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Partners News

November 2014

WELCOME NEW MEMBER(S)

Bill Leder

A FEW WORDS FROM JOE:

With our last newsletter we tried to stress the importance of wider participation. We have not received a great deal, so here you are stuck with my ramblings again, forgive my boasting and please let me know what you are up to or what we can help you with.

A few months ago I stated to a county board member that 'for decades you guys bet the farm on second home development and now we are loosing the farm.' In Vilas County there is such an over abundance of second homes on the market that prices are way under replacement cost, and in the process of achieving this, there is thousands of acres of land in Vilas County (and many other counties) parcelized-fragmented out of forest management. And to exasperate this situation, the one bright spot in the Northwoods economy is the forest products industry with high demand and often record stumpage values. I seldom like to say 'I told you so,' but I have been preaching for decades about keeping our forest and farm lands intact.

We will study just this benefit in a financial and practical sense on December 6, 2014 for the PIF Annual Meeting, with a panel of experts as well as your experienced peers. Finally! Check out the invite and come prepared for a very worth while discussion. Invite a fellow wood land owner. Come and try an award winning craft brew!

Shortly after our last newsletter I became very involved in sustainable forestry conservation issues. On August 12th I had been asked to give the congressman in the UP a tour of the Pilgrim River forest, and in obliging we asked Congressman Benishek to participate in a discussion of the importance of Forest Legacy, LWCF and larger scale land conservation. Our plan succeeded, as the

statement within from Dr. Dan Benishek's office came out within hours of the close of his visit. I tried to make it very clear to Dr. Dan that sustainable forestry must include land conservation as a working component. That very afternoon I engaged Wisconsin gubernatorial candidate Mary Burke in a similar discussion one on one. Our kids' and grandkids' future depends on our tireless lobby efforts and tangible actions today, that they may enjoy these very benefits we do.

On September 11th, I was back up to the Keweenaw to participate in the dedication of the Pilgrim River Community Forest. It was very gratifying when Neal Bungard from the USFS personally thanked me for transferring such a beautiful well stocked tract of forest land to the community. See 'A Dream Realized' within. In coming weeks I hope to talk about yet another new land conservation project.

I spent two long days in the woods, with my son Mark, this fall, marking oak on the very first woodland parcel I invested in outside our home property, and pine that we planted 35 years ago in a nearby parcel. How that oak stand had developed in 40 years and the very pine we planted being thinned a second time was mesmerizing, and what an opportunity to recollect old memories. Now that is truly a benefit to this long term forest land ownership passion.

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

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

www.partnersinforestry.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.

**AS A TRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY and to
CELEBRATE the CHRISTMAS SEASON, you are invited to the**

2014 PIF ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: Saturday, December 6, 2014, Noon

PLACE: Big Bear Hideaway
Boulder Junction, WI (Please see www.bigbearhideaway.com for directions)

LUNCH: 12:30 to 1:30 PM

PROGRAM: *The Economics of Land Conservation* (forest land ownership for the long haul)

Discussion will cover topics such as the economic return of forest land ownership, the financial compensation of growing trees as an investment, long term conservation planning, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Stewardship Fund necessary to mitigate forest land parcelization, tools for long term planning, tax considerations for protection and transfer of land and much more.

For years we have talked about the importance of land protection, we often say that ‘sustainable forestry without conservation considerations is not long sustainable.’

Now is your opportunity to learn more about this ongoing discussion from the experts with decades of experience as well as the experiences of your peers in attendance.

THE PANEL IS TO INCLUDE:

John Schwarzmann, PIF Vice President, the Forest Supervisor of the Board of Commissioners of Public lands, who has long time experience in sustainable management and conservation. John will advise on timely harvests and proper management to achieve the highest value in the long term and discuss the economic maturity of different species for the highest return.

Richard Steffes, retired from an almost 40 year career with WDNR real estate and more recently a citizen lobby advocate for the LWCF. Dick is the one who negotiated most of the major WDNR acquisitions in recent decades including the large Forest Legacy easements using LWCF and Stewardship funding. If you have questions on this scale of land conservation he is a good one to ask.

