Historic Forestville two to four times a month.

Keeping the past alive

History buffs volunteer, raise money to keep Forestville open

By John Weiss

weiss@postbulletin.com

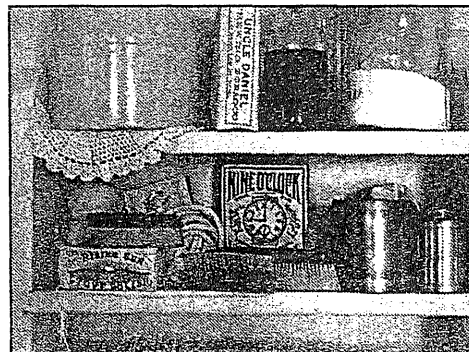
WYKOFF — Mary Schmidt put two quarts of huckleberries into a pot on the wood-burning stove, added lemon, sugar and tapioca, then stirred it and poured it into a crust. Along with her huckleberry pie, she created a slice of history.

For the past dozen years, women at Historic Forestville in Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park south of Wykoff have made pies and baked bread, while men and women chopped wood, tended gardens and acted as if they lived or worked in the Meighen Store or adjacent house in 1899. The living history aspect of the site is one of the things that

Inside

• Friends of Forestville not out of the woods yet.

— Page 4B



A shelf full of period items lends authenticity to the working kitchen at Historic Forestville.

Christina Paolucci Post-Bulletin

make it so special, re-enactors said.

This year, however, the smell of pies is wafting through the kitchen only because volunteers have portrayed the turn-of-the-century villagers. Without their time, which came to at least 500 hours, there would have been no actors at the site July 1 through Labor Day, but it would have remained open.

This year's budget crunch was so bad that Forestville was scheduled to close July 1. Instead, the Friends of Forestville collected enough donations to keep the site open, although on a reduced schedule. July 1 through Labor Day. The Friends only had

enough to pay for two living-history actors so many actors volunteered their time.

It is the re-enactors who make the tours so special, said Schmidt, who portrays Bertha Martin, a cook. "I just love this place," said the woman from Chester, Iowa, on Monday. "I came here as a tourist ... fell in love with it."

Bonnie Lamkin of La Crosse, Wis., who was sweeping the kitchen as part of her role as Mary Maloney, wife of the store clerk, also volunteered during the past two months. "This place is so important

to me," she said.

Those working at Forestville are family, Schmidt and others said. They enjoy each other, savor the characters they play and have learned things along the way.

For example, cooking and baking in the era of wood-stoves is a far cry from the culinary science practiced in kitchens today.

"It's not real precise," Schmidt said. "It's all by looking and stirring and touching and tasting."

Besides, she said as she stirred the huckleberries, "it's just plain fun. but don't let that secret out."

Sept 2, 2003 ch P. B

Trinity Lutheran
soup and sandwich supper.
Bake sale at 4:30 p.m.; supper at
5 p.m. and auction at 7 p.m. at
Church Fellowship Hall.

*Spring Valley
Tribune / Nov 5 2003*

Swing dance to raise funds to keep Historic Forestville open

The Friends of Forestville are sponsoring a 1940s swing dance at the historic Plamor Ballroom in Rochester on Friday, Nov. 7, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. This is a fund-raiser event and all proceeds will go toward keeping Historic Forestville open.

Historic Forestville is a historic site operated by the Minnesota Historical Society and because of state budget cuts was scheduled to close last summer. However, the Friends of Forestville stepped forward and are raising the necessary funding to keep the site open this coming season. Historic Forestville serves the educational needs of 15,000 local, statewide, national, and international visitors each year with its living history programming.

The dance will have a 1940s

World War II era theme and is to be held the Friday before Veterans Day. All military veterans are welcome and will receive a \$2 discount. Audiences will dance to live music provided by the amazing band "Remembrance," which has been playing dance and swing music for the past 30 years. They will be playing the music of Les Brown, Woody Herman, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, and others, as well as other favorite standards. Go prepared to dance, listen to the music, enjoy period refreshments, and reminisce.

The Plamor Ballroom is located east of Rochester on Highway 14 at 2045 Highway 14 East, just east of Rochester Community and Technical College. The phone number is (507) 282-5244.



A step back in time

Members of the Kingsland seventh grade class intently listen to Historic Forestville living history actor George Colbenson as he tries to sell them some wares at the Meighen Store. The KMS students toured the store and the grounds and hiked the trails in Forestville State Park last Friday. A

public hearing on the possible closing of Historic Forestville will be held this Wednesday evening at the Wykoff Community Center, beginning at 7 p.m. For more photos of the class tour, see page seven.

(Tribune photo by Charlie Warner)

Last attempt to save Historic Forestville

The letter-writing, e-mail, and telephone campaign launched last month in a effort to save the Historic Village of Forestville appears to have made some impact at the Minnesota State Capitol this spring.

Two and a half months ago people across the region were angered when it was announced that the Historical Society was planning to close down Historic Forestville at the end of the current fiscal year as a cost-cutting measure. If that happens on June 30, the artifacts left by Thomas Meighen in the old general store, barn, and family home in 1910 will most likely be packed up, taken to St. Paul and stored at the History Center. Members of Friends of Forestville say they are worried that once the site closes, it will never reopen.

Since that time, letters and phone calls to state lawmakers and to the Historical Society's Twin Cities offices appear to have had the desired effect. Some state lawmakers have now indicated that they want the Society to

make cuts in administration starting at the top and that the historic sites throughout the state should be kept open.

The Friends of Forestville group has also been holding a petition drive with over 15-hundred signatures gathered so far. Those documents are being presented to State Historical Society Director Nina Archabal during a meeting in St. Paul this week.

They say they hope Archibal will reverse the decision she made in response to Governor Tim Pawlenty's request that all state agencies make a 15 percent cut in their budgets to help solve the state's four and a half billion-dollar deficit. At that time, a Friend's spokesman noted, "We could survive a 15 percent cut, but not the 100 percent cut proposed by the Historical Society."

Area lawmakers, county commissioners, local community leaders, and concerned people are now being asked to meet with representatives of the Minnesota State Historical Society to try to work out a

solution to the proposal to close the living history and pioneer agricultural interpretive site near Wykoff. The May 15 meeting comes just days before the end of the 2003 legislative session.

Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson said he thinks this may be the one last chance to save the site. Colbenson said the 7:00 p.m. meeting at the Wykoff Community Center is open to the public, and everyone who cares about the site is needed at the event.

Those who want to see that the historical site remains open should not take it for granted that someone else will make that happen. They are encouraged to attend this special meeting.

"We want the folks from MHS and our state legislators to know just how important Historic Forestville is to this area and to our children." Colbenson stated, concluding, "A strong showing of support can only help our cause."

County promises \$5,000, maybe more to Forestville

By Lisa Brainard
Republican-Leader

The Fillmore County commissioners paid their due to Historic Forestville in the amount of a \$5,000 pledge Tuesday, as well as the potential for more.

The commissioners heard an update on the plight of the local Minnesota State Historical (MHS) site during their weekly meeting from Forestville Site Manager Charlie Pautler and Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson.

The men explained that unless \$50,000 is raised by June 23, the MHS will close the site. It would be closed for at least four years, according to Pautler.

He also explained the state officials asked for local commitment to the site. Keeping the site open would run \$140,000 under a minimal site operation for just three months.

Due to Forestville's fiscal year, that includes July and August of this summer, as well as June of 2004. The funding still needed is beyond gate receipts and sales at the Historic Forestville gift shop. Keeping the site open in 2003 will run \$50,000 with an additional \$40,000 to \$50,000 needed for 2004.

Pautler said Historic Forestville would be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. It did not include money for an educational program,

which currently accounts for 3,000 of the site's 14,500 annual visitors.

It would include a fulltime site manager, an historic site technician, and a staff of two interpreters. Current discussions call for them to operate as tour guides instead of costumed site interpreters.

Colbenson said the guides are willing to volunteer to continue doing their living history interpretations if the site stays open. There would be two paid and three volunteers in that scenario.

Colbenson further added, "I will volunteer every single day in July and August if we raise \$50,000."

He cited the many years of experience the living history interpreters have, which would all be lost if Historic Forestville closed.

"If it closes, I'm greatly fearful it won't re-open," said Colbenson.

EDA funding?

Commissioner Randy Dahl brought up another option. He and Commissioner Chuck Amunrud talked about using funding opportunities through the Fillmore County Economic Development Authority (EDA).

Dahl said, "Part of the EDA program is business retention."

He also mentioned money available for EDA loans. The commissioners said they would look further into this option.

Colbenson and Pautler said

Where to donate

Donations to Friends of Forestville can be made at any office of Phillips Publishing: Spring Valley Tribune, Spring Grove Herald, Harmony and Mabel News-Record offices, and the Preston office of the Republican-Leader of Preston and Lanesboro. Or mail donations to Friends of Forestville, Box 14, Spring Valley, MN. 55975.

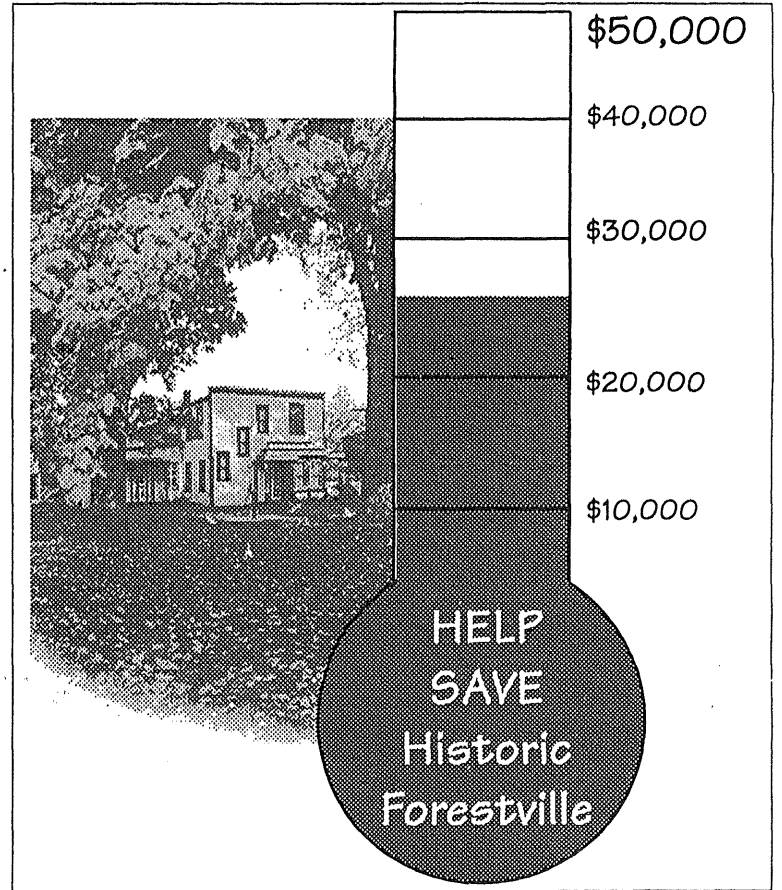
Check www.hometown-pages.com for timely updates on donations.

they had to present their funding total to the MHS by June 23. Commissioner Duane Bakke asked if they thought the MHS officials would give them a little leeway.

Bakke made a motion to pledge \$5,000 to Historic Forestville and invited the site's representatives to return to the commissioner's meeting Tuesday morning, June 24. The commissioners thought they might be able to come up with any last-minute funds needed, or might have more information on EDA loan or grant opportunities.

"This is an absolutely terrific thing," said Colbenson.

Pledges received to date include the City of Preston,



\$5,000; Wykoff, \$1,000; Spring Valley American Legion, \$2,000; and Fillmore County Commissioners, \$5,000. Colbenson estimated current pledges of around \$16,000. He hoped to receive around \$1,000 to \$2,000 in pledges at a Friends of Forestville meeting Thursday night.

Colbenson said he will be contacting cities, government groups, civic organizations, businesses and individuals to continue raising funds. Donations can be made to Friends of Forestville, Security State Bank, Box 126, Wykoff, MN 55990. He also noted if the amount needed is not raised, pledges need not be made.

Old Time Basket Social set to raise funds for Forestville

Area businesses are pitching in and helping with the effort to keep the living history program at Historic Forestville Village open for another year.

Wall-Mart South in Rochester, the Spring Valley Bakery, Subway Sandwiches, Preston Apple and Berry Farm, and private donations are sponsoring the first-ever "Old Time Basket Social" on the south lawn of the historic site on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 6 to 9 p.m.

There is no admission charge for the event. Bring your whole family and your lawn chairs. Plan to spend a leisurely evening at Historic Forestville. Enjoy a backyard 1890s garden party atmosphere, complete

with period music and games of checkers, croquet, and horseshoes. Coffee and lemonade will be provided.

As a fund-raising effort to keep the historic site open, visitors can bid on an old-fashioned wicker basket containing a meal for two while they enjoy the music and games. Winning bidders will dine with the likes of Mary Meighen (Thomas Meighen's wife), Catherine Meighen, Eliza Jane McAndress, and Martha Healy (Thomas' sisters), Gotlieb Winter (the gardener), John and Mary Maloney and Mr. and Mrs. Ball (farm laborers and their wives), and Nellie Moyles (the house servant).

All proceeds from the event

will go to keep Historic Forestville open next summer. Money made at this fund-raiser will be matched (up to \$1,000) by Wall-Mart South of Rochester.

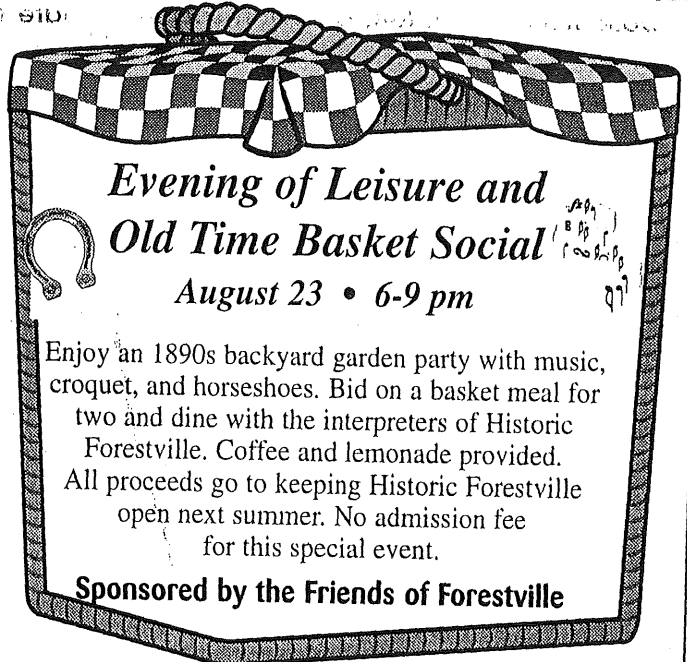
Friends of Forestville President George Colbenson says, tongue in cheek, "We hope people will bid early, bid often and bid recklessly!" Bids and donations made that night will be tax deductible.

