



Partners News

September 2012

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JOE'S COMMENTS

Wisconsin experienced a brutal summer of heat and drought. Thankfully we had adequate rain in the north for most of the summer, but our central and southern regions were harmed in a very substantial way. We still have a long way to go in the north to make up the loss of groundwater from the '05-'09 drought. As my friend Joe Koehler in Marquette County said, "It's sad watching all the trees we've planted die and there is nothing we can do to stop it." I recently heard one scientist comment, "if this is not climate change, this is what it will look like."

In the UP, our challenge to the Wildcat Falls land swap was answered with the government attorney denying most of our claims in the complaint. No surprise there. It troubles me that this trade was ever brought forward, it is not in the public interest and I do not wish to be in litigation with the Forest Service. I much more enjoy working with them on conservation of important lands. Also in the Ottawa, we will miss Melanie Fullman, who has left her post as the Bessemer District Ranger.

Enjoy this issue, lots of effort went into the making of this newsletter. Rod Sharka with Forest Fest, John Schwarzmann ever persistent on finding forest health concerns to bring to your attention, Nancy Warren's information and opinions on the wolf hunt and Charlie Mitchell conducting the interview with EG Nadeau while tracing the roots of PIF. I am happy to share my experience with the Forest Legacy Program, as this important program is a big success story in Wisconsin.

Hopefully we will see you on October 6th to visit the large white pines in Forest County, managed under extended rotation.

This is your COOP, be involved, share what you know and let us know where we can help.

Enjoy the fall wildlife, we have dozens of turkeys frequenting our home property.

Did you know that:

"almost 197,000 acres has been protected in Wisconsin under the Forest Legacy Programs." See Forest Legacy story, page 10.

FIELD TRIP TO PESHTIGO RIVER PINES

The White Pine was the premier timber species of the Lake States in the late 1800's. Few representative stands of large white pine remain. On Saturday, October 6, you will have an opportunity to hike into the Peshtigo River Pines, north of Laona, where many pines are 3 feet in diameter and some are nearly 140 feet high!: the height of a 14-story building. These pines are 100 – 140 years old.

The hike will be led by John Schwarzmann, Forest Supervisor for the State of Wisconsin, Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) in Lake Tomahawk. The pines are on land that has been owned by the BCPL since 1883.

The field trip will start at 10 am from Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River. A car pool will drive close to 1 hour to the site. Participants should bring a bag lunch, sturdy shoes, etc. as they will then hike in hilly terrain through the pine stand on the west side of the Peshtigo River. A two hour hike with questions and answers and a stop for a picnic lunch is planned. The car pool will return to Eagle River by 3 pm.

Call John at the BCPL at (715) 277-3366 to find out more and sign up.

John Schwarzmann, Forest Supervisor
Board of Commissioners of Public Lands



THE WAY I SEE THE WISCONSIN WOLF HUNT

By Nancy Warren

Act 169, creating the first Wisconsin wolf hunt in recent history, was signed into law by Governor Walker less than three months after the removal of the wolf from the Federal Endangered Species List.

Many aspects of this legislation are considered violations of hunter ethics and “fair chase” and mandated that the season begin 10/15, when pups are only six months old and runs through February, including the prime breeding season for the wolf. The legislation directed that night hunting, predator calls and baiting will all be allowed.

Particularly egregious is the practice of hunting wolves with up to 6 dogs and the failure of the Wisconsin DNR to develop reasonable rules and restrictions for the use of dogs for training and hunting.

No license is required to train wolf hunting hounds using free ranging wolves. Training wolf hunting hounds can take place targeting all free ranging wolves outside the Northern restricted zone on lands not DNR owned twelve months a year and can take place July through April in the Northern restricted zone on lands not DNR owned. This means even wolves at den and rendezvous sites can be legally tracked and trailed by hounds wearing GPS collars. Training of hounds can continued during the open season for hunting wolves.

On August 8th, Northwood Alliance, Inc. joined seven other plaintiffs, against the Wisconsin DNR and the Natural Resource Board seeking an injunction regarding the use of dogs as a method to hunt wolves in the state. The lawsuit challenges the validity of the wolf harvesting rules on the basis that DNR does not have the legal authority to declare rules that authorize or facilitate the violation of existing Wisconsin law, essentially cruelty to animals and animal fighting.

Expert affidavits from retired wolf biologists and animal behaviorists were submitted to support the motion. These experts assert that the DNR's failure to impose even the most basic restrictions, like leashing and dog training, is certain to lead to violent confrontations, bloodshed and unjustifiable cruelty in violation of both animal cruelty and hunting laws.