Geary N. Searfoss, CPA, with a long career in forestry and tax accounting. Geary has been an active consulting forester and an accountant specializing in forestry tax issues. If you have questions about estate transfers, gifting, 1031 exchanges, fair taxation, etc., Geary can help you.

and special guest **Matt Dallman**, Director of Conservation Nature Conservancy Wisconsin.

SPECIAL GUEST:

As a fun sideline, and to insure we do keep this event casual, we will have special guest **Bob Moody**, award winning home brewer, licensed to share his beers with us.

Please RSVP no later than December 2, 2014, by contacting:

Joe Hovel - Tel: 715-479-8528 email: partnersinforestry@gmail.com
Rod Sharka: Tel: 715-547-6493 email: resharka@gmail.com

Cost per person: \$12 to cover food and non-alcoholic drink expenses *

* Other expenses for this annual meeting are covered by PIF and our partners like UW Center for Cooperatives with their generous grant supporting our mission, USFS State and Private Forestry, WDNR and Wisconsin BCPL who all continually assist with with educational material.

Bob Moody
Your Personal Brewer, LLC
"Artisanally Crafted Beer to Your Good Taste!"

I've been homebrewing for about eight years now, but only started entering competitions last year.

Awards

- 2013, Schooner Homebrew Competition (HBC), Racine, WI. Silver Medal for a Saison (Belgian session ale) brewed with rhubarb.
- 2014, Winter Warmer HBC, Racine, WI. Silver Medal for an English Mild Ale with Bacon (Nueske's).
- 2014, German Fest, Stein Challenge HBC, Milwaukee, WI. Silver Medal for a Vienna Lager.
- 2014, German Fest, Stein Challenge HBC, Milwaukee, WI. Gold Medal for a Munich Helles.
- 2014, National HBC, Grand Rapids, MI. Two beers placed in Final Round (approx. 8100 beers entered nationwide in First Round and only 989 made it to the final round). I received a third place ribbon for an Imperial IPA and a second place ribbon for a German Pils in the Minneapolis Regional First Round.

Beers I plan to bring:

- American Pale Ale
- Irish Rye Ale with Blue Spruce Tips
- Colonial Stock Ale with Molasses and Blue Spruce Tips
- Damphbier (Bavarian barley based ale fermented with a wheat yeast strain)
- Vienna Lager
- Red IPA

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Dr. Benishek Supports Preservation of Working Forests

*-Local Congressman Helps Promote
Importance of Forest Legacy Program-*

Aug 12, 2014 Issues: Energy and Resources

TRAVERSE CITY, MI: Today, Dr. Dan Benishek (MI-01) met with leaders in land

conservation in Houghton, Michigan at a Forest Legacy Program roundtable. The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is a voluntary program between private landowners, states, and the federal government. The goal of the program is to protect environmentally sensitive areas, encourage the use of conservation easements, and utilize sustainable practices in working forests.

"Ensuring our working forests are protected and well managed up here in Northern Michigan is crucial as we move forward with creating sustainable energy sources. The Pilgrim River Watershed is a great example of

conservation efforts that will increase recreation and education in the U.P., while working to create sustainable forestry and watershed protection. These efforts are also important to the local economy, with the creation of local forest products as well as increased tourism. It's great that we are able to support and work with the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to make sure that the Pilgrim Watershed has funding to confine their conservation efforts," said Dr. Benishek, the only member of the Michigan delegation serving on the House Committee on Natural Resources and House Agriculture Committee.

Areas like the Pilgrim River Watershed are planned with conservation in mind, which allow for the protection of local ecosystems and sustainable management of a working forest, including timber production, public recreation, and educational programs. The program is voluntary in nature, and helps states develop and carry out their conservation plans.

"The Forest Legacy Program can create a win-win situation for a project like ours in the Pilgrim River Watershed. This federal program provides grants for working forest easements with funds from offshore oil and gas lease fees. With this type of easement the land remains in private ownership and sustainable timber harvests will continue supporting our forest products economy. At the same time, the easement legally assures perpetual public access for recreation and protects vital habitats, rivers, and scenic views. These combined goals are what the Forest Legacy Program is all about," said Bill Leder, the President of the Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Dr. Benishek has been an avid supporter of increased funding for LWCF throughout the appropriations process this year, and has also supported the Forest Legacy Program in the 2014 Farm Bill.