If you can't attend and would still like to help keep Historic Forestville open you can send a tax-deductible donation to Friends of Forestville, Security State Bank P.O. Box 126 Wykoff, MN 55990.

Spring Valley Tribune

Aug 2003

Historic Forestville Fundraiser



*Evening of Leisure and
Old Time Basket Social*
August 23 • 6-9 pm

Enjoy an 1890s backyard garden party with music, croquet, and horseshoes. Bid on a basket meal for two and dine with the interpreters of Historic Forestville. Coffee and lemonade provided. All proceeds go to keeping Historic Forestville open next summer. No admission fee for this special event.

Sponsored by the Friends of Forestville

Public hearing set for Forestville

A public hearing with local officials, Friends of Forestville and representatives of the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) has been scheduled for this Wednesday, June 4. The meeting will take place at 5 p.m. at the Preston City Hall.

MHS Site Director Bill Keyes and MHS Director of Finance Patrick McCormick will meet with local officials and residents to continue the

dialog on the proposed closing of Historic Forestville at Forestville State Park.

Due to the state budget deficit, estimated at approximately \$4.3 billion, MHS is facing a \$4 million cut in state funds for 2004 and 2005 fiscal years. The massive budget cuts have prompted MHS to look at closing seven of the historic sites in Minnesota that MHS manages. Historic Forestville is

one of the seven sites.

Former Preston Mayor Richard Nelson will moderate the meeting. If there is no change in the cuts proposed by the state, local residents will be looking at ways to keep the historic community open through funding-raising efforts, reduced scheduling and volunteer help.

Anyone interested in keeping Historic Forestville open is urged to attend the meeting.

Meeting scheduled to discuss keeping Historic Forestville site open

A public hearing with local officials, Friends of Forestville and representatives of the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) has been scheduled for this Wednesday, June 4. The meeting will take place at 5 p.m. at the Preston City Hall.

MHS Site Director Bill Keyes

MHS Director of Finance Patrick McCormick will meet with local officials and residents to continue the dialog on the pro-

posed closing of Historic Forestville at Forestville State Park.

Due to the state budget deficit, estimated at approximately \$4.3 billion, MHS is facing a \$4 million cut in state funds for 2004 and 2005 fiscal years. The massive budget cuts have prompted MHS to look at closing seven of the historic sites in Minnesota that MHS manages. Historic Forestville is one of the seven sites.

Former Preston Mayor Richard Nelson will moderate the meeting.

If there is no change in the cuts proposed by the state, local residents will be looking at ways to keep the historic community open through funding-raising efforts, reduced scheduling and volunteer help.

Anyone interested in keeping Historic Forestville open is urged to attend the meeting.

Spring Valley Tribune June 9, 2003

Future of Historic Forestville to be discussed

Porter Post Bulletin May 8, 2003

From staff reports

WYKOFF — The Minnesota Historical Society will have a meeting to discuss the proposed closing of Historic Forestville at 7 p.m. May 15 at the Wykoff Community Center.

"We feel it is important to have an open active dialogue with local supporters regarding these proposed cuts," said William Keyes, head of the Minnesota Historical Society's historic sites.

"We are prepared to listen to local concerns as well as give an update on what is going on at our state Capitol and how this will affect the Historical

Society and the statewide historic sites network."

Historic Forestville, an 18-acre living-history site inside Forestville State Park near Wykoff, recreates life during the last decades of the 19th century by showcasing actors in restored period buildings.

Earlier this year, the Min-

nesota Historical Society proposed closing Forestville and six other historic sites across the state as a way to cope with the anticipated loss of about \$4 million in funding next year. Forestville, which draws about 14,000 visitors annually, costs about \$235,000 to operate each year.

4th of July activities abound

By Lanier Frush Holt

lholt@postbulletin.com

Fireworks shows will be just one part of the things to do this Fourth of July on Friday.

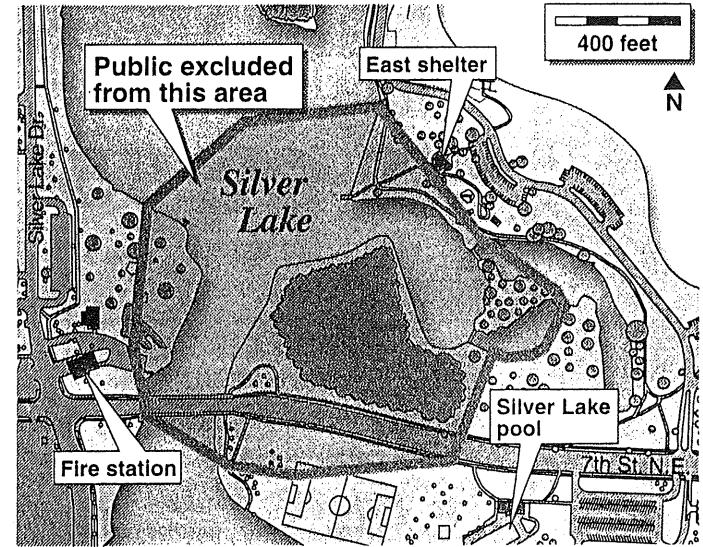
A free water ski show will take place at 6 p.m. at Silver Lake on Friday. A Rochester Civic Music concert starts at 8:30 p.m. and the annual fireworks show, sponsored by Post-Bulletin Charities, will follow at Silver Lake at 10 p.m.

"The show will last between 20 and 25 minutes and will begin after the band plays their last note," said John Withers, promotion director for the Post-Bulletin. "This should be one of our best shows ever."

Earlier in the day, the younger generation will show their patriotic pride. The Fourth of July Kiddie Parade, sponsored by the Rochester Jaycees, will start at 11 a.m. at Central Park. Registration will begin at 10 a.m., and judging will be at 10:30 a.m. Children ages 1 to 13 may decorate their wagon, tricycle or bicycle in patriotic colors and join the parade, which will end in Soldiers Field Memorial Park. There is no entry fee.

Of course Rochester isn't the only place in south-

Fourth of July fireworks



Source: Post-Bulletin Charities

Kristi Berg/P-B graphic

eastern Minnesota to find Fourth activities.

- Historic Forestville, a "living history" site inside Forestville State Park near Preston, will be re-creating the late 1890s with music, contests and games. Political speeches by actors portraying the Rev. Father McTeague and political orator Ignatius Donnelly also will take place Friday. The event runs from noon to 4 p.m. at the state park. The event costs \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for children between

6 and 12 years old and is free for children younger than 6.

- The 25th annual Austin Youth International Baseball Tournament, which starts at 10:30 a.m. in the north complex of Todd Park, is one of many activities taking place in Austin on Friday. An Independence Day parade will start at 11 a.m. in Horace Austin Park. The Spam Town Belle and Paddle Boat Rides event will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Mill Pond. Fireworks will start at 9:45 p.m. in Horace Austin Park.

FRONT PAGE

Rochester Post Bulletin
July 3, 2003

Spring Valley Tribune June 4, 2003

Historic Forestville program looks at life of Eliza Jane Foster

On June 14, Historic Forestville will focus on an era when the site was a growing community. State park visitors and campers will hear about the life of Eliza Jane Foster, who journeyed up river from Galena, Ill., in 1854 with her husband and two young daughters.

A costumed interpreter portraying Foster will hold conversations with visitors and talk about her life in the 1860s and her role in her family, politics and with the Foster and Meighen families that dominated the town. This special free evening event will be held at the Forestville State Park

amphitheater beginning at 8 p.m. Admission fees to the State Park are required.

The historic village is part of Forestville State Park, between Preston and Spring Valley. Admission to the historic site is \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens and \$2 for children ages 6 to 12 in addition to the state park fee. For more information, call 507-765-2785.

The Society's calendar of events is posted on the Internet at www.mnhs.org. The website also has information about all

of the Society's historic sites. The Minnesota Historical Society is a nonprofit educational and cultural institution established in 1849 to preserve and share Minnesota history. The Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Minnesota's past through museum exhibits, extensive libraries and collections, historic sites, educational programs and book publishing.

Wed June 25 2003
SV EDA discusses Historic Forestville issue

By Charlie Warner
Spring Valley Tribune

The Spring Valley Economic Development Authority (EDA) held a special meeting Monday, June 23, to discuss the Historic Forestville issue and see if there was any way it could come up with some funding to help save the historic town.

EDA Director Mike Bubany told the Board that he had been contacted by the Spring Valley Public Utilities Commission about the matter. Because the EDA promotes economic development and Historic Forestville does have an economic impact on Spring Valley, EDA members agreed to call a special meeting Monday morning to discuss the issue.

"The reason the city wasn't able to kick any money in is we are so strapped by the LGA cuts," said EDA member Jim Struzyk, who is also the Spring Valley Mayor. "The Council's feelings were that we were cutting city employees' hours because of the state cuts. How could we justify donating to Historic Forestville to our employees who just had their hours cut?"

It was brought up that the Spring Valley Chamber of Commerce used \$3,000 in city lodging tax money to donate to Historic Forestville, which could be considered Spring Valley city funds. It was also brought up that KING 11 Cable television, which is franchised through the City of Spring

Valley, donated \$500. "Having served on the Friends of Forestville Board and having formerly served on the Spring Valley Tourism Board, I feel this community benefits from Historic Forestville," said EDA member Mark Biermann. "If the money isn't raised and the state closes Historic Forestville down, it will take a very long time to get it going again. I know, I was part of the process the last time it was closed."

Bubany was asked if the EDA had money to make a donation. He replied that they had one of the healthier budgets within the city. "Have we ever made a donation like this before? Not to the best of my knowledge," Bubany said.

EDA member David Phillips said he was concerned that if the EDA made a big donation right now when the city is so financially strapped that maybe next year the City Council would cut down on how much money is budgeted for the EDA.

"I'm concerned about spending EDA money when the city is so short on funds," EDA member Kim Brown added.

Biermann made a motion to donate \$200 to Historic Forestville. His motion was seconded by Phillips. Biermann and Phillips voted in favor of the motion and Brown and Struzyk voted against it. The motion failed due to a lack of a majority vote.

Rain threatens Forestville's celebration

*Clouds similar
to what site faced
during the spring*

By Mike Dougherty

news@postbulletin.com

HISTORIC FORESTVILLE — Dark clouds and a sprinkle of rain threatened the crowds at Historic Forestville's annual Fourth of July celebration on Friday, but soon the clouds parted and blue sky stretched above nearly 500 visitors to the Minnesota Historic Site, which had been threatened with closure just weeks ago.

The weather on this Fourth of July was much like the storms the Historic Forestville group weathered through the spring during the drawn-out legislative session. A Minnesota Historical Society funding cut led to the proposed closure of Historic Forestville and seven other sites in the state.

But a private group called Friends of Forestville

so ago," Colbenson said. "We hoped the word would get out. It looks like a good crowd. That makes it fun."

Historic Forestville, located within Forestville State Park, is a living history site run by the Minnesota Historical Society. It's a collection of buildings, including a house, a store, a barn and a few other out-buildings owned by Thomas Meighen, who bought up most of the property after the railroad bypassed the town and its fortunes sagged.

Charlie Paulter, site manager of Historic Forestville, played the role of James Foster, a neighbor of Meighen's, during Friday's celebration, reading the Declaration of Independence from the south porch of the Meighen home to a crowd of 150.

Paulter said they are hopeful that people will continue to visit the site on the three days it's open each week. The site will be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through the end of the season.

**"We were worried
whether we'd still get
people here since we
weren't sure we'd be
open until a week or
so ago."**

— George Colbenson of the
Friends of Forestville

scrambled in a matter of weeks to find donations of \$50,000, enough money to get the attraction through the end of its season.

They'll have to find another \$60,000 to open next spring and operate through June 30, and another \$110,000 to stay open from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

George Colbenson, president of the Friends of Forestville, who plays Ignatius Donnelly during the July 4 celebration, blended in a nod to the site's up-and-down fortunes during his annual Fourth of July oratory, noting that he was "fearing that I might not be able to be here this year."

Forestville's Fourth of July event depicts Independence Day in the late 1890s, with volunteers dressed in period costumes and activities similar to those of that era.

Later, Colbenson was full of smiles as he watched families stroll through the tiny town or stop to watch the old-time baseball game.

"We were worried whether we'd still get people here since we weren't sure we'd be open until a week or

*Rochester Post Bulletin
SAT July 5, 2003*

"It's hard to say what the public reaction will be when they come and the site isn't fully staffed," he said.

Colbenson, who's played Donnelly, a Minnesota congressman and political populist, for 11 years, called this year's July 4 event a success.

"Independence Day in this era was very much about freedom, and we hope we can bring that feeling to people who visit today," Colbenson said. "It's as important today as it was back then."

Children gathered for games near the Meighen Store, sliding their legs into itchy gunny sacks for a sack race or finding a sibling or friend to tie a piece of cloth around their legs for the three-legged race.

Later, some of those same kids, and a few adults, gnawed at slices of watermelon without using their hands to see who could eat it the fastest.

Brad Peters of Rochester watched as his two daughters hopped in the sack race event.

"I'd heard about it a lot in the news lately, and I came here as a kid, so I wanted my own children to have this experience as well," Peters said.

Fourth of July celebrated the old fashion wa



Forestville Nine manager Steve Tammel, center, of Spring Valley had a few laughs with the umpire at left and the captain of the Rochester Roosters, a 1800s-vintage baseball team. Tammel and a team

made up of Spring Valley-area ballplayers made up the Forestville Nine ball team, which lost to the Roosters by two runs. The game was enjoyed by a crowd of several hundred spectators.

A choir, made up of historic interpreters and members of the large audience, performs a number of patriotic selections

as part of the Fourth of July at Historic Forestville last Friday.

**Photography by
Charlie Warner**

Historic Forestville not relegated to history yet

Community donations keep site open

By Joshua Lynsen

jlynsen@postbulletin.com

WYKOFF — Community donations have stayed the planned closure of Historic Forestville, a living-history site inside Forestville State Park.

Minnesota Historical Society spokeswoman Margorie Nugent said site visitors,

local residents and others donated \$50,000, enough to keep the location open until Labor Day.

"This is really astounding, what they've done," Nugent said. "We're hoping that this will show the Legislature and the governor how important it is to people that these sites stay open."

Nugent said the society had planned to close the 18-acre rural village to help cut expenses. The site was one of seven historic sites across the state slated to be closed July 1.

Nugent said Tuesday that

Historic Forestville will remain open, albeit with reduced hours and programming.