The lawsuit does not stop the lethal removal of wolves that prey on livestock and it is not an attack on Wisconsin's hunting tradition. It does not even seek to stop the wolf hunting season. It merely seeks to impose rules and regulations on the training of dogs and the use of dogs to hunt wolves.

On August 31st, Dane County Circuit Judge Peter C. Andersen issued a preliminary injunction that temporarily bans wolf hunters from training or using dogs in the chase until a final ruling can be made. As a result of this ruling, DNR must advise hunters that the use of dogs for tracking and trailing of wolves is not authorized when hunting wolves under a wolf harvesting license. Also, the use of dogs for training to track or train free ranging wolves is not authorized at this time. The judge's ruling can be viewed in its entirety via [Wisconsin Eye Public Affairs Network: Wisconsin Federated Humane Societies Inc. et. Al. vs.](#)

[Cathy Stepp et. al.](#) but you may want to just listen to the last 15 minutes.

On September 14th, Judge Anderson listened to oral arguments on the motion by DNR to dismiss the case, claiming the plaintiffs lacked standing. However, the judge ruled there is sufficient evidence for the case to proceed, at this writing a trial date has not been set.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact NWA Board Member, Nancy Warren at nwarren1@earthlink.net or 906 988 2892.

My passion for wolves began about 20 years ago when I learned that we had a handful of wolves in the Upper Peninsula. Since that time, wolves, have reclaimed their presence in the Northland. I participate in workshops, lectures and conferences and believe that for wolves to survive there needs to be human tolerance. One way to improve human tolerance is by gaining a better understanding of wolf behavior through education. As a volunteer for the TWA Speakers Bureau, I give programs at schools and various organizations throughout Northern Wisconsin and the Western U.P. I was a volunteer tracker/coordinator for the Wisconsin Volunteer Carnivore Program for the past 17 years, conducted howling surveys and have assisted with the collaring of several wolves in Wisconsin. I served on the DNR Wolf Roundtable where we developed the guiding principles for the MI Wolf Management Plan, currently serve on the MI Wolf Forum. I serve on the Timber Wolf Alliance Advisory Board and the Boards for Northwood Alliance, Inc. and the Upper Peninsula Environment Coalition and am the current Great Lakes Regional Director for the National Wolfwatcher Coalition.

FOREST FEST 2012 PROMOTES NORTHWOODS INGENUITY, CULTURE & ARTISTRY

by Wendy Kellogg and Rod Sharka

Trees For Tomorrow and Partners In Forestry (PIF) hosted their 2nd Annual Forest Fest on the Trees For Tomorrow school campus, Saturday, August 4, 2012 from 9am to 3pm. Folks of all ages were welcome at Forest Fest, a free, family-friendly event. Overall, its mission was to unify the local community of individuals, businesses, service organizations, artists and craftspeople to celebrate and impart to the public their enthusiasm for wood and forestlands as a natural resource. In only its second year garnering recognition, foot traffic brought nearly 600 visitors.

Trekking the grounds of Forest Fest one could soak up a generous variety of local color, talent and northwoods ambiance. Ponsse, an international builder of forestry equipment, once again provided a formidable and awesome spectacle of timber harvesting machinery, a forwarder, dwarfing onlookers as they stood at its tires. You could even put yourself in the shoes of forestry professionals, as many children did, while suspended high above on tree branches by harness and rope with arborist Jamie Remme of Remme Tree Service, LLC. UW-Stevens Point Timbersports Team, awarded 1st place in the 2012 Midwestern Foresters' Conclave, presented a mighty showing of dexterity, braun and focus in their demonstrations of events such as cross-cut sawing and wood chopping.

At the Georgia-Pacific papermaking booth, visitors experienced production aspects of a major renewable resource of the forest—paper. Here they could handcraft their own sheet of paper from a solution of water and pulp fibers. Bringing the story full circle and providing an idea of forest management in the formulation of products. Exemplifying the many land uses in the northwoods, organizations like the Teaching Drum School, Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association and the Wisconsin Trappers Association were present to answer questions in the areas of woodlands ownership and management, forestry history, wildlife, lakes and rivers, medicinal plants, invasive species, hunting, trapping and sustainable survival techniques. Wisconsin DNR, US Forest

Service, Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership, and Susan Knight from Trout Lake Research Station all provided abundant information about the threat of both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species as well as other aspects of their respective agencies.

