



# Partners News

Partners in Forestry Landowner Cooperative Newsletter

January/February 2007

## The President's Corner

Joe Hovel, Chair

The year 2006 began with consecutive trips to the Capitol in support of the Local Lumber Use Bill. This legislative initiative eventually died with a lack of action taken by the assembly speaker. Hope on this bill has been recently rekindled, as word from Senator Breske's office assures us that he will resubmit the bill early this year to the legislature, which we hope to be more in tune with working folks and forestry issues this time.

Partners in Forestry sponsored a very informative forum at Trees for Tomorrow in September. Our pair of high profile speakers included Scott Bove, who gave a very interesting presentation on global trade and how it affects local forestry markets. I was not aware of the influence that China has on our economy!

Jane Cummings Carlson caught our attention with her charm and kept it by sharing her very deep knowledge of forest pests. The audience, along with the professionals in attendance, wrapped up the session with lively discussion as we all shared our concerns.

Bill Green joined the PIF board along with the election of John Schwarzmann and myself. Bill has a very impressive business profile and I am eager to experience his enthusiasm in motion. John has filled a remaining term in Rachel Hovel's absence for over a year, so we will continue to appreciate his forestry expertise.

In other news related to forest fragmentation and threats to forest health, a coalition of citizens and activists have thus far managed to stave off the development of power company lands on and surrounding UP flowages. As we reported in Partners News a year ago, the Upper Peninsula Power Company and its parent company Wisconsin Public Service have completed transactions with Naterra Land with the intention that the land will be fragmented and sold for residential development. Subsequent environmental impact reviews have been conducted and UPPCO/Naterra have continued to plan for the sale of

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parcels, but with opposition from citizens and concerns from resource agencies, the process is currently moving very slowly. For more information, visit [www.uppac.com](http://www.uppac.com).

I would like to thank two members departing from the board of directors this year, Bob Dunbar and Roland Rueckert. I believe I speak for the board in saying that it was a pleasure to work with them, and I've appreciated their friendship and talents.

I would also like to thank Rachel for putting together this issue of Partners News on semester break. Please keep in mind that we are still seeking a newsletter editor, and contact us if you are interested or able to help. I hope you enjoy the member interview with Doc Thiede as much as I have. Who is next?

Please pay attention to the enclosed form, and renew your PIF membership. Ask a friend or neighbor to join and receive an ever more valuable (as we were reminded by Jane Cummings Carlson) Invasive Species folder. As always, do not hesitate to share your concerns and experiences with the board! We look forward to hearing from you and working with our members in 2007.

## Membership Renewal

As 2006 comes to a close, it is again time to renew your PIF membership for the coming year. If you did not renew your membership at the annual meeting and joined before September of 2006, your membership will expire on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. A renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter. Please complete the form and return it with a check to Partners in Forestry, 6063 Baker Lake Road, Conover, WI 54519. We appreciate your support, and look forward to another year of assisting our members.

## New Members

We'd like to welcome PIF's newest members, Lon Mosbrucker from Green Bay, WI, Mike Hovel from Stevens Point, WI, and Mary and Harold Cook from Mount Pleasant, MI. We look forward to your ideas and to working with you in the future.

## Vilas County Forest Plan Released

Vilas County has recently released its Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the next fifteen years. This plan includes continuing management of aspen and jack pine and maintenance of public use areas. The draft plan is available for review at the Eagle River, Boulder Junction, Manitowish Waters, Lac du Flambeau, Land O' Lakes, Presque Isle, Phelps, Sayner and Minocqua Public Libraries, or at the Vilas County Forestry Department headquarters in Eagle River. Public comments on the plan may be submitted until and at a public hearing at the Conover Community Center on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Written comments may be mailed to Vilas County Forest, 330 Court Street, Eagle River, WI 54521. Three foresters on PIF's board are reviewing the plan.

## The 2007 PIF Board

To better connect members to their representatives on the board, the following list gives the names and contact information for each member of the board of directors. The board is here to serve you, so feel free to contact any of them with questions or concerns on your organization.

### Bill Green

4918 E. Flowage Road, Conover, WI 54519  
715-547-6209 [bgbest@aol.com](mailto:bgbest@aol.com)

### Joe Hovel

6063 Baker Lake Road, Conover, WI 54519  
715-479-8528 [logcabin@nnex.net](mailto:logcabin@nnex.net)

### Barbara Loar

PO Box 124, Conover, WI 54519  
432 W. Singing Woods Rd, Edelstein, IL 61526  
309-579-8222 [loarwood@mtco.com](mailto:loarwood@mtco.com)

### Rod McKinnon

6840 County Hwy. B, Land O' Lakes, WI 54540  
715-547-3817 [rod@rodmckinnon.com](mailto:rod@rodmckinnon.com)

### Ron Parkinson

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715-362-4681 [theshacker@charter.net](mailto:theshacker@charter.net)

### Robert Simeone

6709 Forest Lake Rd, Land O' Lakes, WI 54540  
715-547-3304 [rsimeone@igc.org](mailto:rsimeone@igc.org)

### John Schwarzmann

8149 Denoyer Drive, Minocqua, WI 54548  
715-254-9111 [jschwarzmann@charter.net](mailto:jschwarzmann@charter.net)

### June Wedell

4319 Chain O'Lakes Rd, Eagle River, WI 54521  
715-479-4068

## Forest Legacy and PIF Members

The Northwoods Forest Partners in Project, composed of a group of landowners who have made a joint application to the federal Forest Legacy Program, remains highly ranked in the state process. The Forest Legacy Program is designed to act as a perpetual conservation easement, prohibiting subdivision or development of designated lands. Three PIF members, the Rueckerts, the Dunbars, and the Hovels have included their woodlands in this partnership. The process is a lengthy one, but we are optimistic that it will be carried out to completion.