"This is by no means a permanent solution," she said. "We will be working now to see that our (state) funding is restored, but these funds are a stop-gap measure."

George Colbenson, president of Friends of Forestville, said he was overwhelmed by the public show of support. He said the largest donations — two checks for \$5,000 — came from Fillmore County and an unknown group identified only as The Horse

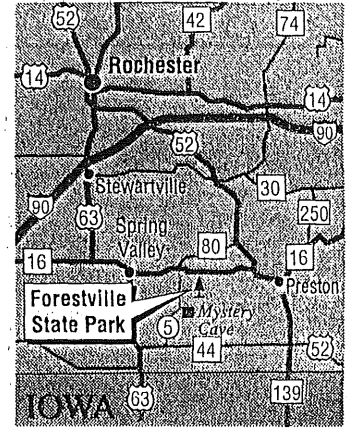
People.

"The support has just been heartwarming," he said.

Historic Forestville recreates life during the last decades of the 19th century by showcasing actors in restored period buildings. Forestville's living-history program started in 1992 and has annually drawn an average 13,900 visitors.

Forestville will remain open each Friday, Saturday and Sunday through the summer.

Nugent said if state legislators restore society funding, Historic Forestville could be



P-B graphic

fully funded again. If the state funding is not restored, local fund-raising efforts would again be necessary.

*River Valley Reader, June 9, 2003
Harmony, Mabel, Preston, Spring Grove & Spring Valley*

BRIEFS

Preston to help fund Historic Forestville

Former Preston mayor Richard Nelson approached the Preston City Council Monday evening with a request to help save Historic Forestville, the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) site located at Forestville State Park.

Budget cuts at the state level have left the 1899 buildings, period actors and new visitor center threatened to be closed come June 30.

He asked the City of Preston to step up, be a leader and give \$5,000 to Forestville. Nelson said he also would be making the same request to other area towns and to Fillmore County officials.

Mayor Dave Pechulis said the site has a definite financial impact on Preston.

Councilman Mike Gartner said his family gives money to the site, however, he wanted to make sure Spring Valley and Wykoff also were asked for funding since "they are on the open end and we're on the closed end."

Gartner referred to easy access to Forestville State Park on hard-surfaced roads, while those approaching the park from Preston would need to enter Historic Forestville from a county gravel road.

Pechulis suggested a pledge based on participation of other area towns and entities.

City Attorney David Joerg urged the Council to hold off on a vote until the revised resolution was in front of them in writing. He noted there is a difference between "matching funds and a pledge," and wanted the resolution to state exactly what the Council members wished.

Joerg said, at this point the Council could say the City of Preston would make a substantial

re dr mi me — la in de ur th th ru pl ac re pl a p a r C r r o C c ti i s

Though we had been in the Forestville store numerous times, each time we found something new and Luther was always there to explain what it had been used for and how old it was. We loved hearing his stories and we learned many lessons while browsing through the "merchandise" in this historic store.

When it was closed, many years ago, before the Friends of Forestville fought to get it reopened, I again visited the site and found that the "ghosts" had claimed this site. As we drove through the old town, I felt for the first time that the old town had been abandoned and it had become one of those old ghost towns depicted in films.

Since the site has reopened, I've been there a couple of times and while I have missed Luther's stories, the interpreters who demonstrate different aspects of life in the 1800s have been delightful. Again, I learned many lessons about our history, not only of our own area, but the history of our nation.

Having worked at a nearby campground, I am aware of how many families come to visit Historic Forestville, not to mention the number of schools that utilize the site for educational fieldtrips. If the Forestville site is closed once again, those families may choose to visit other sites throughout the state and our local school children will have to travel greater distances to visit other

his-
torical landmarks and exhibits. Even then, the lessons learned will be different than those one can learn at Historic Forestville, as Forestville is one of only two sites that focuses on agricultural and rural life.

I attend enough city and school board meetings to know that budget constraints are difficult and that sacrifices have to be made to balance a budget. However, cutting out the entire programming at Forestville seems not only unreasonable, but unconscionable.

Instead of cutting entire programming, I would hope the Minnesota Historical Society would instead decide to share the budget cuts across the board. I would expect Historic Forestville to tighten its belt, but to cut the entire program is a detriment to not only the state park itself, but to our local economy and tourism industry.

When working with the local tourism organization, we talk a lot about offering a diverse selection of activities for our visitors in southeastern Minnesota. Having attractions, like Historic Forestville, in our area, in addition to the bike trails, Amish tours and local caves, helps provide activities that will entice visitors to stay longer, and in essence, spend more money, once they are in our area.

While all those economic and educational impacts concern me,

Volume 123 No. 19

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Public meeting on Historic Forestville in Wykoff May 15

By Charlie Warner
Spring Valley Tribune

Two-and-one-half months ago, area residents were angered when it was announced that the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) was planning to close down Historic Forestville at the end of its fiscal year on June 30. The action by the MHS was prompted by Gov. Tim Pawlenty's request that all state agencies make a 15 percent decrease in their budgets to help ease the projected \$4.5 billion state deficit.

An informational meeting, which was attended by about 70 concerned persons, was held on March 4 at Forestville State Park south of Wykoff. MHS representative Tom Ellig and Forestville Historic Site living history actor and interpreter George Colbenson co-facilitated the meeting. A number of persons spoke about the educational value of Historic Forestville and noted that over 3,000 students tour the historical site each school year while on educational field trips.

Those attending the meeting were told that the proposed cuts

were just that — proposed. According to Colbenson, the action to close Historic Forestville isn't a done thing. Constituents have been lobbying state lawmakers to instruct the MHS that if massive cuts in its budget become a reality, the cuts should be made at the top.

"From what I've read, people across the state want the MHS to make cuts in administration, starting at the top and that the historic sites throughout the state should be the last things cut," Colbenson explained.

According to recent newspaper accounts, the State House is looking at making an 18 percent cut in the MHS budget, while the State Senate is leaning more toward a "no cuts, no increases in spending" approach to straightening out the budget deficit.

Regardless of how the state will attempt to straighten out the current budget mess, a meeting has been scheduled for May 15 at 7 p.m. at the Wykoff Community Center to further discuss the Historic Forestville issue. Representatives of the

MHS will be in attendance to solicit additional information concerning the historic site. According to Historic Forestville site manager Charles Pautler, invitations have been sent out to area legislators, county commissioners, local politicians and community leaders, as well as Historic Forestville supporters. Persons interested in keeping Historic Forestville open are urged to attend.

"If we are able to somehow get through this and keep Historic Forestville open, I will be spending the next six months writing thank yous to all of the people who have been writing letters and making phone calls of support," Pautler said. "The support has been tremendous."

Colbenson added that the more people attending the May 15 meeting the better. "We want the folks from the MHS and our state legislators to know just how important Historic Forestville is to this area and to our children. A strong showing of support can only help our cause."

Proposed state funding cuts to close Historic Forestville

Informational meeting March 4 at state park

By Charlie Warner
Spring Valley Tribune

Much has been written and said about the massive budget shortfall the state of Minnesota is experiencing and the possible ways of remedying the problem. Several proposals have surfaced and been reviewed. The last one was issued by Gov. Tim Pawlenty last week.

City, county and state governmental agencies have been scrambling to prepare for the anticipated budget cuts. Many of our local community, school district and county programs will be affected.

The Minnesota Historical Society is also preparing for massive cuts in the funds it receives from the state and those preparations include the closing down of one of Fillmore County's treasures, Historic Forestville.

According to George Colbenson, who works as an interpreter at the historic village and is also a member of the Friends of Forestville organization, the state historical society is planning to close down eight historic sites as of July 1. The Historical Society's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30, so money to continue operating the various historic sites in the state will not run out until June 30.

"We will be opening for the season and will offer the school programs as we have in the past," Colbenson said. "But if the Governor's proposed budget becomes a reality, we won't be in operation come July 1."

Historic Forestville, which is adjacent to Forestville State Park, employs 14 interpreters, a site technician and a site manager. The village is made up of the Meighen Store, the Meighen home, several barns and other outbuildings that were all part of the community of Forestville.

Forestville was founded on

the South Branch of the Root River along the stagecoach line in the mid-1800s. It prospered for nearly three decades, but when the railroad route was established about five miles farther north, the community thrived up and died. The store, which was the hub of the community, was closed down by Thomas Meighen in 1910. When the door was locked, much of the merchandise was left on the shelves, and the store became a time capsule, as little changed or was disturbed during the next 50 years.

When the DNR purchased the land to create Forestville State Park in 1968, the store, house, barn and other outbuildings were included in the purchase. The DNR included the historic town site as part of the park and let those visiting the park tour the old store. In 1992, the Minnesota Historical Society took over the historic village and turned it into a living museum. Visitors could tour the store, house and other outbuildings, watch the various interpreters go about their work as it was in the 1890s and even sample baked goods produced in the wood cookstoves in the house and fruits and vegetables grown in the gardens.

According to Forestville site manager Charlie Paulter, 12,392 persons toured the historic village last fiscal year. The state's operating budget for 2002 was \$199,382. Additional income to help operate the facility came from donations and admissions.

To help garner public support for Historic Forestville and also to let the public know what the current plans are, a public meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, at 7 p.m. at the Forestville State Park pavilion.

"We need people who wish to see Historic Forestville

remain open to contact their legislators," Paulter said. "Right now, this is only a proposal. But we need to have as many people as we can get this message out to our legislators."

According to Minnesota Historical Society spokesperson Lory Sutton, the Governor's proposed budget would cut \$8.046 million from their budget. And that \$8 million cut is on top of a \$1 million cut the Historical Society experienced this past year.

"This has been a very painful process for us," Sutton said. "Every historic site in Minnesota is important to all of the residents of Minnesota, but we were forced to make cuts."

Sutton explained that the Historical Society established a formula for figuring out what sites would be closed and which would remain open. The formula included the number of visitors to each site annually, the cost to operate each site, recent investments and improvements done at the various sites and where each site is located in the state.

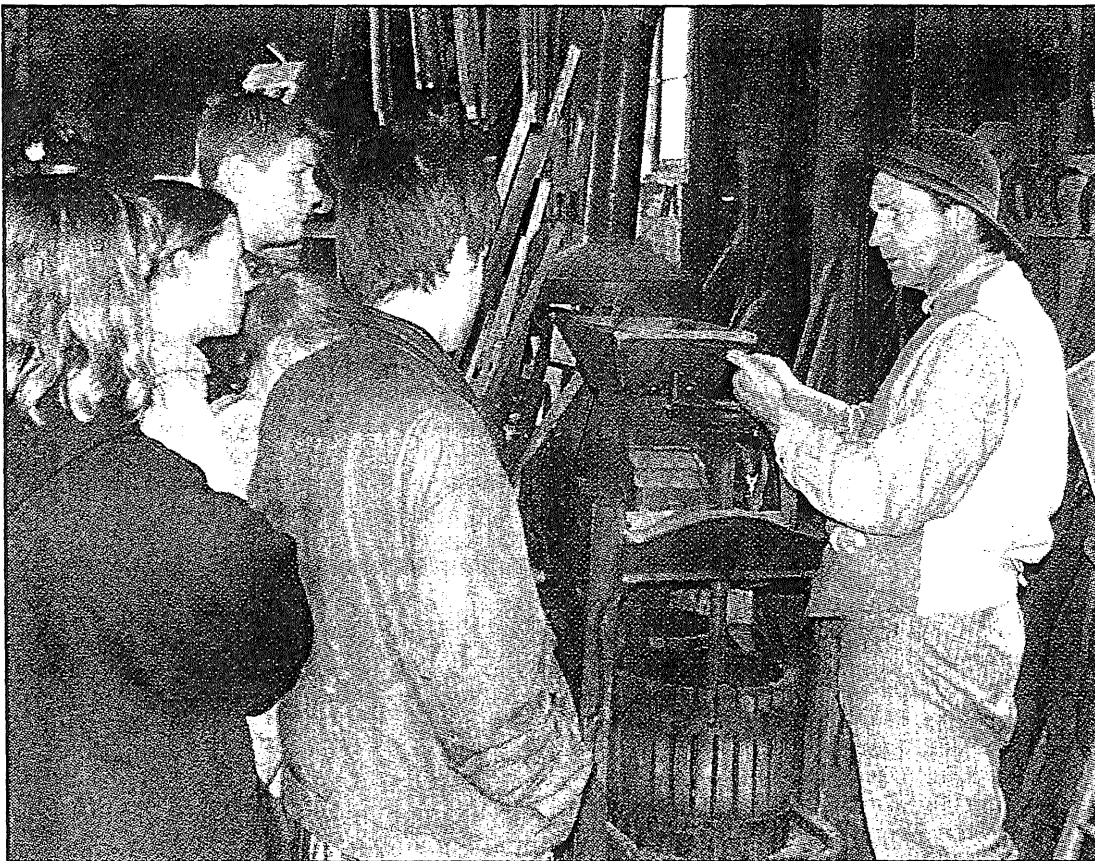
Because the Forestville site has low visitation numbers when compared to many of the other sites in the state and a high cost of operation due to the number of living interpreters, it was one of the sites that ended up in the "close" column when plugged into the formula.

"We hope to reopen the various sites that we are forced to close as soon as the state's economic picture gets better," Sutton said. "The state sets a two-year budget and our hope is that these sites can be reopened as soon as possible."

Anyone interested in Historic Forestville is urged to attend the meeting this coming Tuesday, March 4, at Forestville State Park.

Spring Valley Tribune Wed Feb 26 2003

A fieldtrip to Historic Forestville



Kingsland seventh graders received an excellent history lesson last Friday as they stepped back in time 100 years when they visited Historic Forestville. Living history actor John Grabco explains

some of the century-old tools that were used to make chores a little easier on the farm located in the historic village.

(Tribune photos by Charlie Warner)



Historic Forestville living history actor Lance Tlusty was enlisting the help of some of the KMS seventh graders to help him with his garden-planting chores.

Students helped with gardening chores and even sawed some wood for the cookstove.



Living history actress Shawn Goder, at right, welcomed the students into the kitchen of the Meighen home. She recruited several students to help her

bake cookies in the wood-fired cookstove. According to the students, the cookies turned out great.