PIF's contribution included providing guided, forest management tours on nearby woodlands.

Two off campus forestry tours were arranged by Partners In Forestry. The morning forestry tour was led by retired DNR forester and PIF member, Curt Hare. Curt took a group of interested participants to his nearby parcel of just under 40 acres where he planted a pine plantation about 15 years ago. Kurt discussed his intentions and management plan for the pines, as well as the additional mixed hardwood stand on the property. The participants were also treated to a crash course in tree identification focusing on the variety of pines, spruce, and fir that were encountered.

The afternoon tour was led by Board of Commissioners of Public Lands supervisor John Schwarzmann, who took his group to a very nice mixed hardwood parcel owned and managed by BCPL. Once again, John discussed how this type of forest is managed for sustainable forestry, and fielded numerous questions about forest types, tree growth rates and life spans, and sustainable harvest practices. Since this tour group included several Jobs Corp. young people, John also discussed the life of a forester and the many perks of pursuing forestry as a career.

Although the two forestry tours were to different locations with very different forest types, both tours emphasized the importance of consulting with a knowledgeable forester for guidance in development of a forest management plan customized for the landowner's particular forest as well as their personal interests and goals for forest ownership. Other discussions in common included descriptions of different habitat types influenced primarily by soil composition, and their influence on

the well being of different tree species or forest types best adapted to growing in them. Both PIF and Trees For Tomorrow would like to extend their sincere gratitude to Curt and John for sharing their expertise and leading two very valuable and productive tours.

Numerous other featured exhibits and activities were offered during Forest Fest. Winged wildlife of the area took center stage during showings of Trees For Tomorrow's (TFT) Birds of Prey program, featuring two rescued birds and TFT animal ambassadors— Apollo, a red-tailed hawk and Orion, a great-horned owl. Forest Fest featured crafts and arts in a plethora of media— woodturning, woven pine needle and birch bark and split ash basketry, chainsaw-carving, wood burning, fiber artists, and more. Storyteller Mary Schueller painted a picture

of the Civilian Conservation Corps era speaking of the efforts of these hearty soldiers. Rocking W Stables provided festival participants to a free horse-drawn wagon ride around Eagle River and the TFT campus. Fresh buttered corn on the cob from the Corn Lady, Futility Farms grass-fed hamburgers, and Trig's World's Best brats in addition to free cake and ice cream made the festival experience delectable.

With attractions and entertainment for every curiosity and taste, Trees For Tomorrow and Partners In Forestry look forward with promise to the 3rd Annual Forest Fest next year on Saturday, August 3rd, 2013!

Check out more photos in Trees For Tomorrow's [Facebook Forest Fest 2012](#) Photo Album!

Forest Fest 2012 photos provided by Rod Sharka. Joe and Mary Hovel's granddaughter, Elizabeth, creating balloon animals, and pictures from PIF's two forestry tours.



Partners in Forestry is a co-operative

Interview with Emile G. Nadeau

15 Sep 2012

By Charles Mitchell

Now and then it's worthwhile to look back and examine your roots. It's easy to forget that Partners In Forestry was founded as a cooperative, even though the term "cooperative" appears in the name Partners in Forestry Landowner Cooperative. What does being a cooperative mean? Executive director Joe Hovel thought we should ask a leading advocate of the cooperative spirit, Emile G. Nadeau, known to friends as EG, to remind us. EG has been a long-time member and friend of PIF.

PIF: How did you first become interested and involved in cooperatives?

EG: In the Peace Corps in 1970 and 1971, I was assigned to work with a fishing village in Senegal, Africa, on an island at the mouth of a river, in the Atlantic Ocean. The villagers caught ample fish, enough to not only meet their needs, but to sell to countrymen on the mainland. However, they couldn't manage to command a high enough price for their fish to make it worthwhile. Middlemen drove up the prices. I got the idea that a cooperative could solve the distribution problems and was able to set one up, although it never became successful. This failure was the start of my carrier in the field of co-ops.

After the Peace Corps, I received a PhD in sociology at the University of Wisconsin, focusing my studies on co-ops and doing my dissertation on farming co-ops in Zambia.

PIF: What do you feel are the benefits that co-ops provide in today's world?

EG: Co-ops are businesses that are owned and democratically controlled by the people that they serve. Their primary goal is to meet people's needs, not to make a profit. Members elect the board of directors and keep the co-op focused on its service objectives.

We need more of this kind of business behavior in the world today. It could have helped to avert the economic crisis that we are still recovering from. For example, you don't see credit unions [which are financial cooperatives] carrying out the kind of irresponsible trading in subprime mortgages that the banks .

