Partners News

November 2017

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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Have you paid your PIF dues?

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."
— Nelson Henderson

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A LITTLE BIT FROM JOE

There is no shortage of forest related concerns. Please see the PIF website for a research report from Tara Bal, et al, on the relationship of earth worms to sugar maple die back. Tara has been a great contributor to our reports for you, we much value our access to these folks at the Michigan Tech School of Forestry. See past Partners News issues for extensive reporting on maple die back, especially by Gary Willis, Tara, and more in January 2013.

Also at the website (and because of our access to MTU), please see a research report titled 'Death and Taxus' about the high cost of maintaining Canada Yew. The challenge presented being cervid browse. As we have covered in the past, the Pilgrim River forest has some exceptional stands of Canada Yew, as the reoccurring deep snows in the higher elevations from Lake Superior keep deer numbers more manageable. Here in northern Wisconsin most of us have long given up on this special plant, with a ray of hope from Iron County following the severe winters, evidenced by Curt Hare's photo you would have seen in these pages last year.

Many of us continue to be frustrated by deer damage to our forest regeneration as well as our non timber plants. And the problem is not only in our area, although the deer numbers can vary widely from one locale to another. The following paragraph was extracted from a northeastern forest publication and helps us understand the scope of this issue.

Foresters often have a front-row view of the damage "too many" deer can cause to the landscape. Wildflowers, such as trillium and showy lady's slippers, can be especially hard hit. "Each adult white-tailed deer eats about 2,000 pounds a year," says Charlie Fiscella, New York State Chapter President of the Quality Deer Management Association, "That's one ton. Go out with clippers and see how long it takes you to clip one ton. It's hard to do that, especially when the habitat is marginal."

Maintaining my favorite Canada Yew garden on the Pilgrim Forest is important, its value was invigorated by an NRCS Practice, through the Conservation Stewardship Program, termed *Multi-story cropping, sustainable management of non-timber forest products* or also referred to as Forest Farming. It involves the manipulation of species composition, structure and canopy cover to achieve or maintain a native plant community, in order to facilitate sustainable management on non-timber native plant communities. With this practice we make every effort to focus on the yew, when planning timber management activities, and as I mentioned above, we have tapped into a great network of research to help accomplish our goals with Yew management. The Death and Taxus document is one of several which demonstrates the yew education I am encountering. Visit the Pilgrim forest to witness these incredible plants first hand.

This is a small photo of a freshly planted wild leek garden in a sugar maple stand

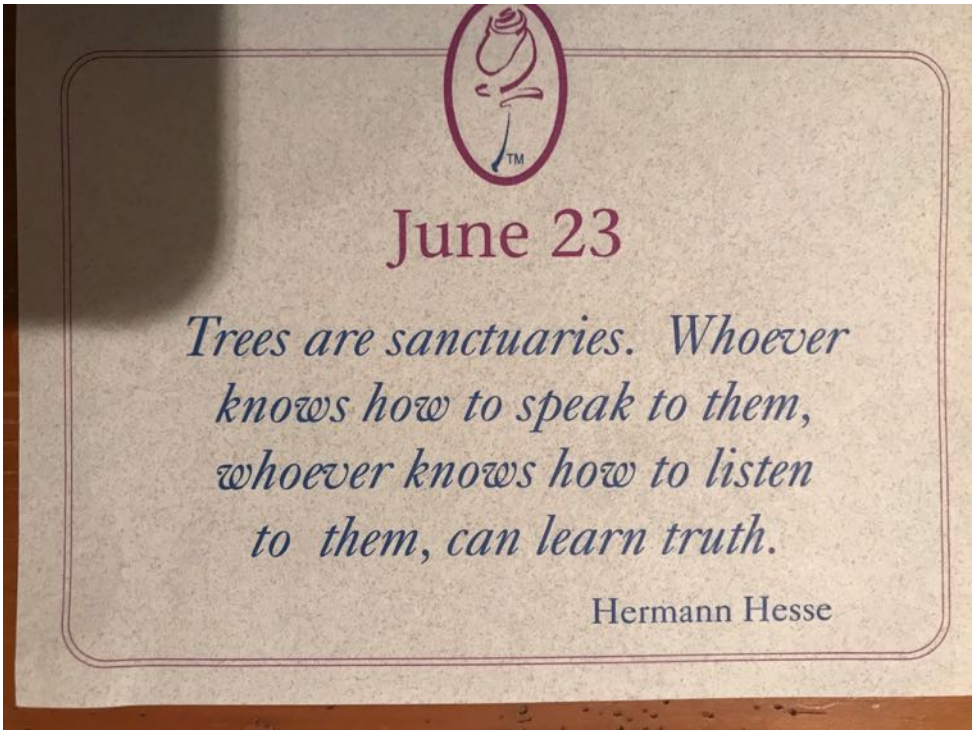
We also are interested in other aspects of forest farming, including sugar bush, mushroom growing and have recently planted wild leek seeds in our sugar maple-basswood-yellow birch stand in Vilas

County. The practice may also include ferns (fiddle heads), ginseng, goldenseal and more. The leeks (ramps) as well as the yew are especially sensitive to the canopy (light). All this is simply another reminder of the complexity and importance of sound forest management, and achieving the most from the woods in a sustainable way.