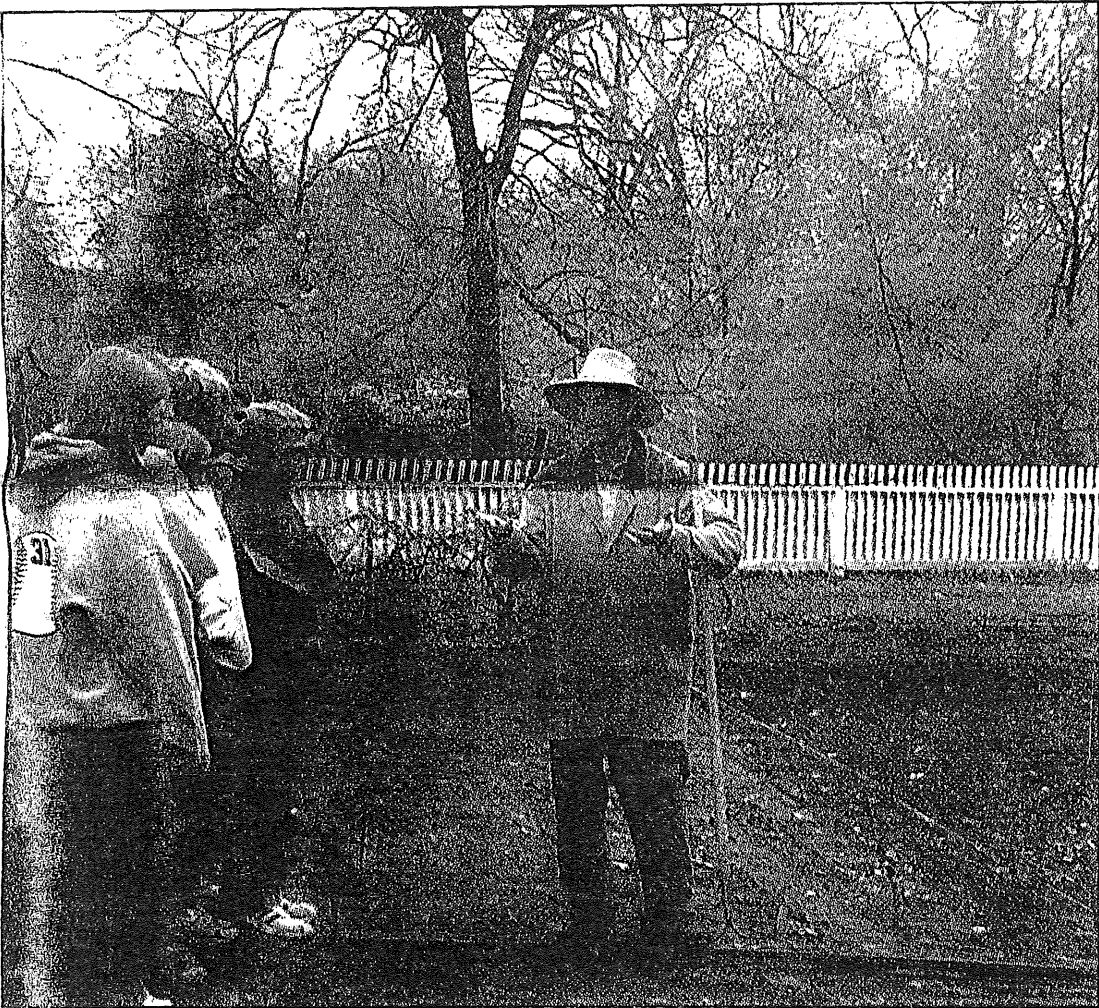
Historic Forestville living history actor Lance Tlusty was enlisting the help of some of the KMS seventh graders to help him with his garden-planting chores.

Students helped with gardening chores and even sawed some wood for the cookstove.

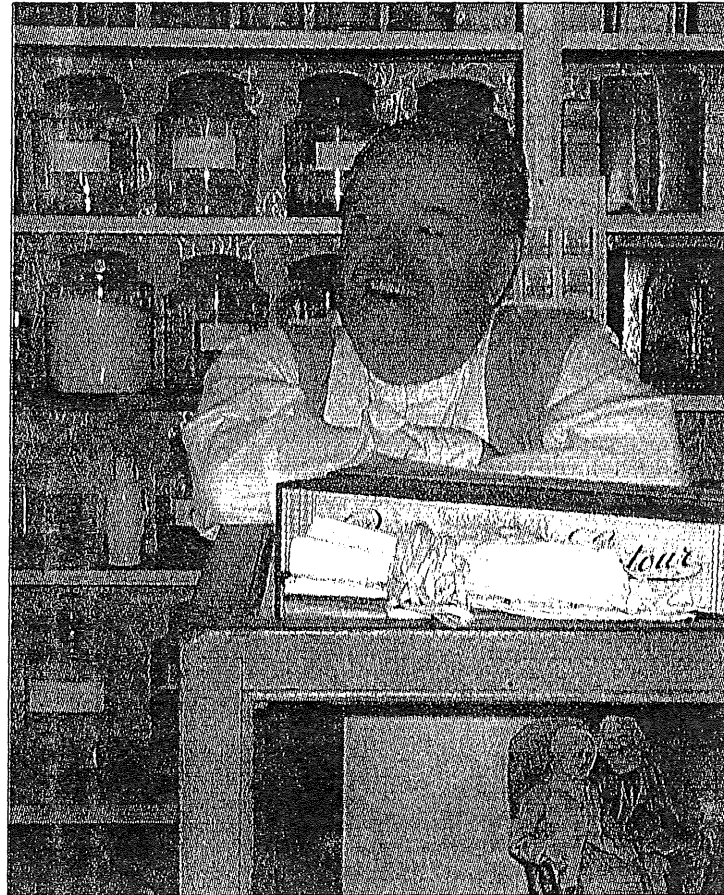


Living history actress Shawn Goder, at right, welcomed the students into the kitchen of the Meighen home. She recruited several students to help her

bake cookies in the wood-fired cookstove. According to the students, the cookies turned out great.



Historic Forestville gardner Lance Tlusty, at right, explained some of the garden- ing technics that were used 100 years ago to KMS students.



Summer season comes to a close

The living interpretive site known as Historic Forestville closed its doors for the summer season this week. Due to state budget cuts, the historic site will not be open to the general public until next spring, if additional private funds can be raised. The Minnesota Historical Society found additional funding to make it possible for the school tour program to continue this fall. At left, Fred Becker (Historic Forestville Site Manager Charlie Pautler) operates a piece of farm machinery. At right, John

Maloney (George Colbenson) keeps the Meighen Store's affairs in order. (Tribune photos by Gretchen Mensink Lovejoy)

Humorous speech contest held in Spring Valley Sept. 13

Spring Valley Tribune June 9, 2003

Don't let the ghosts come back to Historic Forestville

Forestville site will close without community action

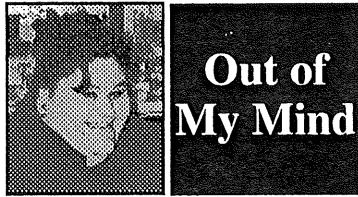
By now most of you have probably seen a lot of publicity about Historic Forestville and the fight to keep it open. Hopefully, by this time, you have decided to help the Friends of Forestville by contributing to the needed \$50,000 to keep the site open for the remainder of this summer.

We, at the newspaper, have had reporters attending the local meetings, have all written columns on the subject and have received a couple of letters from people who believe that the historic site has economical and educational value for this area.

Personally, Historic Forestville holds a lot of memories for me and my family. As a child I spent countless hours riding horse through the state park and each ride consisted of a stop at the historic site.

My brother, sister and I would hop down from our horses, tie them to the hitching post by the barn and run to the store where we would purchase an old-fashioned candy stick from long-time curator Luther Thompson.

In my child's mind, I thought Luther looked so at home there. Dressed in his old-fashioned clothes, it truly was like stepping back in time.



Out of My Mind

By Melissa Vander Plas

I attend enough city and school board meetings to know that budget constraints are difficult and that sacrifices have to be made to balance a budget. However, cutting out the entire programming at Forestville seems not only unreasonable, but unconscionable.

my biggest disappointment is that many families will miss out on the opportunity to create the memories and learn the lessons that I learned there as a child.

I especially dread the day, if the money is not raised, that I once again drive through the historic site and find that the ghosts have returned to claim the property.

So, if you haven't done so yet, I urge you to consider helping save this valuable asset in our greater community. We, at Phillips Publishing, are accepting donations on behalf of the Friends of Forestville and donations can be made at any of our offices, including Spring Valley Tribune, the Spring Grove Herald, Harmony's News-Record office, Mabel's News-Record office and the Republican-Leader office in Preston. One may also check out our website, www.hometown-pages.com, for timely updates on the donations. The treasurer for the Friends is employed by our company.

Donations can also be made directly to the Friends of Forestville, at Security State Bank, Box 126, _____, MN 55990.

A total of \$50,000 by June 23 or the Forestville Historical Site will close July 1! That was the message at the June 4 meeting in Preston City Hall between concerned parties and representatives from the State Historical Society. An additional \$30,000 will be needed before Oct. 15 to keep the site open for the first half of 2004. Grim numbers, but The Friends of Forestville are taking on the challenge, as we all should. Historic Forestville is important to the economic well-being of tourism in southeastern Minnesota, as well as to the education of our children.

Field trips to the historical site have become a staple in many school programs. Costumed guides bring to life the daily activities of a farm village in 1899, sparking thought and imagination in old and young. A refreshing change from video games and TV, these are real people, showing what life was like in the "olden times."

My interest in this site is fueled by childhood memories of the Streets of Old Milwaukee. The artifacts and scenes of that attraction inspired me to create count-

From our Readers

less stories and a love for history that is still with me today. I would fight hard to ensure that those exhibits remain to spark the imaginations of future generations as they did in me. Here, now, it is our turn to fight for the survival of Historic Forestville. We need to band together and save this site, for the good of our children, ourselves, and the economic health of this area.

Please contact George Colbenson, president of Friends of Forestville, at (507) 754-5873, 220 1st. Street SW, Grand Meadow, MN 55936 or Charlie Pautler, site manager of Forestville, (507) 765-2785 for information.

Let's make sure that the experiences available at Historical Forestville will be there for the future!

Make it a great day!
**Gail Lembke-Harrington
Chatfield**

Senators Vickerman, Frederickson, Murphy, Koering and Sams introduced--
S.F. No. 1761: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

1 A bill for an act
2 relating to agriculture; appropriating money for
3 sustainable agriculture grants.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
5 Section 1. [APPROPRIATION; SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
6 GRANTS.]
7 \$200,000 in fiscal year 2006 and \$200,000 in fiscal year
8 2007 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
9 of agriculture for grants to farmers for demonstration projects
10 involving sustainable agriculture as authorized in Minnesota
11 Statutes, section 17.116. Up to \$20,000 of the amount
12 appropriated in each year may be used for dissemination of
13 information about the demonstration projects.

Senator Vickerman and members of the Senate Environment, Agriculture, and Economic Development Budget Division

Dear Senator Vickerman and committee members

My name is Kevin Connolly and I am a farmer in Southern Minnesota and a past recipient of a Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture Sustainable Agriculture Grant .

I am writing to encourage you to support the proposal to restore the funding for the M.D.A. Sustainable Ag Demonstration Grant Program. I would request that you commit \$200,000 for 2006 and \$200,000 for 2007 as an addition to the current baseline.

As I have stated I completed a grant with MDA that dealt with tracking and comparing performance of a hoop type deep-bedded structure to a older confinement type hog finishing building.

I tracked records for 3 years and proved to myself that a hoop barn was a structure that would compete quite well with what I was doing. I shared this information with other producers through some presentations that I gave to other producers at meetings put on by the Alternative Swine Program and the University of Minnesota. The results of my project were also published in the Greenbook put out by the MDA Sustainable Ag Division.

I think that this grant was very helpful not only to me but to other producers who were thinking of using hoopbarns .

Many times research is being done that does not represent what many of us are working with on the farm and that is where I think the MDA Sustainable Ag Grant Program has great value for farmers. In my case all the comparisons that I had seen done of hoop barns to confinement barns only compared new facilities to hoop barns and not to older facilities that many of us were using.

I also want to say that I think that the Greenbook, published by MDA is a very good publication . I have heard many comments from people that upon seeing it for the first time are very impressed with the projects that are detailed in it.

I once again urge you all to support this proposal and this program because I think it is something that can help many Minnesota farmers.

Thank You

Kevin Connolly
33221 245th Ave
LeCenter, Minnesota
56057

Commercial Wineries and Vineyards in Minnesota

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Alexis Bailly Vineyard

18200 Kirby Avenue, Hastings, MN 55033
Phone 651-437-1413
www.abvwines.com

2. Cannon River Winery

421 Mill Street, Cannon Falls, MN 55009
Phone 507-263-0944
e-mail: reenmaloney@msn.com
Opening Fall 2004

3. Carlos Creek Winery

6693 Cty. Rd. 34 NW, Alexandria, MN 56308
Phone 320-846-5443, Fax 320-763-9290
www.carloscreekwinery.com

4. Falconer Vineyards Winery

3572 Old Tyler Road, Red Wing, MN 55066
Phone 651-388-8849
www.FalconerVineyards.com

5. Fieldstone Vineyards

38577 State Hwy.68, Morgan, MN 56266
Phone 507-249-WINE
www.fieldstonevineyards.com

6. Luedke's Winery

16234 40th Street, Princeton, MN 55371
Phone 763-662-2389
e-mail: mlberry@luedkeswinery.com

7. Morgan Creek Vineyards

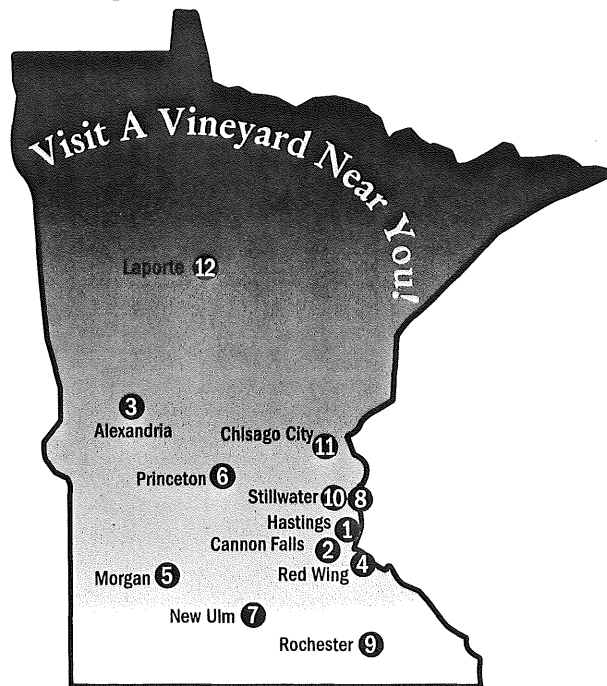
23707 - 478th Avenue, New Ulm, MN 56073
Phone 507-947-3547
www.morgancreekvineyards.com

8. Northern Vineyards

223 North Main Street, Stillwater, MN 55082
Phone 651-430-1032
www.northernvineyards.com

9. Post Town Vineyard & Winery

2534 Salem Road SW, Rochester, MN 55902
Phone 507-261-5273
www.posttownwinery.com
Opening Spring 2005



10. Saint Croix Vineyards

PO Box 705, Stillwater, MN 55082
Phone 651-430-3310
www.scvwines.com

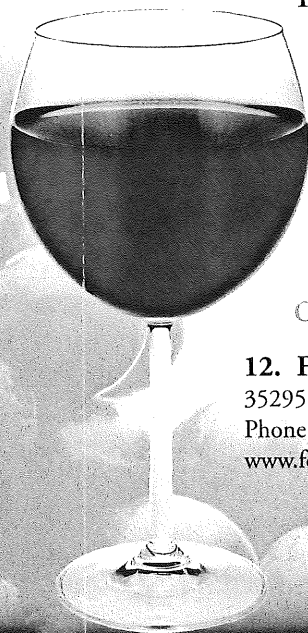
11. WineHaven Winery & Vineyard

9757 292nd St., Chisago City, MN 55013
Phone/Fax 651-257-1017
www.winehaven.com

Other Fruit Wineries

12. Forestedge Winery

35295 State 64, Laporte, MN 56461
Phone 218-224-3535
www.forestedgewinery.com



Q: I didn't know grapes were grown in Minnesota.