PIF: What are some co-ops that you helped establish that you are particularly proud of?

EG: In 35 years of consulting and advocacy, I have helped to set up numerous co-ops in the fields of farming, housing, forestry and other sectors. What I am most proud of is Cooperative Development Services which I, along with others, founded in 1985. It is organized as a co-op, and provides technical assistance to new and established co-ops.

PIF: How did you become involved with PIF in its formative stage?

EG: Don Peterson invited me to a steering committee meeting that was taking the steps to get PIF started, back in 2001. Don was the main organizer, and brought in folks like Joe Hovel. Don was a forester who now runs Renewable Resources. Bob Simeone, another forester who did pioneering work in South America, was also involved. I stayed in touch with Joe as he became the leader, and have served as an occasional resource person to PIF.

PIF: When I think about co-ops, I conjure images of storehouses with feed and seed for farmers or credit union offices. PIF deals with stewardship, management and succession planning relating to forests, providing advice/education/information. Why is a co-op a good format for PIF?

EG: PIF primarily provides informal advice and assistance to landowner members and organizes occasional workshops, for example the very successful estate planing workshop it coordinated a couple of years ago. You don't need to be a co-

op, you could be an association. But as a co-op, you can provide a forum for competent foresters, accountants or financial advisors to consult with members or go as far as to engage a forester as staff and charge fees for service. You could get into the business of selling products for your members, things such as timber, lumber and millwork, firewood or wood chips as fuel.

(Note from Joe: our lobbying for the Local Lumber Use Law and assisting members with financial matters in land use planning certainly has justified the CO-OP structure.)

Kickapoo Woods Cooperative in southwestern Wisconsin is a co-op that I helped to get organized. It now has a forester on staff. The co-op makes money by doing forest management plans, managing timber harvests and by providing other forestry services.

PIF: PIF does a good job pursuing its mission and disseminating educational advice. How can we use our co-op roots to do even better?

EG: Concentrate on what you are doing, do it well and maybe more of it. Workshops and annual meetings. Of course, you can also provide services like Kickapoo.

PIF: PIF has been strong in political advocacy relating to forest health and the environment. How do we know that members appreciate these efforts?

EG: You might consider doing a survey of members in order to better understand what the members would like from the co-op. Questions could deal with specific projects or causes supported by PIF or potential services or other activities that PIF could undertake in the future. Surveys are a good way to interact with and get ideas from the members.

PIF: What advice can you give PIF to get more folks involved?

EG: A survey is one way. Sponsoring more educational events is another. Kickapoo draws in a lot of new people with their seminars/workshops. Lighter subjects that are recreational or fun can be just as effective as the more serious subjects: chainsaw safety, wood carving, maple syrup production, bird watching.

PIF: Are co-ops gaining in strength and influence in our complicated world of technology and fast communications?

EG: Co-ops are holding their own as a business form. Credit unions are doing well, 7000 strong, with 93 million members. Agricultural co-ops account for about one-third of all farm purchasing and marketing. There are about 30,000 co-ops serving well over 100 million members in the United States.

I have written a book which was just published in August that explains the benefits of co-ops, not only to the co-op owners, but to the economic well being of the country. The key ingredient is having democratically controlled businesses as a counterpart to our political democracy. Not only are co-ops less likely to engage in bad business practices that cause recessions, they help to spread the wealth generated by business, thus reducing the gap between rich and poor. Also, without being dominated by a profit motive, co-ops tend to be more respectful of the environment and natural resources, which may be more important than ever to address climate change problems. The book is entitled "The Cooperative Solution: How the United States can tame recessions, reduce inequality, and protect the environment."

PIF: What has been the most satisfying result in your endeavors with co-ops?

EG: Since we started CDS in 1985, there are now about 25 cooperative development organizations serving almost all of the United States. These organizations have formed a national association called Co-operation Works, that provides educational and other services to the development organizations. I'm very pleased to have been a part of the growth of cooperative development services in the US.

Thanks for the story, EG. Keep up the good work.

Note from Joe to members: Now that we are reminded of how a co-op should function, it is easy to see that we need more folks involved. PIF has accomplished admirable things, but without more member involvement this is not sustainable. Please contact us and become active. We need your ideas and action more than your dues.

