



# Partners News

September 2010

Contact us at:

Partners in Forestry  
Landowners Cooperative

6063 Baker Lake Road  
Conover, WI 54519

partnersinforesstry@gmail.com  
715-479-8528

## 2009--2010 PIF Board

Alvin Hogenmiller  
Joe Hovel  
Jim Joyce  
Joe Koehler  
Charlie Mitchell  
Jeff Niese  
Margo Popovich  
John Schwarzmann  
Rod Sharka  
June Wedell

## Inside this issue:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Joe's Comments .....                      | 2  |
| Future Articles .....                     | 2  |
| <b>Managed Forest</b>                     |    |
| Field Trip.....                           | 3  |
| <b>Environmental</b>                      |    |
| Quiz Answers .....                        | 5  |
| Oak Wilt .....                            | 8  |
| Geary Searfoss .....                      | 9  |
| In da Woods – Livin’<br>by the Lake ..... | 10 |
| Will Martens.....                         | 12 |
| Tree Facts .....                          | 12 |
| <b>Annual Meeting</b>                     |    |
| Registration Form .....                   | 14 |
| (first half of the<br>“address to” page)  |    |

## OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

*Enjoy the beautiful fall colors of the North Woods at this year's annual meeting*

*This is YOUR Coop, and we need your input. Please plan to attend!*

Once again, by popular demand, Partners In Forestry will hold its Annual Dinner Meeting at the Big Bear Hideaway in Boulder Junction on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Come mingle with your fellow PIF members and board of directors. Plan to attend a fun-filled evening starting at 4 PM. Cost is \$20 per person, kids under 12 free. All you can eat dinner, games, door prizes and anything else that can be dreamed up.

Among the planned activities, Geary Searfoss will speak about tax accounting for woodland owners (see “Joe’s Comments”).

For those who missed last year’s annual meeting, The Big Bear ([www.bigbearhideaway.com](http://www.bigbearhideaway.com)) is a little log village built using native materials, visionary craftsmanship, and incredible dedication and love, on 5 acres on Hwy K just west of downtown Boulder Junction. Just touring the grounds will be well worth the effort to attend. This is the unique place that has inspired folks like Johnny Depp and Barry McGuire to stay at when in the area.

As always, we need your participation, so please plan to attend.

The Big Bear Hideaway is located at 10490 West Main St., Boulder Junction, WI 54512. 715-358-3333.

Reservation form is on the last page of the newsletter.

*On October 9<sup>th</sup>, all roads lead to Boulder Junction.*

## Welcome to New Members

Joy and Chris Joyce  
Nicki Miller

Will Martens  
Bob Patoka



Photo by Mark Hovel

## FROM THE DIRECTOR:

### JOE'S COMMENTS

After all those years of serious drought what a great summer season this proved to be, with timely rains, vastly improving conditions in forests,

lakes and streams. I hope and pray this keeps coming and puts an end to this drought.

Our joint field day with WWOA, at Ed Drager's, was well attended. It is always a pleasure to spend time at Monahan forest, and Ed's keen demeanor was the icing on the cake.

As our ongoing partnership with the Forest Service Stewardship education, we are obtaining a great little Field Guide, for each and every paid up member. I really appreciate the materials available to us through, and the great relationship with the stewardship coordinator at the Forest Service. It is PIF's responsibility to get this in member's hands. This little field guide is well worth a year's membership, I am in awe by its contents. We hope to have this for early distribution at the annual meeting coming up on Oct. 9th.

Once again we will meet at the Big Bear grounds in Boulder Junction WI. Last year we had a well-attended and great evening of fellowship. Along with the fellowship, this year we will have well known forestry tax accountant Geary Searfoss to speak about tax accounting for woodland owners. Geary was a valuable asset in our discussion at last year's estate planning workshop and he will, I am certain, give you something to ponder about land investments, taxes on timber and estate concerns. (See Geary's qualifications on page 9) We will not dominate the evening with this talk. Geary is a

very personable guy that any of you should be able to visit with if you have unique questions. As always there will be plenty of food, and, well, the best of company. I hope more of you can make it this year. If any one is traveling from afar and needs a place to stay, contact me or call Bill at Big Bear 715-385-3333. It should be good!

