"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

Partners News

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

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.

Contact Us

Partners in Forestry
Landowner Cooperative

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Conover, WI 54519
partnersinforestry@gmail.com

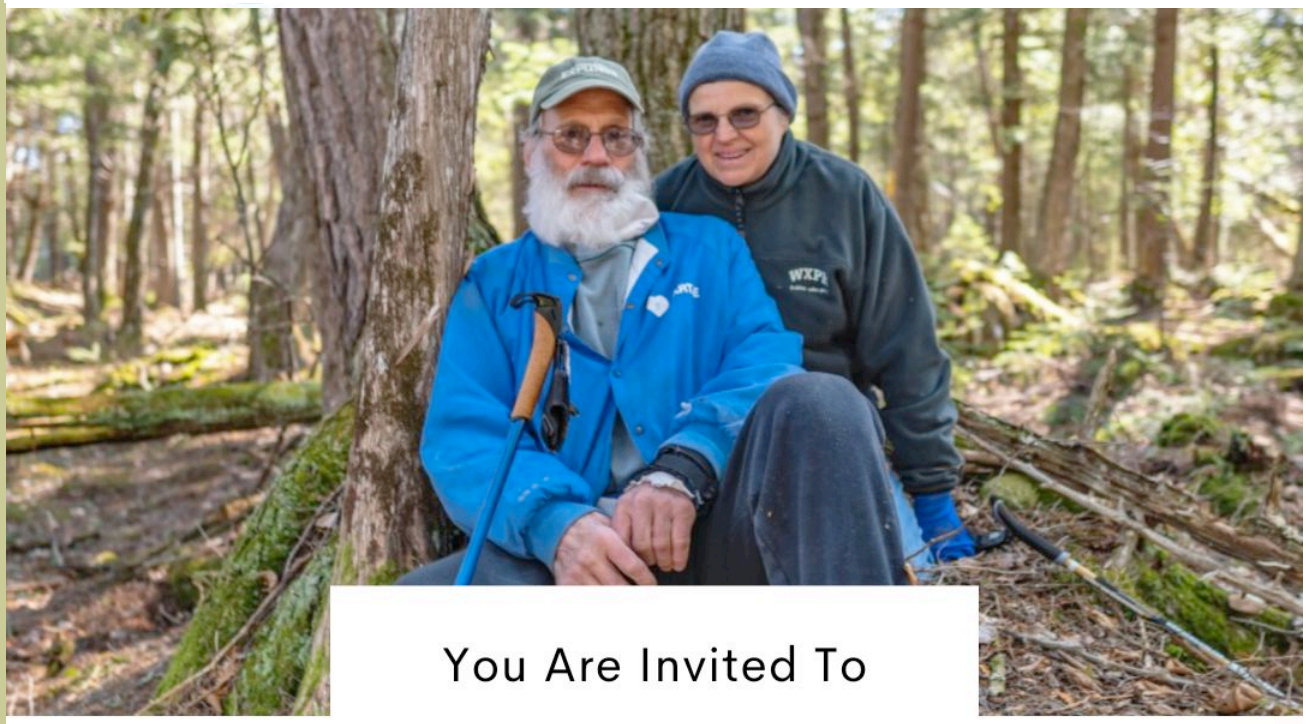
715-479-8528

Have you paid your PIF dues?

Inside this issue:

Partners in Forestry Members are invited

gathering waters
wisconsin's alliance for land trusts



You Are Invited To

CELEBRATE JOE AND MARY HOVEL

2024 LAND LEGACY AWARD WINNERS

October 26, 2024
10 am - 2 pm

Trees for Tomorrow
519 E Sheridan St, Eagle River, WI

Join us to celebrate Joe and Mary Hovel!

Each year, Gathering Waters recognizes individuals and organizations that have invested their time and talents to protect Wisconsin's land, water, and wildlife through our Land Conservation Leadership Award Program.

The Land Legacy Award recognizes people whose extraordinary generosity and philanthropic leadership has significantly benefited land conservation in Wisconsin. Help us celebrate the Hovels and their incredible work!

Starting at 10 am, listen to presentations by Joe Hovel, Gathering Waters staff, and others. There will also be plenty of time for networking with the forest conservation community. We'll have lunch around 12:15 pm, followed by the award presentation at 1:15 pm.

You're also invited to join an optional early presentation at 8:30 am by Joe Hovel on Wisconsin's connection to Michigan's wild and scenic rivers. Please feel free to join at 8:30 am, 10 am, or when it's convenient for you.