HOW TO IDENTIFY INTRODUCED BASSWOOD THRIPS

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

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Northeastern Area
NA-FR-01-92



Defoliation of basswood trees caused by introduced basswood thrips. The introduced basswood thrips, *thrips calcaratus*, is a recently recognized defoliator of American basswood in the Lake States. American basswood is a common understory tree throughout the northeastern United States, as well as an important, though often scattered, component of the forest overstory.

Over the past several years, basswood stands in northern forests have suffered moderate to severe defoliation. Damage can resemble early spring frost injury, but examination of the newly expanding leaves reveals small, active insects.

Symptoms

Damage to basswood from the introduced basswood thrips is characterized by bud drop in the early spring or a stunted, shredded appearance of expanding leaves. On fully expanded leaves, feeding damage appears as a silvering of the leaf cuticle. Repeated defoliation leads to thinned crowns and branch dieback, and eventual reduction in radial growth. Tree mortality has been rare.

Life History

The introduced basswood thrips is of European origin. Because it has not caused damage in its native European range, its basic biology, host range and life history are not well known.

Preliminary research suggests that egg production and thrips development are optimal at cooler temperatures. Adult females emerge from overwintering sites in the soil as basswood buds break in early spring. Adults feed on the newly opened leaves, rupturing individual plant cells. Oviposition (egg laying) occurs within the lower leaf veins of expanding leaves. Reproduction is parthenogenetic (females do not mate). No males have been recorded in North America.

Larvae appear in mid- to late May, and feed on leaf tissue throughout their development. At least two larval instars are recognized. Fully developed larvae drop from the foliage, move into the litter and soil, and pupate. Adults emerge from pupae later in the summer, move into the soil, and diapause until the following spring.

In addition to the introduced basswood thrips, the pear thrips, *taeniothrips inconsequens*, may potentially defoliate deciduous forests of the Lake States. Other thrips that may be present on basswood include the native basswood



Figure 1. Undamaged basswood leaves expanding from an



Figure 2. Thrips damage to newly expanding basswood leaves.



Figure 3. Thrips damage to fully expanded basswood leaves.



Figure 4. Thinned crowns and branch dieback.

thrips, *eahydatothrips tiliae*, which is not known to cause damage, and the beneficial predatory thrips, *haplothrips mali*.

Identification

Based on the feathery appearance of their wings, thrips can be recognized with a hand lens. However, because of their small size (less than 5 mm), positive identification of the introduced basswood thrips requires microscopic examination.

Introduced basswood thrips adults have 7-segmented antennae and a pre-apical fore tarsal claw. Larvae have 17 to 18 projections on the posterior abdominal comb. In contrast, adult pear thrips have 8-segmented antennae and an apical fore tarsal claw. Larval pear thrips have only 7 to 8 projections on the posterior abdominal comb. Both the native basswood thrips, which is white with red ocelli, and the predatory thrips, which is large and black, are easily distinguished from the basswood thrips.

Knowledge of the basic biology of the introduced basswood thrips, as well as its host range and impact of repeated defoliation, will be required in order to make sound resource management decisions.



Adult female introduced basswood thrip.



Pupa of introduced basswood thrips.

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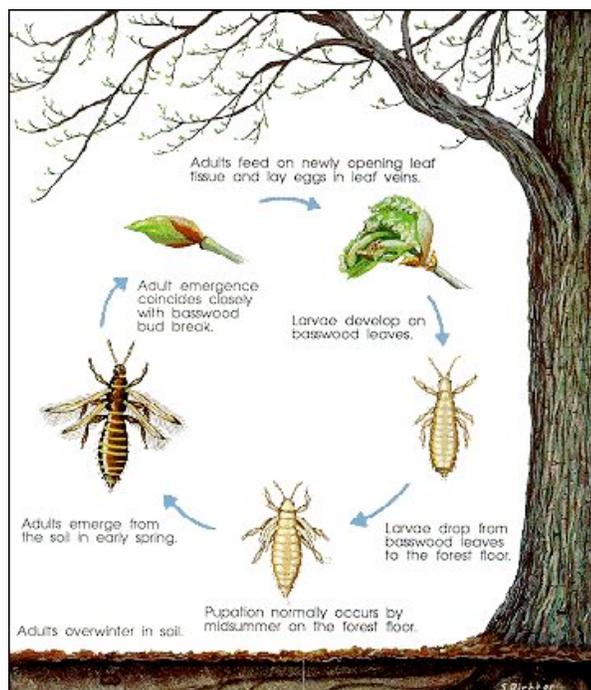
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FOREST LEGACY: GRAND SCALE LAND CONSERVATION

by Joe Hovel

For years now we have discussed, in these pages, the concerns of forest fragmentation, parcelization, and conversion of forest land to other uses. For almost as long I have been an active member of the Wisconsin Forest Stewardship Committee. The Forest Stewardship Committee's role is defined in the United States Forest Service (USFS) program guidance for states that participate in the federal Forest Legacy Program. The committee is charged with the ranking of Forest Legacy applications the state receives. The ranking process is important to assure that only the most competitive projects are submitted to the Forest Service for consideration and potential funding under Forest Legacy.