It is hard to finish on a positive note when one thinks about this damn oak wilt, now found as far north as Eagle River. Residing in central Wisconsin some years ago, I witnessed how terrible this disease can be. Please do not haul firewood any great distance from oak wilt areas, and after cutting suspected trees, sterilize your saw bar and chain.

ONCE again, this is your COOP, please be involved, it is just plain better for us all! I am so grateful for what we accomplish, as this board operates solely out of passion with no other compensation.

---

#### UPCOMING ARTICLES

- \* A member interview with Dr. Tom Navrital, recently retired and gearing to be a woodsman"
- \* An interview with Dave Speirs, Timberland Marketer with Landvest. Dave represents Landvest's forest division in the lake states, and appreciates the networking of the PIF newsletter.

#### FUTURE ARTICLES

**PIF members are encouraged to submit articles, photos, announcements, and items of interest for future newsletters.**

**Submissions may be forwarded to Margo Popovich at [margo122050@mac.com](mailto:margo122050@mac.com) or mailed to:**

**Partners In Forestry  
6063 Baker Lake Rd  
Conover, WI 54519**

# MANAGED FOREST FIELD TRIP



Jim and Jean Joyce

Chris and Joy Joyce

## SEPTEMBER 18, 2010 HIGHLIGHTS



Andy Tuttle

The Joyce family was a warm host for the early fall field day on Saturday morning Sept. 18. Besides a representation of current PIF members, a couple more interested parties attended, and became new members. Local DNR Forester Jim Baughman talked about the Managed Forest Law (MFL), and why the cutting practice was needed at this site. Groeschl Forestry's Andy Tuttle explained the Joyce's management plan, how it relates to MFL and why he marked this sale as he had. Both foresters answered extensive questions about primarily pine management, even though the discussion went much further. Along with Jim, another old friend of PIF, logger Roger Pluedeman talked about the challenges he overcame in conducting this pine thinning. Roger is a member of the rather elite "Master Loggers" and told us the difference between their standards and how some loggers operate. He also talked about marketing the forest products from this location, and the end use of these products.



Jim Baughman



Roger Pluedeman



PIF wishes to sincerely thank the instructors, the Joyce Family and everyone who attended.



Property which has not been logged.



Portion of the property logged in October 2009



Property cut in the last 15 years.



## Fun for the Newsletter

Answers to the Environmental Quiz from the Dovetail Partners, Inc. website.

January 2010

### Environmental Quiz

1. The population of the world in 1950 was about 2.6 billion. The world population is currently about:
  - b. 6.8 billion**

**As of mid-January, 2010 the world population was slightly under 6.8 billion.**
2. The population of the world is currently increasing at a rate of about 8,600 people per \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. hour**

**The world population is currently increasing at an estimated 8,607 per hour.**
3. The estimated world population in the year 2050 is about:
  - c. 9.3 billion**

**The medium projection of world population for the year 2050 by the International Programs Center of the U.S. Census Bureau is very close to that of the Population Reference Bureau; both are about 9.3 billion.**
4. The population of the United States in 1960 (50 years ago) was 181 million. On January 12, 2010 the U.S. population was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. 308 million**

**The population of the United States in mid-January 2010 was about 308 million.**
5. True (T) or False (F). United States population growth is near zero, with the population expected to stabilize by about 2030.
 

**False. The population of the United States is growing faster than all developed nations except Australia and Luxembourg - about 0.9% to 1% per year. At that rate of growth the U.S. population will reach roughly 439 million by 2050 and 571 million by 2100. The U.S. population is currently (Jan. 2010) 308 million.**
6. True (T) or False (F). Assuming a growth rate of 5% annually, the population of the United States would surpass the current population of China by 2040.
 

**True. At a 5% annual growth rate the population would quadruple in only 28 years, bringing the number of U.S. residents to over 1.2 billion. It is interesting to note that any population will increase by 1,024 times for each 10 times that it doubles. So at an annual growth rate of 5%, only 120 years are needed for 10 doublings to occur. At a 3% annual growth rate, 233 years would result in 10 doublings. Even at a growth rate as low as 1% annually, 10 doublings will occur in 700 years - still a relatively short time in the big scheme of things.**

**Were the U.S. population to increase by 1,024 times, the nation would boast 315 billion residents, equivalent to 46 times the current world population.**
7. True (T) or False (F). The United States is a net exporter of most raw materials used by industry today.
 