Several members have passively mentioned their mushroom growing. If you are forest farming please share your experience with your friends in Partners News. Learning from each other is likely the main benefit to this organization, we are always happy to share life experience as a compliment to sound science.

With all the challenges to us who care about land conservation and sustainable forestry, it often becomes depressing. As you can see from our features on wild parsnip, climate change and glyphosate, there are lots of challenges in just the forest management component. And when we get into the specifics, or shall I say lack of respect, of some of our conservation programs it becomes almost insurmountable. We will continue to discuss all these things, these pages are an open forum awaiting your comments as well. Please share your concerns as well as good news.

In the next issue I hope to be very optimistic. If things go according to plan over the next couple weeks, we hopefully will be celebrating the Forest Legacy easement on the Pilgrim River forest with you. While that is no big surprise to anyone following our writings, there hopefully will be a special conservation initiative to announce at the same time, to protect a place which is very important to many of us. Stay tuned and share your efforts, experiences and concerns with us.



CONCERNS FOR THE EARTH (ARTICLES REPRINTED FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES)

Climate change is already damaging the health of millions worldwide, according to a report published this week by The Lancet. In addition to the deaths caused by disasters related to global warming such as the increased number of hurricanes and wildfires, the research conducted by a group of leading academics and policy professionals found that there are many other climate impacts that are also damaging.

Just one of many such examples is the alteration in the transmission patterns of infectious diseases from the changing weather patterns, which has resulted in unexpected outbreaks of malaria, cholera, and West Nile virus.

Also, the report shows that fine particulate matter and other local air pollution in cities kills approximately 2.6 million people annually worldwide.

UN Climate Change executive secretary Patricia Espinosa and The Lancet editor-in-chief Richard Horton wrote in Time Magazine that what is the most troubling is that the dangers the world is facing today is only the beginning, and progress made towards tackling the problems could be undermined by inaction.

Although the danger is clear, the authors say the good news is that the solution is quite straightforward: "We simply must stop burning fossil fuels and releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, transitioning to clean, renewable energy resources."

Espinosa and Horton stressed that climate change should not only be seen as an environmental issue but a massive public health challenge. They said the gathering of some 20,000 delegates at the two-week UN climate conference starting on Nov. 6 in Bonn is a chance to send a clear message.

"Without aggressive action, the public health problems we're seeing today risk intensifying to a widespread health emergency," the authors wrote. "With ambitious action, however, we can both rein in long term warming and - by cleaning the air of fossil fuel-borne pollution - we can start improving health and saving lives right away."

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It's High Time for Ticks, Which Are Spreading Diseases Farther (8-25-17)

US 'Spits in the Face' of World by Promoting Fossil Fuels at UN Climate Summit (11-13-17)

ASH BORER CLOSES IN FROM THREE SIDES (Nov. '17)

WHAT IS KILLING THE RED PINES? (Oct. '17)

Over 15,000 Scientists Just Issued a 'Second Notice' to Humanity. Can We Listen Now? (11-13-17)
Over 15,000 scientists hailing from more than 180 countries just issued a dire warning to humanity: "Time is running out" to stop business as usual, as threats from rising greenhouse gases to biodiversity loss are pushing the biosphere to the brink. The new warning follows a plea made 25 years ago.

These above headlines glare at the reader. Our conservation efforts are critical to mitigating these concerns. Protecting large areas of habitat is essential not only to the plants and animals which live there, but also to human life. Partners in Forestry supports and appreciates the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Knowles- Nelson Stewardship

Program as the benefits to us all are widespread in facing these threats. Whether it is our small actions to protect habitat, an Ecology class taking baseline of trees to calculate carbon sequestration, or the sustainable management of your woodlot, we must continue to appreciate our resources.

If one is up to a very long read, contact PIF for the research paper by The Lancet, which was referred to in the Climate story.

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Reprinted from Ag Journal news.

Levels of glyphosate, a controversial chemical found in herbicides, markedly increased in the bodies of a sample population over two decades. The findings published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) came as the European Commission proposed to renew the license for glyphosate for a shorter than usual five years. That decision by the EU's executive arm followed a growing uproar over the alleged danger of its use.

Researchers compared the levels of glyphosate in the urine of 100 people living in California. It covered a 23-year period starting from 1993, the year before the introduction of genetically-modified crops tolerant to Roundup. Glyphosate-containing Roundup, produced by US agro giant Monsanto, is one of the world's most widely-used weedkillers.

"Prior to the introduction of genetically modified foods, very few people had detectable levels of glyphosate," said Paul Mills, of the University of California at San Diego School of Medicine, the study's principal author.

The daily limit of 1.75 milligrams per kilogram set by the US Environmental Protection Agency is much higher than the stricter limit of 0.3 milligrams per kilogram in the European Union.

"Our exposure to these chemicals has increased significantly over the years but most people are unaware that they are consuming them through their diet," Mills said. The chemical is also sprayed on a substantial portion of crops and forests grown in the US, he said.

