The 1993-1994 school year proved to be a productive, fun, and interesting year for the Forestry Club. The annual welcome picnic was the first activity of the year for the Forestry Club. This traditional get-together provided an opportunity for the upper class students to get to know the freshmen and for all students to become better acquainted with the faculty. The burgers, brats, and hotdogs were enjoyed by everyone, even in the company of hungry mosquitos. The evening was finished off with several intense volleyball matches. The club also had several video nights throughout the year including videos on the Yellowstone National Park wildfires of 1988 and the issue of reintroduction of wolves to certain parts of the United States, including Yellowstone and Northern Minnesota.

In late October, the club initiated its annual seedling giveaway activities by planting over 3,000 Colorado blue spruce and white spruce seeds in the Forestry greenhouse. Germination was successful and the seedlings were given away at North Grand Mall in Ames on Earth Day and at the Forestry Club open house display on central campus during VEISHEA weekend in April.

Other activities during the year included pizza feeds and the annual Wild Game Banquet. This year’s game banquet was a huge success, with Dennis and Linda Haugen presenting and speaking about the different forest ecosystems of Australia. The Forestry Club also held its annual Christmas tree sales in December, which was also a great success. White and Scotch pine were sold along with balsam fir, which are the traditionally popular species that the Forestry Club sells during Christmas time.

Finally, the Forestry Club helped to establish an independent study class that involves replanting and caring for the Christmas tree plantation to provide for a future supply of the Forestry Club’s own Christmas trees, lessening the need to by Christmas trees from an outside source. This class is overseeing the management of the plantation and making decisions on when to plant, prune, shear, and harvest. The plantation was planted in late April.

Clinton J. Kabele