**False. The U.S. is today a net importer of most categories of industrial raw materials, including metals, Portland and masonry cement, petroleum (the basis for plastics), and wood and wood products.**

**The 2008 U.S. import situation (the most recent year for which data is available) is outlined on the following pages: Net U.S. Imports of Selected Materials as a Percent of Apparent Consumption—2008, and by Major Foreign Sources a/b/c/d/.**
8. True (T) or False (F). The raw material that is used in the greatest quantity in the United States today, and which accounts for almost one-third (by weight) of the total raw materials used annually, is steel.
 

**False. More wood is consumed annually in the United States, on both a volume and weight basis, than all metals and all types of plastics combined.**

- \_\_9. True (T) or False (F). Consumption of mineral resources globally has increased sharply over the past 30 years.  
**True. Rapidly rising consumption in China and other developing countries has sharply increased demand for mineral, timber, and fuel resources.**
- \_\_10. True (T) or False (F). Energy consumption per capita (per person) in the United States is twice that of the European Union.  
**True. Per capita consumption of energy is also significantly higher than in several nations often listed as offering a higher or comparable quality of life as in the United States.**
11. The number one cause of tropical deforestation worldwide is:  
**c. clearing of lands for agricultural use.**  
**Clearing of lands for agricultural use (c) is by far the leading cause of tropical deforestation worldwide.**
12. The area covered by forests in the United States today is approximately \_\_\_\_\_ of the forested area that existed in 1600.  
**a. 72 percent**  
**There are 751 million acres of forests in the U.S. today, about 72% of the 1.044 billion acres of forests estimated to have covered what is now the United States in the year 1600.**
- \_\_13. True (T) or False (F). The geographic area that encompasses the United States today has greater forest coverage than the same geographic area did in 1920.  
**True. In 1920 there were an estimated 732 million acres of forest covering the area that now comprises the United States. Today there are 751 million acres of forest. The current forested area is within one percent of the forest area of approximately 755 to 760 million acres that existed in 1907 and as recently as 1970.**
14. Which of the following statements most accurately describes United States forests:  
**e. net forest growth exceeds harvest by 72 percent.**  
**Net growth of forests in the United States substantially exceeds harvest. In the most recent assessment of U.S. forest land (USDA-Forest Service, RPA Assessment 2010) net growth was estimated to exceed removals by 72%. When all lands are counted (including those forest lands designated as reserves or preserves) the net growth to harvest ratios are higher than those indicated above.**
- \_\_15. True (T) or False (F). Growing trees capture carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen.  
**True. In the process of photosynthesis, water from the ground is combined in the leaves with carbon dioxide from the air to form glucose and other sugars, and oxygen that is released to the atmosphere. The sugars are used to form wood.**
- \_\_16. True (T) or False (F). As originally established, it was never intended that the National Forests of the United States would be periodically harvested to obtain timber that would be used in meeting the nation's need for wood.  
**False. One of the specifically stated reasons for establishment of the National Forests was to ensure a continuous supply of wood for the citizens of the United States.**
- \_\_17. True (T) or False (F). At current rates of deforestation, 40 percent of current forests in the United States will be lost by the middle of the next century.  
**False. Forests actually increased in area coverage in the United States between 1985 and 2009. However, due to continuing growth of urban areas and building of highways, it is predicted that 3 to 5% of the current area of forest land in the U.S. could be lost by 2050.**
- \_\_18. True (T) or False (F). In the U.S. and globally, more species of plants and animals have been driven to extinction by logging activity than any other activity of mankind.  
**False. There is no documented evidence of even one plant or animal species having been driven to extinction by logging activity in the United States. The answer to this question is less clear globally, but it is evident that logging is but one of a myriad of human activities, including land clearing for agriculture, urban and infrastructure development, mining, and industrial production, placing pressure on native species.**

