



# Partners News

September 2015

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**WELCOME NEW PIF MEMBER(S)**  
**DON PALO**

## JOE'S COMMENTS

This is my third attempt at this writing. After spending hours on the first two, only to discard the drafts because of the lingering anger they expressed, I will keep this very brief.

It has been a very rough year for those of us who care about conservation, and the climate surrounding the issue has caused me a number of sleepless nights. A much reduced Stewardship Fund, the sale of State owned lands, attempted sale of Vilas County forest lands, and now a congress taking no action on the renewal of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

*This issue of Partners News is necessary, to attempt once more, to participate in the citizen lobby effort needed to inspire congress action on LWCF. At the end of September, a 50 year legacy of conservation in this country dies if Congress fails to act.*

*Please contact your federal representative today and tell them how important LWCF is to our forest economy and our way of life.*

I want to express a big thank you to Dick Steffes for representing PIF at the Wildlife Conference at the Ho-Chunk Convention Center on July 17, 2015. Please see the website for the content of the PIF presentation highlighting LWCF and Stewardship. At the same conference, retired state senator Dale Schultz gave a talk on 'Why has conservation become partisan?' I wish I had not missed that, as that is the reason for my lingering anger. I wonder why conservation and conservatives have become estranged.

We have more content in the works so hope to have another newsletter out soon.

As always my thanks are out to this active PIF Board, and to all of you who care enough to manage your lands with concern for the future.

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**Please note:**  
The Discover Wisconsin episode featuring Wisconsin County Forests will **air for the second time on Saturday, September 5, 2015.**

## PIF Board

- Joe Hovel
- Jim Joyce
- Charlie Mitchell
- Margo Popovich
- John Schwarzmann
- Rod Sharka

## Inside this issue:

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*Note from Joe: We run yet another story about citizen efforts to lobby for LWCF. In the past Nancy Warren told us of her experience, just last year Dick Steffes gave us the details of his lobby experience. Interestingly Dick traveled to DC again recently to do the same. I am happy here to introduce you to Bill Deephouse, who has been a reasonable and articulate voice for conservation in the 10 years I have known him. Please call or write your federal representative and senators today,*



## **MY LOBBY EFFORTS TO SAVE THE PILGRIM RIVER AND LWCF**    By Bill Deephouse

The last place I expected to be this spring was hustling through the halls of the US Capitol, but that's where Travis White and I were, jostling with be-suited men and elegantly dressed women. We all had something in common: a driving desire to be heard by our senators and representatives.

It had all started with a phone call from Evan McDonald, who asked me, "Would you like to go to Washington, DC?" Of course I would! Monuments, museums, history, fresh oysters..... but why would he ask? Why would he care?

The small answer was "to support the Pilgrim River Watershed Project." The big answer turned out to be more complicated.

McDonald, executive director of the Keweenaw Land Trust, explained that the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition was having a "fly-in" in. That's because there's a new Congress, and a new Congress means a bunch of changes in the committees that control the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Coalition was bringing key voices to DC to let members of those committees know just how important the Fund is back home in their districts. And we were one of those key voices. Our little project on the Pilgrim River is hoping for a \$550,000 grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, via the Forest Legacy Program. And, fortuitously, US Rep. Dan Benishek is a member of the House Natural Resources Committee.

Thus, Evan's phone calls to me and Travis. We are both active in local organizations supporting the Pilgrim River Watershed Project (Copper Country Trout Unlimited and the Keweenaw Land Trust). He thought we'd be just the people to go to Washington and tell everyone how important it is.

And it is important. If the project receives funding, the permanent conservation easement on about 1,300 acres in the Pilgrim River Valley will allow:

- permanent public access for recreation, expanding on existing Commercial Forest benefits
- sustainable forestry that supports our local forest products economy
- continuing local property taxes, since the land will stay in private ownership

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is key to this effort, but most of us have never heard of it. It isn't supported by ordinary taxpayers. It's funded by companies drilling offshore for oil and gas, and it issues grants to help federal, state and local governments acquire exceptional land and water properties for the benefit of all Americans. Thus, it mitigates off shore damage by protecting features on shore.

