



Partners News

December 2010

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Landowner Cooperative

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2009--2010 PIF Board

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ATTENTION PIF MEMBERS:

YOUR CO-OP NEEDS YOUR HELP IN UPDATING OUR MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

Over the years, many PIF members have acquired new residence addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. We are finding that we have lost the ability to communicate with many loyal members. Therefore, for the purpose of updating our database of member information, we are asking that ALL PIF MEMBERS please complete and mail in the enclosed Membership Information Sheet. Know that all information will be kept confidential. We do NOT share member information with other organizations or persons without your expressed permission. The purpose of recording this information is so we have a better idea of how to serve YOU. It also would provide us with greater strength for advocating for issues important to us all.

For example, we have a very good chance of obtaining a grant that would allow for the hiring of a summer intern to survey for invasive species on private forest land in Vilas Co. It should be obvious to our membership by now that we have been doing our part to spread the word about the impact that terrestrial invasives can have on forest health. The idea is that by surveying PIF member lands (which are scattered around the county), the data would provide a better picture of the distribution of key invasives throughout the county.

The benefit to the PIF members who agree to participate in this project is several fold. First of all, they would be able to find out at no cost to them whether or not they have an invasives issue on their land. If none are found, that would be great news and provide peace of mind. If any are found, the owner would be provided with a GIS map prepared by the intern as well as control options, and hopefully assistance, in dealing with any infestation. Of course, the landowner would be under no obligation to do anything themselves, although we would hope that as good land stewards, their choice would be to address the issue. Additionally, our hope is that the intern hired to do this survey would be knowledgeable about forest health and management issues in general and could advise and make recommendations to the landowner about any other issues that might be useful. This could be anything from insect damage or tree disease issues to stand improvement recommendations. If we are successful with this project in Vilas Co., perhaps we will be able to obtain the same opportunities for other counties in the future.

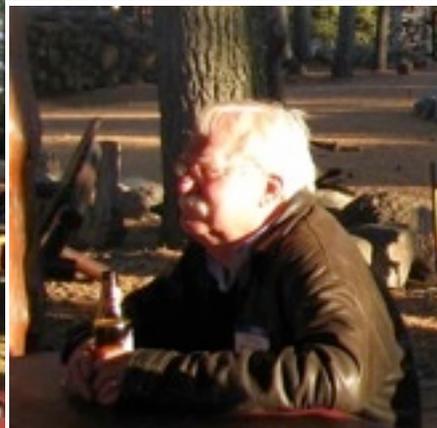
Of course, if we are unable to contact you, or don't know the quantity and location of your property, we cannot include you in these projects. So, PLEASE complete and return the enclosed information form promptly to help us work for you.

PIF ANNUAL MEETING



The PIF Annual meeting was October 9, 2010 at Big Bear Hideaway, Boulder Junction, WI. Several new PIF members were in attendance. Geary Searfoss' presentation was wonderful-very informative, and the dinner was excellent. A good time was had by all.

Thank you to Rod Sharka for the submission of his pictures.



(The following was taken from the current issue of Audubon magazine)... and submitted by Rod Sharka.

NUMBERS GAME

Some interesting statistics to ponder from the holiday season.

- 6,000,000: The number of TONS of extra waste Americans generate between Thanksgiving and New Year's.
- 38,000: Miles of ribbon thrown out each year, which is enough to wrap around the earth 1.5 times.
- 50,000: Cubic yards of paper Americans would save annually if we sent one fewer holiday card each.
- 70: The percentage of Americans who say they would prefer a reduced focus on holiday gifts.
- 50,000,000: Christmas trees cut down in the U.S. each holiday season.
- 30,000,000: Christmas trees that end up in landfills each year.
- 4,000: Christmas tree recycling programs across the U.S.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

On Our Web Site (<http://www.partnersinforesry.com/>)

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University of Wisconsin Forestry Facts: University of Wisconsin has issued over 100 fact sheets documenting forestry practices. Sample subjects are: Best practices; Hiring a consulting Forester; How to manage red pine; Understanding the sample timber sale contract; Filling out a cutting Notice (MFL). (<http://fwe.wisc.edu/extension/forfact.htm>)