Event Schedule

8:30 am — Optional Presentation by Joe Hovel on Wisconsin's Connection to Michigan's Wild and Scenic Rivers
10:00 am *— Welcome and Refreshments*
10:15 am — Presentation on Forest Ecology
10:45 am — Knowles-Nelson Policy Brief by Gathering Waters
11:00 am *— Break*
11:15 am — Presentation by Joe Hovel
12:15 pm *— Lunch*
1:15 pm — Award Presentation by Gathering Waters
1:30 pm — Q&A with Gathering Waters, Partners in Forestry, and Northwoods Alliance

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Please RSVP by Friday, October 11, 2024

Questions? Contact Lily Butler at **lily@gatheringwaters.org** or 608-251-9131 x20.

Learn more about the Land Conservation Leadership Awards at **gatheringwaters/awards**.

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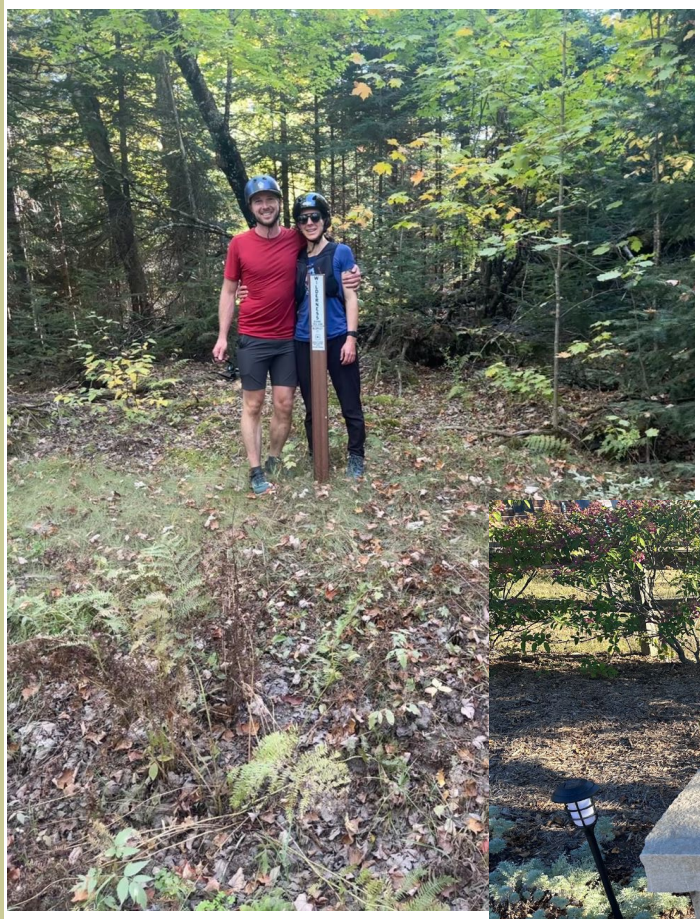
The Northwoods forest and community spirit!

Rachel & Casey visited us from Maine in the warm, late September stretch. On the 26th, in search of forest beauty, the three of us took a long bike ride starting at Land O Lakes. We biked up the Agonikak Trail to Watersmeet, over to FS Rd 6320 and down the east side of Sylvania. As aquatic experts would do, they checked out the Duck Creek, as a beautiful cold water tributary to the Wild & Scenic Middle Branch Ontonagon River. A few short stops to meander in the beauty of the Wilderness area, following the ecosystem diversity on the Agonikak, truly topped off the intrinsic beauty of why we see forest conservation as mandatory to our mission. In town, we were pleased to visit the new memorial bench gifted by an appreciative Northwoods Alliance supporter, which recognizes the memory of the late Margaret Baack as a custodian of community. A second bench in Margaret's memory is at the Headwaters Cedar Community Forest.



Reflections: by Joe

A true highlight of this past season, was the two presentations I made at the Ottawa National Forest Visitors Center. In late May, my efforts were around the USFS programs so very vital to our forest conservation work. We truly appreciate the Community Forest and Forest Legacy Programs which enrich our lives in the region. What a special moment when I introduced long time PIF member and enduring friend, Mike Uihlein, to an enthusiastic applause. Mike brings us the current Border Lakers Forest Legacy project. What a special project it is. Bike trail, two watersheds, headwaters of the Tamarack Creek and an impressive diversity of closed canopy forests, topped off with long aesthetic corridors on County Roads B and S as well as Forest Lake Road. This is a very special project!

In July I was back to the center to an overfilled room of attendees interested in the Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Ottawa National Forest. How many know that most of these rivers have deep connections to Wisconsin, and to our very conservation efforts. If you missed the program on July 25, you are certainly invited to Trees for Tomorrow on October 26th, at 8:30 AM.

WE, Mary & I, are truly humbled by the Gathering Waters Land Legacy award. I am proud of the forest lands we have been integral in protecting for future generations. However, I am saddened as I often reminisce about all the lost opportunities as our area becomes further fragmented and developed at a frightening pace. So I ask: *Why is protecting land- with all the apparent benefits to current and future generations—such a monumental task, when degrading land can happen so fast with no regard to the greater good?*

An example?

