Attention MFA members!

Count the carbon in your trees and woods

Spring has emerged quickly this year, which means Minnesota trees are beginning to grow. Trees provide many benefits, including absorbing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it as wood.

Trees are a natural climate solution. This means that trees sequester carbon and help offset greenhouse gas emissions. According to recent estimates in the United States, forests remove about 11% of total carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from the atmosphere. This is a motivation for keeping healthy trees and forests on the landscape.

The University of Minnesota Extension invites all Minnesotans to enter the Minnesota Tree and Woodland Carbon Capture Challenge, a family-friendly and close-to-home activity to learn more about the value of trees in the carbon cycle. Participants will measure trees at the beginning and end of the 2021 growing season to determine how much carbon their trees capture from the atmosphere.

There are two categories in the challenge: Single Trees and Woodlands. Select one or both categories to participate in. Only one entry is allowed per person or team.

The team that sequesters the most carbon will win a cribbage board made from reclaimed urban wood. One cribbage board will go to the winner of the Single Tree category and one to the winner of the Woodland category. In addition to that, there will also be a random drawing and prize specifically for MFA members that participate in the activity.

Entries will not be accepted after May 31, 2021. So get outside and start measuring your trees!

Learn how to join at [z.umn.edu/carbon21](https://extension.umn.edu/courses-and-events/carbon-capture-challenge)