From left: Shawn Hagen (the Forestland Group and Copper Country TU), Bill Leder (President, Copper Country TU), Bill Deephouse (retired MDNR Fishery biologist), Joe Hovel, Dr. Dan Benishek, Evan McDonald (Director Keweenaw Land Trust), Marion True (retired USFS)

Pages 1 and 2 were reprinted from Keweenaw Land Trust News to capture the article 'A Dream Realized: New Pilgrim River Community Forest,' authored by Evan McDonald.



NEWS

Volume 17 Number 3 Sept 2014

A Dream Realized: New Pilgrim River Community Forest

The newest community forest in the United States is in the Copper Country. In September the Keweenaw Land Trust purchased a 276-acre property from the Hovel family of Conover, Wisconsin to establish the Pilgrim Community Forest to permanently protect natural resources and provide public benefits. The property is just minutes from Houghton and the acquisition is part of a larger conservation strategy for the Pilgrim River Watershed Project (PRWP) – a community partnership working to protect watershed health, support sustainable forestry, and provide for multi-use public



At the closing ceremony, KLT Executive Director Evan McDonald (center) introduced project partners to Neal Bungard (far right) of the US Forest Service Community Forest Program. Representing Partners in Forestry, former landowners Joe (far left) and Mary Hovel (behind Evan) present a commemorative bench they built, which is now displayed in the KLT office.

provide clean air and water, wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, *continued on page 2.....*

recreation. This conservation area has a variety of forest and habitat types, with about one mile of the Pilgrim River's main channel and a 2.5 mile recreation trail constructed by local volunteers from the Keweenaw Trails Alliance.

This success was made possible with grant funding through the U.S. Forest Service Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (USFS-CFP) and matching funds from the J.A. Woollam Foundation and private donors. In keeping with the purpose of the USFS-CFP, the project was funded to

Challenged to Protect Shoreline – KLT Land Slam Campaign for Conservation Underway!

As 2014 draws to a close, the KLT has launched an ambitious land conservation campaign. Conservation planning last year determined that protecting shoreline and public access to water, and preventing fragmentation should be high priorities. With this guidance and your help we aim to protect lands at Point Abbaye on Lake Superior, Princess Point on the



Aerial view of Point Abbaye taken by Neil Harry

Portage Waterway, and expand Paavola Wetlands to connect it to Boston Pond. The campaign total is \$700,000 but we are already over half way to this goal with pledges, donations, donated land value, and discounted sale prices offered. After

major support for the Pilgrim Community Forest, the J.A. Woollam Foundation has offered a new \$150,000 dollar-for-dollar challenge towards this campaign. With this and the community support for Terry and Sue Ellen's Kayak Challenge, the KLT Board and staff are inspired to pursue these immediate conservation goals:

Goal: Acquire 30-acres at Point Abbaye with 1/4 mile of forested shoreline and views of the Huron Mountains. With important stopover habitat for migratory birds, the property's dense and species rich forest has an abundance of large, overstory trees including an active bald eagle nest. Its cobble beach *continued on page 4.....*

Community Forest *continued from page 1.....*

forest products, and opportunities for education, research, and public recreation, including hunting and fishing.

All of these benefits also support PRWP goals, and the **KLT** is grateful for the generous PRWP partner support for the project from the Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Copper Country Audubon, Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, Keweenaw Trails Alliance, Northwood Alliance, and Partners in Forestry. The USFS-CFP proposal for the Pilgrim Community Forest was also supported by the City of Houghton, the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, the Michigan Tech Center for Water and Society, and the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department – all recognizing the broad range of community benefits offered by the project. The Hovels have been tremendous partners for conservation, willing and patient throughout the project development process.

A Pilgrim Community Forest management plan is in development to balance multiple uses, with community input needed to create an effective approach. In addition to representatives of the PRWP partner organizations, **interested community members are encouraged to participate in the ongoing planning process** – contact the KLT office for more information about this effort and volunteer opportunities.

Improving and facilitating public access is one topic for the management plan. Currently the property is accessible near the guard rail on the west side of Paradise Road near the intersection with Pilgrim Road, with a KLT trail sign identifying the path. Park on the shoulder, well off the road and be careful crossing the roadway. The footpath heads down to a small bridge over a feeder creek to the kiosk with project information. The Pilgrim Community Forest is a multi-use conservation area available for non-motorized, low-impact recreation. Please respect other users and enjoy this area safely.