Deer farms: Everyone knows that the fenced in deer farms are hotbeds of CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease). We now have seen confirmed CWD in wild deer in Vilas County. There is a large deer farm just west of us in the Town of Plum Lake. And now another is being fenced only a diagonal cross section away off Claire Fire Lane. Apparently the owners want to remove all native wildlife, plant their own deer—so they can hunt without the interference of predators. Yet any thinking mind can decipher the benefits of natural predators in CWD control. I can only imagine the extreme cost of clearing a swath around a larger forest land and installing a deer fence. So this time, I will not reflect with a question, but a challenge to those impacting land negatively because they have too much disposable money allowing them to do such. My challenge: We put significant funds into conserving land, our funds were primarily a result of past physical labor. You most obviously have much deeper bank accounts than our family ever dreamed of, so I challenge you to do significant good to benefit future generations and the common good! Help with the lost opportunities!

Facts:

The Wild & Scenic River system is our nation's highest form of river protection.

Michigan has the most Wild & Scenic River miles of any state east of the Mississippi. More than half the Michigan miles are in the Ottawa National Forest. More than half the Ottawa miles are in the Ontonagon River system. The Ontonagon River has beginnings in the Border Lakes conservation area in northern Vilas County (think Headwaters Cedar Community Forest). The Presque Isle and Black River have beginnings here also, with Iron County WI in the mix as well. The Black River has a National Scenic Byway north of Bessemer MI. Even the Paint River has a WI connection, as it empties into the Menomonee River which borders WI. Want to know more? See ya October 26 at 8:30 AM!

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Visitors to Headwaters Cedar and/or Wildcat Falls Community Forests PLEASE help us promote these great places.
Contact us at nwa@nnex.net

Dear Community Forest Program Partners,
The USDA Forest Service has just released the Community Forest Interactive Map and Partner Update Tool to showcase your forests! The interactive map allows the public to learn more about community forests that have been funded through the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program by browsing photos and reading project updates and information. **We encourage you to provide updated information and photos for your community forest using this tool to help spread the word about the great work happening on your forest!**

The Partner Update tool allows you to share the story of your community forest and highlight the communities they benefit with interested members of the public. Answers provided using this tool are displayed in the interactive map viewable by the public on the Community Forest Program website.

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Wealthy CEO faces backlash after using taxpayer dollars to bulldoze thousands of acres of forest: 'I'm disturbed' (msn.com)
This is a link to a troubling, likely more common abuse than we care to accept, story.

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Thanks to Ron Eckstein
Bob Smail
Robert.Smail@wisconsin.gov

Also, here are the links to Bob Smail's three publications related to the Pelican River Forest and conservation easements.

https://widnr.widen.net/s/rhf7b2h6gg

https://widnr.widen.net/s/frvj6kztm8

https://widnr.widen.net/s/257brq5tqj

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Why Autumn Pruning is Bad

Paul Hetzler

Paul Hetzler has been an ISA-Certified Arborist since 1996. For shame-free consultations contact me through PIF.

When I was younger, an old-time arborist I knew used to say “The best time to prune trees is when my saw is sharp.” This guy was beset with shoulder injuries and joint problems because he also believed “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.” Sadly, both of these old saws are dangerous lies.

Although tree-care companies have year-round expenses and need income in all seasons, a truly professional arborist knows there are two times of the year when pruning should be avoided. Late spring between bud-break and full leaf-out is one period of pruning abstinence, and the other is in the fall from the time leaves start to change colour until trees are entirely bare. There are a number of reasons to put away pruning tools at this time of year.

The Claw-Back Clause: As days get shorter, deciduous trees and shrubs start to make a waxy layer between each leaf base and the twig to which they’re attached. The wax will eventually seal the vessels that moved water and nutrients into, and sugars out of, leaves all summer. This blockage is what breaks down green chlorophyll and unmasks the yellow and orange pigments. Before the tubes are entirely blocked, though, trees “claw back” about half the nutrients from each leaf: nitrogen, iron, magnesium, manganese, and other essential elements. This is very important to the nutrient budget of woody plants.

Trees also move sugars, the product of a season’s worth of photosynthesis, from twigs and branches down to the root system for storage and later distribution. Pruning branches now will deprive trees of both nutrients and energy needed for the following year.

The Illness Angle: All woody plants have internal defense systems that make special antifungal and antimicrobial compounds to fight infections at the site of injuries like pruning cuts. This “tree-mune response” becomes active in the early spring and is on high alert through the summer, after which it starts to shut down. Wounds made in the fall are more likely to be infected by what are called perennial cankers. Nectria and Eutypella are the two primary genera of pathogens, but there are others. In addition, the level of disease spores in the air is highest in the fall.