## Newsletter Editor Wanted

PIF is still looking for volunteers to fill the position of editor for our bimonthly newsletter. Would you like to become more involved in your cooperative in a way that will reach out to other members? If you do not have the time to dedicate to editing the newsletter but would still like to contribute, we encourage you to submit any articles or editorials you have to share. Please see below for deadlines for the next newsletter.

Please contact PIF if you are interested in contributing to the newsletter in any way.

## Submissions to the Newsletter

All members are encouraged to send any articles, announcements, opinion pieces, or items of interest for inclusion in the Partners News. For items to be included in the March-April issue, they must be received by February 28<sup>th</sup>. Submissions may be emailed, faxed, or mailed to PIF.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in PIF, or who might find helpful PIF's mission to assist landowners in sustainable management of their woodlands, please contact us. We would be happy to send them information on PIF, a copy of the newsletter, or any other information that could assist them.

You may also request additional electronic copies of the newsletter. Please email PIF if you would like the latest issue, or any back issues, in this format.

## PIF Contact Information:

**Partners in Forestry**  
6063 Baker Lake Road  
Conover, WI 54519

Phone: (715) 479-8528

Fax: (715) 479-8528

Email: [logcabin@nnex.net](mailto:logcabin@nnex.net)

## Meeting Minutes

### August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006

July minutes were corrected and approved and June Jones gave the treasurer's report.

Board committees gave reports on their activities. The Biomass Committee will continue to explore the possibilities of implementing a biomass industry in the Northwoods area. The Summit Follow-Up Committee agreed to draft a letter to the Governor's Council to encourage the promotion of industries such as biomass, based its economic importance in the region. The Public Relations Committee began to organize the annual meeting and reported on progress with the September forum.

In old business, Joe LeBouton reported that the Value-added Producer grant written by Don Peterson in 2002 was not awarded any funds, and PIF owes nothing on the grant. Another grant could be put together if PIF wishes to pursue this.

### September 6, 2006

August Minutes were approved and the treasurer's report was issued, including expenses for the forum at Trees for Tomorrow on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Committee reports included that from the Policy Committee, where they found an opportunity to assist landowners in purchasing seedlings at a bulk price if members were to make a joint order. The Public Relations Committee finalized plans for the Trees for Tomorrow forum.

### Annual Meeting, November 1, 2006

The meeting was called to order following dinner and a social. The minutes of last year were approved and those present were updated with the treasurer's report.

A motion to change the PIF bylaws on membership was presented with a recommendation by the board for approval. The new language would read as follows:

"Any individual or organization that owns *or manages* ten or more acres of forestland is entitled to all rights and responsibilities of PIF membership, including the right to vote and to serve on the board of directors." (Changes indicated in italics.)

The change will permit appointment of persons with professional skills in forestry to the board, even if they do not personally own woodlands. The motion was approved by the 13 PIF members present.

Annual elections were carried out, and Joe Hovel, John Schwarzmann, and Bill Green were each elected to three year terms.

## New Board Members

At the annual meeting, Joe Hovel was reelected and John Schwarzmann and Bill Green are now beginning their three year terms. As an introduction, brief biographies on the two newly elected members are included below.

**John Schwarzmann** is a senior forester for the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL), which manages 78000 acres across the state. Most of the lands were granted to Wisconsin shortly after statehood and belong to four trust funds operated by the BCPL for the benefit of Wisconsin's residents. The lands are located in 32 counties, about 80% of which is located in Oneida, Forest, Price, Vilas and Iron Counties. John has 16 years of experience as a forester with the WI BCPL and 2 years with Somerset, MD. He received a B.S. in Forestry from UW-Madison in 1985 and an M.S. from Penn State University in 1988. He also helps friends and relatives manage over 4000 acres of forestland. He states, "I think PIF is important because without long-term assistance, most landowners will not have the opportunity to sustainably manage their own private woodlands by themselves."

**Bill Green** was born on Chicago's north side and developed an appreciation for the North woods at a tender age when his parents vacationed in the area.

He founded BG Electronics and later opened a TV repair and antenna installation shop in Chicago, installing and repairing car radios. He later worked for 3M Company for many years, and when 3M opted to go the dealership route, Bill was granted a dealership for northwest Chicago and suburbs. The company was incorporated 30+ years ago and Bill ran it with his wife Joanie after she left the publishing business.

