



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.

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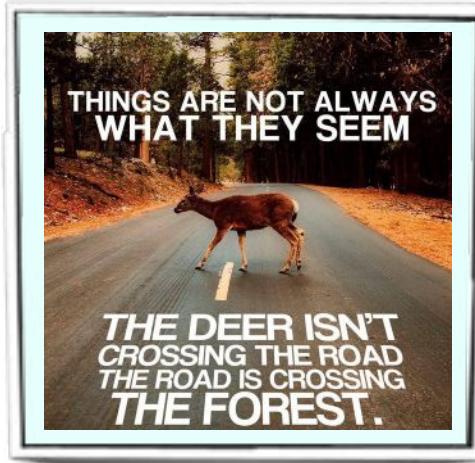
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*Have you paid
your PIF dues?*

Partners News

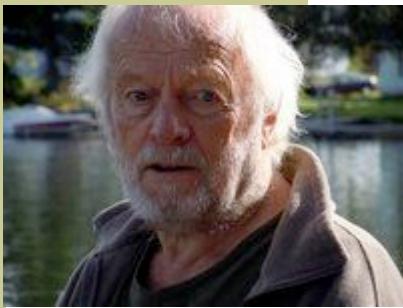
May/June 2019



Contributed by Rod Sharka

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Goodbye to my friend Jack, from Joe

In 2011 I became acquainted with a truth seeker, whose presence I shall never forget. In mid April Jack Parker passed away, leaving a void in human spirit to those of us who knew him. From his outspoken demeanor to his wood crafting with spalted maple, I enjoyed our brief times together.

JP (as I called him, he referred to himself as CJ "Cousin Jack") interrogated issues and then made confrontations with those in control if there was abuse, often offending them. He was proved correct a few short years later when in 2012 he aroused controversy by calling the mine proposal by GTAC in Iron County, WI **'The Penokee Super Scam.'** He arranged a younger crew to make a trip to the proposed site and confirmed what he knew, the presence of Pyrite. After the 2016 floods in NW Wisconsin Jack sent me a message saying, "Could you imagine a tax payer funded environmental disaster of superfund portion in Lake Superior, IF the state had subsidized the Penokee scam as the perpetrators had proposed, with millions of tons of acid bearing waste rock washing off the hills?"

JP was well aware of the improbability of a successful mine at Penokee, having worked for US Steel at one time and being aware of the Marsden Report. JP showed us the definition of an **'ore body'** being a mineral deposit which can be mined **'safely & profitably'**. He was well aware that Penokee iron ore failed in both respects.

I recall one PIF member withdrawing his membership over our January 2012 interview with Jack, claiming we were against mining. When I mentioned this to JP, his response was, "Why did he not read the interview?" I encourage you to revisit that interview at the PIF website.

Following is a short excerpt from that interview, which brought more comments than any other story we have had in Partners News. I recall one forestry professor at UW Stevens Point boasting that he had his class read the interview as a lesson in plain truth.

CJ: My thoughts on the current "mining madness," I believe that we have fallen into a snare, that we are manipulated into bickering...while their bulldozer pushes dirt. They are experts at mass deception, toying with amateur protesters. We are finely divided. We squish out between their toes. First let me say, as strongly as possible, that I have been and always will be "for" mining as such. We need it and we cannot do without it. If anybody disagrees let him/her manage without mined materials for a week then walk to Baltic to tell me his/her experiences. Don't walk on the road, and, of course, don't accept a ride. Be mindful of what you eat, drink and wear, and where you sleep and keep warm... Your doubts should soon be dispelled and your comments henceforth suitably qualified. But I have, of course, experienced the other side of the arguments too, topics against mining. A frequent objection says, "Not in my backyard!" People feel hurt, and that is understandable. After all, it is your backyard. Although a cooler head might ask how it came to be your backyard. "Because I paid \$1,000 an acre for it!"

Jack loved wild places, being the very first \$100 donation Northwoods Alliance received for the Community Forest proposal at Wildcat Falls.

Most importantly JP was a maverick, speaking facts and details to some who perhaps wanted only sound bites. He was colorful and added quality to my life.

I will miss you JP.

May 18, 2019 Hike at Wildcat Falls

Northwoods Alliance (NWA) and Partners in Forestry are hosting the second hike in the series highlighting the development of a “Wildcat Falls Community Forest” on May 18, 2019.

We will begin with an early morning birding hike starting at 8 a.m. Central time, followed by an ephemeral-wildflower hike. Those interested can participate in and enjoy one or both hikes. Hikes are guided and free of charge, but we recommend registering at cmsnwa@yahoo.com or calling 715-479-8528 for directions and any fresh details including changes due to inclement weather. Hikers are asked to bring water, snacks if desired between hikes, bug spray and wear appropriate shoes/boots and raingear. Some parts of the hike may be a bit strenuous.

The Wildcat Falls property is in the process of being established as a community forest with help from several conservation partners.

The University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives supports these educational events offered by PIF & NWA, as a continuing extension of the series “Appreciate Our Common Lands.”

The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP) of the USFS offers a unique opportunity for communities to acquire and conserve forests that provide public access and recreational opportunities, protect vital water supplies and wildlife habitat, serve as demonstration sites for forest landowners, and provide economic benefits from timber and non-timber forest products. CFP is also for the protection and preservation of natural habitat of fish, wildlife, plants, forests and important historical lands. Northwoods Alliance is applying for a CFP grant which could contribute up to 50% of the project value as a match to acquire and establish a community forest. The CFP grant program provides financial assistance to tribal entities, local governments, and qualified conservation non-profit organizations such as Northwoods Alliance, Inc.

