



# Partners News

Nov-Dec  
2007

## PIF'S Annual Dinner Meeting a Hit & well attended!



**Annual dinner meeting  
@ White Spruce  
draws 29 attendees,  
2 new board members  
& 2 new members**



## New PIF "T" shirts & nice sweatshirts

(more on page 2)



**Members concerned about  
ATV's, fragmentation,  
development, invasive species,  
how to manage their woods  
& more.**

details page 14



## Happy Holidays to you and yours From PIF

*PIF... The environmentally friendly forestry people*

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### Special points of interest:

- New T shirts
- We need your news!
- Member profiles!
- 8 new members
- PIF is growing



## Director's Message

Finally the change of season brought some substantial rain to the drought plagued north. The Eagle River ranger station accumulated 9.2" while the Lake Superior shore lands were blessed with Lake Linden Michigan reporting a whopping 18 inches in the same two months of September and October.

See the enclosed feature on the Palmer Lake workshop. John Schwarzmann and Joe LeBouton hosted a great event as the maples were at or just past peak color.

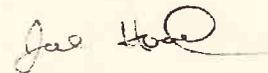
Almost 30 members and friends gathered for our annual meeting in Eagle River on October 25. With no formal agenda, except the election of board members, lots of time was devoted to open discussion. As has been the case from PIF conception, forest parcelization ( fragmentation) topped the list of concerns, with invasive species and ATV damage on public lands also being large concerns to folks.

A logger will once again sit on the PIF board. I welcome my old friend Al Hogenmiller and his century of experience in the woods. A second new board member will be Rod Sharka, with a biology background and a keen interest in protecting public and private forest lands from invasives. Rod claims he would rather be lost in the woods than found at home....I could relate to that.

Please read the enclosed letter from Senator Breske. He has been a real common sense legislator at a time when common sense is endangered in politicians. I have spent countless hours on the local lumber issue, and this bill needs to be passed.

PIF continues to grow, with Bill and Joanie Green being an energetic committee, as they recruit members and handle the newsletter duties. We owe them a big thanks, for their efforts are vital to this group. They deserve our support with their efforts.

This is YOUR newsletter. Send us something to print. While the majority of our circulation is in north east Wis. you may read this in the Kettle Moraine, the Central Sands or Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula...you may feel like stray members out of the loop but we need your input no matter where you reside. Send us a photo or two, send us a past experience as Doc Thiede shares with us or just give us your opinion on a matter of importance. Frankly I do not care how controversial an opinion you send, without opinions there is no dialogue, with no dialogue no reasonable solutions are found.




## New PIF T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

If you didn't pick up a T at the meeting, we are offering them for sale via mail. The shirts are 100% tan cotton with a multicolor embroidered PIF emblem and "Partners In Forestry" embroidered below the emblem. We think they're very attractive. Ts are \$10 each + \$2.75 shipping, sweatshirts are \$15 each + \$4.60 shipping. Although we're out of stock right now, brown pocket Ts with the same embroidery are available at \$12 each + \$2.75 shipping.

These would make excellent Christmas gifts. To order, just drop us a note telling us (1) how many, (2) what size, and (3) enclose your check. Sizes in stock range from large to 2XL. Send orders to: Bill & Joanie Green, 4918 East Flowage Road, Conover, WI 54519.

Here's PIF board member Barb Loar modeling our new PIF T's



# PIF'S Annual Dinner Meeting Thursday Oct 25th

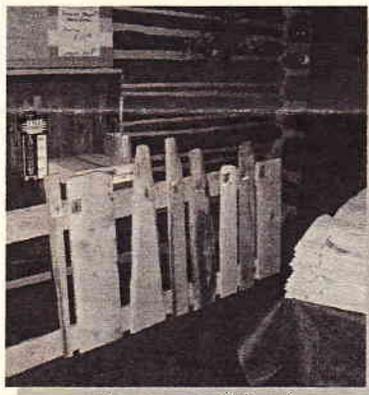
Twenty-nine PIF members, guests and spouses attended our annual dinner/meeting, and all had a very enjoyable evening. Food, drink and fellowship were terrific! During the social hour guests viewed a DVD on a large screen of all three 2007 workshops as well as other pictures submitted by members.

The meeting was short and sweet, since the only pressing issue was election of two new board members. We are happy to report both Rod Sharka and Alvin Hogenmiller accepted nomination and were unanimously approved. June Wedell was re-elected for another term. Thanks to these folks for assuming the responsibility of leadership for PIF!

Thanks to June and Al Wedell, Ned and Barb Loar, and Bill and Joanie Green for setting up this affair. June also manned the cash box at the T-shirt table.