- \_\_19. True (T) or False (F). Under current United States law, forest harvesting is allowed within federally designated wilderness areas.  
**False. Forest harvesting is not allowed in federally designated wilderness areas.**
- \_\_20. True (T) or False (F). Populations of elk, pronghorn antelope, and wild turkey have declined significantly in the United States over the past 60 years.  
**False. The populations of all these species have increased by over 1,000% (10 x) over the past 60 years. The populations of many other species, including the American bald eagle, have increased dramatically as well.**
- \_\_21. True (T) or False (F). Considering the total annual harvest of forests in the United States and the total consumption of wood and wood fiber products within our country, the U.S. is a net importer of wood and wood products.  
**True. The United States is a net importer of about 29% of the softwood lumber consumed annually within the country. When all products are considered, including exports of logs, and chips, the U.S. is a net importer of about 15-20% of the total wood and wood fiber consumed within its borders. The United States has been a net importer of wood for over 40 years.**
22. As a percentage of all the paper used in the United States in 2008, \_\_\_\_\_ was recovered for reuse.  
**c. 57 percent**  
**In 2008 (the most recent year for which statistics are available), 57.4 percent of all paper used in the United States was collected for reuse.**
23. Recovered paper provided \_\_\_\_\_ of the U.S. paper industry's fiber in 2008.  
**b. 34 percent**  
**Recovered paper provided about 34 percent of the U.S. paper industry's fiber in 2008. The difference between the wastepaper collection rate (57 percent) and the recovered paper use rate (34 percent) is largely traceable to the fact that the United States is the world's largest exporter of waste paper. Virtually all exported wastepaper is also used in making paper and paperboard.**
- \_\_24. True (T) or False (F). More extensive recycling of paper could reduce harvesting of forests in the United States by 60 percent or more.  
**False. Several recent studies have shown that while paper recycling is extremely important, and a major contributor to reducing demand for virgin pulpwood, increasing recycling to the maximum level allowed by current technology would have the effect of reducing demand for virgin fiber by only 12-13 percent. Moreover, when taking into consideration the time that will be required to move to the technological limit of recycling, and the population growth that will occur in the meantime, it is likely that demand for virgin fiber will continue to increase, even with aggressive recycling programs.**
- \_\_25. True (T) or False (F). The manufacture of wood construction materials generally results in far lower environmental impacts than when similar construction materials are manufactured from steel, aluminum, plastic, or concrete.  
**True. Well-documented environmental life cycle inventories of various raw materials production processes conducted by research organizations around the world show that wood products can be manufactured with relatively little environmental impact compared to potential alternatives. Even when wood products are compared to cement-based and recycled metal products, energy consumption and associated environmental impacts associated with wood-based materials manufacture are generally substantially lower.**

# OAK WILT

John Schwarzmann  
Forest Supervisor, Board of Commissioners of Public Lands

**Oak wilt has now been positively identified in two new counties in northern Wisconsin in 2010: Langlade and Oneida Counties. The Oneida County site is very close to Eagle River so residents of Vilas County should assume that it is also present.**

**Oak Wilt symptoms showing up** – if you have active oak wilt pockets you've probably noticed that the symptoms are beginning to show up this year. Oak wilt is a non-curable fungal disease specific to oaks. Trees in the red oak family will die quickly and completely from this disease while trees in the white oak family will die more slowly with a branch or portion of the crown becoming infected. Trees that were infected with the oak wilt fungus this year are currently turning off-color, dropping their leaves, and will soon be dead. Leaves that drop to the ground will be partially green (right). Once a tree is infected with oak wilt the fungus will begin to spread outward from the roots of the infected tree through root grafts and into the roots of neighboring trees. In this way, over several years, a pocket of dead oaks will be created and the disease will continue to spread through the roots unless something is done to break the root grafts, or, it will stop when the disease runs out of oaks in that area. A good brochure about oak wilt, including the biology of the disease and how it is spread, can be found at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/G3590.pdf> or check out the oak wilt info on the DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/FH/diseases.htm>.



## How does this disease spread?

### *Underground*

Most oak wilt moves from diseased trees to healthy trees through roots that have become interconnected (root grafts). Most root grafts form between oaks of the same species; red oak roots graft more commonly than do white oak roots, and grafts between red and white oaks are very rare.