The Moral Imperative: The last reason to stash the saw until trees are fully dormant is the danger of running into a self-righteous arborist who views fall pruning as a moral failure. They may give you the hairy eyeball, or worse yet, might try to make you feel guilty through “pruning shaming.” I’m not saying that I’ve ever engaged in this kind of behaviour…

Lousy Fall Color? Maybe it's the Government

From PIF friend Paul Hetzler---where it was wet this past summer!

Residents of New England and southeastern Canada are dismayed by this year's drab fall color display, an unfortunate result of funding cuts at USDA's Plant-Pigmentation Program. Or at least I assume that's what happened.

Actually, it's largely due to the abnormally wet season we've had. Frequent rains kept foliage damp for long periods, which set the stage for normally weak, opportunistic fungal pathogens to cop an attitude, and set up housekeeping inside leaves. High temperatures and humidity helped speed things along.

Anthracnose sounds dire, but trust me – you can't catch it. It's a general term for widespread leaf infections like we saw this year, and many different fungal agents can be involved. Anthracnose causes tissue necrosis (death) of leaves, often in distinct zones, but sometimes diffuse. Leaves turn brown, either wholly or within the necrotic zones, and start to drop early.

While all deciduous trees can get anthracnose, the pathogens are often specific to "their" species or genus. In other words, walnut anthracnose won't spread to maples. But if weather conditions favor these pathogens, many tree species will develop this ailment at the same time. A one-year infection probably will have only a minor effect on vigorous trees. If a tree is stressed, or if anthracnose returns year after year, then health could suffer.

But the dingy fall display is more than just a disappointment to us humans. It might indicate trees were not able to reclaim nutrients from their leaves before they dropped. In fall, deciduous trees make a waxy layer between leaf petiole bases and the twigs to which they're attached, to protect twigs from losing moisture in winter.

As wax builds up, it starts plugging vessels that moved water and nutrients into, and sugars out of, leaves all summer. The increasing blockage leads to the loss of green chlorophyll molecules, which in turn reveals yellow and orange pigments already present in leaves. Before vascular tubes are entirely blocked, though, trees recover about half the nutrients from each leaf: nitrogen, potassium, iron, magnesium, manganese, and other essentials. This process is important to the nutrient budget of woody plants.

Noting that lots of leaves dropped early, and that most had little (or no) normal color, with some turning from green to brown, makes me wonder if the leaf-nutrient recycling program didn't go forward as usual. I don't know. In addition, this year's lack of red anthocyanin, a "discretionary" pigment some trees make in the fall if they have enough energy, could be another clue about forest health.

Another outcome of this summer's frequent and heavy rain events is the leaching of water-soluble nutrients from soils. This dearth of nitrogen further stressed trees, and may well have impacted leaf color. And finally, heavy rains can directly wash out plant nutrients from leaves, though this effect is not well-studied.

You can help your landscape trees by adding a two- to four-inch layer of compost or mulch out to the drip lines in place of grass. Don't drive on, or add fill to, trees' root zones (twice branch length), and water them in dry spells. Fertilizer can unduly stress marginal trees, and should only be applied if lab soil-test results show a need. If possible, stay out of the forest with heavy equipment when soils are moist and prone to compaction. But if you do have to take machinery into the woods in wet conditions, make sure operators know it's critical they stay on skid trails.

The Colors of Distress more from Paul

Recent studies show that trained dogs can sense Parkinson's disease, diabetes, many forms of cancer, and other serious ailments long before symptoms show up. We may not be able to match such an impressive feat, but it turns out we're not entirely inept when it comes to prescient diagnostics. There are two simple ways to detect grave illness in trees before they start looking overtly ill. The catch is that it's only possible to do this in late summer when leaves start to change color.

The most important means of sniffing out sick trees is the presence of early leaf color. Although the autumn display our hardwoods put on never fails to impress me, when some individuals are way ahead of the pack, it spells trouble. It's important to note we're looking for trees that change ahead of their same-species peers. It doesn't help to compare aspens with oaks, for example. Premature leaf color is a reliable sign of extremely poor health, even though that tree may have looked OK all summer. The worse a tree's condition is, the sooner it begins to turn.

This correlation makes more sense when we look at tree biology a bit closer. The solar-powered sugar factories we call trees are prudent savers and meticulous accountants. As a rule, they run a tight ship, and don't live beyond their means. A tree's income is sugar, which is converted to starch and deposited in their "bank account" – trunk and root tissues.

Each spring, a deciduous tree withdraws money from their bank and invests in a solar-panel array, known as leaves. Over the summer, trees replenish their starchy savings for the cost of making leaves, and then sock some extra away for emergencies. In addition to sunlight, they need carbon dioxide, enough water and nutrients, and their roots need porous soils so they can breathe.