For the first time, we had door prizes this year. Seemed to be a hit. Thanks to Joe and Mary Hovel, Bill and Joanie Green and Stitch By Stitch of Eagle River (our T shirt supplier) for donations of prizes.

We garnered two new members at the meeting. See "Talkin' It Up" for more details on these new members.



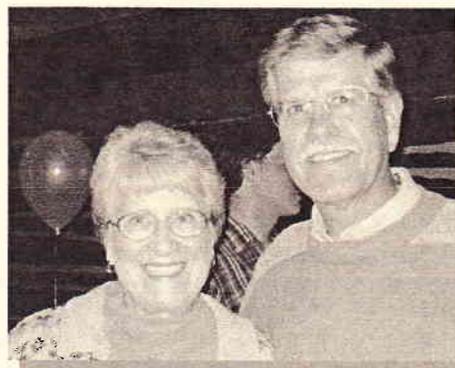
Display of different wood types..



Margie Zellmer & Carolyn Ross ..  
locals but not yet PIF members...  
hopefully soon!



PIF board member June Wedell  
"hawkin" our new T shirts..



New board member Rod Sharka & wife Myrtle

More pictures next page



Baby Gracie Indermuehl..daughter of member Pat Indermuehl



New member Phill Offerdahl, chatting with member Tom Hayes and director Joe Hovel



Board member Barb Loar & new board member Al Hogenmiller



Folks chatting while others enjoy a big screen slideshow highlighting PIF events thru out the year



Pat Oltz and daughter



PIF board member Bill Green & wife Joanie enjoying the festivities



New PIF board member Al Hogenmiller & wife Rita enjoying dessert...the cheese-cake was scrumptious!



Mary Hovel & son Mark

Why not  
invite a friend  
to join PIF?



# Sept 22nd workshop another hit!

With John Schwarzmann and Joe LeBouton as guides PIF completed its summer workshop series on a beautiful late summer day in the Palmer Lake area.

After a short hike to view what is believed to be a state record Balsam Fir and other large conifers neighboring it we traveled through woods roads to visit a remnant old growth stand on state Trust lands at Palmers south east side. A lively discussion on a wide range of forestry matters ensued...covering everything from forest economics to tree types and plants in the understory as the more than 20 participants enjoyed the Hemlock, Cedar and Yellow Birch canopy overhead.

After a short walk to view modern logging equipment on a current job site we traversed back to the County Road and west over the Devils lake lookout on the Northern Divide ( Ontonagon and Manitowish water sheds) and up another road to visit state Trust lands at Palmers west side. At this site five years after a thinning harvest detailed discussion followed about the long term management which helped nurture the large tree atmosphere of this Hard Maple dominated sawtimber stand.

We then traveled back toward our meeting place at Palmer Lake landing stopping to view two more sites which were about a decade post harvest.

The afternoon wrapped up with fellowship and discussion about forestry, land conservation and wildlife issues at the boat landing as the sun dropped to the tree line.



John Schwarzmann  
our workshop leader



Checkin' over some heavy equipment



Huggin' a tree



Loaded and ready to roll....



Cutest and youngest of workshop attendees.. Yamila,..daughter of PIF board member Joseph LeBouton



Here's Joanie Green news co-editor and membership committee gal ...travelin' in style



## Letter to PIF from Senator Breske



Just prior to our annual meeting we invited Senator Roger Breske to attend and give an explanation of the status of the local lumber use bill. As most of you are aware PIF instigated this Bill with Senator Breskes office several years ago. This bill first surfaced in 2005 as SB 353, passed the Senate Committee on Housing and the full Senate unanimously. Unfortunately Speaker Gard refused to bring it to the Assembly floor even after it passed the Assembly Committee on Forestry.

In early 2007 Senator Breske reintroduced this as SB 28, and it went through the Senate Committee on Housing and the full Senate with no problem. In May the Assembly Committee on Housing took up this bill, but has failed to vote on it to date, using the budget delay as an excuse. To date I have made five trips to Madison and spent countless hours with Sen. Breskes office and DNR and UWSP on the language for this bill, to say nothing of asking others who have been a help. This has all been covered in these pages over the past three years.

Senator Breske has been a strong ally of this organization and has supported us through the years, participating in our 2005 Summit as well as being a voice for our mission. We now need to ask Rep. Wieckert and our own assembly representatives to get this bill out for a vote.

Following is Senator Breskes letter just prior to our annual meeting.

October 25, 2007

Joe Hovel  
Partners in Forestry Cooperative  
6063 Baker Lake Road  
Conover, WI 54519

Dear Joe and Partners members:

I wish I could be there with you tonight. Unfortunately, my schedule won't allow it. I would, however, like to send along my comments to you with Joe.