We are in the process of raising the contributing 50% community funding match and donations are always welcomed. NWA is a 501(c)3 non profit and a 509(a)2 public charity. All donations are dedicated to land conservation.

Join us in detailing the benefits of a Wildcat Falls Community Forest.

See www.partnersinforestry or www.northwoodalliance.org or call 715-479-8528



June 7, 2019 Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest

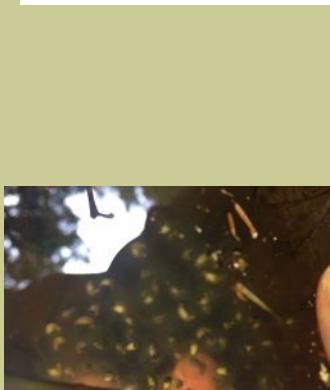
Join Vilas County Conservation Specialist Quita Sheehan on Friday morning June 7, 2019 for a tour and lessons on the mysterious wetland habitat on the Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest. What is the difference between bogs and fens? Why do some wetlands grow timber such as black spruce and white cedar, while others grow carnivorous plants like sundews and pitcher plants? Consider the horror to an insect of being lured inside a plant by its moisture only to be drowned and devoured by the plant. Is this peat, sphagnum and moss laden surface really land? What is the value of vernal pools?



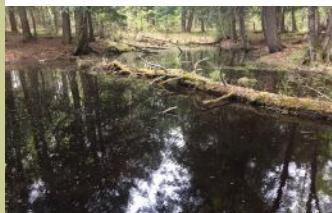
Wetlands of all sorts are an incredibly rich and valuable feature in our northern landscape. Though our series 'Appreciate Our Common Lands', with help from the UW Center for Cooperatives, we will continue to explore these and other areas of critical habitat and their relativity to sustainable forestry.

Contact us for details as they arise, logcabin@nnex.net or call 715-479-8528. We anticipate a 9 AM start and will be done before noon. Updates will be on PIF and NWA websites.

The Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest contains 1042 acres of privately owned, sustainably managed timber land near the beginning of the Wisconsin River just east of Land O Lakes. The property is protected from development and open to the public for traditional forest uses under the Forest Legacy program, which assures these public values in the future. This public-private partnership was made possible by the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and assures Spruce Grouse habitat. Please contact your legislator and express your support of this valuable program.



Salamander eggs, , probably spotted salamander



Vernal pool

Vernal Pool on the Wildcat Falls Project
Photos: Rachel Hovel

At the May 2018 Bio-blitz numerous species were identified in this pool, with photographs of salamander eggs and the charming little Fairy Shrimp.

For more on fairy shrimp see <https://vtcostudies.org/wildlife/invertebrates/fairy-shrimp/> This is yet another demonstration of the deep importance of this project, as well as the benefits of land conservation.



Little Fairy Shrimp

*The word **vernal** comes from the Latin for spring, the season. Vernal pools fill only from snow and rains and normally dry up in the warm summer months. Since fish can not breed in them, vernal pools are havens for invertebrates and amphibians. Caddisflies, dragonflies, wood frogs, toads and salamanders all frequent these important seasonal ponds. Wood ducks visit, and mink, raccoons and wading birds feed in them. Vernal pools are remarkable, even if short lived, biological refuges.*

THANK YOU TO UW CENTER FOR COOPERATIVES

Partners in Forestry Coop and Northwoods Alliance Inc., once again is grateful to the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives (UWCC) for their ongoing support of our mission in sustainable forestry and forest land conservation. With their help we will continue our forestry outreach, remain vigilant at invasive control, maintain our peer program, continue our ongoing series titled ‘Appreciate Our Common Lands; a hands on celebration of the benefits of forest land conservation’, and dig deeper into alternative forest products markets.

Please contact Joe if you are interested in discussing our efforts in value added marketing. This value added may contain a long chain of efforts, including optimal value prior to harvest, timely thinning, non wood forest products-forest farming (maple sap, mushrooms, ramps etc.) and go direct to the local wood worker creating alternative products to counter the mass produced culture. PIF has long supported this concept with our term “Use Local Wood for Global Good”, our initiative resulting in the local lumber use law 12 years ago as well as our constant interactions with land owners and crafters.

Share your experience with local products and be part of stabilizing our local economy.

A NEW TICK IN TOWN

By Paul Hetzler; Cornell University Extension

Black flies bite, but ticks really suck. Enough complaining – that never helps.

After such a long winter, we are all grateful that spring has finally sprung, even though the price of warm weather seems to be the advent of biting insects. Swarms of mosquitoes can drain the fun from an evening on the deck, but a single black-legged or deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) can take the shine off an entire summer if it infects you with Lyme disease and/or another serious illness.

The newest tick on the block, however, is without question an invasive species. Native to Korea, Japan, eastern China, and a number of Pacific Island nations, it is known as the Asian bush or cattle tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*). It is also called the Asian longhorned tick, which is confusing because it we already have Asian longhorned beetle. Plus, the bush tick has no long appendages of any kind.

Closely related to our beloved deer tick, the Asian bush tick was discovered for the first time in the wild in North America in 2017 in New Jersey, where a pet sheep was reportedly infested with over a thousand of them. Since then it has spread to eight other states, including NY. Their high reproductive potential is one of

the worrisome features of the species. They are all parthenogenic (asexual) females, meaning they churn out 1,000 – 2,000 eggs apiece without the bother of hooking up to mate.

Columbia News reported a good example of the new tick's fecundity last December: When the Asian bush tick was first confirmed on Staten Island in 2017, surveys found their density in public parks was 85 per square meter. In 2018, the same parks had 1,529 per square meter.

