



Partners News

May 2010

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ANNOUNCING PIF'S NEW WEB SITE

by Rod Sharka

Partners In Forestry is pleased to announce the launching of its new website at:

www.partnersinforesstry.com

The above web address will take you to the main HOME PAGE where you will eventually be able to keep up with the latest forestry news, upcoming PIF events, and be informed of other special events or activities you may be interested in.

Across the top of the home page, you will find tabs which, when clicked on, will take you to additional pages containing archived PIF newsletters, access to information about forest management, PIF's position regarding various forestry and land conservation issues, an extensive amount of invasive species information, a general reference section, related articles and news, perhaps a photo gallery, land conservation topics, member businesses to support, and board member contact information.

We are indebted to new PIF member Jim Joyce for all of his expertise and voluntary help in designing and setting up this site, as well as his commitment to maintaining it. He has put in many hours of personal time in a relatively short time span, and has done an outstanding job in designing a truly professional, useful website that we believe will be a real asset to the organization.

We hope that you find this website informative and useful, and that you will visit it often. Although opening the archived newsletters or accessing other websites via the various links may be a challenge for those of you who are still struggling with dial-up Internet connections, navigating between the actual pages of our site should not be too much of a problem.

Also, we encourage our entire membership to pass this website information along to help promote our organization. And finally, realize that this website, just as the rest of our organization, is just one facet of YOUR COOP. We encourage you to tell us what you like and don't like, what you find useful and not useful, and to submit additional suggestions, articles, links to other websites, or pertinent information that we can add to make our site a dynamic, working showplace that we can all be proud of. It's all about sharing information and helping each other with our common forestry and land conservation interests. In order for this COOP to be effective and successful for the long haul, we need everybody's involvement. Your board cannot do it all.

So check us out. Go to www.partnersinforesstry.com. Spend a few minutes browsing through the various pages. Tell us what you like and don't like. Send us your suggestions, articles, photos, links, etc. And help us all stay informed.

From the Director: Joe's Comments

With the end of April and the beginning of May, at least we witnessed some long overdue moisture in the north. With another year of drought upon us, the health of our forests and lakes is an increasing concern.

We sure appreciate the involvement of our members in this organization. We need your input. Please feel free to share your opinions, experiences and expertise with your fellow members. Those of you with life's experiences under your belt....you are the library of knowledge this group seeks.

In this issue our saw shop fellow, Clyde Samsel, reminds us all of the importance of a sharp chain saw. Clyde's expertise and common sense demeanor is an asset to us all.

At our March meeting of the board we were very pleased to seat Margo on the board and thank her for her great work on the last issue. We were also especially gratified that, just by chance, a member with web site experience attended that meeting and as we got to the discussion of getting the PIF website up and running, Jim Joyce handled the concerns any of us had on launching the PIF website adequately. Jim, Margo and Rod Sharka are now the web committee and they seek your input. Thank you Jim and team.



We wish to help members. In this new website, feel free to expose your business or any services you have to offer.

I am recently especially gratified by the local lumber use law, as my livelihood has long been in rustic construction from local resources. We are just beginning an exciting construction project for a couple who are PIF members. This effort is also to entail conservation of some vital lands, and we will be happy to expose all this in a future issue.

The exciting thing to me, the wood resources for this project were procured from the same town the building is constructed in, and procured from PIF members as well!

A former intern from Denmark who worked under my direction more than 12 years ago, was back for a visit recently, and shares his thoughts on the comparisons in forestry from two different parts of the world. Thank you Knud, you are always welcome here.

I also thank Melanie Fullman, from the Bessemer Ranger district on the Ottawa National Forest, for sharing her features "in da woods" with our members. She addresses a very important topic of Maple stress for our forest health feature.



IN DA WOODS

by Melanie B. Fullman, US Forest Service
Bessemer Ranger District, Ottawa NF

SUGAR MAPLES TROUBLE?

As many readers know, sugar maple is one of the most important timber species in the North Woods. Unfortunately, for the past several years, reports of dieback have been coming from multiple locations across the UP, northern Minnesota, and northern Wisconsin. Dieback refers to when the topmost part of a tree dies, leaving, at least for awhile, the rest of the tree alive. Foresters have attributed this to several causes, including drought, insect attack, or soil/root problems, but we don't know for sure.