### *Overland*

Some movement of oak wilt is overland via sap-feeding beetles. In the spring, fungal mats (small masses of *Ceratocystis fagacearum*) develop under the bark of some trees that have died from oak wilt the year before. These mats force the bark to crack open. The fungus produces a sweet odor that attracts sap-feeding beetles on the mats. The beetles then fly to healthier oaks to feed on sap flowing from fresh wounds, thus infecting healthy trees.

**Overland spread can also occur when firewood or logs from infected trees harboring fungal mats are moved.**

## What should I do with diseased wood?

**After** installing root graft barriers, diseased wood may be removed and utilized for firewood or other projects. Trees that have died from oak wilt can harbor the fungal mats so if this wood is moved, the fungal mats are moved and the disease may spread into areas currently unaffected. **Any trees that have died from oak wilt and have bark that is tightly attached to the wood could harbor fungal mats. This wood must receive special treatment.** Once the bark has become loose and falls off the wood, the mats are no longer viable and no special treatment is necessary; movement of the wood is no longer a concern.

**Firewood**

Two methods of wood treatment are effective in preventing overland spread via firewood.

- a. Debarking (removing the bark from the wood) the wood will prevent the fungus mats from forming. Debarking must be conducted before fungal mats form, thus it should occur in the late summer, fall or winter following tree death.
- b. Cutting, splitting, stacking and covering the wood with a 4mm or thicker plastic will also prevent overland spread. All sharp edges or stubs should be cut to eliminate the possibility of puncturing the plastic. The entire pile must be sealed all around. Seal the bottom by covering it with dirt and logs or other heavy objects. If the wood is not burned over the winter following tree death, leave the tarp on through the next growing season (October 1) or until the bark is loose.

**Timber**

For northern Wisconsin, do not cut timber between April 15<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup> in a late spring. In an early spring, do not cut oak trees from April 1<sup>st</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup>.

---

## **GEARY SEARFOSS**

---

Come to the annual meeting in Boulder Junction on October 9, 2010 and meet your fellow members and tell the board your concerns.

If you need accounting advice, are interested in tax issues relating to land ownership, forestry income, conservation of lands or logging operations see Geary Searfoss' qualifications.

### Specializing in the Internal Revenue Code as it relates to forestry investments

#### Qualifications:

- Certified Public Accountant, State of Wisconsin
- Enrolled Agent - Enrolled to practice before the Internal Revenue Service

- Certified Forester, Society of American Foresters
- B.S. Forestry, University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point
- Bachelor of Accounting, University of Minnesota - magna cum laude
- Over 20 years tax preparation experience with a variety of CPA firms
- Member American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Member Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Member National Association of Enrolled Agents
- Member National Association of Tax Professionals
- Member Society of American Foresters
- Owner and manager of two certified Tree Farms®, one certified since 1982





*Thanks to Forest Botanist Sue Trull for suggesting this article and for supplying much of the background info!*

## IN DA WOODS

by Melanie B. Fullman, US Forest Service

### LIVIN' BY THE LAKE

Shoreline development often results in "cleaning up" native vegetation, where forest undergrowth is removed and replaced with lawn and herbicides are used to eliminate shoreline plants. As a result, many lakes today have little or none of the original native shoreline remaining.

Natural, wild lake shores are basically a giant sponge and filter. Nearly all the water that falls as rain is intercepted by the leaves and branches of the vegetation or soaks into the soil. Very little is left to run across the land as surface runoff. A wild lake shore is also a highly diverse environment for both plants and animals – a transition zone from aquatic species, such as cattails, frogs, turtles, and fish, to land species, such as dogwood, raccoons, and herons.

**Life in the Slow Lane** Along the edges of lakes, fallen twigs and leaves decompose or are digested by insects and microorganisms. These, in turn, are eaten by fish and other predators. This near shore area is particularly important for fish and other aquatic life, providing food, cover, and habitat.

If you live on a lake because you like to fish, a natural shoreline is definitely in your best interest. Most

lake fish need to spend at least part of their life cycle in a near shore environment to spawn and carry out other essential life activities. A vibrant tree canopy helps stabilize water temperature, provides cover, and enhances habitat diversity. Native shore plants maintain stability and prevent bank and soil erosion by trapping pollution and preventing silt from choking spawning beds.