Another concern is whether it is a vector of human and animal disease. In its home range, the bush tick is known to transmit a plethora of diseases including Lyme, spotted fever, Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, Powassan virus, tick-borne encephalitis virus, and severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome, similar to Ebola. (CDC: We are concerned that this tick, which can cause massive infestations on animals, on people, and in the environment, is spreading in the United States.)

This isn't to say we need to panic, though feel free to do so if you like. Avoiding this tick is done the same way we avoid deer ticks. Since ticks "quest" at the tips of tall grass or brush, waiting to glom onto the next thing that brushes past, hikers should stick to marked trails, and never follow deer trails. Use products containing 20-30% DEET on exposed skin. Clothing, footwear and gear such as tents can be treated with 0.5% permethrin. Treat pets regularly with a systemic anti-tick product and/or tick collar so they don't bring deer ticks into the home. Talk to your vet about getting your pets vaccinated against Lyme (sadly there is no human vaccine at the moment).

Check for ticks each evening after bathing. Ticks like hard-to-see places such as armpits, groin, scalp, sock hems, and the backs of the knees, so look closely in these areas. If you find a tick has latched onto you, prompt removal is critical. The CDC recommends you grasp it as close to the skin as possible with tweezers and pulling straight up until it releases. You may have to pull hard if it has been feeding for a while. Tick mouthparts commonly remain in the skin after tick removal; this is not a problem. Do not use home remedies to get a tick to release, as it induces it to disgorge back into you, greatly increasing the chance you may get sick.

Homeowners can help themselves. The CDC website states: "Maintaining a 9-foot distance between lawn and wooded habitat can reduce the risk of tick contact. Permethrin-treated clothing and DEET, picaridin, or IR3535 can be used as personal repellents. Follow all label instructions. Consult your veterinarian for recommendations specific to your situation and animals."

Please keep yourself and your loved ones ticked off, and have a great summer.

PIF note: So alarmed by the possibility of this frightening tick reaching us we contacted PJ Liesch at the UW Insect Diagnostic Lab. We edited this story of Paul's for length, if you would like the full version contact us. Here was his response.

"Greetings Joe,
The Asian Longhorned Tick has not yet been spotted in Wisconsin. However, with the rapid spread of this tick around the country and predicted areas of suitable habitat <<https://entomologytoday.org/2018/12/13/asian-longhorned-tick-haemaphysalis-longicornis-potential-range-covers-much-eastern-united-states/>>, I suspect it will eventually make its way to Wisconsin. These ticks also have the ability to reproduce parthenogenetically, meaning that females can reproduce without males. With that said, all it takes is one female to potentially start a new infestation.
---PJ"



Mark your calendar for this presentation if you are concerned about Lyme or any Tick-Mosquito transmitted infection!

Ticks and Mosquitoes in Wisconsin: what we can do to reduce the nuisance and the risk of disease transmission

Susan Paskewitz, PhD Professor and Department Chair of Entomology, University of Wisconsin
Wednesday, May 22, 2019, 9:30 – 11:30 am, Nicolet College Lakeside Center Theater

Dr. Paskewitz will talk about two important groups of bloodsucking arthropods in Wisconsin, ticks and mosquitoes. She will start with some fun facts and then discuss the current picture for disease risks in the state and concerns about new invasive species. Finally, the lecture will provide information about what works for personal protection and strategies that are available for controlling these pests on properties. Come with questions!

As a follow up to our recent story about essential oils being researched as a treatment for Lyme disease, here is a summary of a recent story about researchers testing the plant Stevia as a Lyme treatment. Apparently the disappointing effectiveness of antibiotics, especially in the later stages of Lyme has science working overtime for alternatives, and there is some reasons to be optimistic.

Stevia Kills Lyme Disease: Final Thoughts

- Lyme disease is one of the fastest growing vector-borne diseases in the United States.
- Standard Lyme testing misses many cases of Lyme, and two- to four-week antibiotic treatments for those diagnosed are not always effective.
- Stevia harbors major antimicrobial activity. University of New Haven researchers found stevia leaf extracted with alcohol kills Lyme disease in all of its form, including the hard-to-kill biofilm form. These tests were done in a lab and need to be followed up with human studies, one of which is underway.
- The most highly processed form of stevia, the white powder form, did not kill Lyme disease, although this is the only form the FDA “generally recognizes as safe.”
- The stevia extracted with alcohol is considered a dietary supplement. Green leaf stevia powder is the most unadulterated form of stevia, although that wasn’t tested in the Lyme study.
- Stevia is in the ragweed family, so if you’re allergic to ragweed, you may want to avoid stevia.

PIF Note: We trust you will benefit from the advice we print from two excellent and well experienced foresters.

Hans is a consultant who can be reached 'schmitt.forestry@gmail.com', and John is the Northern Forest Supervisor for the State of Wisconsin, Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. We thank them both for their activism to benefit sustainable forestry.

PLANNING TIMBER SALES (second in a series, first was January 2019)

By John Schwarzmamn, PIF VP and Forest Supervisor, Board of Commissioners of Public Lands

Once you and your forester decide to prepare a timber sale the next steps involve delineating your cutting areas and recording useful physical conditions such as roads and water features. The last thing you want is for the logging contractor to wander onto your neighbor's property and cut trees that don't belong to you. In the industry this is called a timber trespass and is best prevented by having easily recognizable cutting boundaries. Unless you own an enormous estate, chances are your timber sale will likely hit the edge of your land thereby requiring that you will need to delineate your property boundary.