Ongoing tree expenses include respiration, and maintenance costs like the synthesis of antimicrobial compounds in response to injury. As summer wanes, costs remain the same, but the solar panels can't make as much sugar due to shorter days. Income falls as the hours of daylight continue to shrink, eventually forcing hardwood trees close for the season.

However, if a tree has had problems getting water or nutrients, or if its root respiration is hindered due to root zone compaction, it struggles even in the best of times. As a result, that tree's sugar factory will be less efficient compared to others of its kind, and less profitable overall. Poorly drained soils, deicing salt exposure, and mechanical damage also compromise root function.

Landscape trees experience high soil temperatures, restricted root zones, and intense competition from grass. Waterfront trees have other challenges: fluctuating water levels tax root systems, and wash away nutrients, too. Stressed trees reach the break-even point earlier than robust ones, and they will show color first. This is why you often see the first colored leaves on the edges of ponds, rivers or lakes, in addition to along the sides of roads.

Although early color is the best overall sign of a health crisis, palette tells us something as well. Orange (carotenes) and yellow (xanthophylls) are already within the leaves, masked by green chlorophyll. First a little background: In autumn, trees make a waxy layer at the point of attachment between twigs and leaves to seal off the vascular connections. This is to protect the tree from freeze injury. It's kind of like winterizing a camp – you can't leave the water spigot on. As leaves are thus choked off, the chlorophyll dies, revealing yellow and orange.

The red-purple range (anthocyanins), though, is another story. Red does not hide under green chlorophyll the way other pigments do! It is entirely absent all summer. Red compounds are manufactured in the fall by some species, maples especially, at significant cost. Science has yet to come up with a plausible explanation for this. The point about red is that a maple showing lots of red color is strong enough to "waste" energy making anthocyanins. But a maple that only has orangey-yellow leaves, but no red, is in real deep doo-doo.

If one of your trees turns color early, or your sugar or soft maple is devoid of red fall foliage, that's a clear message in tree sign-language that its health is in free-fall. If that is the unfortunate case, it would be a good idea to hire an arborist for an evaluation to see what actions, if any, may be appropriate to help restore it to good health, or at the very least, prolong its life. In general, providing one inch per week of supplemental water to the root zone (twice the branch length) of a stressed tree during dry spells, and mulching its root zone in lieu of grass, will help keep it around longer.

When fall does get here, I hope we can still enjoy the colors as much as we used to.

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Goldenrod Was Framed

A laugh and a half by Paul

Please don't blame late-season allergies on goldenrod. Well, not unless you've discovered bees going up your nose lately. It turns out that pollen from goldenrod, which is in glorious bloom throughout the region right now, is too heavy to waft on the wind. These plants rely on bees and other pollinators to convey their sticky pollen grains from one flower to another, which is why goldenrods don't cause hay fever, even if they wanted to.

While most plants respond to the longer nights of late summer by winding down their business for the season, goldenrod is a "short-day" plant. It actually needs dwindling daylight to remind it to bloom. A perennial in the aster family, it is widespread across North America. And diverse as well: continent-wide, we have something like 130 species of goldenrod in the genus *Solidago*. They transplant easily, and add a splash of color to the landscape when other plants are fading away. Goldenrods tend to spread out, however, and will need some discipline from time to time.

As one of the most plentiful posies of late summer and early fall, this native wildflower is a vital source of nectar and pollen for myriad bee species. Sadly, goldenrod's showy yellow blooms are in full view along roadsides and in meadows and pastures at same time that an intense wave of seasonal hay fever typically begins. This "wrong place, wrong time" coincidence has given it a black eye (though not a black-eyed Susan) among allergy sufferers.

It's understandable that goldenrod has been blamed for the red itchy eyes, sinus congestion, sneezing, and general histamine-soaked misery that many folks experience this time of year. But goldenrod can't be guilty because its pollen weighs too much. That's a relative statement, I suppose, since it's light enough for bees to cart away loads of it. But compared to other kinds of pollen, it's downright chunky. It isn't that goldenrod pollen is not capable of eliciting an allergic response; it's just that to do so, something – a bee, for instance – would have to deliver it to your nasal passages.

So, who is really to blame for the spike in late-summer allergies? The culprit is goldenrod's evil cousin, ragweed. Like goldenrod, ragweed is also a native plant in the aster family, although beyond that, it's not at all like its golden kin. The pollen that flies on the breeze and makes you sneeze, the stuff that stuffs you up – is courtesy of ragweed. Unattractive and ill-mannered, ragweed is like that obnoxious uncle you don't want sitting next to you at Thanksgiving dinner.

Sadly, you can't sit far enough away from ragweed. Its pollen is so wispy, it stays airborne for days on end until a rain event wipes the slate clean for a while. In fact, clouds of it have been detected in the air as far as 400 miles out to sea. It has even been detected nearly two miles up, which I mention in case anyone's planning a high-altitude parachute jump.