In July, California listed glyphosate as carcinogenic, and the World Health Organization International Agency for Research on Cancer called it "probably carcinogenic" in 2015. There are few human studies on the effects of glyphosate, but research on animals demonstrates that chronic exposure has adverse effects, said Mills.

Along with the European Commission's proposal, the European Parliament approved a non-binding resolution calling for the chemical to be banned by 2022.

Glyphosate critics are calling for an outright ban in Europe. Monsanto maintains that glyphosate "meets or exceeds all requirements" for full license renewal in Europe, and says the renewal procedure has in "many respects been hijacked by populism."

****PIF note: These chemicals are frightening, but so are the invasive species we often treat with them. Let us know what you think!****

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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.

DECK THE HALLS

Paul Hetzler, Cornell University Extension

Winterberry Holly. This photo is off of the internet, taken by R.W. Smith, Hillsdale, MI.

As far back as I can remember—which is usually about three weeks—the holiday season has begun a little earlier each year. I assume this has something to do with global warming. Back in the day, decorating for Christmas prior to Thanksgiving was unforgivable. Currently, however, no one complains when stores launch the retail marathon known as the "Holiday Season" by rolling out the Christmas decor right after Halloween. But maybe no one objects because we're all too busy nursing sugar hangovers on November 1.

Winterberry Holly. Photo: Rod Sharka

Retailers can be excused, I suppose, given what Mother Nature did this year. Anyone who's traveled around the North Country this fall has probably noticed the shameless display: splashes of brilliant berries punctuating the margins of wetlands, forest edges, fencerows and pastures. And she unveiled this riot of neon-red decorations way back in October. That's when our native holly bushes shed their leaves, revealing their exceptionally heavy crop of berries, bright little rubies that contrast sharply with the fall landscape. When the sun is on them, you'd swear ol' Ma Nature put a tiny electric bulb inside each red jewel.

Even though this berry-spangled shrub loses its leaves in the fall, it is a true holly in the genus *Ilex*, a close cousin to the evergreen English holly whose boughs we see in holiday wreaths and sprays. Known as winterberry holly or just winterberry, *Ilex verticillata* is native to all of eastern North America from Florida to the Arctic Circle. Depending on conditions, winterberry gets three to twelve feet tall at maturity and can grow in dry or wet soils, though it tends to spread and form thickets in wet locations.

Like all hollies, winterberry is dioecious; that is, it has separate male and female plants. The female plant produces berries as long as a male plant is nearby as a source of pollen.

Where it's abundant (and where one has permission), winterberry can be gathered for use in decorating. You can remove up to one-quarter of the branches from a bush before it will 'notice' the loss the following year. The berries hold on fairly well, but gentle handling is recommended.

If you like how they look in a natural setting, you might consider planting winterberry at home. Transplanting from the wild is an option, but there are several good cultivars available commercially. 'Winter Red' is a favorite tall cultivar, while 'Red Sprite' is a shorter version. The berries of 'Afterglow' are orange, and those of 'Winter Gold' are pale pink. You'll need one male plant for every four female to ensure berry production.

In many ways, winterberry is an ideal landscape shrub, as it has very few pests or diseases, and it transplants easily. And there would be no need to feel self-conscious that your 'Christmas decorations' appear before Halloween. The way things are going, it won't be long before retailers put up their holiday bling right after Labor Day.

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WILD RAISINS AND SMELLY SOCKS

Paul Hetzler

In addition to sharing a love of nature, hikers and hunters have at least one other thing in common. Trekking long hours through terrain of all sorts with one's damp feet stuffed into leather shoes or rubber boots can lead to, among other things, strong odors. However, those who spend much time outdoors in the fall will at some point encounter a pungent smell akin to overripe laundry, even before they remove their shoes. This happens more often, but not exclusively, in or near wetlands, and the odor is strongest after a rain.

The source is one or more of the many native shrubs and small trees in the genus *Viburnum* such as wild raisin, arrowwood and nannyberry. These humble plants are found throughout the Northeast in fencerows, old pastures, forest edges, and especially in wet areas. They provide essential cover and nesting habitat for songbirds, and in late summer they bear sweet berries that are relished by birds and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

As viburnum leaves start to break down they give off butyric acid, a noxious chemical that in its pure form is listed by the EPA as a toxic substance. Its smell has been likened to rancid milk, stinky feet and extreme body odor. In fact is present in these things. Aside from a few industrial uses, butyric acid is added to some carp-fishing bait, and has been used in homemade stink bombs deployed by pranksters and activists. Incidentally, this viburnum by-product is also an ingredient in rooting compounds used in the nursery trade to propagate woody plants (including viburnums, oddly enough).

Some viburnums even have butyric acid in their fruit. The highbush cranberry is case in point. It's not actually a cranberry but it is a high bush, so whoever named it got it half right. Sometimes used in landscaping, it has translucent red berries which persist into the winter. The fruit is edible, in a technical sense, but let's just say it's an acquired taste.

Like all viburnums, highbush cranberry shrubs have no thorns, are not invasive and don't cause rashes. Why these otherwise amiable plants make their berries, which are supposed to entice birds to eat them and spread the seeds, into little stink bombs is a mystery.