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Wisconsin Woodlands: Wildlife Management: This publication discusses some of the basics of wildlife management. It lists useful management practices and techniques, the steps involved in developing a wildlife plan management plan, and sources of additional information and assistance. (http://www.wildlifemanagement.info/files/forestry_mgt_33.pdf)

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Wisconsin Wood Marketing Bulletin: Published every three months, it serves the timber producing and wood using industries of Wisconsin by listing items: For sale - forest products, equipment and services, wanted - forest products, equipment and services; employment opportunities. (<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Publications/Newsletters/wood.htm>)

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Do you have a favorite forest related web site link? Email the link to: partnersinforesry@gmail.com

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MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Original members, your membership which began on January 1st is likely due now unless you have paid recently. Please keep your membership current at the mere \$25 year.

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Overlooking the public boat landing on Palmer Lake, in northern Vilas County, which connects to Tenderfoot Lake via the Tenderfoot Branch of the Ontonagon River.

In 2005 a Stewardship grant through the Nature Conservancy established the 971 acre Tenderfoot Reserve protecting special old growth features and precious lake shore. Just south and east of Palmer Lake, the Northern Highland State Forest added 1130 acres in 2009 connecting the Hwy. B corridor for public access, and protecting 2 miles of the Tenderfoot Branch before it enters Palmer Lake. This project will be managed sustainably in the NHAL certification guidelines, for northern hardwoods and conifers. It contains some record size conifer trees. These two projects are a result of very different aspects of the Stewardship Fund and both are open to the public, though the Tenderfoot is accessed by water.

by John Schwarzmann Forest Supervisor, Board of Commissioners of Public Lands

Wisconsin's first stewardship program was created in 1989 Act 31 for the purpose of acquiring land to expand recreational opportunities and protect environmentally sensitive areas. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the stewardship program. Under the program, DNR acquires land and provides grants to local units of government and non-profit organizations for land acquisition and property development activities. The state generally issues 20-year tax-exempt general obligation bonds to support the stewardship program. General obligation bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the issuing government (in this case the state), and the government is required to use its taxing power if necessary to repay the debt. Annual debt service payments for principal and interest on stewardship bonds are primarily funded from general purpose revenues, with a portion paid from the segregated conservation fund.

In 1989 Act 31, the Legislature authorized \$250 million of general obligation bonding (reduced to \$231 million in 1995 Act 27 to recognize \$19 million in anticipated federal funding) for the original stewardship program over a 10-year period, ending in fiscal year 1999-2000.

The stewardship program was reauthorized in 1999 Act 9 (the 1999-01 biennial budget) as the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 Program. Under that act, the state could contract public debt in an amount not to exceed \$460 million. The annual bonding allotment was set at \$46 million, from fiscal years 2000-01 to 2009-10. Under 2001 Act 16, the bonding authorization was increased from \$46 million to \$60 million annually, beginning in fiscal year 2002-03 and continuing through 2009-10. This increased the total general obligation bonding authority of the reauthorized program to \$572 million (\$803 million in total bonding was authorized for the 20-year program). 2007 Act 20, the 2007-09 biennial budget act, extended the stewardship program for an additional 10 years to fiscal year 2019-20 and increased the annual bonding authority from \$60 million to \$86 million beginning in 2010-11.