And ragweed churns out this talcum-fine pollen like there's no tomorrow: a single plant will make more than a billion individual grains. When a tall, beefy ragweed plant sheds pollen, it can seem like someone just shook out an invisible vacuum-cleaner bag; it's that thick.

One reason we don't accuse ragweed of inflaming our nasal mucosa is that its flowers look nothing like proper posies. They are a dull, drab green, blending in perfectly with the rest of the plant. It's as if ragweed makes a point of flying under our radar so that its eye-catching but inoffensive cousin the goldenrod will take the rap for its misdeeds.

The reason ragweed flowers are so generic and easy to overlook is because they're wind-pollinated. They don't need to advertise themselves with bright colors, sweet smells, and sugary nectar. Insect-pollinated plants have to bribe bees, butterflies and other pollen-couriers with flashy hues and bon-bons. It's a very efficient scheme, but takes a lot of energy.

Wind-pollinated plants figured out they don't have to do anything to attract the wind, so they kick back and avoid the expense of putting on a show. The downside is that the wind is not good at getting pollen to the exact right place. Since nearly all ragweed pollen goes where it shouldn't, including up our noses, ragweed plants need to make tons more of it.

Most ragweed species – there are about 50 of them – are annual self-seeders. That means they die each fall, but new plants sprout in the spring from the copious seeds produced each fall. Ragweed will continue to crank out allergens until the first hard frost, so let's hope we don't have an exceptionally long season this year. Please help spread the word that goldenrod rules, and spare it false accusations.

If you ever do find bees in your schnozz, I urge you to seek medical – or maybe entomological – help right away.

Always careful not to snort bees, Paul Hetzler is a former Cornell Extension educator who now writes about nature for *The Saturday Evening Post*. His three books of nature essays can be found on amazon.

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Note from Joe: After a health related sabbatical, no one is happier than I that my friend Paul is back in the sting of things!

Anarchy is Bad for Picnics and Restaurant Patios

Paul Hetzler

I'm not one to shed a tear when authoritarian rulers die, but once they're gone, outdoor dining becomes a lot more dangerous. As summer wanes, the original queen in every yellowjacket (or other social wasp species) colony dies. Turns out that having a few thousand babies in the course of one season is enough to tire any Queen Mum to death.

As the original queen starts to forget the names of her offspring and where she left her reading glasses, the workers typically decide to take care of a few things before everything in the realm falls apart. The main thing is that they raise several new queens for the following season. But when the feisty new regals emerge, the young queens-to-be are no help whatsoever in keeping order at home. They run off with the nearest

male wasp (drone) for a mating orgy, after which they hide in rotten logs, under leaves, or in nearby attics for the winter.

With no one to keep the workers in line, social order disintegrates within the colony at a time when its population is at its peak. All summer long, yellowjackets, white-faced hornets, and paper-wasps are busy with assigned chores like killing deer flies and tent caterpillars to feed the colony, pollinating flowers, and stinging anyone who ventures close to their nest, or looks at them askance, or makes a snide remark about their sister. But once Queen Mum expires, the rank-and-file workers do whatever they darn well please.

And what pleases unsupervised wasps is crash-landing in our food and exploring the insides of soft-drink cans and open beer bottles. They neglect their chores and go on a sugar binge. This is why yellowjackets and other colony-forming wasps seem “aggressive” in the fall – they’re gorging on sweets ’cause no one’s minding them. Also, as our summers get warmer, this can speed up the rate of larval development, possibly leading to higher numbers per colony.

Unlike honey bees, wasps can sting repeatedly, so it’s good to know some defensive tactics. Wear light-coloured clothing, as dark or bright colours attract them. If you’re headed to an outdoor venue, forget the perfume, cologne, and strong shampoo. These products will get you more attention from wasps than from anyone you were hoping to meet. And keep your drink covered to save you from being stung on the mouth by a wasp (and possibly from worse things, depending on the sort of event you’re at).

Don’t shoo away yellowjackets, as this can provoke them. If one lands on you it’ll move on shortly, but if you can’t wait, flick rather than swat it. Once a wasp stings, it releases an alarm pheromone that signals others to attack, so take cover if you do get stung.

When I was a kid, ground-nesting yellowjackets were “managed” by our dad, who poured gas or maybe kerosene in the hole and lit it. This was quite entertaining, though not always effective. We now know that when gas or oil gets spilled on the ground, it can pollute groundwater. It doesn’t take much in sandy soils or where the water table is shallow.

Here’s a better idea: If you find a ground nest, watch from a safe distance until you locate the entrance. At dawn, place a large glass bowl that you just borrowed over the yellowjackets’ door. It need not fit tight to the ground, but in uneven terrain, bank sand around the rim to fill gaps. The whole colony will eventually emerge and fly circles inside a clear bowl until they die.