Management of sugar maple forests across all ownerships has typically involved selective harvests. Although this results in important wood production, it can lead to a near monoculture of sugar maple over large areas. Any reduction in growth or, worse, mortality in these forests, would likely have significant biological and economic impacts. In some stands, the dieback already exceeds 30%, which may be the point at which trees will not recover.

The concern is the dieback may be of greater severity and geographic scope than in previous episodes, and that compounding factors, including weather shifts, may be contributing to the decline.

To get a better understanding of the situation, scientists from Michigan Tech. University have begun a 3-year study of sugar maple forests. Their objectives are to evaluate the extent of sugar maple dieback in the Northern Great Lakes, determine the rate of change of dieback symptoms, and compare the current sugar maple dieback with previous, similar events.

As part of the study, the researchers have established a network of plots throughout the UP. Soil cores, foliage samples, and tree and stand data are being collected. The researchers will also examine plot data from Upper Michigan going back to 1938. It is hoped the entire body of data will enable them to determine whether a single causal factor is responsible for the maple dieback, if a combination of factors is important, or if different combinations of factors are important in different areas.

Every tree in the 0.10 acre plots is measured and given a full canopy assessment. Foliage samples are collected for nutrient analysis in August (summer conditions) and in October (fall conditions) from trees with high, intermediate, or low dieback. Biotic factors that can impact the vigor of trees are also evaluated, including the presence (or lack thereof) of sugar maple borer, cankers, and sap streak disease. Soil samples collected from beneath healthy and unhealthy trees are being analyzed for carbon content, total nitrogen, available cations, and pH. Tree cores taken from healthy trees and trees with differing levels of dieback will be processed on a growth-ring analyzer to calculate the relative effect of dieback on a tree's growth.

A visual examination of tree growth rings can also provide insight into the health of a stand before the trees showed signs of dieback. Comparing damaged trees with healthy ones, and other nearby tree species, is expected to show the spatial extent and timing of the decline.

Major maple mortality events have occurred in maple forests for a long time. Since European settlement, some of the largest in the northern Great Lakes were in the 1950s and 60s. These were generally linked to drought, pathogens, and past cutting practices. Events in the eastern US in the 1970s and 80s were mostly attributed to air pollution and insect defoliation.

The rate at which the current dieback has been developing is reported to be very fast. Whether you value maple trees for shade, syrup, or structure (cabinets, dining tables, etc.), I suspect most of us hope that the answers will come just as quickly.

Future Articles

PIF members are encouraged to submit articles, announcements, items of interest for future newsletters.

Submissions may be forwarded to Margo Popovich at margo122050@mac.com or mailed to:

Partners In Forestry
6063 Baker Lake Rd
Conover, WI 54519

Wood facts: now you know!

White Ash is 48 pounds per cubic foot green, dries to 41 pounds.

Red Oak is 63 pounds per cubic foot green, dries to 44 pounds.

Hard Maple is 56 pounds per cubic foot green, dries to 44 pounds.

White Pine is 35 pounds per cubic foot green, dries to 25 pounds.

Red Pine is 42 pounds per cubic foot green, dries to 33 pounds.



The Wild and Scenic Huron River defines the western border of the Huron Mountains just below Lake Superior. Many are concerned about the adverse impacts of a mine under construction in the Huron Mountains and Yellow Dog plains. Look for a member's story about these concerns in the next issue. (Photo: Mark Hovel)



A mountain top just east of the Huron River in the upper peninsula, just north of a nickel mine about to be constructed. (Photo: Mark Hovel)

DANISH FORESTRY

by Knud Nielsen



Photo by Mark Hovel

In 1997 I was 23 years old and wanted to see some other parts of the globe than Denmark where I am from.

At that time I had been working with forestry and saw milling for five years, mostly forestry. I was then a newly educated forestry worker, which is my education in Denmark. It takes four years where you take courses in between practical work. You look on all the aspects of forestry, at that time mostly producing lumber, Christmas trees and Christmas greenery. These were the biggest sources of income. Hunting has in the later years increased quite a bit and is today a great part of forest industry in Denmark.