As I'm sure you know, Senate Bill 28, which allows locally sawn lumber to be used in the construction of homes was introduced, given a public hearing and supported by the Senate Housing Committee and passed the Senate nearly unanimously in February of this year. Unfortunately, in the Assembly it stalled. It wasn't until early may that the Assembly Housing Committee held a public hearing on the bill.

When SB28 was considered by the Assembly Housing Committee, the Wisconsin Builders Association expressed concerns with the bill and I had an amendment drafted that addressed their concerns. The Chairman of the Assembly Housing Committee has had all of the materials he needs to vote on SB28 and send it to the Assembly floor for a vote. While it is not always the standard, Representative Steve Wieckert, Chairman of the Assembly Housing Committee, chose to hold off on Committee action until the budget was passed. Now that it has, I understand that Chairman Wieckert will be reviewing his Committee schedule in the next couple of weeks. If you would like to reiterate your support for this bill I encourage you to do so as well. I have left the contact information with Joe.

For your reference, the amendment requires a that a miller be certified under a lumber grading training program developed by the Department of Natural Resources and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The program must be repeated every five years in order to maintain a current certification to mill and certify lumber for use in homes without a grade stamp.

As I mentioned above, the budget is finally on the Governor's desk, for better or worse, and now it's time to get back to work. I look forward to working with you in the next several weeks, hopefully, to get SB28 out of Committee, passed by the Assembly and on to the Governor's desk for his signature.

As always, please feel free to call me anytime.

Most sincerely,  
ROGER BRESKE

State Senator, 12th District

Representative Wieckert's contact information is  
608-266-3070  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708      Rep.Wieckert@legis.wisconsin.gov



### *For Sale... Great Christmas gift for the whole family*

It's an organ & piano, all in one gorgeous walnut console. Selling for over \$20,000 down south when new! We've moved & it must go! Loaded with everything imaginable: auto-rhythms, drums, percussion, theatre organ, Hammond sound, Leslie sound and more!! We've owned this for 7 years in our vacation home and hate to see it go. Loads of software, discs, old time player piano stuff and more! Nothing like it! Model AT70. Call & ask for free DVD demo, view in your own home, or come see it and play it. Lots of xtra software and floppy drive..Plays midi files too!

One of Rolands most popular models. Must go asap since we're paying storage fees. Reason for selling is we bought a bigger one! Was asking \$3750 now \$2750 obo . Contact Bill or Joanie 715-547-6209

**Attn PIF members..remember if you've got something to sell. we'll put a free ad in the newsletter.**

## We need news...a favorite recipe, a good story, news about the woods, got something to sell? Or...

we'd love to feature you in our next newsletter with your pix and a short interview. Tell us about your land and why you love it! Tell us about your logging experience, or future plans for your woods. Building a small cabin...adding trails, a gazebo, or wood shed? How about sharing stories of a recent camping trip? We'll take pictures and write it all up... Why not share it with others....

### This is your newsletter. How about it folks?

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts Bill and Joanie Green .. Partners News Editors & Membership Folks  
715-547-6209 email BGBEST@aol.com

PS! While we're on the subject of news.. we've got ...a like new trash compactor for sale.. a Gibson all white free standing unit in perfect condition we used it 5 times while we had a vacation home in Conover..These things are selling for \$400 bucks at Jensen's ...it can be yours for \$125. Check ebay...they sell for \$200 to \$400 used!



### **A few more good ones.....**

Ole and Lena were out walking and Lena clutched her heart and fell to the sidewalk. Ole got out his cell phone and called 911. The Operator said "Where are you?"

Ole answered, "Vee vere valking and Lena is on de sidewalk on Eucalyptus Street ."

The operator asked, "How do you spell that?" The phone seemed to go dead. The operator kept shouting for Ole. She could hear him panting. He finally came back on line and said, "I dragged her over to Dak Street, daht's O-A-K."

.....

Lars: "Ole, stant in front of my car and tell me if da turn signals are working."

Ole: "Yes, No, Yes, No, Yes, No, Yes, No.."

.....

A hand grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France , resulted in linoleum blownapart.



## "Talkin' it up" ... with Bill n' Joanie

June Wedell caught the "talkin' it up" bug! On September 8 she attended a Tree Farm Service Field Day at Roland Rueckert's. Incidentally, Roland is a PIF member. During a van tour of the tree farm, June talked it up. Two gentlemen showed interest in PIF, June got their names, and an intro letter along with the Partner's News was sent to these folks. Two more potential new "partners". See, it ain't so hard.