Please note we do NOT have Asian or so-called murder hornets! Any oversize wasps you may encounter are cicada-killers which do not make colonies, or attack humans. Take heart – yellowjackets will die with the onset of freezing weather. All except next year’s authoritarian queens that will hibernate until spring.

Paul Hetzler is a former Cornell Extension educator. He likes picnics and wasps, but separately.

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Looking Outside Our Country

Worlds most isolated tribe kill loggers encroaching on their land deep in Amazon rainforest

By Steven Grattan
Thanks to Ivan---from NEWSBREAK

Members of the Mashco Piro Indigenous community, a reclusive tribe and one of the world's most withdrawn, Survival International

The world's most remote and mysterious tribes have killed two loggers who were encroaching on their land.

The workers were killed by bow and arrow on the land of the Mashco Piro Indigenous tribe deep in Peru's Amazon , according to a rights group.livepage.apple.com

The Mashco Piro, who live between two natural reserves in Madre de Dios, rarely venture out and have limited interaction with the world.

The group, known as FENAMAD, defends the rights of Peru's Indigenous peoples. It says tensions between loggers and Indigenous tribes are on the rise and more government protective action is needed.

Two other loggers in the attack were missing and another was injured, FENAMAD said, and rescue efforts were underway.

The rights group, which represents 39 Indigenous communities in the Cusco and Madre de Dios regions in southeastern Peru, said the incident took place on Aug. 29 in the Pariamanu river basin while loggers were expanding their passageways into the forest and came into contact with the reclusive and renowned territorial tribe.

The Mashco Piro have been venturing out in search of food recently, driven away by the expanding logging activities.

"The Peruvian state has not taken preventive and protective measures to ensure the lives and integrity of the workers who have been gravely affected," the group said in a statement Tuesday, adding authorities have yet to arrive in the area since the incident.

FENAMAD said the attack happened just 25 kilometers (15.5 miles) from a July incident, when the Mashco Piro again attacked loggers. The group said in their statement that even though they advised the government of the risk of a rise in violence, nothing has been done.

"It's a heated and tense situation," said Cesar Ipenza, an Amazon-based lawyer who specializes in environmental law in Peru. "Undoubtedly, every day there are more tensions between Indigenous peoples in isolation and the different activities that are within the territory that they ancestrally pass through."

There have been several other previous reports of conflicts. In one incident in 2022, two loggers were shot with arrows while fishing, one fatally, in an encounter with tribal members.
In January, Peru loosened restrictions on deforestation, which critics dubbed the "anti-forest law." Researchers have since warned of the rise in deforestation for agriculture and how it is making it easier for illicit logging and mining.

Ipenza said some effort has been made by authorities in the area like mobilizing a helicopter, but overall there has been "little commitment" by Peru's Ministry of Culture, responsible for the protection of Indigenous peoples.

The Ministry of Culture did not immediately respond to a message Wednesday seeking comment on the attack and their protection efforts.

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FUTURE ARTICLES

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 partnersinforestry@gmail.com or by mail:

Partners In Forestry
6063 Baker Lake Rd
Conover, WI 54519

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.

Foreign Land Owners in MI Upper Peninsula from MLive Rose White | rwhite@mlive.com

Over the past decade, more Michigan farmland has been bought up by foreign entities.

Michigan saw a big jump in foreign ownership two years ago - going from 5.6% to 8.6% of all agricultural acres - the latest federal data shows. This put Michigan among the top states for foreign farmland ownership with Upper Peninsula forestland accounting for the largest acreage. The number of foreign-held Michigan acres remained steady for over a decade until more than 460,000 acres were purchased in 2022, federal data shows.

But even as the issue of who owns farmland has heightened national security concerns in the past year, the percentage of foreign investment remains small.

"I think the biggest misperception is how much they really own. There's a lot less foreign ownership than people think there is," said Bill Knudson, a Michigan State University economist who's written about the topic.

Foreign investors - anyone who's not a citizen, not a legal immigrant or U.S. entities that have a "significant foreign interest" - are required to report their land purchases to the U.S. Department of Agriculture every year. In 2022, almost half of the overall increase was attributed to three states. "These increases mostly reflect large purchases of forestland in Alabama and Michigan while increases in Colorado are mostly cropland and pasture," the USDA said in its latest report.

U.P. forests account for most of foreign-owned land In Michigan, about 92% of the foreign-owned acres are in the Upper Peninsula but this remains a sliver, 8%, of the state's total agricultural land.
Keweenaw County tops the list with 370,345 acres - all forestland - and the biggest jumps from 2021 to 2022 were in the Western Upper Peninsula. In a year, foreign buyers picked up 81,899 acres of forestland in Gogebic County, 108,305 acres of forestland in Keweenaw County and 94,283 acres of forestland in Ontonagon County. "With the forestland in the Upper Peninsula, those are generally owned by Canadians, and as a general rule, we've never had a problem with people in the United States investing in Canada or Canadians investing in the U.S.," Knudson said.