Why viburnums make smelly leaves is also unknown. I imagine butyric acid might repel herbivores, at least temporarily, but it doesn't seem like a strong enough advantage to be selected for over time. It could possibly inhibit competing vegetation, though, something known as allelopathy. To my knowledge this has not yet been studied, but it could be done fairly easily. But why anyone would want to do it, other than to satisfy the curiosity of a few plant enthusiasts, is another question.

Of all viburnums, the leaves of wild raisin (*V. cassinoides*) may be the most pungent. It's easy to forgive its funk because it has the tastiest fruit. From late August through late autumn, and sometimes into early winter, you can find sweet, dark purple "raisins" in wetlands and on the edges of ponds. Relative to the size of the fruit, the seed is rather large, but the flavor and sweetness make it worthwhile to graze them. Sometimes the stinky-sock odor is what alerts me to the presence of this plant, and I've sniffed out some good wild raisins that way.

I think everyone who enjoys the outdoors should get acquainted with wild raisin, which can provide a welcome snack on a cold day. Hunters and hikers have an added incentive to learn about the odoriferous leaves of wild raisin and other viburnums: Mentioning this natural butyric acid-based smell could come in handy as a cover for one's honest-to-goodness offensive foot odor back at deer camp or inside a cramped tent.

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VENGEFUL VEGGIES

by Paul Hetzler

Summertime was that eight-week (give or take) interval for which most of us waited all year, the season for beaches, barbeques and back-country rambling. And it is also a time to watch out for burns: sunburned skin, blackened burgers, and vindictive vegetables. My best advice, respectively, for these dangers is: SPF 50, stay focused on that grill, and read on.

I know that vegetables are not really vindictive, but it sounds crazy to talk about them as a burning hazard. There are a number of plants whose sap can cause serious chemical burns, and one of them is a common and widespread invasive species, the wild parsnip.

A member of the same family as Queen Anne's lace, wild parsnip generally reaches a height of between three and seven feet. From late June through mid-July, it is topped by pale greenish-yellow, umbrella-like flower clusters, which form seeds around the end of July. Wild parsnip can be found in vacant lots as well as in yards and gardens, but because it's so effectively spread by mowing equipment, mile upon mile of it can be seen along northern NY State roadsides.

The root of this weed is in fact edible, and is identical to the parsnip we might plant next to the carrots. It seems fair to ask why a parsnip is OK in the garden but bad when it goes feral and grows on the playground. In its first year, the parsnip is well-behaved vegetable with just enough foliage to stuff its root full of tasty starches. At harvest, the leaves are typically in decline, if not entirely withered away, and our potential for contact with them is limited. We are more likely to tangle with parsnip in its second year, when it gets rambunctious and makes a very tall leafy stalk topped by those yellow flowers.

Giant hogweed gets a lot of press due to the fact that, well, it's giant. A flower which grows 15 to 20 feet in one season is impressive. And hogweed is scary, too, because its sap is phytophototoxic. The tongue-twister word means if its sap gets on your skin, it reacts with sunlight to cause second- and third-degree burns. Such burns often take months to heal, and may actually leave a permanent scar. If sap gets in one's eyes it can even cause blindness.

Well guess what—wild parsnip sap does the same thing. It's a small consolation, but you can't get burned by merely brushing up against wild parsnip—a stem or leaf must be broken to expose the sap. And after the plant dries it is safe to handle, unlike poison ivy, which can cause a severe rash even if you dried it for a couple years (which is unlikely, but if you were considering it, be warned). All the same, it's probably a good idea to wear gloves and long sleeves when handling wild parsnip. Immediately wash with soap and water if the sap does contact your skin.

As everyone knows, when fighting a zombie, you grab a shovel and aim for its head. The same with wild parsnip, except you aim for its feet. It has a taproot That's tough to pull out, but it is easily cut with a shovel. It's not necessary to get the whole root—just dig as deep as you can to sever the taproot, pry up until the plant tips over, and it will die. You don't even have to touch it.

If you're hopelessly outnumbered by wild parsnips, at least mow them—wearing protective clothing and eyewear of course—to keep them from making seeds. But unless you have a Level-A Hazmat suit, don't use a string trimmer on it. Mowing will buy you some time to muster shovel-wielding townsfolk (pitchforks and torches are optional) to help you.

I hope you had a safe and enjoyable summer, and that the only scorching you encountered was that walk across the hot beach sand, but we must remain diligent about the influx of all these invasive species. They are almost becoming too numerous to keep abreast.

*** *Joe note: This spring while invited to give a forestry presentation in Iron River Michigan, I met a charming young gal named Jaclyn. She was interested in forestry and in mid summer she paid us a visit for a short tour of the woods. At that time she was suffering from Wild Parsnip burns, which I knew nothing about and had nothing to offer. Alas, the very next day this Paul Hetzler story arrived.* ***

FORGET ABOUT REFORESTATION

Paul Hetzler

"Squirrels have been criticized for hiding nuts in various places for future use and then forgetting the places. Well, squirrels do not bother with minor details like that. They have other things on their mind, such as hiding more nuts where they can't find them."