There are three ways property boundaries are normally delineated: If you are in luck and numerous survey monuments surround your property, your forester should be able to run a straight line between monuments that are within 1/2 mile apart. If monuments are far and few between, you will either have to hire a surveyor to set monuments and delineate boundaries, or you will need to have a friendly talk with your neighbor (s). In some cases, you and your neighbor can mutually agree to a timber sale cutting boundary that's called a line-by-agreement. This agreement states that both neighbors don't know the exact physical location of their property boundary and "agree" to a cutting line that will NOT serve as a proxy property boundary. Why is that important? It avoids establishing a de facto boundary that could, if used for 25 years or longer, become the legal boundary through the adverse possession laws.

A common mistake that landowners often make is to assume that posted or other marked property lines are accurate. Frequently these lines aren't established with surveys and can change if new surveys adjust the locations of monuments that set property corners. Survey information is made available to the public by your county government. If your county doesn't have survey maps online, they usually employ a county surveyor who has maps available at his or her office. Before cutting timber, it is the landowner's responsibility that is initiating the cutting to get their property lines right. Researching survey information will help you find existing survey monuments to begin your boundary delineation or the lack of any maps for your property can signal the need for a survey or line-by-agreement. It may come as a surprise, but timberland is often sold as a legal description without any actual physical property lines, unlike most other forms of real estate.

If your neighbor(s) are also planning on cutting timber in the near future, they will likely respond favorably to a line-by-agreement. If not, offering a gift of firewood from your timber sale or some road repair from your logger usually gets people in the mood to sign the agreement. After the paper work and survey monument searching is done, the next step is to paint your boundary. Blue paint is normally the color of

choice for property boundaries because it doesn't break down in the sun as fast as other colors and may serve as a boundary long after your timber sale is finished.

The line needs to be painted on trees facing your land about 30 feet apart and be painted on three sides so that they are visible from all angles. Pick the trees closest to the actual line and make sure those trees are protected from cutting in your contract. The boundaries of your timber sale that are within your property, should be painted in a different color than your property boundary. Red is commonly used, but any other bright color will work. Like the property boundary, internal cut lines should face the sale area, be about 30 feet apart, painted on three sides, and be protected in the contract.

After ownership and cutting boundaries are done, most sale areas need to exclude sensitive areas from heavy logging machinery with additional cutting lines. For example, perhaps a stream, swamp, vernal pool or sensitive habitat or lakeshore abuts your sale area. Cutting lines can be set back from these areas creating a buffer. Buffer widths can be as narrow as 20 feet adjacent to vernal pools or as wide as 100 feet or more to protect steep slopes along lakes or rivers. If your sale area contains an active bald eagle or goshawk nest, your forester will also need to establish round buffers as large as 30 acres around these nests if you plan on logging in the nesting season. Another alternative may be to log your site in the winter when the birds are gone. This seasonal restriction will avoid bothering birds as well as losing a large portion of your sale area to a nest buffer.

Following the cutting area and buffer establishment, you will want to walk those lines with a global positioning system (GPS) to record the lines for subsequent mapping and to be able to reestablish those lines in the future if necessary. Recording features with a GPS is also a good time to record and evaluate roads, repair needs, and truck turn-around spots and "landings" where wood is piled along truck haul roads after it is cut.

If your roads need repair, most logging contractors have equipment or get access to machines that can fix ruts, remove brush, add fill and replace culverts. These repairs should be made part of your logging contract. Road repair is often necessary but is costly and is taken off the bid price you would normally receive for your timber. The next time you see a woods road blocked by a gate or a berm, it is likely because the owner understands that road repair is costly, easily damaged and represents an investment in a profitable timber enterprise.

Next time: Selecting and recording trees to harvest.

We have several copies of USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station technical report 182-October 2018 titled **Subcontinental-Scale Patterns of Large-Ungulate Herbivory and Synoptic Review of Restoration Management Implications for Midwestern and Northeastern Forests**. Contact Joe if you would like a copy to read. There are excellent maps and graphs in the report with numerous references to relevant data identified by Leopold.

TIMBER THEFT

By Hans Schmitt

Recently I attended the statewide Cooperating Consultants meeting, sponsored by the DNR and the Wisconsin Consulting Foresters. This particular meeting featured a variety of breakout sessions, one of which concerned timber theft. It isn't often you can get 50+ foresters in one room discussing this topic. My attendance seem a worthwhile endeavor.

This topic hit the agenda as a result of a high profile timber theft case in the Sawyer County area. Apparently it involved an independent trucking company not reporting all the volume that was being removed from the sale. This prompted an hour long discussion regarding timber theft, or as I like to call it "undocumented forest products" (one must be politically correct in these trying times).

There were many commonalities in response to the issue, the main one being that while this is a very serious offense, it is a very small minority attempting such operations. The vast majority of loggers, truckers and mills are good, honest, hard working folks who despise this activity, perhaps more than anyone. It gives the entire industry a black eye.

Another commonality is that there are essentially 3 types of theft; inadvertent, opportunistic and systematic. Far and away the most common offense is inadvertent trespass. This is a situation where, in most cases, a sawyer/operator will inadvertently cross either a sale or property boundary resulting in the harvest of unauthorized timber.

In almost all cases they will immediately stop operations and contact the appropriate personnel. That may be the Forester, the landowner or the adjacent landowner who's timber was cut. Seldom do these cases get litigated. Most District Attorneys don't want to deal with it and usually an agreeable settlement is reached between the parties.

Opportunistic theft is just that, a crime of opportunity. These incidents occur with considerable randomness and similarly vary in size. It can be anything from a trucker who forgets to put a ticket in the box, then decides to keep that load for himself or the theft of individual logs with a pick-up truck.

Systematic theft almost always involves considerable amounts of product, money and occurs over a longer time frame. It usually means that more than one individual is involved. For systemic theft to work and work well, it usually requires that everyone is getting a piece of the pie. In the absence of that cooperation, someone will eventually raise their hand and say "wait a minute, something is not right here."