A: Grapes have been grown in the state since pioneer times. The Lake Minnetonka area, for example, produced many tons of table grapes for local sale before 1900. It has been only since the late 1970s that any number of wine grapes have been grown in the state.

Q: How many wineries are there in Minnesota?

A: At the present time there are 11 wineries producing grape wines in the state with several additional wineries specializing in fruit and honey wines. The first wines were produced in the current era in 1978 but planning for additional wineries is ongoing and planting of vineyards continues at a rapid pace.

Q: Are Minnesota wines like California's wines?

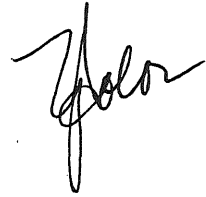
A: No. We grow different varieties and types of grapes here than in California or France or elsewhere. Nevertheless, Minnesota wines have won awards in national competitions for many years and Minnesota winemakers are proud of the quality of their distinctive and unique wines.

Q: What is a good wine?

A: Any wine that you enjoy. If you like the wine, chances are others will enjoy it as well. Try some Minnesota wines and see!

Sen.Yvonne Prettner_Solon - Fwd: Hearing on Trade Zone bill

From: Matthew Wohlman
To: Sen. Prettner Solon
Date: 4/4/2005 5:13:10 PM
Subject: Fwd: Hearing on Trade Zone bill



John,

Enclosed is a list of some of the users of the FTZ in the last two years:

Norwood Promotional - Red Wing
Fastenal Co. - Winona
Benchmark Electronics - Winona
Smead Mfg. - Hastings
Bharat Patel Motel - Rochester
Midwest Importers - Cannon Falls
Here Inc. - Red Wing
Department 56 - Eden Prairie
Ergodyne - St. Paul
Rosemount, Inc. - Eden Prairie
Hypro Corp. - New Brighton
Thermo King - Bloomington
Wirsbo Co. - Apple Valley
Mape, Inc. - Minneapolis
Polaris - Medina
3M - St. Paul
Carl Zeiss IMT Corp - Brooklyn Park
Medtronic, Inc. - Fridley
Midwest Automation - Minneapolis
Northern Cap Mfg. - Minneapolis
Rollerblade, Inc. - Eden Prairie
Wagner Spray Tech - Plymouth
Tetra Rex Packaging - Minneapolis
Timesavers, Inc. - Crystal
Telex Communications - Bloomington
Old Peoria Company - Bloomington
Seagate Technology - Bloomington
Tescom Corp. - Elk River
Nash Finch Co. - Edina

This represents about half of the users in the last 2 years. Others were individuals, from another state or not well known.

Steve



The Honorable Yvonne Pretner-Solon
303 State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Solon,

I regret that I will be unable to attend the hearing on the Foreign Trade Zone funding on April 5, 2005. I would, however, like to submit this letter of support for the legislation.

The Port of Duluth is the home of FTZ#51 and has operated continuously since being authorized. The primary use of the zone is by importers bringing in loads of steel products for regional and Canadian distribution. By utilizing the zone, those products being re-exported are not dutiable and the importer/exporter saves time and money, making the Port of Duluth more attractive as a distribution center. This benefits the regional and state economy.

FTZ#51 operates as a benefit to commerce and attempts to charge only enough to break even. As a result, there are no funds generated for promotion.

The legislation under consideration would provide the necessary funding to promote Minnesota Foreign Trade Zones.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ray Skelton
Foreign Trade Zone Manager
Duluth Seaway Port Authority

1 A bill for an act
2 relating to natural resources; modifying the State
3 Timber Act; modifying timber sale requirements on
4 tax-forfeited land; clarifying state forest road
5 designation; modifying standard measurements for wood;
6 amending Minnesota Statutes 2004, sections 89.71,
7 subdivision 1; 90.01, by adding subdivisions; 90.041,
8 subdivision 5; 90.042; 90.101, subdivision 2; 90.121;
9 90.172; 90.173; 90.195; 90.211; 90.301, subdivision 4;
10 239.33; 282.04, subdivision 1; repealing Minnesota
11 Statutes 2004, sections 90.01, subdivision 9; 90.041,
12 subdivisions 3, 4.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

14 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 89.71,
15 subdivision 1, is amended to read:

16 Subdivision 1. [DESIGNATION, INVENTORY, RECORDING.] Forest
17 ~~roads, bridges, and other improvements administered under~~
18 ~~section 89.002, subdivision 3, are designated as state forest~~
19 ~~roads to the width of the actual use including ditches,~~
20 ~~backslopes, fills, and maintained right-of-way, unless otherwise~~
21 ~~specified in a prior easement of record.~~ The commissioner
22 may shall designate forest roads by written order published in
23 the State Register. Designated forest roads, bridges, and other
24 improvements administered under section 89.002, subdivision 3,
25 are designated to the width of the actual use including ditches,
26 backslopes, fills, and maintained right-of-way, unless otherwise
27 specified in a prior easement of record. The commissioner may
28 undesignate, by written order published in the State Register,
29 all or part of a state forest road that is not needed to carry

1 out forest resource management policy. Designations and
2 undesignations are not subject to the rulemaking provisions of
3 chapter 14 and section 14.386 does not apply. The commissioner
4 shall maintain and keep current an inventory listing and
5 describing roads in which the state claims a right or property
6 interest for state forest road purposes. The commissioner may
7 file for record with a county recorder or registrar of titles
8 appropriate documents setting forth the state's interest in all
9 or part of any state forest road.

10 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.01, is amended
11 by adding a subdivision to read:

12 Subd. 11. [EFFECTIVE PERMIT.] "Effective permit" means a
13 permit for which the commissioner has on file full or partial
14 surety as required by section 90.161, 90.162, 90.163, or 90.173
15 or, in the case of permits issued according to section 90.191 or
16 90.195, the commissioner has received a down payment equal to
17 the full appraised value.

18 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.01, is amended
19 by adding a subdivision to read:

20 Subd. 12. [RESPONSIBLE BIDDER.] "Responsible bidder" means
21 a person who is financially responsible; demonstrates the
22 judgment, skill, ability, capacity, and integrity requisite and
23 necessary to perform according to the terms of a permit issued
24 under this chapter; and is not currently debarred by another
25 government entity for any cause.

26 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.041,
27 subdivision 5, is amended to read:

28 Subd. 5. [FOREST IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS.] The commissioner
29 may contract as part of the timber sale with the purchaser of
30 state timber at either informal or auction sale for the
31 following forest improvement work to be done on the land
32 included within the sale area: preparation of the site for
33 seeding or planting of seedlings or trees, seeding or planting
34 of seedlings or trees, and other activities relating to forest
35 regeneration. A contract issued under this subdivision is not
36 subject to the competitive bidding provisions of chapter 16C and

1 is exempt from the contract approval provisions of section
2 16C.05, subdivision 2.

3 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.042, is
4 amended to read:

5 90.042 [PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS.]

6 Subdivision 1. [REPORT TO LEGISLATURE.] By July 1 each
7 year, the commissioner must provide a complete description of
8 the public involvement process for timber harvest plans to the
9 chairs of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over
10 natural resources policy and finance. The process must provide
11 public notice and public input in affected areas of proposed
12 annual harvest plans.

13 Subd. 2. [PUBLIC MEETINGS.] By May 1 each year, the
14 commissioner shall hold one or more public meetings in the
15 forested area of the state to inform the public of the manner in
16 which the proposed annual harvest plan for the next fiscal year
17 is proposed to be allocated between informal, intermediate, and
18 regular auction sales. The public shall be afforded an
19 opportunity to provide written and oral comments concerning the
20 proposed allocation.

21 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.101,
22 subdivision 2, is amended to read:

23 Subd. 2. [SALE LIST AND NOTICE.] At least 30 days before
24 the date of sale, the commissioner shall compile a list
25 containing a description of each tract of land upon which any
26 timber to be offered is situated and a statement of the
27 estimated quantity of timber and of the appraised price of each
28 kind of timber thereon as shown by the report of the state
29 appraiser. ~~The commissioner may also list the estimated~~
30 ~~quantity of timber of doubtful market value and the appraised~~
31 ~~price of each kind of such timber within the permit area that~~
32 ~~may be cut at the discretion of the purchaser. ---Optional timber~~
33 ~~will not be considered a part of the sale contract until the~~
34 ~~permit holder has advised the commissioner in writing of an~~
35 ~~intent to cut such timber.~~ No description shall be added after
36 the list is posted and no timber shall be sold from land not

1 described in the list. Copies of the list shall be furnished to
2 all interested applicants. A copy of the list shall be
3 conspicuously posted in the forest office or other public
4 facility most accessible to potential bidders at least 30 days
5 prior to the date of sale. The commissioner shall cause a
6 notice to be published once not less than one week before the
7 date of sale in a legal newspaper in the county or counties
8 where the land is situated. The notice shall state the time and
9 place of the sale and the location at which further information
10 regarding the sale may be obtained. The commissioner may give
11 other published or posted notice as the commissioner deems
12 proper to reach prospective bidders.

13 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.121, is
14 amended to read:

15 90.121 [INTERMEDIATE AUCTION SALES; MAXIMUM LOTS OF 3,000
16 CORDS.]

17 (a) The commissioner may sell the timber on any tract of
18 state land in lots not exceeding 3,000 cords in volume, in the
19 same manner as timber sold at public auction under section
20 90.101, and related laws, subject to the following special
21 exceptions and limitations:

22 (1) the commissioner shall offer all tracts authorized for
23 sale by this section separately from the sale of tracts of state
24 timber made pursuant to section 90.101;

25 (2) no bidder may be awarded more than 25 percent of the
26 total tracts offered at the first round of bidding unless fewer
27 than four tracts are offered, in which case not more than one
28 tract shall be awarded to one bidder. Any tract not sold at
29 public auction may be offered for private sale as authorized by
30 section 90.101, subdivision 1, to persons eligible under this
31 section at the appraised value; and

32 (3) no sale may be made to a person having more than 20
33 employees. For the purposes of this subdivision, "employee"
34 means a natural person working for salary or wages on a
35 full-time or part-time basis.

36 (b) The auction sale procedure set forth in this section

1 constitutes an additional alternative timber sale procedure
2 available to the commissioner and is not intended to replace
3 other authority possessed by the commissioner to sell timber in
4 lots of 3,000 cords or less.

5 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.172, is
6 amended to read:

7 90.172 [ANNUAL REPORT REPORTS.]

8 Subdivision 1. [REPORT TO LEGISLATURE.] The commissioner
9 shall file an annual report on or before September 30 of each
10 year with the Legislative Reference Library providing detailed
11 information on all auctions and informal sales made in the
12 previous fiscal year. The report shall include but not be
13 limited to the names and addresses of all purchasers, volumes of
14 timber purchased, species, appraised value and sale price. The
15 commissioner shall make copies of the report available to the
16 public upon request.

17 Subd. 2. [REPORT TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.] The commissioner
18 shall report on or before September 30 of each year or more
19 frequently, as required, to the state Executive Council
20 concerning the status of the state timber sales and timber
21 management program, including any special problems or changes
22 occurring since the previous report.

23 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.173, is
24 amended to read:

25 90.173 [PURCHASER'S OR ASSIGNEE'S CASH DEPOSIT IN LIEU OF
26 BOND.]

27 (a) In lieu of filing the bond required by section 90.161
28 or 90.171, as security for the issuance or assignment of a
29 timber permit, the person required to file the bond may deposit
30 with the commissioner ~~of finance cash~~a certified check; a
31 cashier's check~~;~~; a personal check~~;~~; a postal, bank, or express
32 money order~~;~~; ~~assignable bonds or notes of the United States~~; ~~or~~
33 ~~an assignment of a bank savings account or investment~~
34 ~~certificate~~; or an irrevocable bank letter of credit~~;~~; in the
35 same amount as would be required for a bond. ~~If securities~~
36 ~~listed in this section are deposited, the par value of the~~

~~1 securities shall be not less than the amount required for the~~
~~2 timber sale bond, and the person required to file the timber~~
~~3 sale bond shall submit an agreement authorizing the commissioner~~
~~4 to sell or otherwise take possession of the security in the~~
5 event of default under the timber sale. All of the conditions
6 of the timber sale bond shall equally apply to ~~the deposit with~~
7 ~~the commissioner of finance~~ the alternatives in lieu of bond.
8 In the event of a default the state may take from the deposit
9 the sum of money to which it is entitled; the remainder, if any,
10 shall be returned to the person making the deposit. When cash
11 is deposited for a bond, it shall be applied to the amount due
12 when a statement is prepared and transmitted to the permit
13 holder pursuant to section 90.181. Any balance due to the state
14 shall be shown on the statement and shall be paid as provided in
15 section 90.181. Any amount of the deposit in excess of the
16 amount determined to be due pursuant to section 90.181 shall be
17 returned to the permit holder when a final statement is
18 transmitted pursuant to that section. All or part of a cash
19 bond may be withheld from application to an amount due on a
20 nonfinal statement if it appears that the total amount due on
21 the permit will exceed the bid price.

22 (b) If an irrevocable bank letter of credit is provided as
23 security under paragraph (a), at the written request of the
24 permittee the state shall annually allow the amount of the bank
25 letter of credit to be reduced by an amount proportionate to the
26 value of timber that has been harvested and for which the state
27 has received payment under the timber permit. The remaining
28 amount of the bank letter of credit after a reduction under this
29 paragraph must not be less than the value of the timber
30 remaining to be harvested under the timber permit.

31 (c) If cash; a certified check; a cashier's check; a
32 personal check; or a postal, bank, or express money order is
33 provided as security under paragraph (a) and no cutting of state
34 timber has taken place on the permit, the commissioner may
35 credit the security provided, less any deposit required by
36 sections 90.14 and 90.163, to any other permit to which the

1 permit holder requests in writing that it be credited.