Unfortunately, that succulent passage was penned in 1949 by W. Cuppy in his book "How To Attract A Wombat." I say unfortunately because I wanted to write it first, but was unable to get born in time. The tradeoff, which is that I got to be quite a bit younger than he, probably worked out for the best anyway.

Before learning stuff like "facts" about squirrels, it made me feel smug to think that their attention span was even worse than mine. Popular wisdom used to hold that the fluffy-tailed rodents spent half their lives burying nuts, only to forget about most of them a few minutes later. I figured that was why they generally seemed frantic, always thinking they hadn't stored any food yet.

The great thing about the whole affair is that tons of butternuts, oaks, hickories and walnuts get planted each fall, mostly in flower boxes, but some in actual forests where they can grow to maturity. As a kid I would see untold numbers of squirrels in parks, on college campuses and around dumpsters, but few in the woods. The latter, I assumed, were lost, or in transit to a day-old bakery outlet.

So it came as a surprise to learn gray squirrels are native to temperate hardwood forests, at home in large unbroken tracts of woods. In fact, squirrels are critical to the survival of many nut-bearing trees. Walnuts, acorns and hickory nuts, which do not tend to waft on the breeze so well, and which soon dry out and degrade on the ground, need someone to cart them off and plant them in the ground.

The irony is that while gray squirrels can be so numerous in the human domain that they become pests, they are disappearing from the forests that depend on them for regeneration. The reason is that most woodlands today are patchwork. In a shocking failure of the free market, it seems no one is making large contiguous tracts of forested land any more, even though they're increasingly rare.

It's hard to criticize agriculture, especially if you eat on a regular basis, but clearing land to grow food has fragmented our woods. One problem with breaking up forest land is that gray squirrels have large, shared territories with no real borders. Although they are great at things like tree planting and eating the faces off Halloween pumpkins, they're not so good at running across fields to the next patch of trees. Well the running works OK, but not the looking out for predators. Gray squirrels evolved in a world where hiding places grew on trees. As a result, predation was low. But since the time they have been forced to hike out in the open, hawks, coyotes and foxes have taken a bite out of wild squirrel populations.

Red squirrels, however, are moving into habitats once occupied by gray squirrels. It seems logical to think that an army of red, fluffy nut-planters would be just as good as propagating an oak-hickory forest as the gray, fluffy sort were. Not so. The reds, which evolved among conifers, are used to stashing pine, spruce and fir cones in hollow trees or right out in the open. When they encountered acorns and nuts, they carried on with this tradition. In the open-air caches of the red squirrels, tree nuts desiccate and become non-viable. Nothing gets planted. Also, the reds have smaller, discrete territories they do not share, so they're not as apt as the grays to gallivant over to a nearby block of trees, and thus they avoid those pesky carnivores. In this way they're better adapted to a fragmented forest than the gray squirrels are.

Getting back to forgetfulness, science has polished up the reputation of gray squirrels by observing them. Evidently no one thought of doing this novel procedure until 1990. That's when Lucia F. Jacobs and Emily R. Lyman of Princeton University's Biology department set up a series of nut-caching experiments with gray squirrels. And hopefully a few interns as well. Their impressive article was published in the Journal of Animal Behavior in 1991, and is readily available online in case anyone has an attention span longer than.

I should mention that gray squirrels are considered "scatter hoarders," stashing nuts and acorns all over the place. They tend to dig them up and rebury them as many as five times prior to winter, possibly to confound pilfering jays. Each successive re-cache takes them farther and farther from the parent tree, which is good in terms of forest ecology.

Jacob and Lyons concluded that even after waiting 12 days, gray squirrels quickly located about 2/3 of the nuts they buried, but that they also exhumed a few that weren't theirs. However, each squirrel managed to end with 90% of the original number provided by researchers. This shows that memory is the primary means of locating cached tree nuts. And that while they don't plant as many trees as we once thought, they make up for it by planting each one many times.

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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:

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Compiled from Science Dailey.

WANT BIRDS? NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS ARE THE ANSWER.

University of Delaware doctoral student Desiree Narango is researching trees and shrubs planted around northern Virginia areas to assess how those choices are impacting food webs.

Narango is also associated with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and works through a citizen-science program called "Neighborhood Nest Watch." Through her research, Narango looks at breeding birds and the food resources they need, such as insects and caterpillars.

Different trees vary in how much food they provide birds. Over the course of the four-year study, Narango has looked at 203 different properties.

One thing that has stood out to her is the sheer number of different trees that are planted in these yards. "We focus on woody plants -- so trees and shrubs -- and we've documented over 375 different species in these 203 yards. Which is crazy," said Narango who added that it became apparent quickly that some trees are better than others with regard to sustaining food webs.

"We just had a paper come out in the journal of Biological Conservation where we show that native trees are better at providing caterpillars for birds, which is a really important food resource," said Narango. "Native trees are better, hands down, but even among the native trees, there are some that are better than others so things like oaks and cherries and elms are highly productive for caterpillars, so they have lots of good food for the birds."

Narango added that there are a lot of non-native plants -- such as zelkova, ginkgo and lilac -- that don't provide any resources for breeding birds.