We all agreed that there is no sure-fire way to prevent timber theft.

If someone wants to steal wood the best you can do is hope to catch them. I know from my own experience, and that of many others, timber theft is very difficult to prove in a court of law, if you even get it that far. As I said earlier, many District Attorneys don't want to deal with these cases. They can be very difficult to prove, require a lot of time and resources and, quite frankly, are not very glamorous.

Sometimes the stolen products never get reconciled, but just knowing someone is watching will often curtail future activities.

So what can we do to prevent theft? First and foremost, be involved!

Some years ago I addressed a group of landowners at a conference regarding timber sales. My premise was this; we live in an event oriented society. I graduated high school-event, I got married-event, we had a child-event, we bought a house-event. No! These are the culminations of process. Think of your timber sale not as an event but a process. Be involved in that process right from the start. Be involved with the planning and have a clear set of objectives. Don't tell your Forester "do what you think is right". God I hate that. My right and your right may not coincide. Get to know your Forester. Get to know your loggers, not just the boss, but everyone on the job. Get to know your truckers.

Even get to know something about the mills where the products are being delivered. Be involved.

Secondly, be aware when you are on-site. Take note of how much wood is being produced and how many acres are being cut. How often are trucks hauling and who is driving. Don't be afraid to talk with the folks on the job. Ask questions. Most of them are more than happy to shut down for a minute or two, and, in many cases, they may have questions for you. Observation and frequent visits are key. Don't be a pest but make yourself known when you are on the job.

Many Foresters and landowners also put up game cameras. Most foresters I know who do this also tell the crew they have cameras up.

They make it clear to the loggers they are not a suspect, they are just trying to ensure all products are accounted for and most loggers are quite comfortable with this, some even like it.

Another bit of advice is to be unpredictable in regard to your visits.

This goes toward the opportunity theft. If the thief is concerned about your whereabouts, they are less likely to engage in unlawful activities. Sometimes visit on a Monday, sometimes a Thursday, sometimes in the morning and other times later in the day. Maybe even show up twice on the same day, but don't be surprised if they all kind of scratch their heads. Show up at 5:00 AM or 7:00 at night. As an aside, don't be surprised to find trucks on the job at any hour of the day or night. These folks have to contend with markets, workload and weather. They need to make hay while the sun shines, so to speak.

Finally, if it's an option, work with folks you know and trust. If that's not an option, do your research, check their references, if possible go visit some of their job sites, old or active. Talk to other Foresters, not only your area but also the area where the logger usually works. If something seems wrong or uncomfortable, you always have the right to not sign the contract and look elsewhere.

So, what to do if you suspect something illegal is going on? If you have a Forester administering the sale, I would express my concerns, in as much detail as possible and have them look into the matter. If not, I would seek out the services of a good, competent, experienced Forester. In some cases, just one or two visits to the site may lead to a conclusion one way or another.

Some years ago I was called upon to investigate a case of potential theft in northern Forest County. It was a lump sum, marked hardwood sale. The landowner said many trees without stump marks were harvested. I inspected the site, contract in hand, and found that yes, many, if not most stumps had no marks. At the

same time, the residual stand looked quite correct; proper stocking, good spacing and very high quality. In the back corner of the job there were a couple marked, un-cut trees with stump marks about 18-20 inches above the ground. Mystery solved with plenty of blame to go around.

The Forester who marked the sale did so with heavy snowpack and made little or no effort to get the stump marks at an appropriate level.

The Landowner was also at fault as he did not inspect the area prior to harvest, in fact he didn't set foot on the job until well after it was complete. The logger was guilty of not making someone aware of the fact that the stump marks were leaving with the trees. I don't blame the logger for taking the marks, after all, he paid for that wood and those bottom 10-12 inches of a tree can have great impact on manufacture and value. Furthermore, leaving 20 inch stumps would have been a violation of the contract. Lots of time, cost, stress and anguish could have and should have been avoided with proper set-up, inspection and communication. Be involved!

In summation, remember that the vast majority of folks in the forest products industry are good, honest people. Yes, mistakes get made but in general, intentional theft is probably not the goal. Be involved.

Be aware. Be fair minded, nobody likes to work under a cloud of suspicion. Good luck with your timber sales.

Added note:

UWSP Forestry Dept. is now offering courses/workshops online. These offerings cover a variety of forestry related issues. They may be taken at your own pace and usually last 1-3 hours. The cost is \$20.00 per workshop. You can get more information at:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/fedi/Pages/default.aspx> or contact Haley Frater at hfrater@uwsp.edu. The first workshop is about forest health and is coming up in May.

Forestry Fun Fact: *The shortest turning radius of any vehicle is always in reverse!*

Hans Schmitt is a PIF member and a forester with decades working in all facets of forest management and forest products industry. He currently manages Schmitt Forestry and can be reached at schmitt.forestry@gmail.com or www.schmittforestry.com



The forest floor comes alive in spring Photo contributed by Hans Schmidt

DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON WILDLIFE

JOEL DEANGELO

I am a land owner, hunter, trapper, fisherman, etc., but most of all, I consider myself a conservationist.

"In those days we had never heard of passing up the chance to kill a wolf. In a second we were pumping lead into the pack, but with more excitement than accuracy. When our rifles were empty the old wolf was down and a pup was dragging a leg into impassable slide rocks." Thinking like a Mountain, A Sand County Almanac.

I am sure Leopold's views changed over the course of his life as many views have changed since his passing in 1948.