"The Pilgrim Community Forest is the prime example of the types of forested properties envisioned for the U.S. Forest Service Community Forest Program. This is a beautiful forest providing recreational and educational opportunities, while protecting water quality and wildlife habitat all just minutes from a number of communities large and small on the Keweenaw Peninsula."
Neal Bungard with the USFS

"The Community Forest purchase by KLT fit well with our conservation goals. Our goals are grounded in the belief that no one landowner should seriously alter the landscape, as we are only temporary stewards. But this Community Forest will be an enduring legacy, not owned by one decision maker, but by the community which evolves as does the forest."

We have much enjoyed working with the community, with KLT and all the partners in the Pilgrim River Watershed Project in achieving this first step in a very instrumental conservation project. To protect the acreage involved in the Pilgrim project, in such close proximity to a population center and a university, is a big deal, and one that requires an enormous amount of dedication. We are very thankful to have you all as working partners as we go forward to achieve our mutual goals."

Joe Hovel, previous owner of the Pilgrim Community Forest property.

**KLT Board of Directors
2013-2014**

Dave Harmon, President
Atlantic Mine
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Don Keith, Eagle Harbor

Aaron Bickel, Houghton
Jared Johnson, Chassell
Clay Hixson, Calumet
Lucas Westcott, Calumet
Bob Stinson, Chassell

KLT Staff

Evan McDonald - Executive Director
Pat Toczydlowski - Project Specialist
Nathan Miller - Project Coordinator
Curtis Perala - Marsin Property Manager

CITIZEN SCIENCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LANDOWNERS

by Rod Sharka

I would like to inform all PIF members of two "Citizen Science" opportunities that are available for your participation. The first involves weather reporting. If you are a land owner, you are probably a person who loves spending time outdoors. You are also probably very aware of how important adequate rain and snowfall is to the health of your woodlands and garden. As such, if you are like me, you are always checking weather forecasts and curious about daily and seasonal rain and snowfall amounts. I know Joe and I are always comparing rain and snowfall amounts received on our respective homesteads.

Last January, I was asked by a retired naturalist friend who lives nearby if I would be willing to take over the weather observation reporting responsibilities that he had been doing for some 17 years for the National Weather Service. He explained that due to advancing age and health issues, he was no longer able to keep up with the daily tasks involved. Since I had been keeping a daily log of weather observations for my own personal amusement anyway since moving to the northwoods over 12 years ago, I thought it might be interesting to become registered as an "official weather watcher" and contribute to the national database of weather data. I have learned that the precipitation measurements I and other fellow weather watchers report on a daily basis are used by a whole host of professional scientists for a number of purposes from improving weather prediction accuracy to predicting flood risks, and monitoring a changing climate.

During the warmer months of spring through fall, all that is required is the reporting of 24 hour rain totals each morning, preferably between 7 and 8 AM, but before 8:30 AM. This involves taking a rain gauge reading, logging onto the national **Community Cooperative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network** website (yes, a computer and internet connection is required), and entering your reading on a data page registered to your location. This data is then entered within moments onto a national database that anyone can access. What is really cool is that one can then click on a map of the United States and bring up a map of any state that shows all of the readings submitted by all registered observers. I have found it

fascinating to see the variations in rainfall amounts scattered throughout the area from any given rain event. Although not required, many observers also record other optional weather data such as high and low temperatures, wind speeds, cloud cover, barometric pressure, etc. However, the main purpose of the website is to document precipitation measurements.

The reason I am encouraging PIF members to look into this and consider joining the party is that there are very few registered observers in the northwoods. We need more observers to provide valuable precipitation data. Currently, I have noticed that there are only a couple of us observers reporting for Vilas County locations during the summer months, which leaves a lot of holes in the reporting coverage. In addition, I am the only reporter for Vilas County who consistently does winter snow reporting (which, admittedly is a bit more involved).

If interested, it should be noted that to participate, one does have to purchase an official 4", long term professional rain and snow gauge (see photo), as precipitation measurements are only accepted from this equipment. Digital home "weather stations" are convenient, but do not provide consistent, accurate readings and so are not acceptable for this purpose. The professional gauges are a bit pricy...just under \$40.00 with shipping...but are very precise. They will accurately measure up to 10 inches of rainfall to the nearest one hundredth of an inch. They also function as snow gauges in the wintertime.