Unfortunately (to my way of thinking), most of the up to \$900 million that could enter the fund annually is siphoned away by Congress for other purposes.

Despite those shortfalls, over the past 50 years, the fund has invested over \$312 million in Michigan, supporting the Ottawa National Forest's Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness Area, Porcupine Mountains State Park, Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshores, Tahquamenon Falls State Park, the North Country Trail and countless parks, trails and recreation areas. Our local Keweenaw National Historical Park has also been a beneficiary.

The Pilgrim River Watershed Project will only receive the \$550,000 if Congress gives the Land and Water Conservation Fund at least \$400 million—about \$100 million more than it has been allocated in recent years.

Thus, our "Mission: Improbable": Travis and I, scurrying around the Capitol, meeting with as many of the Michigan delegation as time allowed to present our request for adequate, if not full, support for the Fund so the Pilgrim River could be saved. We also pled the case for the Fund itself: if Congress doesn't act, it will expire in September, and America will lose a powerful tool in the effort to protect beautiful places like the Pilgrim River and keep them open for all to enjoy.

Representative Dan Benishek has indicated his support, along with three other congressmen. We also met with the staff of several Michigan representatives who were noncommittal, but they received us warmly. Senator Debbie Stabenow is supportive, and we feel newly elected Senator Gary Peters will be on our side.

We hope our voices were heard and that Congress will give the Land and Water Conservation Fund enough money to support this worthy project way up north in the Keweenaw Peninsula. But whatever the outcome, it was fascinating to be part of the democratic process, and it makes me feel lucky to be an American.

Bill is a retired MDNR Fishery Biologist, and has been an active voice in the efforts to protect the Pilgrim River since the project was organized.



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## Knight Life: Legacy forest created in four northern Wisconsin counties Deal, a decade in the works, ensures that forests will remain

By JOE KNIGHT, Eau Claire Leader-Telegram  
August 19, 2015

SOLON SPRINGS - There are no big timber companies anymore.

Now there are only investment companies.

So said Tom Duffus of the Arlington, Va.-based nonprofit organization The Conservation Fund.

Duffus spoke Tuesday afternoon as a light rain beat against the top of a large canopy pitched on the shore of a small, undeveloped lake, Muck Lake, that was surrounded by miles and miles of sandy soil.

The one-hour event, featuring federal and state natural resources people, politicians and timber industry representatives was designed to celebrate the final phase of the 67,205-acre Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest.

The deal is a permanent lease, 10 years in the making, that keeps the forest land in private ownership and forest management instead of being chopped up into small parcels.

The Conservation Fund negotiated the deal.

The legacy forest is in portions of Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas and Washburn counties.

"A lot of times you only get one chance in a lifetime for a deal like this," said Rep. Nick Milroy, D-South Range.

Such a deal likely would not have been thought of 25 years ago, speakers said, during a time when mills and industrial forest land in

Wisconsin were actually owned by companies based in Wisconsin.

Locally raised

At one time mills based in Wisconsin wanted to own forest land in the state to ensure a predictable supply of trees. Through the Forestland Crop Law the state encouraged those companies to manage land for timber and to allow hunting and other public recreation, offering tax breaks to the timber companies that entered long-term contracts for forest management.

From a recreational standpoint, the big chunks of private forest land enrolled in the Forest Cropland Law program was not too different from county forest land. Both were open to hunting, and both were logged fairly aggressively, which meant there was usually some young forest, resulting in ample populations of deer and grouse.

But that has changed.

Mills and forest land are now owned by companies stationed in other states or countries that seem to be more often managed for short-term profits than for long-term forest management reasons.

Legacy program

Congress must have thought that preserving larger tracts of private industrial forests was a good thing because they created the Forest Legacy program in 1990 as part of the federal farm bill. The program involves a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, states, and forest landowners. The land remains private and on the tax rolls, but a permanent lease

requires that it always be managed for forestry.

Dick Steffes, now retired, who worked on legacy forest programs as a real estate agent for the state Department of Natural Resources, said often the forest companies involved are willing to grant concessions for wildlife.

