



"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

# Partners News

November/December 2022

*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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Charlie Mitchell  
Margo Popovich  
John Schwarzmann  
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*Have you paid  
your PIF dues?*

**WINTER IS UPON US**

**PLEASE be healthy**

**PLEASE be warm**

**PLEASE be safe**

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## UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN CENTER FOR COOPERATIVES

We are very grateful to the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives for their ongoing support which enables much of the forest conservation outreach by PIF and Northwoods Alliance. We especially thank everyone who has contributed to the Community Forest efforts, and all those who have voluntarily upped their dues. And, of course, all who help with Partners News in any way.

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## Now May Be a Good Time to Sell Carbon Credits From Your Family Forest

By John Schwarzmamn

Currently, demand for carbon credits is strong so it may be a very good time to consider selling carbon credits from your land. Depending upon size and productivity, private landowners are getting \$8-\$12 per credit which equates to a ton of carbon sequestered in tree growth annually. What that means is that under a 40-year contract, each forested acre could generate as much as \$180-\$300 in revenue after commission with much of that revenue paid out early. For example, if you own 100 acres of forestland, carbon credit sales could net you \$18,000 to \$30,000 dollars from carbon credits if it is well stocked with timber under a very low to modest harvest regime.

The process of selling carbon credits from your land requires no out of pocket expenses. Consulting firms that sell your credits on the American Carbon Registry keep a commission from the credits sold that is also used to compensate PIF for their time.

Here is how it will work for PIF members: If you own more than 40 acres, you may be eligible for selling carbon credits from your property. Go to the PIF website and fill out the form or ask us to send it to you. In order for PIF to help you enroll your property in a carbon project that sells credits, you will need to supply the following information:

1. Acres of forestland that you own
2. Your name and address
3. Location(s) including County, Town and Section or tax number of your forestland(s)
4. Is the property covered by Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law or a similar program in Michigan?
5. Does your property have a management plan?
6. Has your property had any timber harvesting in the past 20 years, and if yes, do you have any records from those harvests?
7. Would you be willing to defer timber harvesting for up to 20 years? Deferring timber harvests can result in some cases in higher carbon credit prices.

Similar to getting estimates from building contractors, PIF will take the information and obtain estimates from several firms that specialize in selling carbon credits from private lands. Estimates will include your potential carbon credit revenue, when the revenue would be received, the consulting firms' estimated commission and buffer pool expenses.

Even though the amount of carbon credits you sell from your land will reflect the land's inherent productivity and the size of the acreage enrolled, pooling lands under PIF will allow a consulting firm to

market a larger block of credits. The economy of scale in this case is like a tide that lifts all the boats at once. While any individual can market credits on their own, pooling properties can help everyone involved.

Once estimates are received, PIF will share them with you so you can then decide whether to sell credits or abstain. The decision is yours, but PIF can assist you in the process so you are as well informed as possible.

If you decide to sell credits, the next step would be to sign a contract with a consulting firm to sell the credits. The firm will set up plots on your land to estimate tree growth and work with foresters that are in the PIF network to determine a harvesting baseline on your land based upon your past and planned timber harvests. The difference between your tree growth and removals is used to estimate the carbon that will be stored in your forests over the next four decades. The consulting firm will also revisit your land at 4–6-year increments to remeasure growth plots and check to confirm that your stated timber harvesting is accurate.

Although most landowners continue to cut timber under carbon credit projects, the more timber you cut from your lands the fewer carbon credits that can be sold. In some cases, total timber harvest deferrals for up to 20 years can achieve the highest carbon credit revenue. Since some timber harvesting is allowed, land currently enrolled in tax law programs are generally eligible for carbon credit programs

Once you decide to sell credits, your lands would be contracted with the American Carbon Registry for a time span of 40 years. The contract runs with the deed so your carbon project is listed on your property's deed so you can still sell the lands or transfer the lands to a heir. If you decide to break the contract to opt out, most carbon credit contracts allow that for a limited number of acres with an opt out fee.

One of the strengths of carbon credit sales is that prices are not locked in allowing for the landowner to profit as prices go up over time. Consulting firms typically sell a portion of your credits annually for up to ten years.

Purchasers also pay attention to other benefits other than carbon sequestration. If your property has rare species or forest types such as northern white cedar or hemlock, or protects lakeshores and rivers, they have shown the willingness to pay more for credits coming from such lands. Thus, there is a significant environmental benefit attached to the carbon program. We also foresee the enrollment being a positive step toward long term conservation of your lands, as there is a fiscal incentive to do the right thing.