The Forest Legacy Program was conceived in the 1990 farm bill as a way to address forest conversion through land conservation. It is, simply, a federal program that is voluntary for landowners and is administered by the forestry agencies of participating states. Through the program, states acquire conservation easements, which are legally binding agreements that transfer a negotiated set of property rights from the landowner to the state without removing the property from private ownership. The federal grants can fund a maximum of 75% of the value of the purchased rights. The remaining 25% or more comes from state funds. It is important to note the Forest Legacy Program is fueled by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). If you recall from a previous issue's discussion of LWCF; this is not taxpayer funds but a portion of off shore oil and gas revenues. The reasoning behind LWCF is to mitigate off shore environmental damage by protecting land and water on shore. We as taxpayers and outdoor recreationists are beneficiaries of LWCF in many ways, which we will save for another discussion.

Wisconsin has witnessed a huge sell off of industrial forest land for over the past decade. Industry ownership was once thought to be stable and long term, but has been replaced by investment ownership which primarily looks at the monetary return including land sales for 'highest and best use'. This trend has resulted in a loss of forest base and public access. Forest Legacy enhances our priceless stewardship fund, and with the two together, we have been able to mitigate a portion of these losses. Recent MFL data exposes the disposition of over 258,000 acres of Wisconsin forest land since 1999, much of this converted to other uses and removed from forestry.

Under a Forest Legacy easement the landowner holds and manages the timber rights for the land. These rights are subject to an approved sustainable management plan that is outlined in the terms of the easement. In an exception to the above statement, a portion of the Tomahawk Timberlands project was acquired in fee simple by the state, using federal Forest Legacy funds in part.

Most of the Forest Legacy acreage in Wisconsin, that being in the north, is held by industrial landowners. The State of Wisconsin, however, holds the development rights and limits division of the parcels and insures the right to public access. Please note that today the term 'industrial' is inclusive of Timber Investment Management Organizations (TIMO) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT). These large investment ownerships now control most of the former land owned by industry, sometimes with long term supply agreements to the previous industry owner. You may recall, in an interview with Dave Spiers of Landvest in January 2011, we learned a bit about timber investment ownerships and their objectives. Their goals can be very different from ours as family forest owners. The very fact of the land ownership having a defined time frame being labeled a 'fund' troubles some people, including myself. In fact I was recently asked about Forest Legacy easements: "is that not a corporate handout"? My simple answer was that I understood the question, but "I am very thankful to the large landowners who seek to sell their development rights and assure public access in perpetuity. In an ideal world MFL would suffice as land protection, but as we have seen in times of hot development trends these TIMO and REIT owners simply see the MFL withdrawal as a cost of doing business. So, in my opinion, fairly compensating a land owner for a part of their 'bundle of property rights' is judiciously protecting our heirs' future."

Wisconsin was officially a participating state in Forest Legacy in 2001. The Forest Legacy programs, both state (Stewardship funded) and federal, have protected an impressive 196,823 acres in Wisconsin. While most of this acreage is in the north and open to public access, there are two noteworthy projects in Southern Wisconsin with slightly

different objectives. Baraboo Hills and Holy Hill are smaller, non-industrial properties whose easements were acquired before the requirement that state-funded easements require motorized access. Impressively, countless miles of lake, river and stream shoreline on these Wisconsin projects will remain intact, in perpetuity, through Forest Legacy.

Following is a summary of Wisconsin Forest Legacy projects to date, which boasts of a very essential and successful program underway in the state.

Project Name	Funding Source	Acreage	Year Acquired
Tomahawk Timberlands	Federal and state	36,883	2002-2009
Baraboo Hills	Federal and state	925	2004-2006
Wolf River	Federal and state	18,511	2005
Wild Rivers	State only	44,433	2006
Holy Hill	Federal and state	199	2008
Wild Rivers	Federal and state	14,576	2009
Connor Timber Associates	State only	18,438	2010
Chippewa Flowage Forest	Federal and state	18,179	2010-2011
Brule-St. Croix	State only	44,679	2012
TOTAL		196,823	

The committee I have been active with is a very diverse group of stakeholders, with an enviable degree of knowledge. For a brief summary, here are representative member organizations of the Wisconsin Forest Stewardship Committee preceded by the category they fill.