Bill and I were checking my sewing machine into the sewing machine hospital in Eagle River. When we found quite by accident that the same shop sells and embroiders T-shirts, we made a quick trip to the car to gather some PIF info showing our logo. Another customer asked what PIF was all about, so we handed her a newsletter along with an application to join PIF. This one fell in our lap, and we hope to garner another new member.

While on the T-shirt subject - if you don't already have one or haven't seen one, the shirts are tan with the PIF logo in color with "Partners in Forestry" embroidered under the logo. We think they're pretty attractive - maybe downright classy. See elsewhere in this newsletter how you can be the proud owner of one of these shirts.

Back to talkin' it up - On a sunny afternoon while traveling one of the back roads in our neighborhood, we met a delightful couple walking their dog. We chatted with them briefly, later dropping off a copy of Partners News. Bob and Clancy Seneschalle have now joined our ranks!

Conversations often occur about keeping the woods the woods. We distribute newsletters and applications to anyone interested and have had good success in so doing. Phill Offerdahl (friendly neighbor down the road apiece) attended our annual dinner/meeting last week to see what we're all about. Guess he liked what he saw - he signed up at the meeting!

PIF member, Lon Musbrucker, was unable to make our dinner, but did stop by the White Spruce on his way from Green Bay to Conover. He was accompanied by his friend, John Siegworth. Lo and behold John joined PIF.

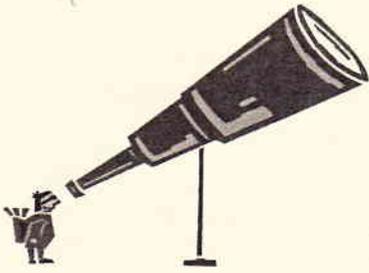
Our chiropractor and friend, Curt Welnetz, also signed on a couple weeks ago. This is inspiring! Counting Alvin Hogenmiller, who we've been "courting" for quite some time now, we've added seven new members to our roles last month. We'll keep talkin' it up because talking is one of the things we do best (much to some folks' dismay!). Try it, you'll like it.

Incidentally, Al Hogenmiller, who is a veteran logger in the Conover area, is now one of our new board members.

## ANNUAL DUES FOR 2008 DUE



As 2007 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 April of 2007, your membership will expire on January 1, 2008. For members who joined after March, 2007, you will receive a notice when your membership is up for renewal. A renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter. Please complete the form and return it with a check for \$25 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.



## *It's all in how you look at it!*

One day, the father of a very wealthy family from Chicago took his son on a trip to Conover with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from the trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?" "It was great, Dad." "Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked. "Oh, yeah," said the son. "So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered:

"I saw that we have one dog, and they had four.

We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden, and they have a creek that has no end.

We have imported lanterns in our garden, and they have the stars at night.

Our patio reaches to the front yard, and they have the whole horizon.

We have a small piece of land to live on, and they have fields that go beyond our sight.

We have servants who serve us, but they serve others.

We buy our food, but they grow theirs.

We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have.

Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends! Life is too short and friends are too few.

## *Have a great Thanksgiving*



PIF is offering its members a special price on tree and garden supplements from Espoma Fertilizers. 50lb bags of Tree-Tone or Plant-Tone are in stock. These retail at \$25 per bag, and are offered to PIF members at \$15 per bag. Tree-Tone is a good organic supplement for seedlings, orchard trees, your favorite yard trees, or boosting struggling trees.....and Plant-Tone meets all organic gardening standards.

For more info on these fine product Contact Joe Hovel @479-8528

Witch Way Water

by Walter H. Thiede... PIF member

"Hey Doc, whereja want da well? I've got a place here in da basement that will give ya all da water you want for a hundred years, and it's only thirty feet down. I kin drive a pipe and have ya a well in one day." Grizzled, bearded old Jorgen Loka yelled from inside at a volume that fed his deafness. Jorgen was the handy man we used for small jobs around the property.

The basement walls were just finished for the new house, and placement of the stringers had started. The septic system had been placed to the south end because of the drainage. I entered the basement. Jorgen was standing at the northeast corner just where I had planned to put the furnace. He pointed to a spot in the dirt. "Man, that's da spot."

"How do you know that for sure?" I yelled toward his right ear.

He looked at me like I was an idiot. "I witched it a' course. Ain't never seen a stronger signal, and I should know. Ain't never been wrong"

"Do you really believe in that old wife's tale? I shouted.

Redness invaded his face. "Ain't no such thing. I ain't never been wrong! I can show you fifty wells I witched.

"That's where the furnace is supposed to go."