*John is the PIF vice president and heads the PIF forestry programs including the carbon issue. He is recently retired as Forest Supervisor for the State of Wisconsin BCPL.*

*Partners in Forestry appreciates the ongoing support from the UW Center for Cooperatives which makes this Carbon approach possible.*

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**PIF friend Mike Dombeck with Chris Wood  
comment on the importance of old trees.**

A new initiative to plant 1 billion trees on public lands is welcome news. Forests play a huge role in our lives — as sources of clean water, wood for our homes, fish and wildlife habitat, as well as awe-inspiring recreational settings. Forests are also vital

to stemming climate change, absorbing significant amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. The trees we plant today will yield big dividends in decades to come.

Another climate smart idea would be to stop cutting old-growth forests. The White House recognized the importance of old-growth forests and committed to “conserve America’s mature and old-growth forests on federal lands.” This was a wise move as old-growth forests store large amounts of carbon.

President Biden should now direct the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to develop a rule that will protect America’s last remaining publicly owned old-growth forests.

Over twenty years ago, at the direction of the White House, we led the development of a similar regulation that stopped the construction of roads and most forms of timber harvest into pristine roadless areas. The Roadless Area Conservation Rule took approximately 18 months to develop, and it has stood as the law of the land for the past two decades.

As a nation, we have logged the great majority of our old-growth forests. We need to protect those that remain, and more wisely manage older forests to create more old-growth forests in the future. Old-growth forests are not typically cut down to reduce fire threats. In fact, they are often the most fire-resistant part of our forested landscapes. The new regulation should make clear that the United States will only allow for the cutting of old growth only when there is an overriding imperative such as public safety, legal or treaty obligations.

As we did over 20 years ago, the Forest Service should allow for a robust public discussion. We are confident most Americans do not wish to see their old-growth forests converted into two-by-fours or other wood products.

Opponents of this common-sense approach will argue that old growth is difficult to define. The Forest Service has more forest research capacity than any other organization in the world. They

can certainly determine what constitutes old growth.

Noted plant ecologist Frank Edwin Egler, who assisted Rachel Carson with *Silent Spring*, famously cautioned, “nature is not more complicated than you think, it is more complicated than you CAN think.” We would do well to heed the conservative precautionary principle and allow mature and old trees do their job of sustaining our life on this planet. Regional and/or species-specific guidelines can and should be developed based on state-of-the art science. For example, the Northwest Forest Plan of 1994 defined that in Douglas fir forests of the Pacific Northwest, the “mature phase of stand development begins around 80 years.”

People have spent many decades fighting the cutting of publicly owned old-growth forests. Equally important to protecting old growth and roadless areas, is the recent passage of infrastructure law and the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act. These laws allocated to the Forest Service and BLM tens of millions of dollars to focus on reducing hazardous fuels where forests and communities meet. As global warming continues to accelerate and becomes more dangerous, leaving big trees growing provides obvious benefits.

The policy of the United States should be to allow mature and old trees continue to sustain our life on this planet. Let the big old trees do their work. As the first chief of the Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot, said, this would provide “the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run.”

*Mike Dombeck is the former Chief of the US Forest Service. Chris Wood is the president and CEO of Trout Unlimited.*





Northwoods Alliance Inc  
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Dear Friends at Partners in Forestry,

As we near the end of 2022, we want to update you on progress of the Headwaters Cedar Community Forest (HCCF) project, and further activities of Northwoods Alliance. HCCF will be a community forest in the Town of Land O Lakes, and will utilize a federal grant and other out of state funds while keeping local control.

We are making great progress on the HCCF, and hope to close on this project by mid-2023. The USFS Community Forest program awarded \$200,000 toward the \$420,000 goal in early August. This year there have been a number of foundations and conservation groups stepping up to help make HCCF a reality. They include the Weeden Foundation of Bedford Hills NY, the John C Bock Foundation, the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition, WE energies Foundation and the Boulder Junction Community Foundation. Additionally, an anonymous foundation and recently a generous operational grant from an anonymous fund of the Chicago Community Foundation have been a tremendous boost to our efforts. A number of individuals have also been very helpful, for which we are very grateful.

We will continue our efforts in fundraising to complete this wonderful project which will open 200-acres to public foot use, protect threatened flora & fauna, maintain harmony among the surrounding state forest and provide clean water to Palmer-Tenderfoot Lakes and the Ontonagon River. An appraisal has been done and is currently in review.