Shrubs and forested areas along shorelines are also important nesting sites for a wide variety of songbirds. Near shores grasses and reeds provide nesting cover for waterfowl; the popular loon greatly prefers to nest on lakes with undisturbed shoreline.

In contrast to such natural shores, the well manicured lawns of many lakefront properties provide some of the least diversity. With lawns, tree cover is often minimal and the leaf covered forest floor eliminated. Despite what many people assume, most rain does not seep into lawn grass but rather, flows overland, picking up pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, oil, grease, and pet waste. These usually end up in the lake.

In addition to accelerating the movement of pollutants, lawn introduces new sources of chemicals, in the form of fertilizers and pesticides. Runoff fertilizer

often stimulates growth of nuisance aquatic plants, including filamentous and blue-green algae. The algal blooms that result deprive the lake of oxygen, which leads to oxygen starvation and death for fish. Since most shoreline wildlife and birds cannot live or reproduce on lawns, they too, move out.

Another pollution problem associated with lawn is soil erosion. When a lawn is planted to the water's edge, the shallow roots of the grass are not able to withstand the forces of waves and ice. Over time, the lawn and land are eroded away and washed into the lake. Perhaps you know a homeowner who has had to resort to rocks and/or a seawall to stop the erosion and loss of land? While the 'armoring' of the shoreline reduces the threat of erosion, it further diminishes the native habitat.

**Working WITH Nature** A University of Wisconsin-Extension study showed that lakefront property owners find peace and quiet, and natural beauty to be the most important reasons to settle on lake shores. In response, shoreline standards and guidelines have been developed for lakefront lots. These blend lawn and buildings into the natural setting. Through proper landscape design, a unique lakefront home can be created, instead of just another subdivision-looking house

and yard. In addition to having a distinctive lot, a natural shoreline minimizes pollution, provides greater protection from erosion, and supports a greater number and diversity of wildlife. Some tips to consider:

- Remove only those trees necessary to build and protect the house and open a view to the lake.

- Keep lawn away from the lake, using native plants that need little watering or fertilization instead. Look for native species with square, triangular, or round stems (mint, sedge and reed families) which remain erect during rainstorms and persist throughout the winter to slow runoff and trap sediments and nutrients. Shorelines and near-shore zones which consist of a mix of vegetation types are more likely to host a wide variety of fish and wildlife throughout the year.

- Maintain brush on steep slopes and a buffer zone of native vegetation along the lake shore.

- Keep boating and swimming areas as small as possible to maintain the native shoreline.

- Avoid retaining walls. Instead, use long-rooted native plants and shrubs or rock rip-rap to control erosion, lining the rock with geotextile fabric.

If a lakefront home already has lawn to the edge of the water, a native shoreline can be re-established by planting a lake shore buffer zone. This might consist of low-growing shrubs and flowers, with taller trees along the sides. Such a combination of plantings will maintain the view yet screen other developments from sight. In addition,

Extend the buffer zone 25 – 50' into the water and along 60 – 80% of the lot's lake frontage.

Divide the buffer zone into three planting areas: 1) aquatic plants

which grow below the water surface 2) moist-soil plants, such as cattail and bulrush, which will grow in the wave-washed area; and 3) dry-soil plants, such as native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees, along the water's edge.

Plants in the buffer zone should be natives that historically grew along lake shores in the local area. Native plants are generally easier to establish, grow more luxuriously, and require less maintenance. They also provide the structure, habitat, and seeds that local animals need for feeding, nesting, and resting.

Keep the lawn back from the lake's edge but allow it to meander among the plantings as a pathway from the yard to any swimming and boating areas.

**More Information** For more information about native lake shore management, contact me for free brochures and other publications. You might also want to obtain a copy of the book *Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality*, by C. Henderson, C. Dindorf, and F. Rozumalski. Published by the Nongame Wildlife Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, it is available through the Michigan State University Extension Office, Agriculture Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824; 517-353-6740; online at <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/mainsearch.cfrn> (publication #WQ 57).