His face was now a sea of crimson. "Move the \*#(&% furnace. You'll tank me for years, and I'll save ya a a wad a money. Ain't no water on da other side anyhoo" His move to profanity shown comic strip-wise above, unnerved me. I had never heard a bad word from him in ten years. I needed to mollify him.

"Tell you what I'll do. Let me get a second opinion, and if it's the same we'll drive there.O.K?"

His shoulders fell, and he slouched away muttering under his breath. Just outside the doorway he paused, bent, picked something up and tossed it backward toward me, while still walking away. It fell at my feet. I looked at it with some awe. It was a willow witching device, the bark hanging in strips.

My supervision of the new cabin was limited to weekends when I didn't have to work. I could hardly wait to begin the 220 mile drive from Milwaukee to our Eden in Oneida County on my free weekends. On the way back to the city that particular weekend I discussed the problem with Ag, my wife.

"Boy, it sure says stupid on your forehead!" she laughed, "Daddy's coming up next weekend, remember? That'll settle everything.

Daddy's the world's expert on dowsing. You know that!"

"Oy," I said to myself. That would do it. Rudy, my father-in-law, in appearance, the model for the pitch fork holding man in Woods'

"American Gothic" was a just and sober man in the Biblical sense, except, in my mind, when he began to talk about water witching. Here he joined in my image of St. Paul in embellishing his deeds a tad, and while Paul's exploits are now accepted as doctrine, some doubt is permitted in evaluating both men.

According to Rudy 87 percent of the water found within 30 miles of Mason City, Iowa was due to his divining prowess. He was known to produce gushing wells when ancient practitioners of the art failed to find a trickle anywhere and humbly withdrew. I know that Ag and our pudgy ultra-blond five year old daughter, Maddy, adored him because of his reputed steadfast success though neither had ever seen him with a stick in his hands. Rudy had one time bristled at his only son-in-law when I expressed doubt.

"Faith can do things science cannot. Everyone knows that." he had said as an aside to me. He bristled when I laughed, our only disagreement ever.

Ag called him and told him of the problem, maybe enhancing my objection to the whole sordid undertaking. From the sounds I heard, my dear wife was making. I could see my respected in-law puffing out his chest."We'll see," I'm sure we thought at the same time.

The next weekend was a beauty. We got to the old house about eight Friday night just as it was turning dusk, and Rudy pulled in 5 minutes later. We waited only fifteen minutes more for our guests of the weekend, my medical associate, and his wife. My associate and good friend, Ed Banaszak, held Ph.d's in both Physiology and Bio-chemistry, as well as an M.D. His short stature, his forward bend, his pre-occupation, and his walk told everyone that here was the stereotypical scientist. His wife Carol loved him deeply. As a scientist, he would be an independent observer. It just happened that way.

About nine on Saturday morning the outside world needed a hug just to thank Mother Nature for the beautiful day. We were dallying at the breakfast table when Jorgen bellowed or trumpeted (I forget which) from the yard." Got some coffee yet?" I rose and invited him in and introduced him. Jorgen and Rudy were roughly of the same age, in the late sixties. I told Jorgen of Rudy's talent then sat back to catch and enjoy their immediate oral sparring about the technicalities of the art of water witching. The volume at which this was held testified to the seriousness of their mutual deafness. The success rate of each man magically ballooned. Ed winked at me, his face cemented in a broad grin.

"Let's go find us a decent well," I said. The breakfast dishes were stacked, a potty break was held then the entire entourage began the 300 yard trudge to the new house. On the way there was a small swamp. Both of the witchers eyed the place, and each produced a formidable pocket knife, then entered the swamp to garner their instrument of discovery. I was perplexed as to why one of them did not go to the nearby lakeshore known to both of them and where the willow grew in abundance. Both had selected a segment of the American willow.

Continued on next page-



Continued from previous page

At the new house I suggested that Jorgen go first, that Rudy remain outside, and that the watchers get on the basement walls and watch through the stringers. The men agreed. Jorgen entered the basement and walked directly to the spot where he stood grunting with strain. The rod shot directly down toward the spot. Jorgen quickly removed pieces of willow bark that had separated from the wood. Little Maddy began to clap and Ed said, "My God did you see that?" Jorgen held his hands above his head clasped in a sign of triumph as he strode to the door.

"O.K. Rudy, your turn." Rudy entered, turned to the right and made a counter-clockwise sweep of the basement. About 15 feet from the location, his pace quickened and he moved as though magnetized to stand over the place. His face turned purple as he fought the force propelling the rod tip toward the ground. The tip splintered and fell to earth. Ag, Maddy and Carol clapped enthusiastically, and Ed paused a second then said, "I don't believe it. It's some kind of trick."

Rudy shouted up to me, "Go with it son." You've got a winner. "The two old men shook hands.