Conservation organizations (Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land)
 Cooperative extension (UW-Extension)
 Soil & Water Conservation Associations (WI LWCA)
 Consulting foresters (WI Consulting Foresters)
 Landowners (Partners in Forestry, WWOA, County Forests Association)
 Local governments (DNR, WI Counties Association, WI Towns Association)
 Forest Service (USFS Northeastern Area)
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Wisconsin Forest Legacy staff consists of a partnership between staff at the DNR divisions of Forestry, Real Estate, and field monitoring staff. They commonly represent the program at the committee meetings, and they act as liaison between the program and the committee.

Recent Forest Legacy business:

Back on June 19th, I traveled to the Chippewa Flowage for the third time on committee business. The previous two visits were in July of 2008 and 2009 for ranking discussion and site visits on the application of a developing project. This Sawyer County project hosts a variety of hardwood timber stands and important stream frontage which are integral to the quality of the Chippewa Flowage and its watershed. Always gratifying in these visits was the appreciation local leaders expressed to the committee for our work and diligence in protecting the "Chip." This third visit was for a review by the Forest Legacy Program Review. While we visited many of the same sites we studied in '08 and '09, we had the

opportunity to boast to the Forest Service of the quality of this completed project, with the project features in full display. The review folks were seeing firsthand what the state team had forwarded on paper previously in order to achieve funding and see this project to completion. To the organization's credit, The Trust for Public Lands, with their Midwest operative Shaun Hamilton, worked with Plum Creek to achieve this project.

On July 30th I left home in the very early morning to travel to the far northwest corner of the state for a committee tour of the Brule-St. Croix Legacy Project Phase 2. Phase 1 was completed with state funds just recently and with Phase 2 Wisconsin is seeking federal Forest Legacy program assistance. Approaching the area, I met up with State Senator Bob Jauch in Brule, and together we traveled through the Brule River state forest the last 25 miles as he pointed out some of the great natural features of the Brule and St. Croix watersheds beginning to flow their respective directions. Senator Jauch has been a tireless advocate throughout his career for Stewardship and public lands and it was a pleasure to converse with him on our common interests. In these Brule-St. Croix highlands is the watershed divide between two very different river systems, yet the beginnings of the two are in very close proximity. We met up with the committee, representatives of Lyme Timber Company and their management team, and conservation interests near Solon Springs at the St. Croix Lake boat landing. From there we proceeded for several hours of tours in the pine barrens of Douglas County, discerning the features of the former Wausau Paper Company holdings now owned by Lyme Timber Company, which for all practical purposes have been intensely managed for decades.

These pine barrens are essential habitat, with the areas of developing jack pine, to the Kirtland's Warbler and also the Karner Blue butterfly. The Forest Legacy easement recognizes, as does any good forest management plan, the importance of these habitats to rare wildlife. As was our newsletter discussion earlier this year, we witnessed red pine plantations (at both this and in 2011 at the Central Sands pine barren projects) which will be rotated (cut) at approximately 60 years of age and replanted. These pine barrens are mainly red pine plantation of varying ages, with significant stands of jack pine interspersed with some low quality oak. In close proximity, however, as we witness in much of northern Wisconsin, the timber type can change to northern hardwood and white pine stands in areas of better soil.



Photo by Bob Jauch

At the St. Croix Lake boat landing, reviewing the map of the Brule-St. Croix legacy project.

From left: Sean Ross (Lyme Timber Company), Dick Steffes (Wisconsin DNR Real Estate), Annie Maina (Steigerwaldt Land Service (SLS) Regional Forest Supervisor)



Photo by Bob Jauch

Ed Steigerwaldt discussing red pine management. Steigerwaldt Land Service (SLS) handles management in the barrens for Lyme Timber Company.

From left: Tom Duffus (advocate for the project with the Conservation Fund), Don Hendershot (FSC Wisconsin Consulting Foresters), Jamie Fisher (Wisconsin DNR), Jane Severt (FSC Wisconsin County Forest Association), Neil Paulson (FSC Wisconsin Counties Association), Ed Steigerwaldt (President SLS), Greg Rebman (FSC NRCS), Joe Hovel (FSC PIF)
FSC denotes forest stewardship committee members

Although separated by at least 200 miles, I was struck by the similarity of this project to the stands of red and jack pine we visited a year earlier in the Adams County Town of Rome for another Forest Legacy project currently under consideration. That proposed project of about 9,000 acres is titled Central Sands.