I hope you're enjoying these wonderful summer days. An evening campfire with friends along the shore of a lakefront home is certainly one of the most desired memories of life in the North Woods. By maintaining or creating critical native lake shore habitats, you can help ensure such summers will come again and again.

See YOU in the woods?

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

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

Please use the website to expose your business, service, or tree farm. Share thoughts, ideas, articles, photos, links.

All suggestions are welcome and appreciated! This is your COOP, we need your input as much or more than your dues.

Please forward the information to Margo Popovich at [margo122050@mac.com](mailto:margo122050@mac.com).

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

- Napoleon wood stoves
- wood finishes and preservatives
- garden and tree amendments
- grass seed for trails

## WILL MARTENS

BY CHARLES MITCHELL

Will Martens started childhood home near run up the Maples, dotted their two rural Monroe from Tomah Senior graduate from UW- in Sociology and were concentrated on environmental ethics. His major influences included John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Walt Whitman. Land stewardship was a focus.



climbing trees at his Oakdale, WI. He would Oaks, and Hickories that acres between two farms in County. He graduated High School and went on to Madison with a double BA Philosophy. His studies ethics and especially

### TREE FACTS

| SEEDS per pound average |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Butternut:              | 30                          |
| Red Oak:                | 125                         |
| Hard Maple:             | 7,030                       |
| Balsam Fir:             | 59,600                      |
| Jack Pine:              | 131,000                     |
| White Spruce:           | 226,000                     |
| Tamarack:               | 318,000                     |
| White Birch:            | 1,380,000 (up to 4,120,000) |

All this information and volumes more are in the USDA Forest Service "Timber Management Field Book" which we are preparing to obtain for all current paid up members, courtesy USDA Forest Service and Partners in Forestry COOP.

During his junior year at Madison, he met his future wife Katy Bockhorst who was studying Kinesiology (exercise science). She influenced him with her focus on physical health and diet. One day, during their senior year, they watched as an arborist removed three dead elms across the street from his apartment. In 2001 they went for the first time to Glacier National Park and started climbing mountains with other young people who had similar interests. While he was there he met an arborist with whom he agreed on ethics and with whom he shared a love for climbing. He and Katy would return to Glacier for another summer of fun and climbing. Will and Katy returned to Madison in the fall of 2002 and while making money as a cab driver, Will took a plant pathology class with Professor Glen Stanosz of the UW-Madison. It was a challenging class for him because he was learning tree identification in order to identify the fungi that attack them. It became clear that there was a lot to learn and that challenge was appealing.

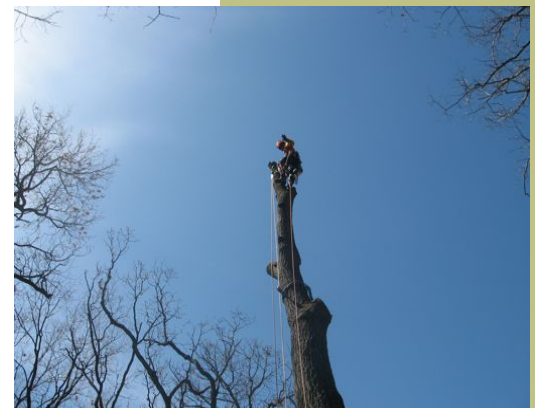
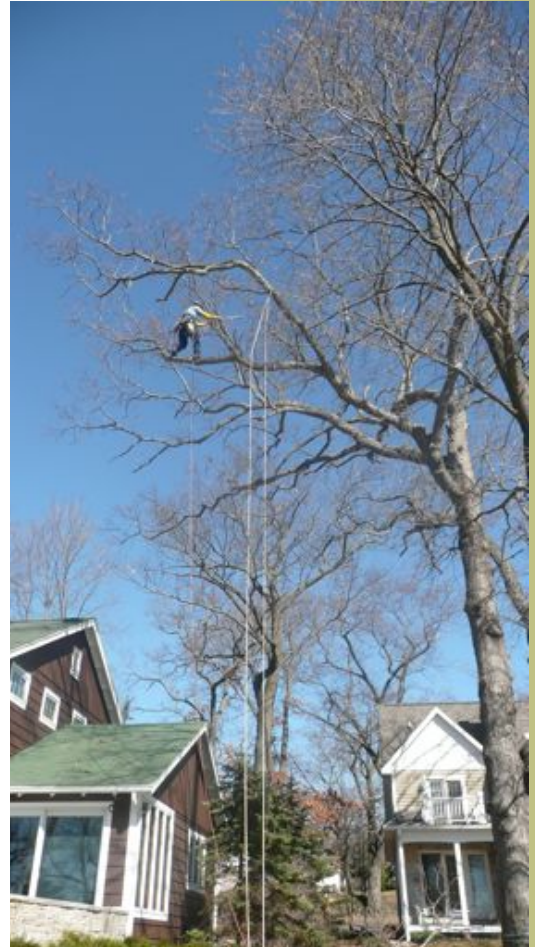
Professor Stanosz encouraged Will to read up on the tree science principles described by Professors Alex Shigo, Ed Gilman and Wayne Sinclair. Their theories make up the backbone of thought in modern Arboriculture in North America. Shigo in particular was influential. His suggestion that people "touch trees" resonated with Will and his appreciation for the therapeutic experiences of being among trees were, and still are, a shared appreciation.