Ed was obviously disturbed. "Lets you and I try it. It's a trick." With the aid of the witchers we went to the nearby lake where we were instructed in the selection of the dowsing rod. We were shown the proper hands out technique of holding the Y-shaped piece, a must in doing it properly. Rudy magnanimously also cut and prepared three additional rods for the girls. "They have to be fresh cut." He pronounced.

"Ed, you go first," I said. He marched to magic area, and before he got a firm grip his rod was torn from his hand shooting to and burying the tip into the sandy ground. He shook his head in disbelief. He was about to utter some untasteful epithet but bit his tongue, remaining silent but continued his head shaking.

I was prepared for my effort at my turn. I held the device as tightly as I could as I walked to the magic area, intent on at least duplicating Jorgen's effort. I passed over the area, and not only did the pointer not go down, it made an upward angle as though disdain-ing the area and its own purpose. I was booed by all, even Ed. Then in succession each of the "girls" duplicated the feat accomplished by Jorgen, Rudy and Ed. Maddy jumped up and down with joy while ignoring her dad, now the family pariah.

We went back to the old house for more coffee. Jorgen sat across from me. "Tell ya what, Doc. I'll start driving the point early Monday Morning. It'll cost ya 2 dollars a foot plus the cost of the head and pipe, The big rigs begin at six a foot, so I'm saving ya serious money. Say O.K., and I'll call ya Monday before five to tell ya how many GPM of pure water ya can expect. I agreed and began thinking about the furnace. We shook hands for Jorgen could not read or write a contract.

There was no call at 5 on Monday, nor at 6 or 7. At 8 I reached him, "Oh ja, Doc. Meaning to call. My hammer went on the fritz. I'll call in the morning, soon's we hit the water. 'nother inch or two."

Tuesday was a repetition of Monday only I got him at 9. "Can't explain it, Doc. We're at 45 feet. I can drive a bit more. Only 'nother couple a inches".

Wednesday I called until 11 with no answer. This was also true of Thursday, though on Thursday morning I had managed to trade clinic duties so I could be at the farm on Friday. I got to the site at ten in the morning. I marveled at the home built hammering device, run by a 10 horsepower Briggs and Stratton engine.

"How deep are you now, Jorgen?" I had startled the deaf old man. He straightened and said, "Oh hi, Doc. Dint 'spect to see ya. Wadja say?"

"How deep?" I shouted.

"91 feet. Can't pound no more. Want me to pull da pipe? Dat'd be 'spensive, but I found a winner over on da other side. Could reuse the pipe." Chutzpah in Northern Wisconsin!

I waited for Jorgen to load his gear and "slink" (I think that's the right word) from sight then went to town to contract with a well driller. A week later we had a well just where I wanted it, delivering all the pure water I could use at a constant 55 degrees. The rig was just being dismantled.

"Believe in water witching?" I asked Barry, the driller.

"Doggone right," he replied. He patted his rig. "Got the world's best darn dowsing rod right here."

It's funny, but in three households, water witching was never mentioned again.



## Winter a good time to prune trees

Snow shoveling isn't the only winter yard work home and landowners may want to undertake. Winter is a good time for tree pruning, especially on oak trees. Winter pruning greatly reduces the likelihood of spreading oak wilt and other tree diseases and minimizes pruning stress on trees according to tree experts. More info at [www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?refid=97406](http://www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?refid=97406)

## Meet Ed Drager & Monahan Forest



Look for a PIF workshop at Monahan in 2008.

Q: Monahan Forest is well known and admired in the forestry community in this area. However, specifics remain a mystery to many of your neighbors. How did your family obtain these forestlands, and how long have these woodlands been owned and actively managed?

A. My dad obtained the forest in 1932, when the county decided to put up for sale lands on which no taxes were being paid. We did not start to actively manage the forest until 1945 when my dad had some popple and jack pine cut on the southeast corner.

Q. How many acres do you manage?

A. We manage 360 acres, which are nine 40s in a square. Recently our management plan and much of the subsequent activity has been handled by Package Corporation of Tomahawk. They have marked the timber, hired loggers and even marketed the products.

Q. What are your management objectives? What is your planting/harvesting history? Do you specifically manage for any tree or wild-life species?

A. We are managing for a multi specie, multi age forest that encourages regeneration of existing species and allows large current trees to grow to full maturity.

Q. What recreational activities do you most enjoy on your land?

A. We use the land for hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, canoeing, and other quiet forms of recreation. Our recreation and management is of a diverse scope as we have 20 acres Monahan Lake and also the headwaters of the Little Tamarack River on our property. The property also has had a DNR fire tower since 1933 on top of what is one of the highest elevations in Vilas County.