The following day I made the much shorter drive to meet up with the committee near Crandon. Our task that morning was to tour the Camp 36 and Camp 37 tracts of the Dick Connor family application, titled Wild Waters. Our tour guide, along with three generations of Connor Family, was Matt Dallman of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Matt has done an



Photo by Bob Jauch

Note the more open shorelines common on the wild lakes in the pine barrens. This is quite a contrast to the lakes on Camp 36-37.

admirable job of working with forest land owners for protection, and the Connor lands are a witness to that. The hardwood management on the Connor holdings has been the talk of many timber managers in north east Wisconsin for some time, as these lands had been well managed for decades for the Connor family mill which used high value northern hardwoods. When Connor Forest Industries was sold to a foreign investor, Dick Connor and his relative Gordon Connor retained respective portions of the business land holdings. If this project becomes funded under Forest Legacy it will complement the other Connor (Gordon) project as well as the Wild Rivers project. The Camp 36 and 37 holding includes some very serene lake front on Ross Lake and Little Van Zile as well as Mud Lake and a couple unnamed water bodies.

Following the morning tour on July 31st the committee convened in Crandon to assess and discuss the two projects, of which our job was to recommend either one or both of these projects be forwarded to the Forest Service for consideration of Forest Legacy funding. Both projects are to proceed, with the Brule-St. Croix project being given the top status.



Photo by Bob Jauch

Open space is common in the Douglas County pine barrens. Here young red pine is competing with other vegetation before growing above the ground cover.

Serving on the committee as a representative of PIF has been a very satisfying experience for me, as most of you know my passion for protecting working forest land and public values. Please do not hesitate to ask questions and keep this important discussion alive. The Forest Stewardship Committee with the Forest Legacy Program are very important assets to the state of Wisconsin. The goal, of course, being to maintain working forest lands essential to the economy, the environment and the numerous public values we all enjoy.

PHOTOS OF CAMP 36-37

COURTESY OF JOE HOVEL



Map for Camp 36-37



From the boat landing on Ross Lake adjoining the Camp 36-37 project. A great deal of the shoreline in the photo would be permanently protected by a Forest Legacy Easement.



The committee gathered at Little Van Zile Lake, Matt Dallman from TNC in center with map.



Three generations of the Dick Connor family with Little Van Zile Lake in the background.

FYI

Not all forest conversion in the north is for second homes. This is a new cranberry bog under construction. On the right is public land, the Northern Highland State Forest. Town of Boulder Junction.



And in Juneau County, as in much of west central Wisconsin, Frac Sand mining has converted forests and is encroaching on the cranberry farms.

This photo was just south of Meadow Valley Wildlife area, Hwy. 173.



DROUGHT CONDITIONS



Drought stress photo submitted by Steve and Cathy Hovel: Jefferson County, Wisconsin glacial till soil. The photo was taken on September 2, 2012...however, if it was taken today things are now WORSE.

Drought report, Jefferson County Wisconsin from Steve Hovel:

Drought stress in Red Pine as of September 2, 2012. Note stress in trees in background also. Many deciduous trees have lost all leaves. An 8-week period including all of June there was a mere .65 of rain. Driest summer on record, and third hottest including 4 consecutive 103 degree days and 33 days over 90 degrees. As of September 13th we were 8 inches below normal for the year.

GRANTS TO REPLACE TREE PLANTINGS LOST BY DROUGHT

Emergency funds have been allocated under the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program to cover up to 50% of site prep and tree planting for trees lost by the 2012 drought. Forty nine central and southern counties are eligible. To see if you are eligible, contact your DNR forester in the county the loss occurred. Landowners must have a Stewardship Plan and parcels from 10 to 500 acres are eligible. For information on this grant opportunity contact Carol Nielsen 608-267-7508 or carol.nielsen@wisconsin.gov.

Future Articles

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

PIF is working with E G Nadeau of Cooperative Development Service and Pam Porter of the Biomass Energy Resource Center, in exploring our greater involvement in wood energy.

If you have an interest in this topic please contact us, as we would like your participation.

Have you checked out PIF's website?

www.partnersinforesy.com

Please use the website to expose your business, service, or tree farm. Share thoughts, ideas, articles, photos, links.

All suggestions are welcome and appreciated! This is your COOP, we need your input as much or more than your dues.

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.