Speaking of wintertime (which is just around the corner), observations reported include 24 hour snowfall depth, snow-water equivalent (abbreviated "SWE", which is the amount of water in the snow that is equivalent to rainfall amount), total accumulated snow depth, and its total SWE. These measurements, although a bit more involved to obtain, are very interesting and revealing, especially at the end of the season when flooding is common due to spring thaws.

Anyone interested in learning more about this voluntary network can log onto the website: www.CoCoRaHS.org. The home page has links to simple but interesting

training slide shows that provide step-by-step instructions on how to take and record readings, access to the reported weather data maps, and sources for purchasing official rain/snow gauges. There is also a link for registering to become a voluntary observer. Once registered, you will be issued a username and password, an assigned station number and name, and will be assigned to a regional weather service coordinator with whom you can communicate for help or if you have questions. Sure, anyone can access the data submitted by others, but without registering and actively participating in the data reporting, you would just be freeloading. As I indicated earlier, the network needs more reporters in our area. The data coverage is pretty thin for the northwoods region. Wouldn't it be great if there were observations made every square mile or so, or at least in every township? Think how detailed and useful that information would be to professional weather forecasters, hydrologists, and atmospheric scientists. Please check out the CoCoRaHS website for yourself, and consider joining the CoCoRaHS network family. It is totally voluntary, provides a lot of reporting flexibility in case you are concerned about not being able to submit a report every day, and provides important and valuable data that helps connect us with the natural world around us. If you would like to discuss any aspect of this opportunity or have questions, feel free to contact me by phone or email at 715-547-6493 or resharka@gmail.com.



The second "Citizen Science" opportunity I have learned about recently that may be of interest to PIF members involves hosting a wildlife trail camera for a Wisconsin DNR wildlife research project called "Wildlife Wisconsin". The

project, still in the planning stage, involves placing automatic, digital wildlife cameras one every 9 square miles across the entire state. The nearly gazillion images these cameras will inevitably produce will then be uploaded to a crowd-sourcing website where the public will be asked to help identify the animals and note a few details about the images. The hope is that with a lot of help, the DNR will be able to obtain a lot of information about wildlife behavior and distribution at a coarse-scale in a relatively short time period.

Jennifer Stenglein, the DNR research scientist heading up this project, is looking for "off-the-beaten path" locations to place these cameras, both on public and private lands, so that we will not be sorting through millions of pictures of "human buttocks". As you can imagine, well-known public trails or

hunting grounds are less desirable due to unnecessary triggering of the cameras, vandalism, and theft. She is also looking for local contacts who are willing to check in on cameras from time to time to help ease the burden and cost of maintaining all of these cameras. Her hope is that private land owner participation will not only engage the public, but also help with both camera distribution and limit unnecessary access by the general public. If you or anyone you know are willing and eager to participate, you are encouraged to contact her:

Jennifer Stenglein (Quantitative Wildlife Research Scientist)

WI-DNR Bureau of Science Services

2801 Progress Rd

Madison, WI 53716

608-354-6490

Jennifer.Stenglein@wisconsin.gov

If interested in staying in touch with the project, consider signing up for email updates on the DNR website: www.dnr.wi.gov. Type in the keyword: "Snapshot Wisconsin" and fill in your email address in the subscription box.

If your property is chosen as a camera hosting location, you will be provided with a camera, memory cards, and spare rechargeable batteries, and will be rewarded with photos of the wildlife that secretly roams your woodlands. You will also be contributing to a worthwhile project that will provide valuable scientific wildlife data for the future.

Have you
paid your PIF
dues?

SNAP SHOT OF STATE LAND MANAGEMENT

Provided by Curt Wilson, DNR

Forest Management on Wisconsin DNR Lands

DNR manages
980,000 acres,
5.7% of Wisconsin's
17.1 million
acres of forested lands.

DNR manages
1.57 million acres
of land, of which **62%**
are forested.