Q. A decade ago you were a land conservation pioneer in this area when your family created and implemented a permanent protection against development on your land in the form of a conversation easement. Although such agreements have been used in the east for decades, this was a rather new tool in this area. What was your reason for doing this?

A. My sister and I wanted to preserve the forest in its then existing state and be able to keep it from being developed or subdivided.

Q. Do you belong to any other landowner organizations other than PIF?

A. I belong to Nature Conservancy, Northwoods Land Trust, Gathering Waters, Trees for Tomorrow, Wisconsin Forest History Association, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, North Central Chapter of WWOA, Partners in Forestry.

Q. How may PIF be beneficial to you? What do you envision for the organization and what would you like to see PIF offer to its members?

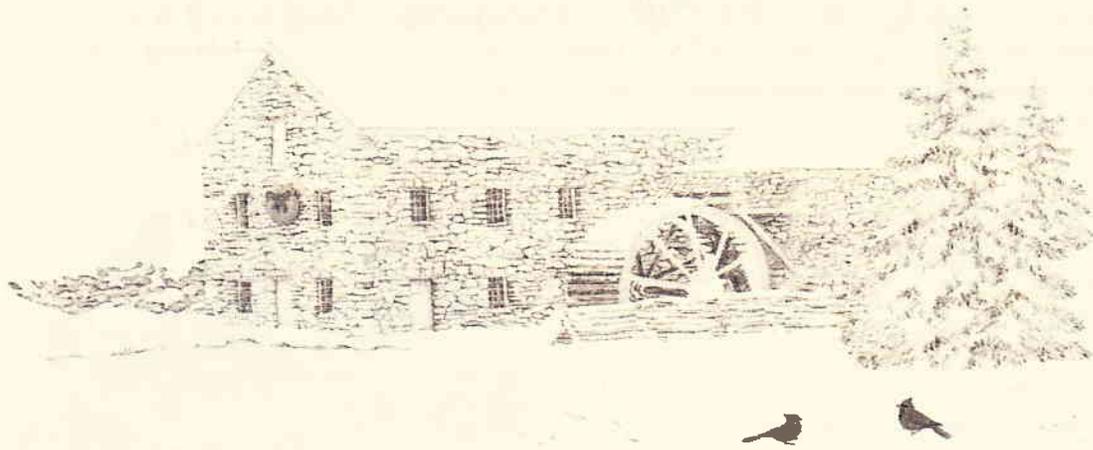
A. It's always good to get together with other forest owners who are doing similar things to what we try to achieve in our forest. PIF should try to educate its members, most of whom do not really have a good knowledge of proper forestry practices, how to manage a forest, how to conduct a timber sale, and how to regenerate a forest without planting. Afternoon workshops will do this if done on site of practices being discussed and are well organized. It should become a place where owners can get questions answered and go to meet other persons who own forests.

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

A. If properly used, a conservation easement can be a great way to preserve and protect an existing piece of land. The easement can be written to do exactly what the grantor of the easements wants for the perpetual future of the forest or other land being subjected to the easement. By use of an easement, one can protect the forest in their future and be assured that it will go on as the grantor of the easement wants. If one owns a forest, he should have a management plan and follow it. He should also gain knowledge about forests in general and how to manage ones own forests. Belong to other organizations, such as PIF, and attend their events. Show off your forest and let others enjoy it, too.

Q. Just a few miles west of Monahan is the heart of the NHAL, the largest Wisconsin owned public forest? Do you have an opinion on the management of the NHAL Forest? Does the possibility of ATVs on the forest concern you? Any other comments on the Public/Private land partnership in general?

A. The NHAL will be managed by the State of Wisconsin such as a multi department, legislatively led organization can best do it, subject to political whims and caprices. It seems to be doing well in spite of its managers and their never-ending interference with a good long-term management plan. ATVs have no place in forests. There is no means of controlling their use of forestlands. They will ruin regeneration efforts of nature and man. They will be an environmental disaster to the forest. Public/private partnerships should be carefully developed to assure that private interests have a degree of control of private interests, who may well actually own the land. I am not sure that the general public should have a role in the actual use to which private lands can be subjected.



## SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM PARTNERS IN FORESTRY NEWSLETTER EDITORS

At this festive time of year, we wish to take a moment to reflect on all the blessings we have here in the north woods. Sparking streams and lakes, abundant wildlife, incredibly blue skies, and, of course, the towering forests.

We are truly blessed to be able to enjoy the beauty of the woods that God has given and to be good stewards of this remarkable gift.

We are thankful for the gentle refreshing rains that graced the woods this fall.