Table 1: Stewardship Program Allocations

	Original	Stewardship 2000	Stewardship 2010	Total	% of Total
DNR Land Acquisition	\$140,800,000	\$341,750,000	\$500,000,000	\$982,550,000	59.1%
State Property Development	45,000,000	65,000,000	100,000,000	210,000,000	12.6
Local Assistance (including NCO) Grants	45,200,000	158,750,000	235,000,000	438,950,000	26.4
Recreational Boating	0	6,500,000	25,000,000	31,500,000	1.9
Total Allocations	\$231,000,000	\$572,000,000	\$860,000,000	\$1,663,000,000	100.0%

DNR has 23.75 positions in the agency funded from general operations appropriations that are involved in various aspects of the stewardship program. These 23.75 positions are assigned to the following Bureaus: (a) 10.0 positions in Facilities and Lands; (b) 7.75 positions in Community Financial Assistance; (c) 2.0 positions in Wildlife Management; (d) 2.0 positions in Parks; and (e) 1.0 position each in Fisheries Management and Legal Services. Staff in the Bureau of Facilities and Lands process approximately 200 to 250 real estate transactions per year, ranging from less than one acre to hundreds or thousands of acres per parcel.

Table 6: Cumulative DNR Purchases, January 1, 1990 through June 30, 2008

Program	Acres
Fisheries and Streambank Protection	38,199
Northern Forests	83,912
Southern Forests	5,278
Parks, Trails, and Recreation Areas	28,987
Wild Rivers and Resource areas	142,326
Wildlife Management	90,073
Natural Areas	55,248
Other	5,282
Total	449,305

The Department has set additional priorities for the acquisition of recreational land in administrative rule. DNR places principal emphasis on the acquisition of lands in the heavily populated areas of the state and in places readily accessible to such areas. The Department undertakes projects based on various criteria. The top priority for acquisition is for the consolidation and completion of existing projects.

The next priority is on new acquisition projects based on the following criteria, listed in descending order of priority: (a) land to protect rare and threatened natural resources, genetic and biological diversity and critical fish and wildlife habitat; (b) unique, one-of-a-kind opportunities involving projects of special scenic quality of sufficient size to provide immediate and significant results in meeting program goals; (c) water-based resources, including land for protecting and improving surface and ground water quality and land for recreation along streams, rivers, lakes and flowages; (d) lands for natural resource-based outdoor recreation and state recreational trails; (e) land within 40 miles of Wisconsin's 12 largest cities (Appleton, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Janesville, Kenosha, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Racine, Waukesha, and West Allis); and (f) protection of scenic lands that meet the preceding priorities. All new projects are subject to Natural Resources Board approval.

Proposed new projects which fall within the following criteria are given lower priority (the criteria are not listed in rank order): (a) wetland projects acquired primarily to provide additional protection beyond regulation and zoning

that do not meet other recreational, water quality or resource management needs; (b) projects to protect and preserve natural resources not threatened with incompatible use; (c) projects not part of large, broadbased integrated management efforts to provide multiple, outdoor-recreational opportunities; (d) timber production areas that do not meet other recreational, water quality or resource management needs; and (e) lands owned by another unit of government and not threatened with sale or incompatible use.

Grants to Nonprofit Conservation Organizations

As a means of encouraging private conservation groups to cooperate with the state in the acquisition and development of recreational lands, the stewardship program authorizes DNR to award grants to nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs) to acquire property. The Department may award these grants under any of the stewardship subprograms.

Prior to 2007 Act 20, grants to NCOs and local governments for land acquisition could be for up to 50% of the land's current fair market value plus certain other acquisition costs as determined in rule by DNR. Under 2007 Act 20, beginning in fiscal year 2010-11, grants of up to 75% of the property acquisition costs could be made to NCOs if the Natural Resources Board determines that all of the following apply: (a) that the property is uniquely valuable in conserving the natural resources of the state; (b) that delaying or deferring the acquisition until 50% of the acquisition costs are procured by the NCO is not reasonably possible; and (c) that sufficient bonding authority remains in the \$12 million set aside for land acquisition grants to NCOs for that fiscal year, after awarding grants to nonprofit conservation organizations that meet the 50% matching requirement. Table 12 shows the amounts provided for this purpose from the land acquisition subprogram since 2000-01.