It's ironic going to a CDAC (county deer advisory council) meeting and the hunters arguing for less deer tags so the number of deer can rise back to the levels of the good old days. On the other hand, the DNR wildlife biologist is pushing for more antlerless tags to be issued so the herd can be reduced to a better carrying capacity level for the habitat. Believe me when I say that everyone in that meeting feels strongly about protecting the deer herd, but there are different perspectives.

Mother nature will manage the wildlife for us, but she can be harsh at times. Let the deer herd grow too large and decimate the habitat and the next severe winter will see many deer dying an unpleasant death do to starvation. I would argue that our deer herd has survived this past severe winter quite well because their population was more in line with the carrying capacity of the habitat. My conclusion is to let the wildlife professionals do their jobs.

The wildlife biologists have a lot of people giving them opinions besides the hunters, trappers and fishermen. Landowners certainly see the impact deer can have on their forests especially on newly planted tracts of land. The insurance industry looks at deer as the cause of many auto accidents which costs them a lot of money. Farmers will tell you what their crop yield losses are in bushels per acre due to deer and turkey. Politicians will have their say to appeal for votes and to promote tourism and other causes that will benefit themselves. We also have more people living in urban environments whose opinions on wildlife are formed by social media rather than time in the outdoors.

The tough thing for all of us is to accept that other people are entitled to their own opinions no matter how much they may differ from our own. I believe that we all must place our trust in the wildlife professionals to manage the wildlife while balancing all these diverse perspectives as best they can.

I do believe that lawsuits filed by the Humane Society and other like minded groups is the biggest hinderance to wildlife professionals, draining them of time and financial resources that could otherwise be directed to managing our wildlife based on the science.

Of course we will not always agree with the decisions these professionals make, but in the long run we need to trust that they will best manage our wildlife resources for all of us.

Partners News welcomes your opinions, local news, stories of your experiences, photos and so on. This is your COOP, be involved and we learn from each other.

MOST THINGS IN MODERATION, INCLUDING THE WATER NEEDS OF TREES!

By Paul Hetzler, Cornell University Extension

As a teenager, my son had a saying, whether original or borrowed I don't know (the saying, that is), which went something like "All things in moderation. Especially moderation." Once in a while, Mother Nature takes the latter portion of that to heart, and dispenses with moderate rainfall. If not her, then maybe it is Creepy Uncle Climate Change who goes to such extremes. At any rate, flooding can be heartbreakingly observe, let alone experience.

While I am of course sensitive to the anguish of people affected by such high-water events, as an arborist I cannot help but think about the suffering trees as well.

Flood water impacts trees in many ways, one of which would be literal impacts, such as when floating or semi-submerged objects entrained in flowing water scrape against the tree trunk. That kind of injury is obvious, as well as relatively uncommon and typically not too severe. What really harms trees is a shortage of oxygen in flooded soils.

Soil pores are what allow oxygen to passively reach tree roots. This is the main reason tree roots are so shallow: 90% are in the top ten inches, 98% in the top eighteen. It is also why adding fill over a tree's root zone causes stress, and often leads to a decline starting 2-5 years later. Very few tree species are adapted to extreme low-oxygen conditions. In the case of the swamp-dwelling semi-tropical bald cypress, they have evolved

structures we call pneumatophores, used to channel air to their roots so they don't suffocate. But up here, our trees can't hold their breath for long.

The extent of root damage wrought by flooding depends. If it is still the dormant season, plants can forgo oxygen longer. Soils will be cool, and respiration rates commensurately low anyway. Most trees in our region are dormant during spring floods, which is good, but floods happen in mid-summer, too.

Severity of root damage also depends on a tree's health before the event. And soil matters. If a site is sandy, it will drain faster once the water recedes, as compared to a heavy soil. Sand also naturally allows oxygen in more easily. Trees on heavy clay or silt soils will be more acutely stressed by high water.

The length of time roots are submerged is critical as well. A day or two or three may be OK, but if it goes a week or more, most species will suffer grave injury. In large part, flood tolerance depends on genetics. Some tree species can handle being inundated better than others.

In cases of a week or more of flooding, species such as red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and silver maple (*A. saccharinum*) fare far better than sugar maple (*A. saccharum*), for example. River birch (*Betula nigra*) will suffer less than paper birch (*B. papyrifera*); pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) and swamp white oak (*Q. bicolor*) can handle sodic conditions much better than red oak (*Q. rubra*). Eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) is another tree that can hold its water. Black tupelo, also called black or sour gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) is fine with a couple weeks of water-soaked roots. Willows (*Salix spp.*), American larch (*Larix*

laricina), and northern catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*) are other tolerant tree-folk.

However, basswood (*Tilia americana*), hickories (*Carya spp.*), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), Colorado spruce (*Picea pungens*), as well as all fruit trees, are more likely to lose out when surrounded by a lake for seven to ten days.

Symptoms of flood stress include chlorotic, wilting, small, or curling leaves, a sparse crown, early fall color (as compared to others of its species), and branch-tip dieback. Depending on all the factors discussed above, such symptoms may

occur the first season, or they may take several years to manifest.

After things dry up a bit, most people affected by a flood will understandably be busy with more pressing things for a while. When the time comes to think about the trees, one of the more important ways one can help them is to do nothing: if possible, do not park, drive, or stage materials within the root zone, which is two times the branch length. You can hire a Certified Arborist to assess the tree, and also potentially to aerate the root zone through pneumatic soil fracturing, vertical mulching, or other treatments.

I wish you all a moderately hydrated summer.

HOPE FOR MONARCHS

Research from Michigan State University, as published in the journal Biological Conservation, gives hope for the alarming decline in Monarch butterfly numbers.

Surprisingly, the research demonstrates that mowing milkweed at critical times assists the near threatened insect as Monarchs do better in higher numbers on young milkweed instead of mature plants. Milkweed is the sole food source for the larval stage, and less predators visit the young milkweed with more Monarch eggs present.