Forest Land Ownership in Wisconsin

7% State 1,173,775 acres
9% Federal Government 1,619,782 acres
14% Local Government 2,357,648 acres
70% Private 11,949,960 acres



DNR Lands with a Master Plan

35% of DNR lands have a master plan updated
in the last **10 years**

Master Plan since 2000 • 536,700 acres

Old or No Plan • 483,000 acres

Interim Forest Management Plan • 485,000 acres

31% of DNR Lands have an
Interim Forest Management Plan
since 2012



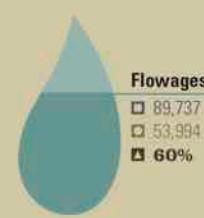
State
Forests
■ 407,760
■ 351,727
■ 86%



Natural
Areas
■ 41,268
■ 16,552
■ 40%



Wildlife
■ 255,368
■ 210,535
■ 82%



Flowages
■ 89,737
■ 53,994
■ 60%



Fish
■ 75,469
■ 58,667
■ 78%



Parks
& Southern
Forests
■ 105,147
■ 68,037
■ 65%



Miscellaneous
■ 5,836
■ 3,763
■ 64%

Approximately 80% of DNR Forested Lands are Actively Managed Forests

763,257 acres of the **980,585** forested acres
are scheduled for forest management

■ Total Acres Forested
■ Acres Actively Managed
■ % of Forest Actively Managed

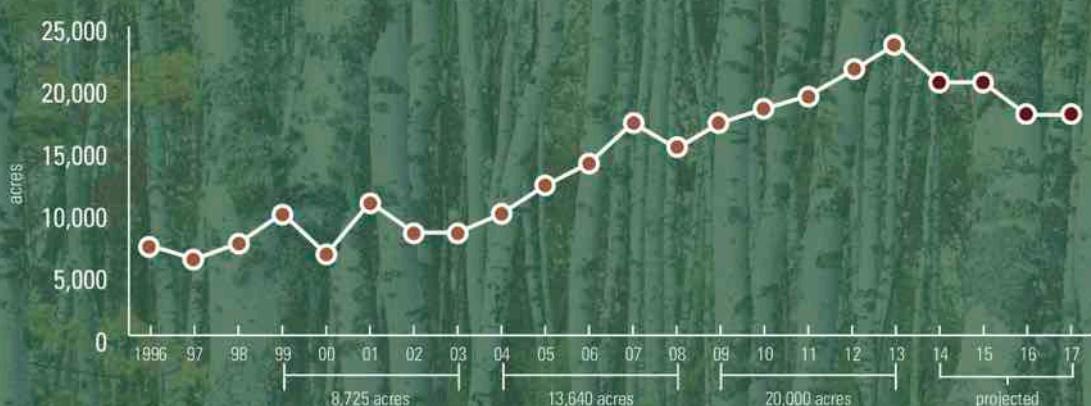
Timber Sale Establishment on DNR Lands

5 year average of acres established for timber harvest per year has increased

2009-2013, **20,000** acres, a **46%** increase from

2004-2008, **13,640** acres, a **56%** increase from

1999-2003, **8,725** acres



Timber Sale Backlog on State Lands

Significant reduction in timber sale backlog due to updated inventory, plans and increasing timber sales.

YEAR	ACRES
2007	170,000
2009	118,800
2011	106,000
2013	65,200
2014	47,300

State Fiscal Investment in Timber Sale Program and Timber Sale Revenues

For every \$1 invested in the Timber sale program, \$3 are returned by timber sale revenue.



97%
1994-2014

3%
>1993

Forest Inventory Is Up To Date

97% of DNR lands have been inventoried in last 20 years



SIDE NOTE from Joe: Northern Highland-American Legion (NHAL) State Forest is the largest state owned property in Wisconsin.

For more information as indicated within this article, please see the following website:
<http://datcpervices.wisconsin.gov/eab/index.jsp>

EMERALD ASH BORER SPREADS TO ONEIDA COUNTY

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

In the past month emerald ash borer has been found in the city of Rhinelander.

WHERE HAS EAB BEEN FOUND?

EAB was first discovered in North America near Detroit, Michigan in 2002. Since then the beetle has spread to Canada and more than a dozen states, including Wisconsin.

Emerald ash borer was found for the first time in Wisconsin in August 2008 near the community of Newburg, several miles northeast of West Bend.