Before receiving a grant, an NCO must enter into a contract with DNR. The contract would: (a) specify standards for the management of the property to be acquired; (b) prohibit use of the property as security for any debt, unless DNR approves; and (c) prohibit the property to be acquired from being closed to the public, unless DNR determines it is necessary to protect wild animals, plants or other natural features. In addition, the contract must specify that any subsequent sale or transfer of the property by the NCO may be made only with the approval of the Department and only if the potential owner enters into a new contract with DNR. If the NCO violates any essential provision of the contract, title to the acquired property will vest in the state. In 2007-08, NCO grant awards totaled \$10.4 million.

Public Access on Stewardship Land

The use of DNR lands is guided by statute and administrative code. Section NR 1.61 of the administrative code refers to the public use of Department land and states, "except as prohibited or regulated by rule or statute, all department land shall be open for: (a) traditional outdoor recreational uses, including hunting, fishing, trapping, walking, nature study and berry picking; and (b) other types of recreational uses, including camping, bicycling, equestrian uses, field trials, and snowmobiling or other motorized activities, as authorized on a parcel by the property master plan." Section 29.089 of the statutes prohibits hunting in state parks (which includes state trails) and state fish hatcheries unless specifically opened by administrative rule (such as for hunting in a chronic wasting disease management zone). Approximately half of all state park acreage is open for deer or turkey hunting for some portion of the year. In addition, section 29.091 of the statutes prohibits hunting and trapping within a wildlife refuge. Further, the Department is prohibited from permitting any use of a designated state natural area which is "inconsistent with or injurious to its natural values".

The Department has the authority under section 23.28 of the statutes to establish use zones within designated state natural areas and to limit the number of people accessing certain zones within that natural area. Further, several other DNR property types are also closed to hunting including:

- (a) administrative facilities (such as ranger stations); (b) forest nurseries (c) boat access sites; and (d) some conservation easements (such as those acquired to allow for fishing along certain trout streams and certain habitat protection easements).

Stewardship Lands Open to Hunting (1990-2006)

	Total Acres Acquired	Acres Open to Hunting	Percent Open to Hunting
DNR Land Acquisition			
Fee title	282,900	276,400	98%
Easement	142,800	122,900	86
DNR Subtotal	425,700	399,300	94%
Grants			
Local Units of Government			
Fee Title	14,200	3,300	23%
Easement	800	0	0
Nonprofit Conservation Organizations			
Fee Title	31,900	28,000	88%
Easement	4,700	500	11
Grants Subtotal	51,600	31,800	62%
Total	477,300	431,100	<u>90%</u>

Additionally, in order to receive a stewardship grant, NCOs must enter into a contract with the Department that specifies how the property will be managed. Fee title land purchased by NCOs through a stewardship grant is prohibited from being closed to the public unless DNR determines it is necessary to protect wild animals, plants or other natural features. In addition, the state holds a reversionary interest in the property, meaning that, if the NCO violates any provision of the contract, the title to the acquired property vests in the state. Closed acreage on lands controlled by NCOs generally includes lands where development rights were acquired to buffer existing public lands from development.

Stewardship Program Oversight

A heightened review procedure for stewardship projects was enacted in 1995 in order to provide an increased level of legislative scrutiny for major expenditures under the stewardship program. Prior to the passage of 2003 Act 33 (the 2003-05 biennial budget), DNR was prohibited from obligating any funding from the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship program for any project or activity that exceeded \$250,000 unless the Department first notified the Joint Committee on Finance in writing of the proposal. If the co-chairpersons of the Committee did not notify DNR within 14 working days after the date of the Department's notification that the Committee had scheduled a meeting to review the proposal, the Department was permitted to obligate the moneys. If, within 14 working days after the date of the notification by DNR, the co-chairpersons of the Committee notified the Department that the Committee had scheduled a meeting to review the proposal, DNR could only obligate the funding upon approval of the Committee.

Prior to July 26, 2003, 109 projects had been submitted to the Committee. Of these, 48 were reviewed by the full Committee. All but four were approved. Three projects were denied, and one project was deferred. In addition, a \$350,000 grant to the City of Green Bay to fund a portion of the cost of the acquisition of 34.2 acres of land in the Bairds Creek Parkway was scheduled for Committee review in December, 1998, but was withdrawn by DNR. The Department then reduced the amount of the grant below the \$250,000 threshold for Joint Finance review.