2 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.195, is
3 amended to read:

4 90.195 [SPECIAL USE PERMIT.]

5 The commissioner may issue a permit to salvage or cut not
6 to exceed 12 cords of fuelwood per year for personal use from
7 either or both of the following sources: (1) dead, down, and
8 diseased trees; (2) other trees that are of negative value under
9 good forest management practices. The permits may be issued for
10 a period not to exceed one year. The commissioner shall charge
11 a fee, not less than \$5 \$25, in an amount up to the stumpage
12 current market value of fuelwood of similar species, grade, and
13 volume that is being sold in the area where the salvage or
14 cutting is authorized under the permit.

15 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.211, is
16 amended to read:

17 90.211 [PURCHASE MONEY, WHEN FORFEITED.]

18 If the ~~purchaser-of-any-timber-or-the-purchaser's~~
19 assignee holder of an effective permit fails to cut any part
20 thereof before the expiration of the permit, the ~~purchaser-or~~
21 assignee permit holder shall nevertheless pay the price
22 therefor; but under no circumstances shall timber be cut after
23 the expiration of the permit or extension thereof.

24 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 90.301,
25 subdivision 4, is amended to read:

26 Subd. 4. [APPREHENSION OF TRESPASSERS; REWARD.] The
27 ~~following-rewards-shall~~ commissioner may offer a reward to be
28 paid to any a person giving to the proper authorities any
29 information which-shall-lead that leads to the detection-and
30 conviction of any-persons a person violating any-of-the
31 provisions-of this chapter;--\$25-reward, if the value of the
32 timber-so-unlawfully-cut-or-removed-shall-not-exceed-the-sum-of
33 \$25;--\$50-reward, if the value of the timber shall not exceed
34 \$50;--and-\$100-reward, if the value of the timber shall exceed
35 the-sum-of-\$100;--and-the-court-before-whom-the-person-so
36 violating-the-provisions-of-this-chapter-shall-have-been-tried,

1 shall, upon application of any person claiming to be entitled to
2 such reward, examine the claim in a summary manner and determine
3 whether or not the person claiming the reward is entitled to the
4 same and, if it should appear to the satisfaction of the court
5 that the person claiming the reward is entitled to the same, a
6 certificate of such facts shall be made by the court and
7 delivered to the person, which shall be deemed evidence of a
8 right to the reward. The reward is limited to the greater of
9 \$100 or ten percent of the single stumpage value of any timber
10 unlawfully cut or removed. The Executive Council ~~and~~ commissioner
11 shall pay the same from any funds appropriated for its expenses
12 such purposes or from receipts from the sale of state timber. A
13 reward shall not be paid to salaried forest officers,
14 conservation officers, or licensed peace officers.

15 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 239.33, is
16 amended to read:

17 239.33 [STANDARD MEASUREMENTS OF WOOD.]

18 In all contracts for sale of wood the term "cord" shall
19 mean 128 cubic feet of wood, bark, and air, if cut in four-foot
20 lengths; and if the sale is of "sawed wood," a cord shall mean
21 110 cubic feet when ranked, or 160 cubic feet when thrown
22 irregularly or loosely into a conveyance for delivery to the
23 purchaser; and if the sale is of "sawed and split wood," a cord
24 shall mean 120 cubic feet, when ranked, and 175 cubic feet when
25 thrown irregularly and loosely into a conveyance for delivery.
26 If a measurement is made by weight, the term "cord" or any other
27 term used to describe freshly cut ~~green aspen in 100-inch or~~
28 ~~pole lengths containing 133 1/3 cubic feet of loosely or~~
29 ~~irregularly piled wood for transportation constitutes 4,300~~
30 ~~pounds during the period of May 1 through October 31 and 4,500~~
31 ~~pounds during the period of November 1 through April 30.~~
32 Specified weights are wood shall be based on 74 79 cubic feet of
33 solid wood content per cord. The weight per cord may vary by
34 species or species group. In case of any dispute when the
35 parties have not otherwise agreed in writing to the weight per
36 cord by species or species group, the weight most recently

1 established by the commissioner of natural resources prevails.

2 In all contracts for sale of wood, the term "board foot"
3 means 144 cubic inches of wood measured in any combination of
4 length, thickness, and width. If a measurement or scale is made
5 of logs, Scribner's decimal C rule is the standard rule for
6 determining board feet log scale. When measuring or scaling
7 logs, each log must be scaled individually by the largest number
8 of even feet in its length above eight and under 24 feet. All
9 logs of 24 feet or more in length must be scaled as two or more
10 logs. This section does not apply to finished lumber measured
11 in nominal dimensions.

12 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 282.04,
13 subdivision 1, is amended to read:

14 Subdivision 1. [TIMBER SALES; LAND LEASES AND USES.] (a)
15 The county auditor may sell timber upon any tract that may be
16 approved by the natural resources commissioner. The sale of
17 timber shall be made for cash at not less than the appraised
18 value determined by the county board to the highest bidder after
19 not less than one week's published notice in an official paper
20 within the county. Any timber offered at the public sale and
21 not sold may thereafter be sold at private sale by the county
22 auditor at not less than the appraised value thereof, until the
23 time as the county board may withdraw the timber from sale. The
24 appraised value of the timber and the forestry practices to be
25 followed in the cutting of said timber shall be approved by the
26 commissioner of natural resources.

27 (b) Payment of the full sale price of all timber sold on
28 tax-forfeited lands shall be made in cash at the time of the
29 timber sale, except in the case of oral or sealed bid auction
30 sales, the down payment shall be no less than 15 percent of the
31 appraised value, and the balance shall be paid prior to entry.
32 In the case of auction sales that are partitioned and sold as a
33 single sale with predetermined cutting blocks, the down payment
34 shall be no less than 15 percent of the appraised price of the
35 entire timber sale which may be held until the satisfactory
36 completion of the sale or applied in whole or in part to the

1 final cutting block. The value of each separate block must be
2 paid in full before any cutting may begin in that block. With
3 the permission of the county contract administrator the
4 purchaser may enter unpaid blocks and cut necessary timber
5 incidental to developing logging roads as may be needed to log
6 other blocks provided that no timber may be removed from an
7 unpaid block until separately scaled and paid for. If payment
8 is provided as specified in this paragraph as security under
9 paragraph (a) and no cutting has taken place on the contract,
10 the county auditor may credit the security provided, less any
11 down payment required for an auction sale under this paragraph,
12 to any other contract issued to the contract holder by the
13 county under this chapter to which the contract holder requests
14 in writing that it be credited, provided the request and
15 transfer is made within the same calendar year as the security
16 was received.

17 (c) The county board may require final settlement on the
18 basis of a scale of cut products. Any parcels of land from
19 which timber is to be sold by scale of cut products shall be so
20 designated in the published notice of sale under paragraph (a),
21 in which case the notice shall contain a description of the
22 parcels, a statement of the estimated quantity of each species
23 of timber, and the appraised price of each species of timber for
24 1,000 feet, per cord or per piece, as the case may be. In those
25 cases any bids offered over and above the appraised prices shall
26 be by percentage, the percent bid to be added to the appraised
27 price of each of the different species of timber advertised on
28 the land. The purchaser of timber from the parcels shall pay in
29 cash at the time of sale at the rate bid for all of the timber
30 shown in the notice of sale as estimated to be standing on the
31 land, and in addition shall pay at the same rate for any
32 additional amounts which the final scale shows to have been cut
33 or was available for cutting on the land at the time of sale
34 under the terms of the sale. Where the final scale of cut
35 products shows that less timber was cut or was available for
36 cutting under terms of the sale than was originally paid for,

1 the excess payment shall be refunded from the forfeited tax sale
2 fund upon the claim of the purchaser, to be audited and allowed
3 by the county board as in case of other claims against the
4 county. No timber, except hardwood pulpwood, may be removed
5 from the parcels of land or other designated landings until
6 scaled by a person or persons designated by the county board and
7 approved by the commissioner of natural resources. Landings
8 other than the parcel of land from which timber is cut may be
9 designated for scaling by the county board by written agreement
10 with the purchaser of the timber. The county board may, by
11 written agreement with the purchaser and with a consumer
12 designated by the purchaser when the timber is sold by the
13 county auditor, and with the approval of the commissioner of
14 natural resources, accept the consumer's scale of cut products
15 delivered at the consumer's landing. No timber shall be removed
16 until fully paid for in cash. Small amounts of timber not
17 exceeding \$3,000 in appraised valuation may be sold for not less
18 than the full appraised value at private sale to individual
19 persons without first publishing notice of sale or calling for
20 bids, provided that in case of a sale involving a total
21 appraised value of more than \$200 the sale shall be made subject
22 to final settlement on the basis of a scale of cut products in
23 the manner above provided and not more than two of the sales,
24 directly or indirectly to any individual shall be in effect at
25 one time.

26 (d) As directed by the county board, the county auditor may
27 lease tax-forfeited land to individuals, corporations or
28 organized subdivisions of the state at public or private sale,
29 and at the prices and under the terms as the county board may
30 prescribe, for use as cottage and camp sites and for
31 agricultural purposes and for the purpose of taking and removing
32 of hay, stumpage, sand, gravel, clay, rock, marl, and black dirt
33 from the land, and for garden sites and other temporary uses
34 provided that no leases shall be for a period to exceed ten
35 years; provided, further that any leases involving a
36 consideration of more than \$12,000 per year, except to an

1 organized subdivision of the state shall first be offered at
2 public sale in the manner provided herein for sale of timber.
3 Upon the sale of any leased land, it shall remain subject to the
4 lease for not to exceed one year from the beginning of the term
5 of the lease. Any rent paid by the lessee for the portion of
6 the term cut off by the cancellation shall be refunded from the
7 forfeited tax sale fund upon the claim of the lessee, to be
8 audited and allowed by the county board as in case of other
9 claims against the county.

10 (e) As directed by the county board, the county auditor may
11 lease tax-forfeited land to individuals, corporations, or
12 organized subdivisions of the state at public or private sale,
13 at the prices and under the terms as the county board may
14 prescribe, for the purpose of taking and removing for use for
15 road construction and other purposes tax-forfeited stockpiled
16 iron-bearing material. The county auditor must determine that
17 the material is needed and suitable for use in the construction
18 or maintenance of a road, tailings basin, settling basin, dike,
19 dam, bank fill, or other works on public or private property,
20 and that the use would be in the best interests of the public.
21 No lease shall exceed ten years. The use of a stockpile for
22 these purposes must first be approved by the commissioner of
23 natural resources. The request shall be deemed approved unless
24 the requesting county is notified to the contrary by the
25 commissioner of natural resources within six months after
26 receipt of a request for approval for use of a stockpile. Once
27 use of a stockpile has been approved, the county may continue to
28 lease it for these purposes until approval is withdrawn by the
29 commissioner of natural resources.

30 (f) The county auditor, with the approval of the county
31 board is authorized to grant permits, licenses, and leases to
32 tax-forfeited lands for the depositing of stripping, lean ores,
33 tailings, or waste products from mines or ore milling plants,
34 upon the conditions and for the consideration and for the period
35 of time, not exceeding 15 years, as the county board may
36 determine. The permits, licenses, or leases are subject to

1 approval by the commissioner of natural resources.

2 (g) Any person who removes any timber from tax-forfeited
3 land before said timber has been scaled and fully paid for as
4 provided in this subdivision is guilty of a misdemeanor.

5 (h) The county auditor may, with the approval of the county
6 board, and without first offering at public sale, grant leases,
7 for a term not exceeding 25 years, for the removal of peat from
8 tax-forfeited lands upon the terms and conditions as the county
9 board may prescribe. Any lease for the removal of peat from
10 tax-forfeited lands must first be reviewed and approved by the
11 commissioner of natural resources if the lease covers 320 or
12 more acres. No lease for the removal of peat shall be made by
13 the county auditor pursuant to this section without first
14 holding a public hearing on the auditor's intention to lease.
15 One printed notice in a legal newspaper in the county at least
16 ten days before the hearing, and posted notice in the courthouse
17 at least 20 days before the hearing shall be given of the
18 hearing.

19 (i) Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (c) to the
20 contrary, the St. Louis County auditor may, at the discretion of
21 the county board, sell timber to the party who bids the highest
22 price for all the several kinds of timber, as provided for sales
23 by the commissioner of natural resources under section 90.14.
24 Bids offered over and above the appraised price need not be
25 applied proportionately to the appraised price of each of the
26 different species of timber.

27 (j) In lieu of any payment or deposit required in paragraph
28 (b), as directed by the county board and under terms set by the
29 county board, the county auditor may accept an irrevocable bank
30 letter of credit in the amount equal to the amount otherwise
31 determined in paragraph (b) ~~7-exclusive-of-the-down-payment~~
32 ~~required-for-an-auction-sale-in-paragraph-(b)~~. If an
33 irrevocable bank letter of credit is provided under this
34 paragraph, at the written request of the purchaser, the county
35 may periodically allow the bank letter of credit to be reduced
36 by an amount proportionate to the value of timber that has been

1 harvested and for which the county has received payment. The
2 remaining amount of the bank letter of credit after a reduction
3 under this paragraph must not be less than 20 percent of the
4 value of the timber purchased. If an irrevocable bank letter of
5 credit or cash deposit is provided for the down payment required
6 in paragraph (b), and no cutting of timber has taken place on
7 the contract for which a letter of credit has been provided, the
8 county may allow the transfer of the letter of credit to any
9 other contract issued to the contract holder by the county under
10 this chapter to which the contract holder requests in writing
11 that it be credited.

12 Sec. 15. [REPEALER.]

13 Minnesota Statutes 2004, sections 90.01, subdivision 9; and
14 90.041, subdivisions 3 and 4, are repealed.

15 Sec. 16. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

16 This act is effective the day following final enactment.

APPENDIX
Repealed Minnesota Statutes for S0802-1

90.01 DEFINITIONS.

Subd. 9. **Person.** "Person" means any natural person acting personally, or in any representative capacity, and any corporation, firm, or association of whatever nature or kind.

90.041 COMMISSIONER POWERS AND DUTIES.

Subd. 3. **Annual reports.** The commissioner shall report annually or more frequently, as required, to the state Executive Council concerning the status of the state timber sales and timber management program, including any special problems or changes occurring since the previous report.

Subd. 4. **Public meetings.** Each year, the commissioner shall hold a public meeting in each forest area to inform the public of the manner in which the cutting list for that area for the next fiscal year is proposed to be allocated between informal, intermediate and regular auction sales. The public shall be afforded an opportunity to provide written and oral comments concerning the proposed allocation.