In a forest legacy agreement in Adams County, where the endangered Kirtland's warbler is known to nest, Plum Creek Timber agreed to a management scheme that included forest openings that are preferred by warblers.

In the Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest, the company agreed to have a certain percentage of timber in jack pine, even though red pine might be more valuable.

Steffes said that for about 40 percent of what it would cost for the state to buy the land outright, the legacy forest will provide many of the benefits of a public forest.

#### Multiple assets

The Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest includes substantial acreages of rare pine barrens.

The project preserves 83 lakes and 14 miles of tributaries and trout streams in the headwaters of the Brule and St. Croix rivers. It also protects 47 miles of hiking, skiing, snowmobile and ATV trails, including a section of the North Country National Scenic Trail.

According to The Conservation Fund, it also protects more than 1,500 timber-related jobs, including logging contractors, truckers, and workers at mills and other forest products industries.

#### Vanishing funds

The project included public and private funding, but mostly public, with \$1.86 million

coming from the state's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for Phase 2 of the agreement this year. Another \$11.79 million was from the Stewardship program in 2012-13.

It also included \$3.75 million from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, a 50-year program that uses royalties paid for off-shore drilling for a variety of conservation projects.

Support for the effort also came from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Enbridge's Neutral Footprint Fund and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through Walmart's Acres for America Program, according to Duffus.

However, the Knowles-Nelson fund has been severely slashed. As part of his proposed 2015-17 state budget, Gov. Scott Walker would have included no funding for the program. During budget deliberations, the Legislature restored funding the program with \$15 million per year, still down considerably from four years ago, when the program received more than \$80 million.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is also set to expire in September if it is not re-authorized by Congress. U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., noted that she has co-authored legislation that would permanently authorize the program.

U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy, R-Weston, praised the Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest as "a perfect example of the right people coming together for this very important effort." However, his staff did not return a request for a comment about his support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. A staff member at Tuesday's event referred questions on LWCF to his media representative.

Photos provided by Stacia Stanek, The Conservation Fund



Speakers left to right:  
Craig Rosand, Sean Ross, Nick Milroy, Janet Bewley, Tammy Baldwin, Tom Duffus,  
Kurt Thiede, Butch Blazer



# Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest Completion

Joe Hovel

August 18, 2015 marked the dedication day of the Brule St. Croix Legacy Forest project.

While I missed the dedication, much thanks to Dick Steffes for his information and efforts on this project. Dick negotiated Phase 1 while working at WDNR, and attended the August 18th ceremony.

There are numerous additional photos from this Forest Legacy project in the September 2012 Partners News, where I wrote about 'Forest Legacy, Grand Scale Land Conservation', and covered the tour of the proposed project.

Phase 1 completed in 2012 with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Funds 44,679 acres.

Fact sheet Phase 2

\* 21,189 acres of which pine barren habitat restoration is an important goal, almost 17,000 acres is Red Pine and Jack Pine, (remainder is hardwood, wetlands and open)

\* Much of the project lies in the boundary of the Brule River State Forest.

\* Value of easement on phase 2: \$5,615,148

- Financing LWCF, Forest Legacy Program Grant Funds \$3,750,000.
- Knowles Nelson Stewardship Fund \$1,865,149.

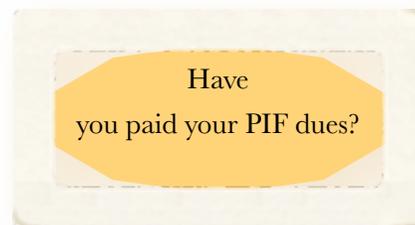
\* Offers protection (and recreation) to 7 named and 32 unnamed lakes and ponds.

\* Wildlife considerations include the Kirtland Warbler and Sharp Tailed Grouse, as well as many other species of concern.

\* Easement protects the lands from development and subdivision, keeps land and forestry values under private ownership, but allows for public recreation of most outdoor nature based activity, including hunting, fishing, cross country skiing etc.

\* Easement requires sustainable forest management under a DNR approved management plan.

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Submitted by  
Don Peterson

Don is President of Renewable Resource Solutions, was a founding member of Partners in Forestry, and was a driving force behind the very successful Master Logger Program.