As passed by the Legislature, 2003 Act 33 would have required that all land acquisition and property development activities under stewardship be reviewed by Joint Finance under the 14-day passive review process. The \$250,000 threshold of review by the Committee would have been maintained for local assistance or non-profit conservation organization (NCO) grants provided under the stewardship program. The Governor, in his partial vetoes of 2003 Act 33, deleted this provision. Further, the partial veto repealed all passive review requirements for land acquisition, property development, and grant activities supported by funding from an annual stewardship program allocation. 2007 Act 20 restored the authority of the Joint Committee on Finance to review projects under the stewardship program through a 14-day passive review process effective July 1, 2010. (As passed by the Legislature, the review requirements would have been effective on the general effective date of the bill; however, the Governor vetoed words from several sections of the bill to postpone the effective date to July 1, 2010). The act specifies that all stewardship projects (excluding DNR property development projects and DNR acquisition of land held by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands) in excess of \$750,000 are subject to review.

Tom Navratil: City Boy/Woodsman

Interview with Charles Mitchell

Tom Navratil is a city boy from Racine who pursued a long and successful career as a Dentist and came to love the Northwoods along the way.

Tom's first experience in Northern Wisconsin came as a young lad of about 8 – 10 years of age. He and his family rented a cottage in Eagle River. He caught his first Northern on a dead, moldy minnow and has been "hooked on fishing" ever since. A bit later in life he returned north to Michigan's Upper Peninsula during a stint in the USAF. On a radar site near Houghton, he learned to enjoy hunting, snowmobiling, skiing, and many other outdoor activities (the community has about 5,000 young males and 300 young females, so there are few indoor activities). The Air Force then sent him South where he had the opportunity to fly in fighter jets – one of which crashed. The Base



Commander immediately arrived on the scene; and being the astute observer that he was, viewed the flaming aircraft and reminded Tom that he needed a haircut.

In 1978 Tom acquired his property on Stormy Lake and began constructing his home himself. It was a 30 year labor of love and a great learning experience. City boys don't usually build kitchen cabinets, lay hardwood floors, wire circuits, and do plumbing; but he got some good advice, read some books, made some mistakes, and up it went. Local wood, for global good – of course.

In the summer, it is not unusual to hear the growl of a Harley – Davidson on Stormy Lake Road. In addition to riding, Tom enjoys gardening, photography, furniture making, travel; and in his spare time, he brews a mean ale!

Tom is married to the most wonderful woman in the world. "She shakes her head and lets me go chase my windmills (Don Quixote is his hero). I am a lucky man!" They have a son in California and a daughter, son-in-law and grandson in Milwaukee and another ??? on the way.

Over the years Tom has acquired 3 parcels of forestland totaling 360 acres, in the Conover area. Being a city boy, he didn't know much about what to do with them; so he was pleased to receive a letter from Joe Hovel inviting him to the organizational meeting of PIF. He is one of the original members, and looks forward to being more active in the organization. He has learned a lot about forest ecosystems and land management as a result of PIF membership. He greatly appreciates the mentorship and friendship of Joe Hovel – although they agree to disagree on politics!

Tom believes in mixed use of the forest. He thinks there is a place for hikers and photographers, bikers and loggers, kayakers and ATV riders. Each of us should be able to use the forest to his/her best enjoyment. He rides his ATV in Northern Michigan where the trails are marked and scenic.

Tom prides himself in being a good steward of his forested land. He has no intention of developing it. He wants it to remain natural, healthy, and productive.

Visual Quality

By Bill Cook

Visual quality is a particularly poor measure of ecological integrity. However, it's a quality that is too often used to make judgments about the condition of our forests. Of course, the value of the eye of the beholder depends upon the knowledge of the beholder. And, not too many people know a lot about forest ecology.

There are cases where visual quality is low but ecological integrity is high, as well as the other way around.