"Those species are true non-natives so they're not related to anything here, and they provide almost nothing in terms of caterpillars for birds," said Narango. "There are also species like Japanese cherry and Japanese maple that are non-native but are related to our native maples and cherries. We found that those species have an average of 40 percent fewer caterpillars than the native versions of that tree. If you had a choice between a black cherry and a Japanese cherry and if you're interested in food for birds, then you should choose the native version."

"There are a lot of really great small nurseries that have many native plants that are productive in terms of caterpillars and are also very beautiful," said Narango. "You definitely don't have to sacrifice beauty to get plants that are ecologically beneficial. There's a lot to choose from so you can have beauty, you can have fruit and then also have food for birds, too. It's all interconnected."

As for the most eye-opening aspect of her research, Narango said that it has to be the tremendous amount of diversity in bugs and birds in people's backyards.

"A lot of people think you need to go deep in the woods to see beautiful butterflies or beautiful birds, but they're actually in people's backyards, too," said Narango. In the group's bird surveys, they documented 98 different bird species. As a landscaper herself, Narango added that it was surprising to see how much life happened in her own backyard when she started planting the right species. 'It is really cool how quickly you can see life be attracted to your yard when you plant the right species," she said.

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SHARED LOVE OF THE LAND

Dear Partners in Forestry members and friends:

For me, when I'm out in the woods, I feel a sense of peace and calm. And I know that many of the landowners I work with share that same feeling. We have the same deep love of the land and all that it provides, including the wildlife and the clean, clear water that flows from healthy forests. The American Forest Foundation, where I have worked for almost ten years, is dedicated to ensuring the sustainability of America's family forests. We work with a diversity of partners to provide landowners the tools, resources and recognition of the work they do to support sustainably manage forests for future generations.

One of the tools we provide is a website: www.MyLandPlan.org. This online tool provides useful content for landowners to help them understand what they can do to keep their woods healthy.

Landowners can create a free account where they can map their land with the digital mapping tool, select the goals they have for their land and see recommended activities to help achieve those goals. If you already have a management plan, you can use the task list tool to keep track of the activity list that your forester provided. Don't have a forester? The Forester Directory can show you profiles of foresters in your area. Find one you like, then you can request a consultation and share your map and goals with the forester.

Sound like an interesting tool? Join the 13,600 landowners across the US who use this tool to learn more about their land and track the work they do to keep it healthy for future generations.

Caroline Kuebler

Senior Manager for Engagement

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Please note that in the following Tips for Landowners, the section below Ms Kuebler's information (shown on page 13) is not shown on pages 14 and 15 due to space considerations.

Tips for Landowners

As a woodland owner, the trees you plant now will be enjoyed by future generations. Much of what you do on your land is long term, for future benefits. Many woodland owners list passing their land to the next generation as one of the main reason they own their land. But the process of planning for it can feel overwhelming. But don't worry, we have broken the process down into manageable steps that you can take.

The first step? Make an overview of your estate. What should you include?

- The real estate you own including the buildings and timber on your land.
- Bank accounts
- Mutual funds
- Life insurance policies
- Retirement/employee benefits
- Vehicles, including cars, trucks and RVs
- Machinery and equipment
- Household items and tools
- Jewelry, gems and precious metals

Need additional resources? We have an expert video and resources including a Forest Property and Estate Overview worksheet. So take some time to write down what you have and an estimate of its value, because you can't start planning for the future of your estate if you don't know what it includes.

Happy Planning!
Caroline Kuebler
MyLandPlan.org

Log into your MyLandPlan.org account. Or request a new password for your MyLandPlan.org account.

Join the thousands of landowners across the US using the tools and resources on MyLandPlan.org. Sign Up Today!

American Forest Foundation | 2000 M Street NW, Suite 550 | Washington D.C. 20036

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****** If you would like a copy of the USFS book titled 'Estate Planning for Forest Landowners: What will Become of Your Timberland?' please contact PIF. ******

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Tips for Landowners

Why you own your land? What do you enjoy doing on it? These are important things to consider when thinking about what goals you have for your land. Goal setting doesn't have to be a complicated process, but if you need some help getting started, check out the My Land Plan Goal Setting tool.

- **Step one: Think about why you own your land. Does it relate to enjoying your land? Protecting it? Making it healthy? Passing it on? Or maybe making a profit from it?**
- **Step two: Log into you're My Land Plan account. In the goals/activities section, find the goals that are important to you. Click on the + (add to list) to add a goal to your plan.**
- **Step three: Look at the recommended activities. Once you have selected a few goals, consider some of these activities for your land. Do any sound like something you might want to do? Or have you already done some? Either way, click on the create icon and record activities that you are considering, planning, are in progress or ones you've already completed.**
- **Step four: Share your goals and activities with your family. These tools can be a great way to engage them in planning for the future of your land.**

What are the top goals on My Land Plan?
With over 13,600 woodland owners across the country using My Land Plan, you can imagine that there are a lot of different goals. But the top five are:

1. **Improving deer habitat**
2. **Making their land a great place to watch wildlife**
3. **Creating a place for wildlife to thrive**
4. **Protecting their land from trespassing**
5. **Earning an income from timber**

And the activities that your fellow landowners have completed? The top five are:

1. **Consulting a forester**
2. **Maintaining year-round water sources for birds and animals**
3. **Providing adequate shelter for wildlife**
4. **Walking their property regularly**
5. **Getting a management plan**

Ok, one more, cause it's a good one! The next most popular activity is: Getting to know their neighbor. Is that how you met your neighbor?