**Master Stewardship Agreement Update**  
August 31, 2015

In February, 2014 the Sustainable Resources Institute (SRI) entered into a Master Stewardship Agreement with Region 9 of the USFS, which includes the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF). This agreement allows SRI to enter into projects with any Forest in the Region to accomplish mutually agreed upon service work that is paid for from timber sale receipts from a "Goods" timber sale which is given to SRI to administer. This agreement allows timber sale revenues to be used to accomplish work on that particular forest without being part of the normal USFS budgeting process.

In September, 2014 SRI signed a Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) with the CNNF to sell and administer a timber sale known as the Bushafer Sale (near Wabeno) and to accomplish a set of service items with the receipts from that sale. The timber sale was started in March of 2014 and is on-going. Much of the service work has been completed and the remaining work is under contract. The table below summarizes the work included in SPA 1 and its progress as of August, 2015.

<b>Supplemental Project Agreement 1</b>		
	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Goods Timber Sale Timber Harvest</b>	224 total acres of timber harvest	In progress. 52 acres completed.
<b>Goods Timber Sale Service Work</b>	2.08 miles of road reconstruction	In progress
	74 acres of aspen regeneration	In progress. 26 acres completed.
	139 acres of hardwood canopy gap regeneration	Under contract
<b>Additional Service Work</b>	735 acres of timber marking	In progress. 176 acres completed.
	3.10 miles of road reconstruction	Completed
	1 stream crossing culvert replacement	Completed
	3.58 miles of ATV Trail reconstruction	Under Contract

A second SPA is currently being negotiated and will start in September, 2015. A tentative list of activities to be included in the SPA outlined in the table below.

<b>Supplemental Project Agreement 2</b>	
	<b>Activity</b>
<b>Goods Timber Sales Timber Harvest</b>	549 acres - 2 sales One on the Nicolet side, one on the Chequamegon side
<b>Service Work</b>	<p>Multiple counties, focus on vegetative management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timber sale set-up ~6,500 acres</li> <li>• Site Preparation for natural regeneration</li> <li>• Timber Stand Improvement</li> <li>• Tree Pruning</li> <li>• Tree Planting</li> <li>• Restore wildlife openings &amp; corridors</li> <li>• Non-native Invasive Species treatment</li> </ul>

SRI is a non-profit organization with three Board Members:  
 Wendy Gehlhoff – Florence County Economic Development, Director  
 Jen Severt – Wisconsin County Forest Association, Executive Director  
 Tom Steele – University of Wisconsin, Kemp Field Station Manager

Don Peterson – Executive Director

To assist on this project a Steering Committee was formed to help implement the work on the CNNF. Steering Committee Members are:

- Dan Corullo – Lake States Lumberman’s Association
  - Wendy Gehlhoff – Sustainable Resources Institute/Grow North
  - Jeff Groeschl – Wisconsin Consulting Foresters
  - Angi Schreiber – Grow North Regional Economic Development
  - Cate Rahmlow – Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
  - Henry Schienebeck – Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association
  - Jane Severt – Wisconsin County Forest Association
  - Paul Strong – Chequamegon – Nicolet National Forest
  - Curt Wilson – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Advisors:*
- Scott Bowe – University of Wisconsin – Extension Forestry
  - Rusty Dramm – US Forest Service Forest Products Lab

The Master Stewardship Agreement appears to be a viable tool to assist the CNNF in accomplishing their Forest Management Work Plan. SRI looks forward to continuing to work with the CNNF to accomplish their goals and to improve the CNNF for a wide range of activities for Wisconsin’s citizens.

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What follows is the description of a certificate that is being proposed to be available to Wisconsin high schools in the 2016-2017 school year. The Sustainable Resources Institute is working with Wisconsin Public Instruction to establish this certificate.

Submitted by Don Peterson

### Proposed Forest Industry Certificate

**EXTENT:** The Forest Products Industry played a large role in building Wisconsin and is currently an \$18 billion industry which ranks first in the US. Timber is a renewable and sustainable resource. Products made from wood are environmentally friendly and recyclable. Wisconsin forests grow 158 million cubic feet more wood each year than what is removed via harvesting and natural mortality.