In the first case, for example, take a clearcut in an aspen or jack pine stand. Usually, the visual quality is rather low during the first couple of years after such a harvest. Yet, in order to maintain these stands, a catastrophic disturbance is needed. Nature typically used things like wildfire and massive insect outbreaks. The clearcut regenerates the stand without the losses associated with a wildfire or insect outbreak and provides revenue for the landowner and products to society. That's kind of like a multi-win situation.

Without catastrophic disturbance of some sort, certain forest types will decline over time. Indeed, some forest types are doing just that.

Now, "catastrophic" does not mean bad. Such disturbance not only regenerates sun demanding trees such as aspen and jack pine, but it also provides habitat for a wide range of species, both plant and animal. These are typically different suites of species than what were there previously, but such a change, temporary as it might be, is a good thing. This is especially true if you're one of those species that thrive in very young forest stands. Just ask a harrier or a big-leafed aster.

Catastrophic disturbances, of the normal kind, do not result in any permanent decline in the quality of soil, water, or air. Temporary carbon losses from the soil are quickly returned and the resulting young forest sequesters considerably more carbon than it did prior to the disturbance. The carbon that was harvested as forest products may have a long storage life, depending upon what the forest products were manufactured into.

In the second case, a thrifty stand of northern hardwoods (sugar maple, basswood, beech, yellow birch, etc.) with an open understory presents a park-

like appearance that many people would rate with high marks for visual quality. However, biologists might refer to such a forest stand as an ecological desert. Without an active understory, an entire range of species is missing, leaving a lack of biodiversity and dysfunctional ecological dynamics. Northern hardwoods are supposed to have an understory of tree regeneration, shrubs, spring wildflowers, and the animals associated with such a stand structure.

Oddly, a red pine stand (natural origin or plantation) with little understory might also be an ecological desert, but if it lies within an ocean of aspen and northern hardwoods, the red pine represents an increase in community diversity. This would be a good thing. As such a stand changes with time, more light reaches the forest floor and an understory develops. Different expectations at different life stages. Not surprisingly, many rules of nature are not exactly "hard and fast."

Foresters are the professionals who are trained in forest ecology and understand how to manage a forest to bring about an increased and enhanced set of benefits for forest owners, and to the larger society as well. A century of applied forestry and generations of foresters have had a lot to do with building the rich forest of today from the emaciated condition following the historic logging and burning of the late 1800s.

Some take our forests for granted. It's rather easy to underestimate the role of forests in the health of our environment, economy, and culture. Yet, the record speaks for itself many times around the world and throughout time. It's usually a mistake to use visual quality as a measure of forest quality. After all, since when does an outer appearance speak to the inherent qualities that lie within?

Trailer

Bill Cook is an MSU Extension forester providing educational programming for the entire Upper Peninsula. His office is located at the MSU Upper Peninsula Tree Improvement Center near Escanaba. The Center is the headquarters for three MSU Forestry properties in the U.P., with a combined area of about 8,000 acres. He can be reached at cookwi@msu.edu or 906-786-1575.

IN DA WOODS

by Melanie B. Fullman,
US Forest Service
Bessemer Ranger District, Ottawa NF
(Photos by Scott Pearson, Ottawa NF)



MARTENS

A couple weeks ago, a Forest Service biologist working on the Iron River Ranger District had a rare close encounter with a marten (*Martes americana*). It was very curious and wasn't a bit afraid of me. Once it hopped out of the trees, it went about its normal, stealthy activities. It was cautious, but once it put some distance between it and me on the ground, it slowed down and continued hunting and checking things out. One of the coolest things was how quiet it was, couldn't hear a leaf rustle. Its coloration reminded me of a red squirrel [one of its favorite foods]; definitely lighter in color than a fisher. Martens are not-often-seen members of the mustelid (weasel) family. They are closely related to fishers, mink, otters, badgers, wolverines, skunks, of

course, weasels. Because they live in similar habitat and have similar tracks, they are sometimes confused with fishers, which are larger and darker.