During this time Bill and Joanie escaped to the woods whenever possible. They stayed at many local resorts until coming across their Myrtle Lake property in April of 1980. They intended to "sit on it" for a couple years and then build a modest cabin, but ground was broken in October of 1980 and their cabin completed spring of 1981. They commuted bi-weekly for the next 20+ years spending long weekends and holidays. When it became apparent how much they loved the North woods and intended to retire here, they did a drastic remodel quadrupling the size of their cabin. Since they have sold their business in July of 2005, they've been full-time residents of Conover.

About 15 years ago a 40-acre parcel across Myrtle Lake came on the market, so to preserve the natural beauty of the parcel and protect themselves and neighbors from development, they purchased the 40. Several years thereafter a contiguous 40-acre parcel to the south became available, so they also acquired that. The "back 80" as they call it remains beautiful woods and woodland trails. About 5 years ago they harvested the jacks and most aspen resulting in a thriving red and white pine, oak, and birch forest.

## Member Feature: Walt and Anita Thiede at Wit's End Farm

Dr. Walt and Anita Thiede split their time between their home and tropical fruit orchard in Ft. Meyers, FL and their woodlands south of Rhinelander, WI. Both now retired, they value the time spent at "Wit's End North", where they have been making trips to for nearly half a century. Walt and Anita have been members of PIF since the inception of the organization and are engaged and passionate landowners. In an interview with Walt, he answered questions about their land and their vision for it.

### Partners News: How did you obtain your forestlands, and how long have you owned your woodland?

Walt Thiede: An elderly physician without children knew of my love of the outdoors. He left the original essentially barren 80 acre dairy farm to me for the current year's taxes (\$89). Because of its remoteness, and because of the sight of an 8 point buck and a bald eagle seen on my wife's first visit, it became loved by both of us. The original farm consisted of a hay barn, the original homestead log cabin, and a prohibition-era house built without aid of a carpenter's square. A still resided in the earthen basement. The original area was obtained 49 years ago.

### How many acres do you manage?

Over the years we bought a number of additional "40's", selling many when my medical practice became too demanding. Sales were made with the stipulation that the land remain undeveloped. Currently we manage 160 acres.

### You have a diverse parcel of woodland. What are your management objectives and planting/harvesting history? Do you specifically manage for any tree or wildlife species?

I am fortunate enough to have original descriptions of the land we own. Records from the late 1800's indicate that the original cover of our entire area of holdings was in the sphere of evergreens, primarily white pine, some red, much hemlock, some spruce and much balsam. Northern hardwoods were sparse. I wanted to return the land to its original intent. With the help of Trees for Tomorrow the original 80 was planted with red and white pine leaving the areas where northern hardwood, especially maple and oak, had been established. The plantation is now 45 years old. Three separate thinnings have been completed, the hardwood has been selectively thinned, and the PIF forester says more trees should be harvested. On a 40 that 1880 records indicate was entirely cedar and balsam, the balsam was clear cut, and on advice converted to white and red pine. The cedar remains, but has been selectively thinned. A third 40 has 2000 ft of shoreline of a lake. Here the hemlock is the predominant species, and will be kept. Areas of popple and hardwood have been replanted to red and white pine, but an additional 10 acres awaits a decision. The wildlife population has thrived on all 3 of our parcels without specific planning for any species. Rabbits, fox, fisher, hawks, wolf, bobcat, eagles abound, and bear are always "underfoot." The deer population seems to have decreased.

### What recreational activities do you most enjoy on your land?

Instinctively, I would say partridge hunting is my very favorite, but as I reflect I think animal watching, fishing, cross country skiing, snowmobile and ATVing. We are blessed by having the Oneida Co. trails adjacent to the farm.

### You have recently created and implemented a permanent protection against development on your land in the form of a conservation easement. What was your reason for doing this?

In my 81 years I have seen Wisconsin bloom again. I remember the barren burned over forest lands of my early youth. I remember the CCC efforts and the many conservation advances. Ours is a priceless heritage, one that must be savored and handed on in perpetuity. I have found an answer in the conservation easement, and I have urged other northerners to pursue this avenue. In May of 2006 I saw 7 bear in one afternoon. In June I saw 5 wolf pups, and 2 days later 4 fox pups. Such events must be seen too, by my heirs a hundred years from now.

### Do you belong to any other landowner organizations other than PIF?

I have found the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA) invaluable for purposes of education- GPS training, seminars on tree selection, and even basic information on how to measure forest density.

### You have been a member of PIF for a number of years. How has the organization been most beneficial to you? What do you envision for the organization and what would you like to see PIF offer to its members?

PIF has introduced me to the people most able to help my plans for the future and has furnished the foresters for selection and cutting. I think continued efforts at education are in the future. Seminars in simple things such as chain saw safety are valuable to many members. I believe a good function of the PIF would be to accrue and publish a list of FAQ's on the organization and forestry practices and management.

### Would you offer any advice to other PIF members on land ownership, management, or conservation easements?

The ownership and stewardship of the invaluable resources that we have in our forests is paramount for the future of our state. Organizations such as PIF are the means of finding information on how to best do the job. The counsel and the help are invaluable, but one must get to be involved. Before subdividing, seriously consider what a conservation easement will mean for the future.