Forest Products Industry employers in Wisconsin are in need of a unique combination of industrial related skills. Our workforce is aging and retiring at a faster rate than other parts of Wisconsin and often lacks the technical skills and expertise needed for a variety of entry level job openings. In addition, our high school students, and more importantly their parents, do not fully understand the types of jobs available in the forest industry and the opportunity for some graduates to earn a living wage while choosing to remain in their hometown to enjoy family and our rich outdoor recreational lifestyle.

**CERTIFICATION:** This program will provide basic knowledge and information on jobs/careers in the forest industry sector. The certificate will take between 15 and 20 hours to complete during school hours. Students will pass a knowledge and proficiency test developed in conjunction with our business partners prior to receiving the certificate. The certificate to be offered is:

#### Forest Products Industry:

“Forest Industry and Forest Management Overview”, which will include discussions on:

##### Forest management

- Forest Cover Types and Tree Species in Wisconsin
- Forest Management Prescriptions and Management Techniques

##### Sustainable forestry

- How to manage for all values (timber production, wildlife habitat, water quality, aesthetics, etc.)
- What is sustainable forestry (Growth equals or exceeds mortality/harvesting)?
- What is needed to keep our forests healthy and resilient?

##### Forest products

- Raw products (saw logs, pulpwood, chips, firewood, etc.)
- Primary mill products (lumber, pulp, plywood, particle board, veneer, etc.)
- Secondary industry products (cabinets, doors, flooring, building components, paper, charcoal, etc.)

##### Jobs and career opportunities in forestry/forest industry

- Land Managers/Foresters
- Loggers
- Log Truck drivers
- Mill jobs
- Secondary industry jobs

Overview of four different emphasis areas for this certificate. These areas are:

- Logging with training on:
  - Mechanized logging simulator
  - Tree identification
  - Equipment maintenance
  - Safety
- Trucking with training on:
  - CDL basics
  - Equipment maintenance
  - Safety
- Primary Industry (Sawmills) with training on:
  - Lumber grades and species ID
  - Equipment overview and maintenance
  - Safety
- Secondary Industry with training on:
  - Product manufacturing equipment and techniques
  - Equipment maintenance
  - Safety

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### Some Forest Legacy Facts from a Federal Perspective

- The Forest Legacy Program is a direct result of available funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Total Acres protected in the USA with Federal involvement is 2,476,641
- Federal Forest Legacy Program funds expended \$674,098,335
- Total value of interest acquired \$1,519,575,691 (note from Joe: this figure demonstrates the vital necessity of our Stewardship Fund in Wisconsin)

**Neal Bungard**  
**Natural Resource Program Leader**  
**Forest Service**  
**Northeastern Area, State & Private Forestry**

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund review from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau shows the DNR Acquisition portion, including easement and fee title was in the following years:

09-10: \$32,500,000  
 10-11: \$48,000,000  
 11-12: \$17,937,000  
 12-13: \$27,500,000  
 15-16: \$ 9,000,000

Figures on how much of the previous years funding may have lapsed were not immediately available.

The current budget also grants \$7,000,000 to the County Forests.



## RACHEL HOVEL ACHIEVES PHD

Back in the early days of PIF Rachel was a talented teenager who was quite a help to this Coop, be it in developing newsletters, articulately writing action statements or whatever task needed.

In 2005 she departed for Northern Michigan University to study aquatic sciences and ecology, her first time in a formal school after her home school studies. Involved in Pacific Salmon research in an Alaska trip after her first year, she

became a NOAA Scholar following her second year. Finishing her undergraduate work at NMU, she was recruited by the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle for her graduate program. In May of this year she had completed her PHD and is currently employed by the University in a post doctorate research and teaching position. PIF congratulates this achievement and thanks Rachel for her role in seeing this organization become viable.