So I thought if I could combine those two aspects, seeing some other parts of the world and at the same time look into foreign forestry, it would be great.

Through a Danish agricultural exchange program, I at first found a forestry

placement in Washington. It did not work out.

The Danish program had another contact, which was through the University of Minnesota's MAST (Minnesota Agriculture Student Training) in Minneapolis. The program didn't know much about MAST, but I was willing to try it out.

That's how I got the contact to Mary and Joe Hovel in Conover. I worked and lived with the family for eight months, and I had a really great experience. Through that time, I got a really good look into all the aspects of log building, and that by using only local grown and produced lumber which was very nice to see how it could work out in practice, especially in the light of later years' trend in Denmark which consists of four examples - porch deck from Siberia, outdoor furniture from Borneo teak, indoor siding from South or North America, and maybe bamboo flooring from China. It was good to see and learn that a

small family business was able to get the best of local products as possible. That strongly, of course, included using the right species of wood on the right place according to the natural advantage of the species available in the area.

I also at that time tried to notice all I could about how to grow timber and manage wood lands in this particular area. I saw plantations on abandoned farm land in central Wisconsin, jack and red pine stands on very sandy soil around Conover. We often went to the upper peninsula of Michigan to canoe in the rivers. There it was again quite different with more heavy soil and a lot of hardwood, especially maple. In Denmark, we use maple in parks because of the nice fall color. But we do plant a kind that looks much like soft maple which does very well in rich but very moist soil.

Through the years I have been coming back to visit the Hovels and the northwoods on several occasions. I especially enjoy the solitude and, according to Danish standards, wild nature where trees and the accompanying flora and fauna grow where they are "intended" to and not always planted by man like in Denmark where trees are, of course, here as well, a crop grown for the benefit of man.

Forestry in Denmark is very intensive, both national and county, but especially the private world who really is depending on the output of the woods. The intensiveness is probably most important because of the size of the country, and the history of forest management.

Denmark is about one-third the size of Wisconsin, but with a population of about

5.3 million people. Wooded land covers about 13% of the country so talking economy the wooded lands contribute very little, even though Christmas trees for export has increased considerable the last twenty years.

At most places, Christmas trees are grown on farm land for seven to eight years. Then the land is again converted to farm land. That gives the best conditions to produce a very homogenous product which is what the customers ask for.

National and county owned forest is also strongly cultivated in a way that suits the public not only by offering park lots and picnic areas, hiking/biking trails, but also considering what species look the best and makes a good variation for the eyes.

Danish forestry is in these years in a drastic change. All conifers are planted in as large plantations as possible, thinning done three to four times then clear cut at maximum diameter and best price.

The majority is red spruce, sitka spruce and fir. The change is now that more and more joining FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) and PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes also known as Pan-European Forest Certification) certifications where there is no clear cut. This will hopefully bring better health and climate by having more than one storage in the same stand. Right now the market has no problem in consuming the present amount of certified timber. But the amount of timber on sale is also small.

The saw mill I work at got certified in 2008, and is, as far as I know, the only one in Denmark.

When it comes to hardwood, it has always been used in the under story, mostly to make good shade on the saw log to prevent new branches.

This was a little bit about Danish forestry. I am thrilled to see that the idea of the sustainable forest also is in Wisconsin, especially because it struck me seeing all those big old pine stumps from clear cutting that just shows even more that we have to plant if we want the best out of our woods. If not, we can easily lose a lot of years where the new stand may be already closing up.

Growing trees is not only for yourself, but a lot more for your children and the globe.

Knud Nielsen

Link to the saw mill I work at, I am afraid it is only in Danish is www.nvtra.dk.



Photo by Mark Hovel

May 8, 2010 - Although Knud works in a modern, highly technical sawmill in Denmark, he enjoys working the “old-fashioned” way.

Contributed by Rod Sharka **All I need to know about life I learned from trees.**



- It's important to have roots.
- In today's complex world, it pays to branch out.
- Don't pine away over old flames.
- If you really believe in something, don't be afraid to go out on a limb.
- Be flexible, so you don't break when a hard wind blows.
- If you want to keep accurate records, keep a log.
- Grow where you are planted.
- It's okay to be a late bloomer.
- Avoid people who would like to cut you down (nothing personal, PIF) .
- Get all spruced up when you have a hot date.
- If the party gets boring, just pick up and leaf.
- It's more important to be honest than to be poplar.
- Sometimes you have to shed your old bark in order to grow.
- As you approach the autumn of your life, you will show your true colors. You could be brilliant. (Or keel over, rotten to the core.)