What to Look For

Martens are slender with a pointed face and bushy tail. They have shiny, soft, thick fur that varies in color from pale yellow to red to dark brown. Look for a creamy white chest and black tail and legs. They also have two vertical black lines above the inner corners of their eyes. In winter, they grow long hair between their toes, similar to snowshoe hares.

This keeps their feet warm and helps them travel long distances on snow. This also gives them a maneuvering advantage over fishers, which lack the built-in snowshoes and are heavier.

Adults weigh about 2 pounds, with males slightly larger than females. They are about the same length as a house cat: 6" tall and 19-27" long, including the tail which is about one-third the length of their body.

Males roam a large territory, 5-10 square miles! Females stay closer to home, patrolling just 1-5 square miles. Impressive then, that a critter so small, covers its entire territory every 8-10 days in search of food and to make sure other martens haven't moved in. In addition to the scent marking so common in mustelids, marten communicate via huffs, chuckles, and screams. Body postures probably play an important role too. Courtship between males and females usually involves tumbling, playing,

and wrestling. Marten kits are born in late March or April, 9 months after mating. The female makes a den in a hollow tree, stump or rock crevice, lines it with leaves, moss and other vegetation, then gives birth to 2-5 young. She rears them alone, weaning the babes at 6-7 weeks. By 12 weeks, they are nearly full-grown. A few weeks later, the kits move out to look for and establish new territories. If they can avoid larger predators, such as fishers, bobcats, coyotes, raptors, and people, marten can live for about a decade.

Pine Martens

Martens are true Yoopers, living only in the northern US and Canada. They prefer mature, dense conifer forests typically cedar, balsam fir, spruce, and hemlock. Despite their common name, Pine Marten, they don't usually inhabit pine! In the Lake States, martens also live in hardwoods mixed with conifers. With a very high metabolism, and thus, the need for constant food, martens eat just about anything they can find/catch: squirrels, rabbits, mice, voles, shrews,



birds, bird eggs, amphibians, reptiles, insects, fish, crayfish, worms, honey, nuts, and berries. Most hunting occurs at dusk and dawn, when their food is most active. In the winter, they tunnel under the snow in search of small mammals. The tunneling also provides shelter, as the snow is an excellent insulator from extreme cold and nasty winds. Oddly, though martens are at home in trees, they do most of their hunting on the ground. There, they poke their heads into rock piles, hollow logs, and holes. They'll move for a bit in a zigzag, then take a series of jumps. Sometimes they stalk prey like a cat, other times they pounce from above. Some have even learned to check bird feeders in search of birds. They will chase prey, such as squirrels or chipmunks, up trees and climb trees to escape danger themselves. In addition, martens are accomplished swimmers and can even swim under water.

Big Snow Country = Martens

When mature forests covered the North Woods, until the late 1800s, this area provided ideal habitat for martens. After European settlers arrived, marten populations declined dramatically due to trapping and logging. By 1940, these naturally curious critters had vanished or nearly vanished throughout most of their range.

Mid-century efforts to reintroduce them to the North Woods were largely unsuccessful. Marten reintroduction efforts in Michigan started in 1955 in the Porcupine State Park. A second marten reintroduction was done in 1969 in portions of the Hiawatha NF. Then, in the 1970s and 80s, the Wisconsin DNR and US Forest Service released martens from



Ontario, Colorado, and northern Minnesota into the Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests. In December 1980, martens were released on what was to become the McCormick Wilderness on the Ottawa Forest. Additional releases occurred on the Iron River Ranger District in the spring of 1981. All of the animals came from Ontario. The release sites were chosen to encourage migration between populations in the UP. The total released "locally" was 148 (71 females and 77 males).

Over time, there has been migration between the Nicolet population and those in the west-central UP. In Wisconsin, however, martens have struggled to expand their range and increase in numbers. This could be due to a higher population and density of fisher, which eat martens. The amount of snow is probably a critical factor, since less snow enables fisher to catch martens more easily (the snowshoe effect, mentioned earlier). On the Ottawa, we find many

more martens close to Lake Superior, in Big Snow Country, than towards the Wisconsin border. Since martens don't hibernate, winter is probably your best chance to see one. As the Ottawa biologist put it: "a once in a lifetime opportunity to get this close to a marten, so I was jazzed." You'll find them, me, and all that jazz in the woods!