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### FUTURE ARTICLES

If you have questions that you would like to see addressed in the newsletter, suggestions for, or have articles for, future newsletters, please contact us at [partnersinforesy@gmail.com](mailto:partnersinforesy@gmail.com) or by mail:

Partners In Forestry  
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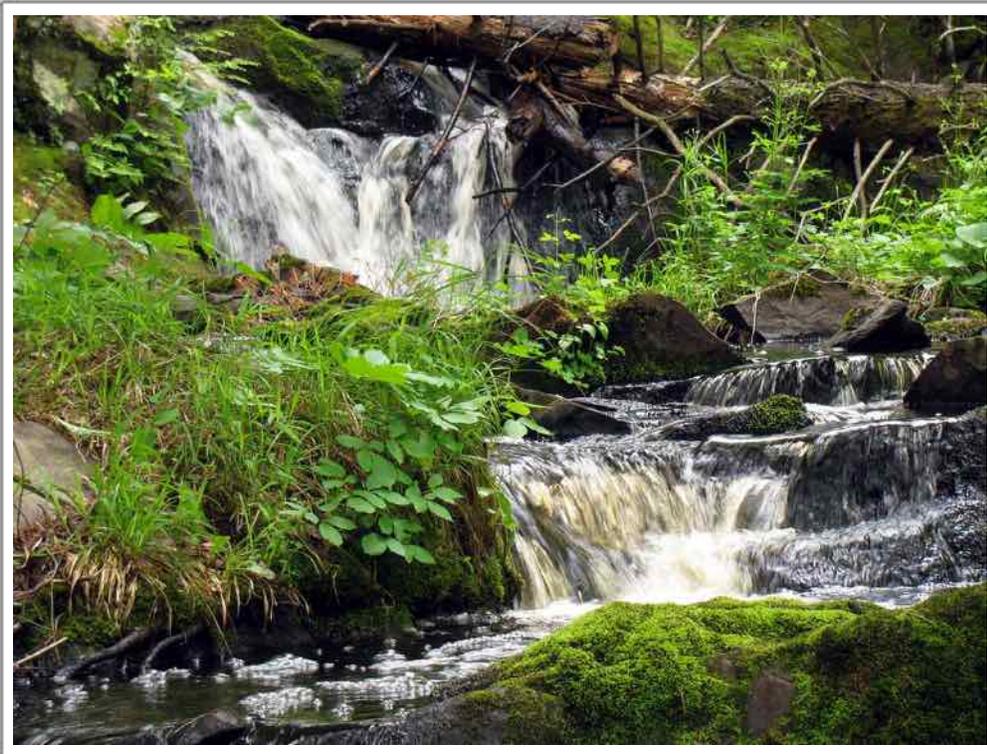
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# WILDCAT FALLS UPDATE



Wildcat Falls photos submitted by Rod Sharka

A struggle of several years could be decided by a panel of federal appeal court judges in October, when oral arguments are scheduled in the Partners in Forestry etal, lawsuit challenging the Delich Land exchange on the Ottawa National Forests. A long and detailed history of this effort is at the PIF website and in past issues of Partners News.



## DMAP

A one day workshop was held on Saturday, August 22, 2015 in Conover, WI by the folks from the 'Deer Management Assistance Program' (DMAP). Morning session included speakers on wildlife, forest management for wildlife, adverse forest issues from high deer numbers and so on. Lunch was provided at the Conover Center.

The afternoon consisted of forest tours on two different DMAP properties in Conover, including vivid displays of deer damage to forest regeneration. If you would like assistance on deer management with your woodland management, please contact Christine Priest, big game ecologist with Wisconsin DNR, at [ChristineA.Priest@wisconsin.gov](mailto:ChristineA.Priest@wisconsin.gov)

There are different categories of enrollment, while some enrollees may manage for more deer, DMAP can also be your assistant in protecting your forest from excess deer numbers.



DMAP photos submitted by Christine Priest





Note the white birch stems growing out of reach of deer, on top of a nine foot tall lumber pile, rooted into wood debris on the steel. This property has had many cords of mature white birch cut in the past 20 years, and enough left for seed. The stump sprouts and the seedlings in scarified soil have all been destroyed by deer. Thousands of nursery stock white pine were also planted on the same property, suffering a similar fate. Natural pine regeneration on scarified soils seems to do a little better. Forest ecologist, Dr. Dustin Bronson, thinks the nursery stock white pine have enough nitrogen from having been fertilized in the nursery to offer the deer more protein. White birch seems to fall into the category like cedar, hemlock and yew, the deer simply crave it. On this particular property the deer have seriously affected oak and aspen regeneration as well. This property is a prime candidate for DMAP, the need to balance the deer numbers with forestry.