Since then, emerald ash borer has been confirmed in Adams, Brown, Buffalo, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Door, Douglas, Fond du Lac, Grant, Jefferson, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Monroe, Oneida, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago counties. These counties are under quarantine. Green, Iowa, Juneau, Kewaunee, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Outagamie and Richland counties are under quarantine because of their proximity to infestations in neighboring counties. We have not confirmed the presence of EAB there, however.



EAB information meetings –

***Oneida Co EAB informational meeting for professionals** – an EAB informational meeting for forest industry and professionals will be held November 10, 2014, from 1-4pm, at Nicolet College Theater, 5364 College Dr., Rhinelander, WI. Speakers from Oneida County Forestry, WI DNR, WI DATCP, and USDA APHIS will be presenting and available to answer questions.

***Oneida Co EAB informational meeting for the general public** – a meeting is also being planned for the public to be able to learn about EAB and ask their questions. The date that's been identified is November 17, early evening, but a location is still being nailed down.

EAB locations - the map at right shows the 15-mile radius around all known infestations of emerald ash borer in Wisconsin. The Emerald Ash Borer and Forest Management document https://datcpervices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/Management_Guidelines_for_Wisconsin_Forests.pdf (revised May 2014) , states that salvage and pre-salvage harvests are recommended within an EAB quarantined county and for all stands within 15 miles of a known infestation, even if currently located outside of a quarantined county. Ash trees should be considered high risk for EAB mortality within the next harvest cycle.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY TREES HAVE EAB?

The signs and symptoms of an EAB attack

The symptoms an ash tree shows when it is infested with emerald ash borer are similar to symptoms caused by other ash pests or diseases in Wisconsin.

For example, crown dieback can occur due to EAB damage, but can also be the result of drought stress, soil compaction or verticillium wilt, just to name a few.

Therefore, it is important to look for a combination of at least two symptoms or signs when trying to figure out if emerald ash borer is in your ash tree. If you see two or more from the lists below.



Symptoms

Crown dieback: Dieback of the upper and outer crown begins after multiple years of EAB larval feeding. Trees start to show dead branches throughout the canopy, beginning at the top. Larval feeding disrupts nutrient and water flow to the upper canopy, resulting in leaf loss. Leaves at the top of the tree may be thin and discolored. An example of this is shown below.

Epicormic Sprouting: When trees are stressed or sick, they will try to grow new branches and leaves wherever they still can. Trees may have new growth at the base of the tree and on the trunk, often just below where the larvae are feeding. An example of this is shown in the picture above, where small branches are growing on the trunk, about 6 feet off the ground.

Bark splits: Vertical splits in the bark are caused due to callus tissue that develops around larval galleries. Larval galleries can often be seen beneath bark splits.

Woodpecker feeding: Woodpeckers eat emerald ash borer larvae that are under the bark. This usually happens higher in the tree where the emerald ash borer prefers to attack first. If there are large numbers of larvae under the bark the woodpecker damage can make it look like strips of bark have been pulled off of the tree. This is called "flecking." An example of this is shown below.

Signs

D-shaped emergence holes: As adults emerge from under the bark they create a D-shaped emergence hole that is about 1/8 inch in diameter. An example of this is shown below.

S-shaped larval galleries: As larvae feed under the bark they wind back and forth, creating galleries that are packed with frass (larva poop) and sawdust and follow a serpentine pattern. An example of this is shown below.

Larvae: Larvae are cream-colored, slightly flattened (dorso-ventrally) and have pincher-like appendages (urogomphi) at the end of their abdomen. By the time larvae are done growing they are 1 1/2 inches long. Larvae are found feeding beneath the bark.

Adults: Adult beetles are metallic green and about the size of one grain of cooked rice (3/8 - 1/2 inch long and 1/16 inch wide). Adults are flat on the back and rounded on their underside.

FIREWOOD REGULATIONS

Moving firewood can put the trees at your destination at risk.

Firewood can harbor many different kinds of invasive pests and diseases that are harmful to Wisconsin's trees in both forest and urban settings. **Gypsy moth, oak wilt, emerald ash borer and others hitchhike on firewood**, making their way easily into previously unaffected, healthy areas. This is a serious threat to trees throughout the state.



Although it is still legal to move firewood in certain areas, it is almost always a bad idea to do so.