1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 802 as follows:

2 Page 7, line 11, strike ", not less than" and delete the
3 new language and strike ", in an amount up to the stumpage" and
4 insert "for the permit that shall cover the commissioner's cost
5 of issuing the permit and shall not exceed the"

6 Page 14, line 16, delete everything after "effective" and
7 insert "July 1, 2005."

1 To: Senator Cohen, Chair
2 Committee on Finance
3 Senator Sams,

4 Chair of the Environment, Agriculture and Economic
5 Development Budget Division, to which was referred

6 S.F. No. 802: A bill for an act relating to natural
7 resources; modifying the State Timber Act; modifying timber sale
8 requirements on tax-forfeited land; clarifying state forest road
9 designation; modifying standard measurements for wood; amending
10 Minnesota Statutes 2004, sections 89.71, subdivision 1; 90.01,
11 by adding subdivisions; 90.041, subdivision 5; 90.042; 90.101,
12 subdivision 2; 90.121; 90.172; 90.173; 90.195; 90.211; 90.301,
13 subdivision 4; 239.33; 282.04, subdivision 1; repealing
14 Minnesota Statutes 2004, sections 90.01, subdivision 9; 90.041,
15 subdivisions 3, 4.

16 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill
17 be amended as follows:

18 Page 7, delete section 10

19 Page 8, line 11, strike "same" and insert "reward" and
20 strike "any"

21 Page 8, line 12, delete "such purposes" and insert "that
22 purpose"

23 Page 14, line 16, delete everything after "effective" and
24 insert "July 1, 2005."

25 Renumber the sections in sequence

26 Amend the title as follows:

27 Page 1, line 9, delete "90.195;"

28 And when so amended that the bill be recommended to pass
29 and be referred to the full committee.

30 *David Sams*
31 (Division Chair)

32 April 5, 2005.....
33 (Date of Division action)
34

Consolidated Fiscal Note – 2005-06 Session

Bill #: S0802-1E **Complete Date:** 04/05/05

Chief Author: BAKK, THOMAS

Title: MODIFY FOREST PROVISIONS

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State	X	
Local	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings	X	
Tax Revenue		X

Agencies: Natural Resources Dept (04/05/05)

Administration Dept (04/01/05)

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Net Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Revenues					
Forest Management Investment Fund		2	2	2	2
Natural Resources Dept		2	2	2	2
Misc Special Revenue Fund		1	1	1	1
Natural Resources Dept		1	1	1	1
Permanent School Fund		3	3	3	3
Natural Resources Dept		3	3	3	3
Net Cost <Savings>					
Forest Management Investment Fund		(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Natural Resources Dept		(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Misc Special Revenue Fund		(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Natural Resources Dept		(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Permanent School Fund		(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Natural Resources Dept		(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Total Cost <Savings> to the State		(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)

	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Full Time Equivalents					
-- No Impact --					
Total FTE					

Consolidated EBO Comments

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: MARSHA BATTLES-JENKS

Date: 04/05/05 Phone: 296-8510

Fiscal Note – 2005-06 Session

Bill #: S0802-1E **Complete Date:** 04/05/05

Chief Author: BAKK, THOMAS

Title: MODIFY FOREST PROVISIONS

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State	X	
Local	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings	X	
Tax Revenue		X

Agency Name: Natural Resources Dept

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Less Agency Can Absorb					
-- No Impact --					
Net Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Revenues					
Forest Management Investment Fund		2	2	2	2
Misc Special Revenue Fund		1	1	1	1
Permanent School Fund		3	3	3	3
Net Cost <Savings>					
Forest Management Investment Fund		(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Misc Special Revenue Fund		(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Permanent School Fund		(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Total Cost <Savings> to the State		(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)

	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Full Time Equivalents					
-- No Impact --					
Total FTE					

Bill Description

This bill amends Minn. Stat. § 90.195 to raise the minimum fee for special fuelwood permits from \$5 to \$25.

The Commissioner of Natural Resources may issue permits to salvage or cut a maximum of 12 cords of fuelwood for personal use from state-administered forest lands per year. This wood can be cut from either or both of the following sources: (1) dead, down, and diseased trees; (2) other trees that are of negative value under good forest management practices. Currently, fees are charged that are not less than \$5 and not more than the current market value of the fuelwood. DNR Division of Forestry offices issue 750 to 850 fuelwood permits each year.

Assumptions

It is estimated that approximately \$6,000 will be generated each year by increasing special fuelwood permits to a minimum of \$25 per permit. (The amount of \$6,000 was reached by taking each \$5, \$10, \$15, and \$20 permit out of the total of 820 permits sold in FY04 and adding together the differences between them and a \$25 minimum permit—for example, a \$5 permit sold in FY04 would bring in \$25 in FY06, an additional income of \$20.) This \$6,000 / year is a small portion of the DNR Division of Forestry's annual "base" direct appropriation of \$33 million in FY06. However, the increase in the minimum charge of a permit from \$5 to \$25 is important in helping the DNR Division of Forestry recoup the administrative costs of issuing special fuelwood permits.

The \$6,000 of additional revenues will be split accordingly: approximately 50% will go to the Permanent School Trust Fund, 30% to the Forest Management Investment Account (FMIA) in the Natural Resources Fund, and 20% to the Consolidated Conservation Account (Con-Con) in the Special Revenue Fund.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Based on FY04 data, the average fee charged for special fuelwood permits was \$22; however, 520 of the 820 permits issued in this fiscal year were for less than \$20 each. The costs of issuing these permits averaged out to \$24 per permit.

Average revenue from a permit in FY04: $\$17,913.28$ (total revenue brought in by special fuelwood permits) \div 820 permits (total permits issued in FY04) = $\$21.85$ / permit or $\$22$ / permit rounded off.

Average cost of issuing a permit in FY04: $\$10.74$ (one-half hour of clerical time) + $\$10.54$ (one-half hour of appraiser time) + $\$3$ (form and processing fees) = $\$24.28$ / permit or $\$24$ / permit rounded off. (Note: Salary costs are based on class midpoints and include fringe benefits.)

Local Government Costs

Counties receive one-half of Con-Con funds each year. If the anticipated \$1,000 of Con-Con revenues are generated each year by increasing the minimum price of a special fuelwood permit to \$25, the counties will receive \$500 each year from this initiative.

References and Sources

Increasing the minimum fee for special fuelwood permits from \$5 to \$25 is included in the Governor's 2006-07 Biennial Budget.

Source of information: DNR Forestry Division Timber Sale Records

Agency Contact Name: Meg Hanisch, Forestry (651) 296-5958
FN Coord Signature: BRUCE NASLUND
Date: 04/05/05 Phone: 297-4909

EBO Comments

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: MARSHA BATTLES-JENKS
Date: 04/05/05 Phone: 296-8510

Fiscal Note – 2005-06 Session

Bill #: S0802-1E **Complete Date:** 04/01/05

Chief Author: BAKK, THOMAS

Title: MODIFY FOREST PROVISIONS

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State		X
Local		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

Agency Name: Administration Dept

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Less Agency Can Absorb					
-- No Impact --					
Net Expenditures					
-- No Impact --					
Revenues					
-- No Impact --					
Net Cost <Savings>					
-- No Impact --					
Total Cost <Savings> to the State					

	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Full Time Equivalent					
-- No Impact --					
Total FTE					

Bill Description

Section 4 of this bill indicates that Forest Improvement Contracts are exempt from competitive bidding requirements and from approval by the Commissioner of Administration.

Assumptions

Admin has never devoted any significant resources to Forest Improvement Contracts. Consequently, the anticipated change will not require new resources or free up existing resources and will have no fiscal impact on Admin.

Agency Contact Name: Kent Allin (651-296-1442)

FN Coord Signature: LARRY FREUND

Date: 03/31/05 Phone: 296-5857

EBO Comments

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: TIM JAHNKE

Date: 04/01/05 Phone: 296-6237

Senators Anderson, Jungbauer, Dibble, Metzen and Pariseau introduced--
S.F. No. 1429: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

A bill for an act

relating to appropriations; appropriating money for
the operation and maintenance of the Metropolitan
Regional Parks System.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

\$4,500,000 in fiscal year 2006 and \$4,500,000 in fiscal
year 2007 are appropriated to the Metropolitan Council for
maintenance and operation of the metropolitan area regional
parks in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 473.351.

Operations and Maintenance Funds for the Metropolitan Regional Park System

HF 1665 and SF 1429

1974 Metropolitan Parks Act

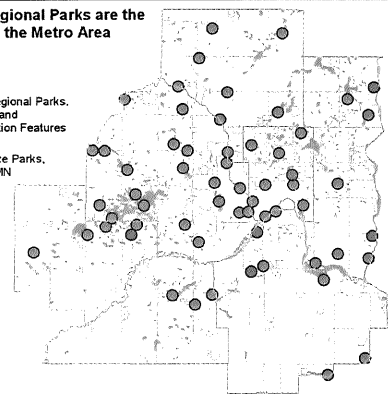
The Metropolitan Council should identify land and grant funds to cities, counties and special park districts to acquire, develop and manage park land, which together with state parks and trails will serve metro area residents and visitors (MS 473.145)

What is the Metropolitan Regional Parks System?

- 52,000 acres (31,000 in 1974)
- 46 regional parks and park reserves (200 to 5,000 acres per park)
- 6 special recreation features
- 22 regional trails (200 miles currently open to the public)
- 30.5 million visits annually (2003)

Metropolitan Regional Parks are the "State Parks" in the Metro Area

- Metropolitan Regional Parks, Park Reserves and Special Recreation Features
- State Land (State Parks, State Zoo and MN Arboretum)

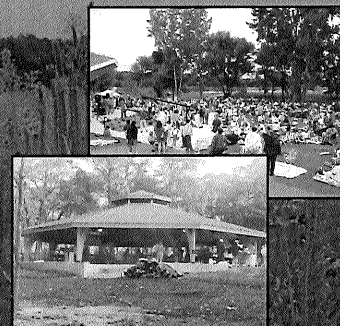


Who operates and maintains the Metropolitan Regional Parks System

- Anoka County
- Carver County
- Dakota County
- Ramsey County
- Washington County
- City of St. Paul
- Three Rivers Park District
- Scott County
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
- City of Bloomington

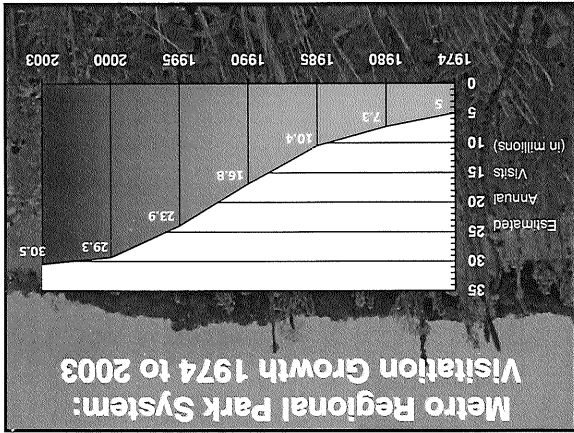
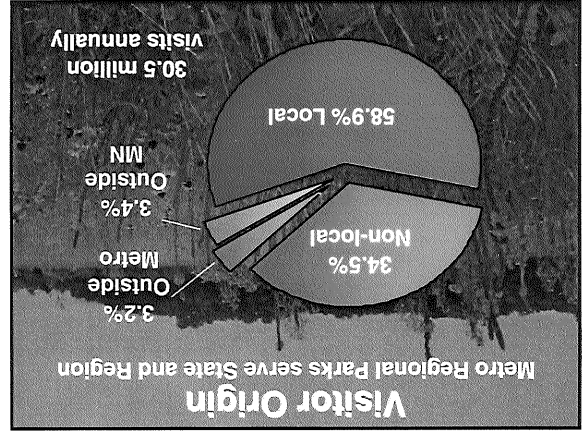
Regional Parks

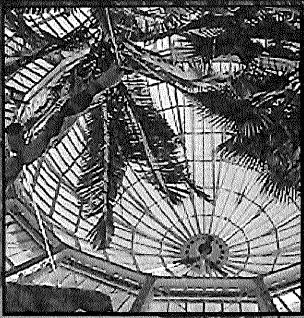
- 100 to 500 acres
- 36 regional parks
- Provide wide array of outdoor recreation opportunities




Why State funds are needed for Metropolitan Regional Parks operations and maintenance

- MS 473,351 recognizes non-local use of Metro Regional Park System
- 40% of visitors come from outside park agency's tax jurisdiction
- State appropriations for operations and maintenance are intended to pay for the non-local use of the park system.



- Special Recreation Features**
- 
- Unique outdoor recreation facilities
 - Como Zoo
 - Como Conservatory
 - Noerenberg Floral Gardens
 - Square Lake
 - Silver Lake

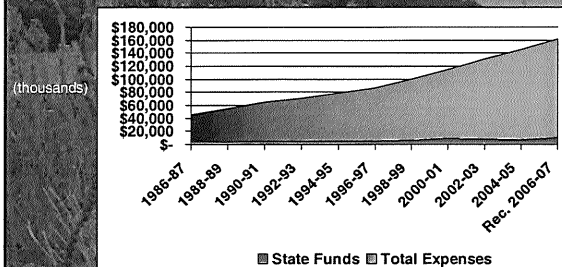
- Regional Trails**
- 
- 22 regional trails link parks and park reserves
 - 200 miles open to the public
 - 525,000 commuting trips annually

- Regional Park Reserves**
- 
- 1,000 to 5,000 acres
 - 10 park reserves
 - Protect major landscape types
 - Outdoor recreation and education

Funds for Operations and Maintenance

- MS 473.351: Goal for state to finance 40% of regional park system operations and maintenance
- Actual General Fund appropriations: 10.5% (1985) to 4.6% (2004)

State funding relative to total expenses for Metro Regional Parks operations and maintenance (FY 1986 to 2007)



Comparison of State General Appropriation Funds and Total Expenses – Metropolitan Regional Parks

Year	Total Operating Budgets	State General Funds	% State Funding
2001	59,526,000	4,500,000	7.6%
2002	63,590,000	4,000,000	6.3%
2003	66,825,000	4,000,000	6.0%
2004	71,494,000	3,300,000	4.6%
2005 (projected)	74,800,000	3,201,000	4.3%
2006 (projected)	77,000,000	4,500,000	5.8%

Outcomes of HF 1665 and SF 1429

- Increases state funding for regional parks operations and maintenance by \$1.2 million per year
- Increases share of state general fund support to 5.8% of total operating costs (currently 4.3%)

Outcomes



Increased management of natural resources.

Outcomes



Restoration of building and facility maintenance.

Enhanced volunteerism and youth programs.

Outcomes

Improved playground safety and maintenance.

Outcomes

Restoration of interpretive and recreational programs.

Outcomes

Added special events and community gatherings.

Outcomes

Restoration of lifeguard and beach services.