At this writing it's snowing with flakes the size of quarters decorating the pines – looks like a Christmas card scene from every window. We're thankful for a warm and cozy nest with three dogs at our feet. Doesn't get much better than this!

Last, but certainly not least, we're thankful for all our fellow PIF members who share our appreciation for the unequaled beauty of the north woods. Friendship is one of the best gifts of all.

God bless you and yours this holiday season!

Bill & Joanie

# Members Input

As part of our annual meeting on Oct 25th 2007..We asked for your input ...what do want from PIF...how can PIF help you...what concerns do you have..etc etc. Here are your responses. Rest assured , your concerns will be brought to the board on their next meeting Nov 7th , 2007.

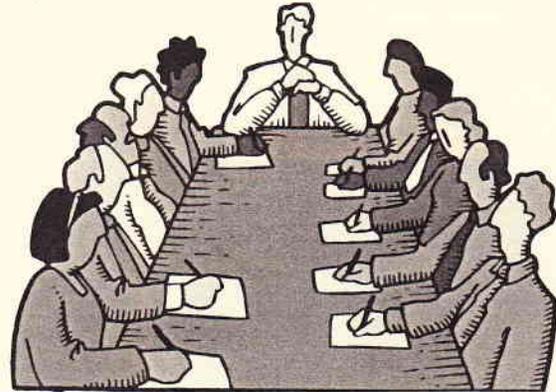
Thanks to all who responded .

## What can PIF bring to you?

Education! Keep doing what you're doing!  
Forestry fellowship.  
Networking and contacts.

## What interests you most?

Forest ecology and environmental issues.  
Excellent forestry.  
Forest habitat types and relationships/invasives.



## What workshops would interest you?

Any and all. Please consider repeating past workshops for those of us new to PIF.  
Dealing with invasives.  
Insect ID/tree disease ID.

## List three of your most pressing issues.

Human abuse of the northwoods for the sake of recreation and profit!  
Learning more about forest ecology.  
Learning techniques for fighting terrestrial invasives, i.e. honeysuckle, mustard, emerald ash borer, etc.  
Forest fragmentation for development and recreation.  
Any environmental issues - political or not.  
How to manage a healthy forest.  
Fragmentation.  
Taxes (keeping land in forestry).  
Invasive species.  
Invasives.  
Concern about ATVs running amok in forests

Unfortunately only a few folks filled in the blanks, but it seems they're all on the same page. Invasives, fragmentation, and ATV damage top the list of concerns.

## Big Question from several folks at annual meeting

Why is there an acreage "quota" to become a voting member of PIF? The concerns and interests of a guy who owns only an acre or two are the same as ours.



## Cooks Corner

It's cranberry season! Mary Hovel contributes this quick and easy no-cook recipe:

### Cranberry Relish

1 bag cranberries

3 apples

$\frac{3}{4}$  C raisins

$\frac{1}{2}$  can orange juice concentrate



Toss all in blender or food processor.  
Can be made ahead and  
stored in fridge for up to two weeks.



An English professor announced to the class, "there are two words I don't allow in my class. One is gross and the other is cool" from the back of the room a voice called out,.....so, what are the words?

The priest is repairing the church fence. A boy is standing nearby for a long while. The priest asks him: "Do you want to speak with me, my son?" "NO, I'm just waiting." "Waiting for what" " I wanna know what a priest says when he hits his finger with a hammer."

How come you can kill a deer and put it on your wall but it's illegal to keep them as a pet?

## Events

Have a great Turkey Day!

May your Christmas  
be pleasant and peaceful.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
DECEMBER 20!



## Partners In Forestry

6063 Baker Lake Rd.  
Conover, Wi. 54519  
715-479-8528  
Email: logcabin@nnex.net

Place  
stamp  
here

Rachel Hovel  
6063 Baker Lake Road  
Conover, WI 54519

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

First real snowfall this year.... 11/6/2007  
on East Flowage Rd. while walkin our dogs!  
Beautiful!



*Welcome...*

*this is some kind of record  
folks.....*

### 8 new PIF members..

Alvin Hogenmiller,	Conover
Phil Offerdahl,	Conover
Bob Senechelle	Conover
Clancy Senechelle	Conover
Curt Welnetz,	Conover
John Siegworth	Land O'Lakes
Tom Hayes,	Tomahawk
Ed Drager	Plum Lake

### Our 2 new board members...

Alvin Hogenmiller, Conover  
Rod Sharka, Land O' Lakes

*Photos, interviews and profiles of new members may follow in  
future issues of Partners News.*

Quote from our new PIF board member Rod Sharka...

"I'd rather be lost in the woods than found at home"