Northwoods Alliance (NWA) continues to stay engaged at the ever-popular Wildcat Falls Community Forest, which was expanded to 200 acres in 2021. There will be some sustainable timber harvests there, but no management activities will be done in the area near the waterfall, stream, rock outcrops and old growth cedar-hemlock.

Recognizing the need for youth and diversity, we have welcomed two energetic young fellows with deep conservation connections to the NWA Board of Directors. Alex Graeff is a plant specialist, who works in Land O Lakes for NEON. He has been a great help in plant data at HCCF and Wildcat Falls. And, Andre Virdan is the Habitat Manager for the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Natural Resource Department, and was raised there as a tribal member. His specialties include water, wildlife and climate action. These two bring strong conservation credentials to NWA.

NWA also continues the educational work, such as featured in the Northwoods Forest Conservation book series last year. This project centers on sustaining natural resources, with help from the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives and Partners in Forestry.

While fragmentation and development continue at an unprecedented pace across the north, we are working to protect habitat in these critical special places like Wildcat Falls, Headwaters Cedar and the Upper Wisconsin River Bird Habitat project (which will connect the Upper WI River Legacy Forest to state and county lands).

If you have not donated to this great effort recently, and you are able, please consider being a tangible part of this local grassroots conservation work. All funds donated to Northwoods Alliance are used directly in projects, as there is no paid staff and no large overhead. We remain passionate about conservation through out the region and we fully recognize the pressure and actions which are continuously degrading the environment. Most importantly, we cannot accomplish these conservation successes alone!

Sincerely,  
Northwoods Alliance Inc.

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Cedar developing into old growth: Headwaters Cedar Community Forest project-Land O Lakes

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## An Introduction to Forest & Nature Therapy: Opportunities for Human and Forest Health, Green Jobs, and Social Benefits

From Dovetail Partners

### INTRO TO FOREST AND NATURE THERAPY

This report explores the basics of forest and nature therapy, development of training and certifications to support credentialed practice, and research findings from around the world. The development of forest and nature therapy creates green job opportunities such as forest therapy guides and trainers, research and development roles, certified forest therapy trail implementation, and other associated products and services.

These practices are now being introduced in the United States and Europe and the scientific basis is being expanded, including adoption within the USDA Forest Service. Forest and nature therapy is also being incorporated into treatments prescribed by clinicians. Additional research is necessary to continue to quantify the benefits of these practices and provide an expanded scientific-basis for further adoption.

*PIF note: Just what a great Community Forest can offer to the people.*

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### The Michigan Society of American Foresters Statements

<https://www.michigansaf.org/position-statements.html>

The Michigan Society of American Foresters has released three important, common sense position statements that summarize issues relevant to Midwest forestlands.

Deer: Touches on the results of over populated deer herds, which given the onslaught of CWD and Lyme disease is no laughing matter. A major exception is the Lake Superior snow belt.

Fire: Discusses the need for fire protection but also the need for fire as a management tool to maintain jack pine and white birch as viable species. Jack pine is essential for T&E wildlife species.

Wood for Fuel: Encourages local-district use of wood for fuel. As PIF has long promoted, local wood for the greater good!

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## **The Inflation Reduction Act contains multiple provisions that will benefit forest landowners.**

A few weeks ago, President Joe Biden signed the [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022](#) into law. The new law contains many different provisions, but The Inflation Reduction Act also contains provisions that will directly benefit forest landowners! One of the most significant benefit for forest landowners is that the Act appropriates \$400 million in competitive grants and cost share for underserved forest landowners or forest landowners who own less than 2,500 acres. These grants will come from the [U.S. Forest Service](#) and will be for “forest resilience practices” and “climate mitigation.” More information will be forthcoming from the U.S. Forest Service on how to apply.

### Other Provisions Benefitting Forest Landowners

- \$50 million in U.S. Forest Service competitive grants to states and eligible entities to distribute to private forest landowners for practices that increase carbon removal
- \$1.8 billion for the U.S. Forest Service to support wildfire risk reduction measures
- \$700 million in competitive grants to states via the [Forest Service Legacy Program](#) to conserve environmentally-important forest land that is threatened by conversion into non-forest use
- \$100 million for the [U.S. Forest Service Wood Innovation Grant Program](#) to support solutions that transform use wood and forest residue into innovative products
- \$8.45 billion for grants for practices that directly improve soil carbon storage or decreased emissions of greenhouse gases

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## **Member Profile: Chuck Pogorelcnik**

Last month (by email) PIF congratulated Chuck Pogorelcnik as a finalist in the Regional Tree Farmer of the Year award. Since then, PIF has expanded on details with an interview of Chuck. In the first section we will touch on what we learned from Chuck. In the second section Chucks talks from his heart.