Outcomes

Reinstatement of mowing and grounds maintenance services.

Outcomes

1 A bill for an act

2 relating to agriculture; expanding the definition of
3 shade tree; appropriating money; amending Minnesota
4 Statutes 2004, section 18G.16, subdivision 1.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
7 subdivision 1, is amended to read:

8 Subdivision 1. [DEFINITIONS.] (a) The definitions in this
9 subdivision apply to this section.

10 (b) "Metropolitan area" means the counties of Anoka,
11 Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington.

12 (c) "Municipality" means a home rule charter or statutory
13 city or a town located in the metropolitan area that exercises
14 municipal powers under section 368.01 or any general or special
15 law; a special park district organized under chapter 398; a
16 special-purpose park and recreation board organized under the
17 city charter of a city of the first class located in the
18 metropolitan area; a county in the metropolitan area for the
19 purposes of county-owned property or any portion of a county
20 located outside the geographic boundaries of a city or a town
21 exercising municipal powers; and a municipality or county
22 located outside the metropolitan area with an approved disease
23 control program.

24 (d) "Shade tree disease" means Dutch-elm-disease~~7-oak-wilt~~
25 or any disorder affecting the growth and life of shade trees.

1 (e) "Wood utilization or disposal system" means facilities,
2 equipment, or systems used for the removal and disposal of
3 diseased shade trees, including collection, transportation,
4 processing, or storage of wood and assisting in the recovery of
5 materials or energy from wood.

6 (f) "Approved disease control program" means a municipal
7 plan approved by the commissioner to control shade tree disease.

8 (g) "Disease control area" means an area approved by the
9 commissioner within which a municipality will conduct an
10 approved disease control program.

11 (h) "Sanitation" means the identification, inspection,
12 disruption of a common root system, girdling, trimming, removal,
13 and disposal of dead or diseased wood of shade trees, including
14 subsidies for trees removed pursuant to subdivision 4, on public
15 or private property within a disease control area.

16 (i) "Reforestation" means the replacement of shade trees
17 removed from public property and the planting of a tree as part
18 of a municipal disease control program. For purposes of this
19 paragraph, "public property" includes private property within
20 five feet of the boulevard or street terrace in a city that
21 enacted an ordinance on or before January 1, 1977, that
22 prohibits or requires a permit for the planting of trees in the
23 public right-of-way.

24 (j) "Shade tree" means a woody perennial grown primarily
25 for aesthetic or environmental purposes.

26 Sec. 2. [APPROPRIATION.]

27 \$15,000,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the
28 commissioner of agriculture for the shade tree pest and disease
29 control program under Minnesota Statutes, section 18G.16.

1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 1580 as follows:

2 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

3 "Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
4 subdivision 1, is amended to read:

5 Subdivision 1. [DEFINITIONS.] (a) The definitions in this
6 subdivision apply to this section.

7 (b) "Metropolitan area" means the counties of Anoka,
8 Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington.

9 (c) "Municipality" means a home rule charter or statutory
10 city or a town located in the metropolitan area that exercises
11 municipal powers under section 368.01 or any general or special
12 law; a special park district organized under chapter 398; a
13 special-purpose park and recreation board organized under the
14 city charter of a city of the first class located in the
15 metropolitan area; a county in the metropolitan area for the
16 purposes of county-owned property or any portion of a county
17 located outside the geographic boundaries of a city or a town
18 exercising municipal powers; and a municipality or county
19 located outside the metropolitan area with an approved disease
20 control program.

21 (d) "Shade tree disease pest" means ~~Dutch-elm-disease~~, ~~oak~~
22 ~~wilt~~, ~~or any disorder~~ pests or pathogens affecting the growth
23 and life of shade trees.

24 (e) "Wood utilization or disposal system" means facilities,
25 equipment, or systems used for the removal and disposal of
26 diseased or pest-infested shade trees, including collection,
27 transportation, processing, or storage of wood and assisting in
28 the recovery of materials or energy from wood.

29 (f) "Approved disease pest control program" means a
30 municipal plan approved by the commissioner to control or
31 eradicate a shade tree disease pest.

32 (g) "Disease Pest control area" means an area approved by
33 the commissioner within which a municipality will conduct an
34 approved disease pest control program.

35 (h) "Sanitation" means the identification, inspection,
36 disruption of a common root system, girdling, trimming, removal,

1 and disposal of dead, pest-infested or diseased wood of shade
2 trees, including subsidies for trees removed pursuant to
3 subdivision 4, on public or private property within a disease
4 control area.

5 (i) "Reforestation" means the replacement of shade trees
6 removed from public property and the planting of a tree as part
7 of a municipal disease control program. For purposes of this
8 paragraph, "public property" includes private property within
9 five feet of the boulevard or street terrace in a city that
10 enacted an ordinance on or before January 1, 1977, that
11 prohibits or requires a permit for the planting of trees in the
12 public right-of-way.

13 (j) "Shade tree" means a woody perennial grown primarily
14 for aesthetic or environmental purposes.

15 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
16 subdivision 2, is amended to read:

17 Subd. 2. [COMMISSIONER TO ADOPT RULES.] The commissioner
18 may adopt rules relating to shade tree pest and disease control
19 in any municipality. The rules must prescribe control measures
20 to be used to prevent the spread of shade tree pests and
21 diseases and must include the following:

22 (1) a definition of shade tree;

23 (2) qualifications for tree inspectors;

24 (3) methods of identifying diseased or pest-infested shade
25 trees;

26 (4) procedures for giving reasonable notice of inspection
27 of private real property;

28 (5) measures for the removal of any shade tree which may
29 contribute to the spread of shade tree pests or disease and for
30 reforestation of pest or disease control areas;

31 (6) approved methods of treatment of shade trees;

32 (7) criteria for priority designation areas in an approved
33 pest or disease control program; and

34 (8) any other matters determined necessary by the
35 commissioner to prevent the spread of shade tree pests or
36 disease and enforce this section.

1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
2 subdivision 3, is amended to read:

3 Subd. 3. [DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY.] The commissioner shall
4 operate a diagnostic laboratory for culturing diseased or pest-
5 infested trees for positive identification of diseased or pest-
6 infested shade trees.

7 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
8 subdivision 4, is amended to read:

9 Subd. 4. [COOPERATION BY UNIVERSITY.] The University of
10 Minnesota College of Natural Resources shall cooperate with the
11 department in control of shade tree disease, pests, and
12 disorders and management of shade tree populations. The College
13 of Natural Resources shall cooperate with the department to
14 conduct tree inspector certification and recertification
15 workshops for certified tree inspectors. The College of Natural
16 Resources shall also conduct research into means for identifying
17 diseased or pest-infested shade trees, develop and evaluate
18 control measures, and develop means for disposing of and using
19 diseased or pest-infested shade trees.

20 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
21 subdivision 5, is amended to read:

22 Subd. 5. [EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS.] The commissioner may
23 establish experimental programs for sanitation or treatment of
24 shade tree diseases and for research into tree varieties most
25 suitable for municipal reforestation. The research must include
26 considerations of disease resistance, energy conservation, and
27 other factors considered appropriate. The commissioner may make
28 grants to municipalities or enter into contracts with
29 municipalities, nurseries, colleges, universities, or state or
30 federal agencies in connection with experimental shade tree
31 programs including research to assist municipalities in
32 establishing priority designation areas for shade tree ~~disease~~
33 pest control and energy conservation.

34 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
35 subdivision 6, is amended to read:

36 Subd. 6. [REMOVAL OF DISEASED OR PEST-INFESTED TREES.]

1 After reasonable notice of inspection, an owner of real property
2 containing a shade tree that is diseased, infested, or may
3 contribute to the spread of pests or disease, must remove or
4 treat the tree within the period of time and in the manner
5 established by the commissioner. Trees that are not removed in
6 compliance with the commissioner's rules must be declared a
7 public nuisance and removed or treated by approved methods by
8 the municipality, which may assess all or part of the expense,
9 limited to the lowest contract rates available that include wage
10 levels which meet Minnesota minimum wage standards, to the
11 property and the expense becomes a lien on the property. A
12 municipality may assess not more than 50 percent of the expense
13 of treating with an approved method or removing or pest-infested
14 diseased shade trees located on street terraces or boulevards to
15 the abutting properties and the assessment becomes a lien on the
16 property.

17 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
18 subdivision 7, is amended to read:

19 Subd. 7. [RULES; APPLICABILITY TO MUNICIPALITIES.] The
20 rules of the commissioner apply in a municipality unless the
21 municipality adopts an ordinance determined by the commissioner
22 to be more stringent than the rules of the commissioner. The
23 rules of the commissioner or the municipality apply to all state
24 agencies, special purpose districts, and metropolitan
25 commissions as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 5a, that
26 own or control land adjacent to or within a shade tree ~~disease~~
27 pest control area.

28 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
29 subdivision 8, is amended to read:

30 Subd. 8. [GRANTS TO MUNICIPALITIES.] (a) The commissioner
31 may, in the name of the state and within the limit of
32 appropriations provided, make a grant to a municipality with an
33 approved ~~disease~~ pest control program for the partial funding of
34 municipal sanitation and reforestation programs to replace trees
35 lost to pest, disease or natural disaster. The commissioner may
36 make a grant to a home rule charter or statutory city, a special

1 purpose park and recreation board organized under a charter of a
2 city of the first class, a nonprofit corporation serving a city
3 of the first class, or a county having an approved disease
4 control program for the acquisition or implementation of a wood
5 use or disposal system.

6 (b) The commissioner shall adopt rules for the
7 administration of grants under this subdivision. The rules must
8 contain:

9 (1) procedures for grant applications;

10 (2) conditions and procedures for the administration of
11 grants;

12 (3) criteria of eligibility for grants including, but not
13 limited to, those specified in this subdivision; and

14 (4) other matters the commissioner may find necessary to
15 the proper administration of the grant program.

16 (c) Grants for wood utilization and disposal systems made
17 by the commissioner under this subdivision must not exceed 50
18 percent of the total cost of the system. Grants for sanitation
19 and reforestation must be combined into one grant program.

20 Grants to a municipality for sanitation must not exceed 50
21 percent of sanitation costs approved by the commissioner
22 including any amount of sanitation costs paid by special
23 assessments, ad valorem taxes, federal grants, or other funds.

24 A municipality must not specially assess a property owner an
25 amount greater than the amount of the tree's sanitation cost
26 minus the amount of the tree's sanitation cost reimbursed by the
27 commissioner. Grants to municipalities for reforestation must
28 not exceed 50 percent of the wholesale cost of the trees planted
29 under the reforestation program; provided that a reforestation
30 grant to a county may include 90 percent of the cost of the
31 first 50 trees planted on public property in a town not included
32 in the definition of municipality in subdivision 1 and with less
33 than 1,000 population when the town applies to the county.

34 Reforestation grants to towns and home rule charter or statutory
35 cities of less than 4,000 population with an approved ~~disease~~
36 pest control program may include 90 percent of the cost of the

1 first 50 trees planted on public property. The governing body
2 of a municipality that receives a reforestation grant under this
3 section must appoint up to seven residents of the municipality
4 or designate an existing municipal board or committee to serve
5 as a reforestation advisory committee to advise the governing
6 body of the municipality in the administration of the
7 reforestation program. For the purpose of this subdivision,
8 "cost" does not include the value of a gift or dedication of
9 trees required by a municipal ordinance but does include
10 documented "in-kind" services or voluntary work for
11 municipalities with a population of less than 1,000 according to
12 the most recent federal census.

13 (d) Based upon estimates submitted by the municipality to
14 the commissioner, which state the estimated costs of sanitation
15 and reforestation in the succeeding quarter under an approved
16 program, the commissioner shall direct quarterly advance
17 payments to be made by the state to the municipality commencing
18 April 1. The commissioner shall direct adjustment of any
19 overestimate in a succeeding quarter. A municipality may elect
20 to receive the proceeds of its sanitation and reforestation
21 grants on a periodic cost reimbursement basis.

22 (e) A home rule charter or statutory city, county outside
23 the metropolitan area, or any municipality, as defined in
24 subdivision 1, may submit an application for a grant authorized
25 by this subdivision concurrently with its request for approval
26 of a ~~disease~~ pest control program.

27 (f) The commissioner shall not make grants for sanitation
28 and reforestation or wood utilization and disposal systems in
29 excess of 67 percent of the amounts appropriated for those
30 purposes to the municipalities located within the metropolitan
31 area, as defined in subdivision 1.

32 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
33 subdivision 9, is amended to read:

34 Subd. 9. [SUBSIDIES TO CERTAIN OWNERS.] A municipality may
35 provide subsidies to nonprofit organizations, to owners of
36 private residential property of five acres or less, to owners of

1 property used for a homestead of more than five acres but less
2 than 20 acres, and to nonprofit cemeteries for the approved
3 treatment or removal of diseased or pest-infested shade trees.

4 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, an owner of
5 property on which shade trees are located may contract with a
6 municipality to provide protection against the cost of approved
7 treatment or removal of diseased or pest-infested shade trees or
8 shade trees that will contribute to the spread of shade tree
9 diseases or pest infestations. Under the contract, the
10 municipality must pay for the removal or approved treatment
11 under terms and conditions determined by its governing body.

12 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 18G.16,
13 subdivision 14, is amended to read:

14 Subd. 14. [MUNICIPAL OPTION TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM.]
15 The term "municipality" shall include only those municipalities
16 which have informed the commissioner of their intent to continue
17 an approved disease pest control program. Any municipality
18 desiring to participate in the grants-in-aid for the partial
19 funding of municipal sanitation and reforestation programs must
20 notify the commissioner in writing before the beginning of the
21 calendar year in which it wants to participate and must have an
22 approved disease pest control program during any year in which
23 it receives grants-in-aid. Notwithstanding the provisions of
24 any law to the contrary, no municipality shall be required to
25 have an approved disease control program after December 31, 1981.

26 Sec. 11. [APPROPRIATION.]

27 \$15,000,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the
28 commissioner of agriculture for the shade tree pest and disease
29 control program under Minnesota Statutes, section 18G.16. This
30 appropriation is available until expended."

31 Amend the title as follows:

32 Page 1, line 4, after "subdivision 1" insert ", 2, 3, 4, 5,
33 6, 7, 8, 9, 14"

Senators Anderson and Sams introduced--
S.F. No. 1393: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

1 A bill for an act
2 relating to appropriations; appropriating money for
3 Lifetrack Resources.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
5 Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]
6 \$250,000 in fiscal year 2006 and \$250,000 in fiscal year
7 2007 are appropriated to the commissioner of employment and
8 economic development from the workforce development fund for
9 onetime grants to Lifetrack Resources for its immigrant/refugee
10 collaborative programs, including those related to job-seeking
11 skills and workplace orientation, intensive job development,
12 functional work English, and on-site job coaching.