COMMON SENSE FROM THE SAW SHOP

KEEP IT SHARP

by Clyde Samsel

Strange things happen in my saw shop, probably in other shops also. The other day I had a customer who appeared to be very angry with me. We'll call him Bill. He said his saw was just making powder and would not cut any wood and I had sharpened his chain. He must have run the chain for several days without sharpening it. The chain was so dull, I had to grind each tooth back about a sixteenth of an inch. Then I filed it to get it really sharp and set the depth gauges (rakers). I spent a lot of time grinding and

filing. When Bill came in to pick up his chain, I told him I would guarantee it would stay sharp for about 45 minutes of cutting if he didn't hit any metal like fence wire or run the bar into the dirt. I further told him the chain should be resharpened each time he filled up with gasoline and oil. Bill smiled and I think he knew what I was talking about and had just been pulling my leg when he came in. But I am not sure.

Then Lyle came in. His saw was super clean, but it needed a new



Photo by Mark Hovel

sprocket (frequently a forgotten item). Lyle also complained that the saw was cutting crooked. I ground his bar but that was not the problem. His chain was sharp on one side and not so sharp on the other side. This often happens. So again sharpening is the problem.

Perhaps 70% or more of chain saw users run **dull** Chains. Clearly they cut far less firewood and suffer greater fatigue than they should. But here are some not so obvious problems with dull saw chains.

1. Safety – a dull chain can kick back more violently than a sharp saw chain.
2. Vibration – saw parts will come lose such as the handle and muffler.
3. Excessive wear on the bar, sprocket and the chain. The chain will stretch out and frequently jump the bar.
4. Short engine life.

Clearly these are compelling reasons to keep the chain sharp. So why do chain saw users resist sharpening? We as chain saw servicing dealers are partly to blame. We encourage chain saw buyers to buy extra chain and tell them to bring in the dull chain for sharpening. This is wrong. The chain cutting oak firewood for example needs to be “touched up” each time the saw is filled with mix gasoline and bar & chain oil. Usually two strokes with a round file each hour of operation will keep the chain razor sharp.

When I sell a chain saw, I sharpen the chain for the customer. “Why are you doing that? Isn't a new chain sharp?” they some times ask. I tell them loggers always sharpen a new chain with a file. It will increase the cutting speed by about 10%. I use a tool called a Sharp Force. It has a round file for the cutter and a flat file for the depth gauge (raker). In most cases, the customer will also purchase a Sharp Force with his new chain saw.

Reading this does not tell you how to sharpen a chain. It takes practice and patience to get good at it. Find some who knows how to do it. (Ask someone who knows). Loggers who do a lot of hand cutting can show you. I spend a lot time showing customers how to sharpen their chains and I sell a lot of Sharp Force tools. Another way to learn all aspects of chain saw use including chain sharpening is to take Game of Logging (GOL) taught by Ken Lallemond. See links at www.samselsawmill.com.

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Clyde Samsel is a retired Chemical Engineer, who with his wife Janet, and son Jay operate a sawmill and saw shop near Hancock Wisconsin in Waushara County. The Samsel Tree Farm has been in the family for 60 years. Visitors to the mill and Tree Farm are always welcome. See web site for a map and contact information.



PIF's website is launched!

www.partnersinforesstry.com

Please use the website to expose your business, service, or tree farm. Share thoughts, ideas, articles, photos, links. See page 1 of this newsletter for more information. All suggestions are welcome and appreciated!

Please forward the information to Margo Popovich at margo122050@mac.com.

As a service to PIF members, contact Joe for special pricing on your needs for:

- Napoleon wood stoves
- wood finishes and preservatives
- garden and tree amendments
- grass seed for trails



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Protecting your wooded land for the future is essential to clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, sustainable wood supply...all things that are necessary to society and health, and that are gone forever if the land is developed.