In Alger, Luce and Marquette counties, Canadian entities are the top foreign owners. But in Keweenaw County, which has the largest percentage of international ownership, Canada doesn't own a stake; Dutch entities own 120,000 acres and "all others" own more than 250,000 acres. "You don't really know who owns what in the United States or who owns what overseas - that can be kind of hard to keep track of," Knudson said.

Most recent federal data - which is three years old and doesn't include the latest acquisitions - shows that timber investment firms own the most foreign-held land in the Keweenaw. They include GMO Threshold Timber Michigan, a company with Dutch ties, and Lake Superior Land Co., associated with the U.S. Virgin Islands.

But tracing the newest sales can be tricky.

In Gogebic County, property and company records shed some light on the 131,177 acres that were purchased by a foreign entity from 2021 to 2022.

Although the documents don't outright name a foreign buyer, MLive followed the paper trail to find who these groups were linked to. Here are some of the breadcrumbs for one sale: The Keweenaw Land Association mentions in a 2021 annual report that it sold more than 178,000 acres of timber assets that year.

A Gogebic County GIS map shows that the Keweenaw Land Association sold parcels in 2021 with an undisclosed acreage to Sage Timber Michigan LLC. The LLC is linked to The Rohatyn Group, a timber investment firm that has purchased forestland in eight countries. The group's founder, Nick Rohatyn, is listed in the LLC paperwork.

Although The Rohatyn Group is based in the U.S., federal records have linked its previous land purchases through Sage Timber Wisconsin LLC to Singapore. Sage Timber Wisconsin LLC, which also names Nick Rohatyn, purchased forestland in Iron County, Wisconsin in 2021.

The above is an excerpt of the story. The full story with graphs can be found here.
ttps://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2024/08/upper-peninsula-forestland-increasingly-bought-by-foreign-landowners.html

PIF note: *Many of us are disgusted by the management practices of Sage Timber Michigan LLC*
See this photo and short note from a well-respected forester in the UP.

Morning Joe -
I had meant to send these to you - If you can believe it --this is the road into your 80 acres off M-64 - don't know how well you remember that road but this is what it looks like after a Sage harvest you can hardly recognize it - Pretty much cut everything even the hemlock. Mike

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AGING & ADJUSTING WITH FAMILY HELP-- FROM AN OLD SAWYER

Joe Hovel

My long work career in value added forestry centered around a sawmill. For several decades, I had it down pretty well, at least as to producing the unique items my business used in sufficient quantity and good quality. Currently, in managing our lands, even the most conservative practices produce logs-some special, many ubiquitous.

In sawmilling I used a circle saw mill, most often with a 52" saw and carbide inserted bits. We could saw ~two loads a day, or about 100 cords in four days with a day (and my weekends) reserved for sorting, piling etc. This, of course, required a small crew—most efficient with at least 3 men.

I still love the woods and the wood products we used and produced, even though I likely see other forest products as more important these days. Those being clean water, wildlife habitat and so on—even humans social needs are very important in the woods.

The Norwood HD36 saw still resting in the shop, however, prepared to make sawdust.

Having reached ¾ of a century in age, with wobbly knees no longer able to carry logs and stones required in my arduous but enjoyable career, I no longer feel safe in standing inches from a 52" saw turning at 600 RPMs. So, this spring, when my son Mark asked for help in sawing logs from storm damage trees on our land I made a questionable suggestion. "Let's go together and buy a new band type mill that you can use alone as its obvious I cannot be depended on for this work going forward".

So, Mark & I did some research, and chose a Norwood HD36—having capacity to handle 36" logs up to 21' long. But here is the caveat: The machine came fully as components on two pallets. Literally, dozens of boxes, hundreds of bolts, and parts (the 28' long machine assembled with 4' frame sections). For me it was intimidating, my arthritic fingers as functional as my wobbly knees. Mark, being more than busy with his work schedule (he even spends evenings running his forwarder serving a local logger), did assist in getting the frame laid out one rainy day in early June.

I then struggled but kept going with baby steps, a bit here and there. I had a huge boost when my brother Mike made four trips from his central WI farmstead. His mechanical skills and dexterity besting mine by a solid margin. I hope this short story helps with the gratitude I have for his help.

As of mid-September, the HD36 Norwood is fully assembled with both motors (one for head saw, one for accessories-hydraulics) but has not sawn a log as yet.

Getting accustomed to a horizontal band saw from a vertical circle saw is certain to be a challenge to me. But this is not for me anymore than working to maintain spruce grouse habitat is for me. Thus, I finish, Use Local Wood for the Greater Good—a phrase I have used for many years now.

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