Monarchs have declined for decades as they are forced out of crop lands and into grass lands where their predators are more abundant. Strategic mowing in June and July in milkweed areas was a disincentive to the insect predators such as katydids, ants, stinkbugs and spiders to harbor in the milkweed allowing 3 to 10 times more Monarch eggs on the plant.

INSECT FOOD WEBS DEPENDENT ON TREE DIVERSITY

A study published in the journal Proceedings of Biological Sciences has shown that loss of forest tree species destabilizes insect communities, their interaction with each other as well as plants. The research concentrated on trophobiosis, which is the interaction between aphids and cicadas with ants. During this interaction aphids and cicadas secrete honeydew, a sort of sugar water for the ants and the ants return the favor by protecting the cicadas and aphids from their enemies.

OUTSIDE NEWS

The research demonstrated a clear link to the intensity of trophobiosis and the number of tree species in the forest, where as adding a tree species intensified the interactions between the insects and their interactions with the trees.

MORE BAD NEWS FOR GLYPHOSATE

Researchers at the University of Washington have found that exposure to Glyphosate increases the risk of some cancers by more than 40%. Glyphosate is the most widely used broad-spectrum herbicide in the world, known to many as Round Up or Killzall.

The research conducted and compiled from 2001-2018, especially cited the link to non-Hodgkin lymphoma. The study used human and animal subjects, but included 54,000 licensed pesticide applicators, aligned with the 2015 assessment from the World Health Organization classifying Glyphosate as a probable carcinogen. Glyphosate use has grown exponentially since 2005 when it started to be used to desiccate crops, a practice that increases the likelihood that residue is found in food.

MILLION HAZELNUT CAMPAIGN COUNTER CLIMATE CHANGE

A market based initiative, termed the Million Hazelnut campaign is centering its current efforts in the mid west as a way to sustain food crops and combat climate change.

The campaign hopes to recruit land owner hosts to plant hazels in contour areas to fight erosion and water contamination while sequestering carbon. The initiative seeks to supply eligible land owners with 1000 Hazels free of charge, enough to cover an acre or two, in return for allowing researchers access to the orchards for selective programs, and encouraging the formation of coops to help marketing of the harvests.

HEMP IS IN THE NEWS

According to the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives (UWCC), a revival of Hemp production could be at play in Wisconsin. Low milk and grain prices leave farmers looking for alternative crops. With a keen interest consumers are showing in hemp based products like CBD oil, Wisconsin farmers may become a big part of the new hemp farm economy.

First grown in Wisconsin in 1908, hemp was grown for the war effort and in 1917 Wisconsin was the second leading hemp grower. After a long sabbatical in production, Wisconsin is again poised to be a player in the hemp economy. With the formation of the South Central Wisconsin Hemp Cooperative assisted by the UWCC, farmers are supported to grow high value CBD oil quality hemp.

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

Napoleon wood stoves

Wood finishes and preservatives

Garden and tree amendments

Grass seed for trails

Tool handles, replacement handles

Missing Predator?

We have all heard stories of the glimpse of a unknown creature, including Cougars. The recent video clip on a camera near Land O Lakes once again ignites this talk. Is there an elusive pack of large cats hidden somewhere in the rocky hills of the UP? That is doubtful, but that is not to say they do not travel through the area. In the book Heart of a Lion by Bloombury Press 2016, William Stoelenburg traces documented and suspected routes of a cougar beginning in summer 2009, from the Black Hills of South Dakota to areas near the Twin Cities where he was seen and/or documented by DNA and tracks in three places. He then headed east, and then north into Wisconsin where he was seen, tripped cameras or documented by DNA five separate times in the winter of 2009-2010. In May 2010 he tripped cameras in NE Wisconsin and then a few days later heading east in the UP.

From there his route was fuzzy as he likely traveled east through the UP, crossed into Ontario and then south into the Adirondack Park. He was seen, tracked and confirmed by DNA near Lake George NY in December 2010. From there he headed south where he was photographed near Greenwich CT in June 2011. From there he sadly headed to an untimely death, killed by a car in Milford CT on June 11, 2011.

Cougar restoration has been discussed in many areas with wild habitat, but normally ignored as it likely would spark the same controversy of fear and hatred wolves are currently involved in.

There are arguments for the balance these large cats would offer to our northern forests. Leading this is the explosion of deer populations which is detrimental to not only our forest ecosystems and plant communities but to gardeners, spreading Lyme disease and threatening the health of the deer herd itself.

Please keep up to date on important information and share what you come across at www.partnersinforestry.com

For example we recently posted a story about tree ring analysis shared by Ron, and another about the threat to Ontario's Maple Syrup industry from climate change shared by Rick.

Have you checked out
PIF's website?
www.partnersinforestry.com

The website is for members to expose your business, service or tree farm, share thoughts, ideas, articles, photos, and links. This is your COOP, we need your input as much or more than your dues.

Want to increase local employment? Scientists say: "Conserve the Land"

A review and plea by Rod Sharka

PIF News readers should be well aware of the PIF board's position on forest fragmentation due to land development, and the need for forest land conservation. Until now however, our arguments for the need for forest land conservation are often drowned out by the social and political arguments for more land development for a growing population, improved economy, and resource acquisition. *"We need to develop, to sub-divide, to mine more land... to create jobs" the politicians cry.* What the same politicians fail to point out is that these actions may lead to *temporary* job creation, but also result in increased taxes for the need for additional services and infrastructure. It is like killing the goose that lays golden eggs.