Happy Planning!
May the Forest be with you,
Caroline Kuebler
MyLandPlan.org

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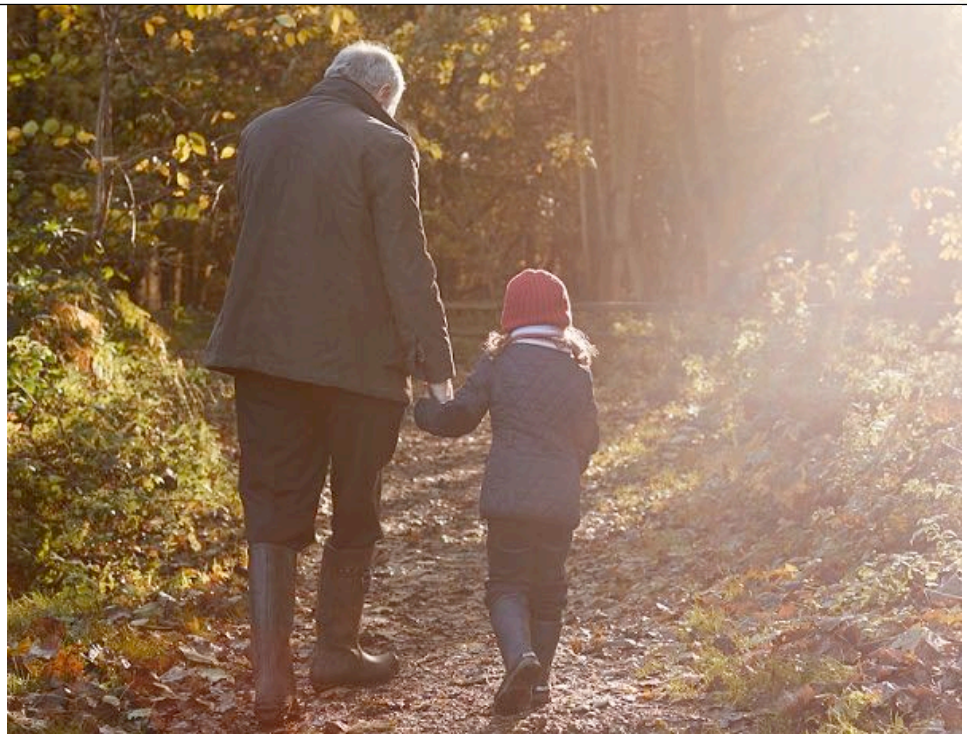
Tips for Landowners



Do you view your land as a financial investment? Perhaps something that you'll use to support your retirement or for family education expenses? Or maybe you see your land as an heirloom, something that is invaluable to your family and will be passed on to future generations. How you answer those questions have important implications in the decisions you'll make as you plan for the future. And if you have co-owners, it is really important for you all to understand how you each view your land. If you are all on the same page, it can make planning much easier.

How do you start those conversations? Well a good place to start is to fill in your Heirloom Scale. Then ask your co-owners or spouse to fill in their Heirloom Scale. Once they are all complete, share them with each other. It can be a good place to start the discussion by learning where everyone is on the scale and why.

Looking for even more resources? We have a Your Legacy, Your Land video with our expert, Tammy Cushing from Oregon State University, talking about goal setting as an important step in your estate planning process

Happy Planning!
Caroline Kuebler
MyLandPlan.org

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PIF Affiliate Charlie Mitchell moved back to the city but his heart remained in the woods.

21 Sep 2017

To: City of Wauwatosa Officials
7525 Oakhill Avenue
Wauwatosa WI 53213

Copy: County Board of Supervisors

Subject: Woods on the County Grounds
Zoning as Parkland

The wooded area of the County Grounds north of the Ronald McDonald House in Wauwatosa is a charming natural area that will serve the Life Sciences District well as a park.

On May 9, the Community Affairs Committee recommended zoning of the Woods as parkland and requested concurrence by Milwaukee County. On May 25, The County Board responded with complete agreement to zone as parkland.

Now, however, the City, working with the County, has drafted a zoning application which is fraught with exclusions of much of the wooded land intended to be protected. It carves off large parcels to be used for development, in particular, parcels adjacent to the food services building, at the water tower with an absurd gerrymander to the east around the Ronald McDonald House, and a northward extension of 92nd street.

These exclusions not only reduce the area of the parkland, but also encroach on the remaining parkland with inevitable grading and storm water drainage. Parkland cannot be built up closely on all sides if it is to be enjoyable and to provide habitat for wildlife.

Exclusions such as these are not in the spirit or the letter of the decision of the Community Affairs Committee, and they are not in the interests of the public. The citizens of Wauwatosa consider this wooded land precious as a natural area, as expressed in several well-attended hearings and in surveys.