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### **CDC Warns About Expansion of Lyme Disease**

The [Washington Post](#) (7/25, Gebelhoff) reported that, according to the CDC, "Lyme disease has substantially expanded over the past few decades, with 17 states in the Northeast and upper Midwest now considered at high risk." In a report, the agency revealed that "the disease is widely unreported and inconsistently diagnosed, so the real infection rate could be as much as 10 times what we think it is."

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## **PARTNERS IN FORESTRY WORKSHOP AND FOREST TOUR**

# **“GROWING TREES ON SANDY SOILS”**

By Rod Sharka

On Saturday, June 27, 2015, a group of interested participants gathered at the entrance to Hovel's newly acquired 600 acre parcel of forest land in Land O' Lakes, WI to tour the property. The workshop was sponsored by Partners in Forestry with help from the UW Center for Cooperatives.

The purpose of the tour was to observe and discuss different stages of management of forests adapted to growing on very sandy soil. The predominant forest types observed included jack pine (predominant), as well as stands of red pine and aspen. There were also some beautiful, concentrated populations of black spruce and cedar in wetter, swampy areas, especially along the Wisconsin River that runs through a portion of the property.

Joe explained that the property was purchased with funds resulting from the sale of a portion of their Pilgrim River Watershed project to the Keweenaw Land Trust, that was made possible with the help of a U.S. Forest Service Community Forest Grant. To continue his passion and efforts in forest land conservation, the Hovels purchased the Land O' Lakes property and are working with a neighbor on a larger conservation goal. We learned that the features on the property are very similar to the nearby State Natural Areas (Haymeadow Creek SNA and Spruce Grouse Swamp SNA) owned by the DNR, and would expand area habitat, especially for the state threatened spruce grouse. He has been working with the NRCS and the WI Young Forest Initiative to manage much of the property for state threatened spruce grouse, golden-winged warbler, and hopefully federally endangered Kirkland warbler habitat. The hope is to place a conservation easement on the property to protect it from future sub-division and development.

We were very fortunate to have Wisconsin BCPL Forest Supervisor John Schwarzmann, retired DNR foresters Jim Baughman and Curt Hare leading the tour and discussing modern best management sustainable forestry practices applicable to this type of forest habitat. Their combined wealth of knowledge and expertise was awe-inspiring, and the discussions were fascinating to even those of us like myself who are inexperienced in the field.

A significant timber sale was just completed on this property, and we were able to compare mature stands in need of cutting to areas the prescription called for that was just being completed.

A highlight of the tour was during a short walk down a woodland trail for the purpose of viewing a stretch of the Wisconsin River that was very near its headwater source. During the walk, we stumbled across a whole clutch of spruce grouse young attended by their mom (see photos). As Jim Baughman (who also happens to be an extraordinary birder) explained, the spruce grouse is a very uncommon species that is considered to be threatened in the state of Wisconsin. What a thrill to have had the opportunity to see a whole family of them on this important land.

In short, past PIF newsletters have contained many articles expounding on the implications and importance of land conservation. Upon completion of this tour, I think it was unanimously agreed that this land is certainly worthy of any and all conservation efforts possible. In addition, it is a personal mystery to me why so few PIF members take advantage of these field trip opportunities. In my experience, I have never come away from any PIF workshop feeling disappointed or that it was not worth attending. Thank you, Joe, for all you do.

Photos contributed  
by Rod Sharka



Spruce Grouse chick (left) and Spruce Grouse hen protecting her brood near the Wisconsin River

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

- Napoleon wood stoves
- wood finishes and preservatives
- garden and tree amendments
- grass seed for trails
- Tool handles, replacement handles

**Have you checked out  
PIF's website?**

[www.partnersinforesry.com](http://www.partnersinforesry.com)

The website is for members to expose your business, service or tree farm, share thoughts, ideas, articles, photos, and links.

This is your COOP, we need your input as much or more than your dues.



**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.*