A recent study published in the journal *Conservation Biology* and funded by the National Science Foundation's Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Program provides statistical data to counter these political claims. This study, entitled: *Assessing the local economic impacts of land protection*, reveals that "when land conservation increased, employment also increased over the five-year period that followed".

The research, led by scientists at Amherst College, Harvard Forest, the Highstead Foundation and Boston University, analyzed 1,500 New England cities and towns for local economic impacts of land protection, and the evidence collected supports the conclusion that land conservation boosts local employment rates. The data showed that employment gains were modest but significant across the region, and the greatest impact was shown in more rural areas. As an example, the study showed that if a town with 50,000 employed citizens increased its land protection by 50 percent, it saw, on average, 750 additional people employed in the next five years. The new jobs often fell in the tourism and recreation industries. In addition, preexisting jobs were preserved in areas with commercial timberlands harvests, non-timber forest products such as maple syrup, and public access and recreation that may otherwise have been lost. And these jobs were more sustainable in the long run.

Doug Levey, an NSF LTER program director also reminds us that, "Additionally, land conservation benefits all kinds of ecosystem services, from recreation to water purification." These ecosystem services tend to be negatively impacted or lost when forest land is fragmented and developed.

Reading this report, I am reminded of a statement made by well known biologist and author Robin Wall Kimmerer regarding entrepreneur Richard Branson's "Virgin Earth Challenge" where he offered a \$25 million prize to any engineer, designer, or technician who could create a system that can take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and store it for the long term. Kimmerer said...

"A note to Richard Branson and his prize for a carbon sucking gizmo...we already have one..."

*"It takes tons of carbon from the atmosphere every day.
It sequesters it in deep time storage."*

*It also cleans water and makes oxygen.
It makes soil and builds wonderful biodiversity.
It's called a forest."*

In Wisconsin, which shares many demographic and ecological similarities with the New England region focused on by the study, we have been blessed with the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program that has allowed for the acquisition and/or protection and conservation of thousands of acres of undeveloped land throughout the state. In a recent letter I received from The Nature Conservancy, I was reminded that for the past 30 years, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program has been reauthorized **for a decade at a time** with broad bipartisan support. However, the current state budget proposal only extends the Stewardship Program through 2022. TNC points out that without longer term certainty that the Stewardship Program will be available, their work to preserve some of Wisconsin's most important conservation and recreation lands will be at risk due to the length of time these projects often take to complete.

The Stewardship Program has enjoyed overwhelming popularity with Wisconsin residents. According to a poll taken within the last year, 93 percent of Wisconsinites support reauthorizing the program for another 10 years. However, do not assume that your legislatures will pay attention to this. It is important for elected officials to know their constituents support the Stewardship Program. Therefore, we are asking you to contact your state legislators to let them know you support reauthorizing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for another 10 years as it has been in the past.

Know that The Nature Conservancy website has made it easy for you to send a message to your legislators about this critical conservation program. Go to: **nature.org/WIStewardshipProgram**. You can also contact your legislators by dialing the toll-free legislative hotline at (800) 362-9472.

The original publication of the above reviewed study may be accessed by the following link: https://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/sites/harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/files/publications/pdfs/Sims_ConsBio_2019.pdf

FUTURE ARTICLES

Future issues of Partners News will continue the series on timber harvests with John Schwarzmann, more on forest management from Hans Schmitt, more on LWCF and updates on Wildcat Falls.

We always enjoy member feed back. Let us hear from you!

If you have questions that you would like to see addressed in the newsletter, suggestions for, or have articles for, future newsletters, please contact us at partnersinfoforestry@gmail.com or by mail:

Partners In Forestry
6063 Baker Lake Rd
Conover, WI 54519

Spring Ramps Pesto Recipe

Mike at Stilmill sent the following recipe for pesto made with spring ramps.

If you are fortunate to have ramps-leeks in your woods, or perhaps you planted some.

See PIF website under reference (gardening section) for this and other good postings.

Forest farming is another great way to make the most of your timberland: maple syrup, ramps, mushrooms, fiddleheads, the list goes on. Please share your experience.

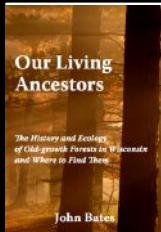
<https://www.almanac.com/news/cooking-news/wild-ramp-spring-onion-pesto-recipe>



Spring ramps-leeks under the hardwoods at Stilmill Farm, Central Wisconsin.

Our Living Ancestors: The History and Ecology of Old-Growth Forests in Wisconsin (and Where to Find Them)

By John Bates, softcover, 336 pages, over 200 maps, photos, graphics, \$27.95 retail.



Note: John is offering the book at a discounted cost of \$20.00 to PIF members, just mention that you are a PIF member and saw the ad in the PIF newsletter. \$5.00 of this special offer will go to the Northwood Alliance, Inc

Discounted books may be purchased directly from John at manitowish@centuryTel.net or 715-476-2828. Snail mail may be sent to John Bates, 4245 N. Hwy 47, Mercer, WI 54547.

SHADY CHARACTERS



PAUL HETZLER is Horticulture and Natural Resources Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of St. Lawrence County, NY. His work has appeared in *The Lancet*, *Prime Number*, *Highlights for Children*, and in weekly natural history columns he writes for newspapers across northern New York State.

Look for Paul Hetzler's second book, "Don't Be Such a Duck! Mallard Malfeasance, Incendiary Spiders, Killer Caterpillars, and Other true Stories"

Partners News favorite, Paul Hetzler reached a milestone on October 5, 2018 with the release of his book **Shady Characters, Plat Vampires, Caterpillar Soup, Leprechaun Trees and Other Hilarities of the Natural World**.

Should you wish to check out the book, the direct link is <https://www.amazon.com/dp/099860609X>