The one exception is Wisconsin certified firewood. Firewood from a vendor that is certified by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has been processed to remove or destroy hitchhiking pests. The certification program is available to firewood manufacturers.

If you have an EAB-infested tree that you would like to use as firewood, be aware that EAB can continue to emerge from the wood for two years after cutting. To avoid spreading EAB, split and leave the wood to age near where you cut the tree for two summers. After two years of drying, EAB that may have been within the wood will have emerged or died. The aged firewood poses little risk of introducing EAB and you may move it freely within the limits of the quarantine.

Emerald ash borer and firewood restrictions

State and federal laws forbid moving hardwood firewood out of emerald ash borer quarantined areas.

Currently, this means hardwood firewood that has been stored, purchased, or harvested in the following areas may not be moved out of these areas in Wisconsin: Adams, Brown, Buffalo, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Door, Douglas, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Monroe, Oneida, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago counties. A federal quarantine also prohibits the movement of hardwood firewood out of all or parts of more than a dozen other states and parts of Canada. This [map](#) shows the most current national and international quarantines.

FOR WOODLOT OWNERS

Like all native Wisconsin trees, ash trees play an extremely important role in forest ecosystem function. With emerald ash borer (EAB) now in Wisconsin, however, there are concerns about whether forest landowners should be harvesting ash before EAB arrives in the local area. The following management recommendations regarding managed forests and EAB are from Wisconsin DNR forest health specialists. Read about them in more detail in the Related Documents section below:



- Until EAB is found in the local area, continue regularly scheduled harvests.
- In stands where ash forms 20% or more of the basal area, reduce the ash component during regularly scheduled thinning or harvesting.

- When selecting ash trees to thin, first remove those that have low vigor and quality, maintain dominant and co-dominant ash trees with good form/health, and remember to follow the stocking guidelines for your forest type.
- During regeneration activities, promote species other than ash. In certain stands, this may require cutting or herbicide use on ash regeneration. The goal should not be to eliminate ash. Try to keep ash regeneration to 10% or less of all regeneration.
- If your land is located in or near EAB-quarantined counties, be sure to contact your forester to learn if you should adjust your management plan.

The Reality of EAB in Forests

Research on EAB in forests in Michigan and Ohio has grimly shown that all black, green, and white ash trees are susceptible to EAB attack regardless of ash density, total tree density, ash basal area, total stand basal area, ash diameter (above 1 in.), tree health, and species diversity. Ash survival decreased 30-50% over three years in monitored southeastern Michigan infested stands, and models developed from field observations predict that a healthy forest will lose 98% of its ash trees in 6 years.

Rays of Hope for Ash Trees

Some progress has been made in managing EAB populations. A tiny native wasp was discovered killing EAB larvae at two sites in Michigan. Between 24% and 56% of EAB larvae at these two sites in 2008 were parasitized by this native wasp. We may yet discover more native insects that attack EAB and help reduce their populations. Scientists have released three parasitic insect species that are natural enemies of EAB in China at various locations in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. Two of these insect species have succeeded in establishing themselves at release sites.

Aside from biological controls, researchers have shown that a variety of chemical and microbial insecticides can protect trees from EAB attack. Many of these insecticides are available to homeowners to protect their ornamental ash trees, but some of them need to be applied by a certified and licensed pesticide applicator. They may have a role in protecting some valuable forest trees.

Regarding the resiliency of native ash, resistance to EAB has not been evident in ash to date. That is not to say that resistant native ash do not exist. In Michigan, ash regeneration on sites where EAB had killed overstory ash trees was common on mesic to dry-mesic sites, but the long-term outlook for this regeneration is poor since EAB will infest it once it reaches a large enough size.

Currently, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, researchers are applying an array of management tactics to attempt to slow ash mortality due to EAB in two neighboring sites. If results from this project are positive, we may be able to apply them to Wisconsin's woodlands to buy researchers and our ash more time.

Finally, there is no way of predicting when EAB will arrive in a given stand. Researchers have observed that the spread of low-density EAB populations, without humans moving them, may be less than 0.6 miles/year, so a given ash stand in Wisconsin may not be affected by EAB for a long time. Artificial movement of EAB in firewood, nursery stock, logs, and other ash products may increase the rate of spread dramatically.

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 partnersinforestry@gmail.com or by mail:

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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.