In March of 2003 Will was able to finally quit driving a taxi for his income in order to concentrate on climbing trees. He had been driving cab in addition to working part time for a small tree care company in Madison. Some days he would drive until 3:30 or 4:00 in the morning and have to be at work and ready to drag tons of brush to a wood chipper by 7:00 am. He wanted to be an arborist by this time and had dedicated himself to the journey.

Will's journey with Katy led them to India and Nepal in the winter of 2007 where Katy earned a degree in Ayurveda the traditional healing science of India. While she was doing an internship there, Will had the opportunity to trek to the base-camp of Mount Everest and scale a neighboring peak Kala Pathar. Seeing the sun come up over the peak of Everest is a highlight in his life. Clearly, climbing has given him perspectives on the world that are unavailable to those who do not climb. He fell in love with the old growth of birch and rhododendron that lives in the Khumbu Valley.

He had met Sean Gere in 2002. Sean was a subcontractor, trainer and six-time Wisconsin Arborist Association representative at the International Society of Arboriculture annual tree climbing competition. Sean is still a mentor and now a friend. Sean's focus on efficiency and safety was refreshing to Will because the industry is a dangerous one. Sean always says, "There is NOTHING safe about climbing trees with ropes and chainsaws. But we can learn to avoid accidents by focusing on control in climbing and rigging applications." Will had worked with all of Madison's best climbers and learned different things from each of them. His willingness to learn from people has allowed him to realize that there are many ways to do tree work and each technique has its pros and cons. Will worked for small companies in Madison until the spring of 2010 when he started his own LLC which he named Vertical Techniques LLC.

The focus of Vertical Techniques is forest stewardship and tree care. Will loves removing large and otherwise difficult or even dangerous trees. He believes that his skill set is superior and using it might ultimately save a human life. However, planting and proper pruning techniques are also a passion. If the trees are cared for in the proper way, they have a high tendency to be less dangerous during the removal process. With this background, Will and Katy moved to the North woods in 2010 with their daughter Eleanor. They live in Sayner in a house built by Katy's great grandfather. Will is currently contracting for tree work and subcontracting for other more established companies and does work state-wide. He is fully insured and gives free estimates. He can be contacted at 608-279-8394 or [verticaltechniques@gmail.com](mailto:verticaltechniques@gmail.com). He joined the Partnership in Forestry after meeting Charlie Mitchell in August of 2010 and looks forward to the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting in the Sayner/Star Lake area. He will be featured in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in the last Sunday issue of September in an article by Judith Berger.



RESERVATION FORM

What: Partners In Forestry Annual Dinner Meeting  
When: October 9, 2010, 4 PM till ?  
Where: Big Bear Hideaway, Boulder Junction, WI

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 per person .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children under 12: \_\_\_\_\_ (free)

Annual Dues (if due):.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to: Partners In Forestry Coop.  
6063 Baker Lake Road  
Conover, WI 54519



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

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

*Protecting your wooded land for the future is essential to clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, sustainable wood supply...all things that are necessary to society and health, and that are gone forever if the land is developed.*