Beautiful public areas augment the livability of nearby properties and increase property values, and studies show that large urban medical centers with adjacent parks are the most successful. I experienced an example of this last week at the recently-created City Deck recreational space in Green Bay, which has become a catalyst for urban renewal and has sparked increases in property values.

Don't eradicate the last vestige of the original Wauwatosa landscape north of Watertown Plank Road with more buildings. The southernmost point of the Woods that touches Watertown Plank could serve as a "gateway" to the park directly from that busy thoroughfare.

Please respect the decision of the Community Affairs Committee – without exclusions. I ask you all to give attention to the intended parkland and to take actions that make it come to fruition.

Charles Mitchell

ONE OF MY NEW FAVORITE PLACES TO VISIT IN THE NORTHWOODS :

THE UPPER WISCONSIN RIVER LEGACY FOREST

by Quita Sheehan (all photos in this article provided by Quita Sheehan)

A couple of years ago Joe Hovel and his daughter Rachel generously invited me and a couple of other Northwoods residents to a tour of the proposed Legacy Forest. I love visiting new land, so I was thrilled to visit.

We witnessed which communities are there and how they fit in with the greater northwoods. Since then I have been back to the Legacy Forest every couple of months to enjoy this mix of sandy Jack Pine Forest of different ages and wetland communities along the Wisconsin River or mixed in with the Jack Pine. I thrill to possibly see uncommon critters, plants, and plant communities. Or just enjoy this beautiful piece of land.

Quita Sheehan on the Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest

I've kayaked, hiked, snowshoed, and biked through the property, through the different seasons and different habitats. One early summer I kayaked down the Wisconsin River with a handful of other explorers from the North Woods Native Plant Society. It took us 3 hours to kayak from the snowmobile bridge across the Wisconsin River on the US Forest Service land east of the Legacy Forest. It was a beautiful day, gliding through alder thickets, interspersed with grass and sedge meadows, and along cedar swamps and upland forests. There were only a couple of beaver dams to maneuver over. We stopped for lunch on the dock and listened to birds using the mix of habitat in this beautiful, quiet start of the "hardest working river in the US".

Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest

I've hiked, biked, and snowshoed along the roads, old skid trails, and sometimes even bushwhacked cross country. You can see the indications of past management history and signs of wildlife everywhere. Bear, deer, bobcat, birds, multitudinous mushrooms because of the wet year we had this year. Even the clear-cuts are interesting as early successional plant species flush through the system. Having a mapping app along gives you an aerial view so you can always


Bear claws

find one of the logging roads if you get turned around. Cell phone coverage is spotty, so make sure you keep track of where you are so you don't get lost.

I've also been through the Legacy Forest, specifically looking for rare bird and plant species along with other Citizen Scientist volunteers. Each trip revealed something new, though we haven't always found our target species. But that just means we must keep searching. Some of the things we've found are Grey jays, spruce grouse, an unexpected bog lake, even an illegal deer baiting station – complete with field camera. The Forest Legacy easement has designated most of the roads as non-motorized, however I do see signs of motorized use, so keep an ear out if you are riding your bike on the roads.

Each time I visit I always experience a strong feeling of gratitude to folks like the Hovels and for the Forest Legacy program, for both wisely managing the land to preserve the different communities and habitat for rare species, and for allowing us northwoods neighbors a chance to roam around such a fascinating piece of land. When you go visit – bring your camera!!

When not tramping the woods and waters of the northwoods, Quita is the Conservation Specialist with Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department.


Ferns in a wetland


Late summer view from the dock


Walking in the clear-cut

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On a Legacy Forest visit in July, Michele Woodford was treated to spruce grouse sightings.

"What a beautiful place, and not every day that you get to see threatened species (Spruce Grouse with 5 chicks!)"

Spruce Grouse. Photo: Michele Woodford

The pond and wetlands on the Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest have important inhabitants. Photo: Michele Woodford

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**

BITS AND PIECES

WOOD: If not Wood what would we use?

* Wood is 16 times more efficient an insulator than concrete, 415 times more efficient than steel and 2000 times as efficient as aluminum.

* Wood products make up 47% of all industrial raw materials made in the U.S., yet this manufacturing uses only 4% of the energy.

* Steel, concrete and plastics all have much higher CO2 emissions associated with their manufacture than does wood. A tree not only sequesters carbon but using it is better for the environment than alternatives.

* Wood is the only global wide raw material that is truly renewable and sustainable.
Substitutes are made from unsustainable and non renewable resources, often fossil fuels.

* Producing a ton of lumber requires 70 times less energy than producing a ton of aluminum, 17 times less than a ton of steel and 4 times less energy than a ton of concrete.

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Wisconsin Forests have economic value. How much?

The Forest Industry - 1 of every 8 workers in manufacturing jobs. For each of these jobs another 1.6 jobs are created as supporting.

In 28 counties the paper and forest products is the largest employer, in 14 more counties it is in the top 3.

Wisconsin residents spend over $5.5 billion per year on goods and services linked to forest based recreation.

Shipments of paper, lumber and other wood products in Wisconsin is valued at over $16.5 billion annually.

Think many folks are misguided with plastic grocery bags and warnings not to use paper in printings messages?