



Partners News

Partners in Forestry Landowner Cooperative Newsletter

July/August 2005

President's Corner

Joe Hovel, Chair

Now that the Northwoods Forestry Summit has concluded with a positive outcome and follow-up material is being sent to participants, there is excitement about the next step in this process. The Summit discussion in June was an opening to the dialogue to follow, and PIF feels honored to be playing a role.

I am happy to say that legislation allowing the use of locally-grown timber in construction is moving forward, and is now seeking co-sponsorship in the Senate. Partners in Forestry was influential in the creation of this legislation, and worked with DNR and the office of Senator Roger Breske, sponsor of this bill, to allow landowners to use timber harvested off their own land and locally milled for construction use.

Though PIF is involved in these other issues, our primary focus remains on assistance of the landowner. If you need assistance with a management plan or timber harvest, if you have problems with pests such as jack pine budworm, or if you have a question about management, please contact us.

And, as always, I encourage you to get involved. We are looking for help in planning workshops, and, with the upcoming loss of our newsletter editor, help with the newsletter. We also want to hear of any comments or thoughts that our membership has to offer.

Fellow board member and daughter Rachel is off to begin her academic studies in environmental science and journalism at Northern Michigan University this fall. I will miss her in many ways, not the least of which for her countless hours of dedication to PIF. In short, we need help in her absence with the newsletter, or any other talents you have to offer.

Thanks to fellow board member Roland, featured in this issue. I refer to Roland as our "senior educator emeritus", and Roland's common sense is a big asset to PIF. It has been a pleasure to serve with him.

Jack Pine Budworm

There has recently been incidence of the jack pine budworm, a cyclic insect pine pest, in many parts of PIF's membership area. Jack pine is the preferred host of this pest, which attacks primarily those trees 20 years and older, but budworm will also spread into stands of red pine in areas that are heavily infested.

Infested trees can often be identified by the rapid discoloration of the needles or by complete or partial defoliation. Defoliation is caused by the budworm larvae, which feeds for a period of approximately six weeks from May to late June. Light infestation reduces a tree's growth, but heavy infestation often results in mortality. One year of infestation will see a loss of approximately 5% of the trees, and two years can kill up to a quarter of the trees in a stand.

The budworm primarily attacks weak or suppressed trees, those in poorly-stocked stands, or trees on the edge of a stand. Methods of control include harvesting stands in shapes that reduce edge areas, promoting uneven-age stands, and harvesting heavily defoliated stands. Loss should be anticipated in an infested stand, and population of budworm should be monitored.

Currently, Vilas County is seeing budworm population build-up.

If your land or area is infested with budworm, please contact PIF. With a network of members across a large geographic area in north-central Wisconsin and the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan, we will be able to achieve an idea of where this pest is occurring. We will also be able to assist you in control if your forest is infested.

Meet the Board:

Roland Rueckert

Roland Rueckert is a hodag, born and raised in Rhineland, Wisconsin. He left Rhineland in 1949 to major in chemistry at the UW-Madison. After a two-year stint in the Army Medical Corps, he earned a PhD in Oncology at UW-Madison (1960) and after a five years of postgraduate training in Germany and in Berkeley, CA, returned to UW-Madison. There, he taught biochemistry and virology and conducted research on molecular virology of tumor and common cold viruses for 32 years.

Roland acquired his interest in woodlands from his father, George, who was twice honored as Oneida County's Tree Farmer of the year. He was a model ecologist, easy on the land, and, except for a chainsaw and log-splitter, rarely used gas-powered machinery in managing his woodland.

Over the years, Roland acquired additional adjoining woodland, and now manages about 302 acres, most of which is in the Managed Forest Law program. This summer, he will be conducting a timber harvest on his land, just in time to rescue the forest from jack pine budworm. The cut will be managed to favor white pine regeneration.

Roland also owns 23 acres of oak and hickory forest in Dane County, in the rich lands of the glacier's terminus. His southern Wisconsin land was chosen by the DNR for a media event, attended by the Governor of Wisconsin and DNR officials, where Governor Doyle was presented an award on behalf of the recent certification of all Managed Forest Law lands by American Tree Farm standards.

He is a life member of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, and enjoys canoeing, working in the woods, managing for trees and wildlife, especially grouse, and watching the magic of what happens through the seasons and the years. He believes in the value of educating our children and city friends on the importance of sustainable forestry—"green power"—for the future of our society.

Roland has served on the Board of Partners in forestry for one year, after several years of membership.

Election of the Board of Directors

The terms of two board members, Barbara Loar and Bob Simeone, will expire this fall, one year from the annual meeting of October, 2004. An election will be held, with ballots counted at this year's annual meeting, to fill these positions.

Nominations for board members are being sought at this time, for three-year terms on the Board of Directors. All nominations must be submitted before PIF's September meeting on the 6th.

If you would like to nominate someone, or yourself, please send the name, contact information, and a short biography to Partners in Forestry. Submissions are welcome by email or U.S. Mail.

The list of nominees and their biographies will be printed in the next newsletter. Ballots will also be included in the next issue, and voting may take place either in person, at the annual meeting, or by submitting a ballot by mail by October 3rd.

Members Encouraged to Report Sightings

With sightings of a cougar near a member's land in Vilas County, PIF would like to encourage all members to report interesting or notable wildlife sightings on or near their lands. Do you have an eagle nest or bear den on your land, or is your forest habitat for a rare or endangered species? Let us know of any unique wildlife or plant characteristics of your land, and we will print it in the newsletter to share with other members.

Welcome to Our New Members

The PIF board would like to welcome our newest members, Elaine and Gerald Powell of Westfield and Michael Uihlein of Cedarburg.

Upcoming Events

✂ The next Board meeting will be held at the Conover Town Hall, beginning at 5:00 PM, on September 6nd. The October meeting will be on the 4th, in conjunction with the annual meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend PIF's board meetings.

✂ PIF's annual meeting will be coming up this fall, on October 4th. Tentative plans set this year's meeting at the Kemp Natural Resources Station in Woodruff, WI, with Tom Steele as our guest presenter.

Board Meeting Highlights

All members are invited to the Board meetings. The minutes of the June and July meetings are summarized here, for those unable to attend. Much of the discussion focused on preparation for and follow up on the groundbreaking Summit. Below are highlights of other discussion, and the main items of new business.

June, 2005: Discussion during the June Board meeting was primarily focused on preparation for the Northwoods Forestry Summit. For the executive summary of the Summit, please see page three of this newsletter.

July, 2005: The financial committee made plans to carry out an internal audit, and anticipated to have it completed by the August meeting.

Joe Hovel reported, per correspondence with Sen. Roger Breske's office, that legislation on lumber grading is moving forward. The Board also discussed the possibilities of marketing lumber harvested from members' land in ways that would bring it recognition and create demand.

Workshops for the upcoming year were explored and discussed.

The annual meeting will be coming up soon, and the Board began to set some dates and begin preparation.

Newsletter Editor Sought

Would you like to become more involved in your cooperative in a way that will reach out to other members? PIF is looking for volunteers to fill the position of editor, effective this fall, for our bimonthly newsletter. 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, or items of interest for inclusion in the Partners News. For items to be included in the September/October issue, they must be received by August 30th. 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.

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