Future Articles

Look for an interview with Dave Speirs from Land Vest in the next newsletter.

PIF members are encouraged to submit articles, announcements, photos, and 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Trees For Tomorrow's
First Annual**



**Forest
Fest**

**A celebration of all
the forest has to offer!**

Saturday, August 6, 2011

Forest Fest is an opportunity for organizations and individuals who depend on the wood products and other natural resources for their livelihood to celebrate the environment. Forest Fest is a time for organizations with similar missions to unite for a day-long celebration and a chance to share their enthusiasm for natural resources with the public.

During the day, activities will include the following:

- Historical Interpreters
- Birds of Prey Demonstrations
- Other Animal Displays
- Games
- Crafts
- Carving Demonstrations
- Tree Identification Course
- Nature Hike
- Horse Drawn Wagon Rides
- Music
- Food
- Papermaking

Trees For Tomorrow is a Wisconsin environmental education tradition, offering programs, workshops, and special interest classes to more than 6,000 individuals annually since 1944. Located on over 30 forested acres including property under permit from the USDA Forest Service. Trees For Tomorrow serves people of all ages by offering exceptional workshops and is an equal opportunity provider.



Exhibitor/Vendor Registration Form

Name: _____

Business: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Describe product: _____

Activity at Forest Fest:

- Selling product
- Information only
- Food vendor

Please return this completed registration form with a \$25 non-refundable commitment fee to:

Maggie Bishop
Trees For Tomorrow
P. O. Box 609
Eagle River, WI 54521

All proceeds from this event go to the Trees For Tomorrow scholarship fund.

VISION STATEMENT

"Trees For Tomorrow will be the national leader in natural resource education providing an accredited, outdoor, hands-on, science-based curriculum focusing on sustainability and stewardship to enlighten diverse audiences."

MISSION

To deliver balanced, objective information on the management and use of trees, forests, and other natural resources. Our field-based programs, which place people in direct contact with resources that support human needs, teach knowledge and skills leading to responsible lifestyle choices. This experience inspires informed participation in policy making and promotes stewardship and renewal of natural resources for use by future generations.



Trees For Tomorrow
Natural Resource Specialty School
519 Sheridan Street East
P. O. Box 609
Eagle River, WI 54521
Phone: 715-479-6456
Fax: 715-479-2318
www.TreesForTomorrow.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



Partners in Forestry
6063 Baker Lake Road
Conover, WI 54519

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

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.

Partners In Forestry Co-Op (PIF)

Membership Application

The mission of Partners In Forestry is “To assist members in the sustainable management of their woodlands”.

Name (Please Print) _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Type of Ownership: ___ Individual ___ Trust ___ Partnership ___ other

Total Number of wooded acres: _____

Location of Property or Properties by Township, Range, and Section Numbers as shown on your county’s plat book as well as the total number of wooded acres.

Example: T.43N – R.8E – S.28 Number of wooded acres: 459.7

If you have multiple parcels, please list them separately. If parcels are less than 15 acres, it would be helpful to also provide the county parcel numbers.

1. _____ Acres _____

2. _____ Acres _____

3. _____ Acres _____

4. _____ Acres _____

5. _____ Acres _____

6. _____ Acres _____

(Continued on back)

Land History

Are you enrolled in the Managed Forest Law Program? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you have a written forest management plan? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, when was it written? _____

Who prepared it? _____DNR Forester
_____Consultant
_____Industrial Forester
_____Other

Would you be willing to permit your land to be surveyed for invasive species without any obligation to you? _____ Yes _____ No

The information I have provided in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Land Owner Signature _____

Date _____

Please return application information to:

Partners In Forestry
6063 Baker Lake Rd.
Conover, WI 54519