Section 1: Chuck is not a typical woodland owner, as you will read here. He is very engaged and understands the multitude of benefits of managing forest lands with a conservation ethic. Timber, clean water, wildlife and his neighbors & friends are all important to him. Chuck has seen his share of well-deserved recognition, and his management can inspire other woodland owners.

As a young boy in the 1950s, you could find Chuck Pogorelcnik out in the woods in Price County in the town of Ogema, regularly hunting and fishing with friends. Always dreaming of owning a property of his own, in a moment of pure serendipity, in 1993, a year before his retirement from being a civil engineer and exactly twenty years after his initial purchase of 100 acres in Eau Pleine, Portage County, Chuck purchased his 1000-acre property in what was the very same area he grew to love as a kid. Since then, Chuck has found himself in a second career of sorts, sustainably managing his woodlands for timber and wildlife habitat and advocating for sound and sustainable forestry. From the Tree Farm Award promo

Chuck annually clears and mows the roads, which is no small task. Depending on the weather, his plan is to mow twice a year resulting in 32-40 hours of machine time. Cutting firewood for personal and family use for the cabin is also an annual activity. Chuck salvages wind and storm damage wood with a skidding winch. In 1997, 1998, 1999, 2006, 2010, and 2017 he salvaged white pine and ash and a road widening project in 2005 also produced white pine logs. All these logs were sawn into lumber with a portable sawmill.

With the help of family and friends, Chuck used some of the lumber to construct a pole shed in 2000, and a storage shed in 2004, and re-sided his cabin with board & batten. He also used the lumber to fabricate 20 picnic tables in 2005. Tables were donated to his church at home for the Church Festival. As a church member, Chuck would look around to find tables every year for the festival and return them after the event. The idea of harvesting timber from his land, sawing the logs into boards, and making something useful appealed to him and he made it happen. Now the church has their own picnic tables.

Chuck has accomplished habitat improvement for wildlife including: Expand the river management zone along the Silver Creek to 300 feet, leave at least one snag/den tree per acre and remove all invasive species, establish pollinator plots from log landings, shear alder for regeneration, install wood duck nesting boxes. He received a Conservation Planning Assessment for threatened and endangered species. Chuck is enrolled in the deer Management Assistance Program and installed Snap Shot Wisconsin cameras. These practices were accomplished utilizing USDA-NRCS, USFWS-PFWP and WDNR programs.

Some activities not specifically written to Chuck's management plans that were accomplished include providing access to adjacent property using his road system by USFS foresters and surveyors, Taylor County surveyors, USFS and WDNR stream shock survey crews, neighbors for timber harvests, USFS-FIA plots to obtain a property boundary survey; cruise the original 1000 acres to update and adjust timber records, and have a Business Plan written.

To further encourage wildlife on the property, Chuck fabricated 10 bat houses in 2009. He also constructed 18 wood duck boxes in 2011 that were installed along Silver Creek and associated beaver ponds. Another 22 wood duck boxes were constructed in 2015. Again, most were installed under EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives **Program** of NRCS).

Additional wildlife projects include:

In 2012, Chuck executed a contract with USDA-NRCS and the Conservation Stewardship Program to establish a 1-acre pollinator plot in Price County and to control invasives and maintain snag/den trees in an expanded Riparian Management Zone (RMZ) along ½ mile of Silver Creek. This contract was extended in 2016 for an additional ½ mile of snag/den tree maintenance.

To promote suitable habitat for grouse and woodcock, Chuck entered an agreement in 2011 with the USFWS-PFWP program to shear alder for regeneration. With the assistance of the Ruffed Grouse Society, 8 acres were sheared in 2011. Chuck also entered into agreement with the USDA NRCS EQIP program and a total of 58 acres was sheared by 2020.

Learning along the way, Chuck discovered that his management rose to the level of a business. In 2007, he contracted with Geary Seafoss, a Certified Public Accountant with the unique combination of forestry and tax preparation expertise, to assist him in preparing a business plan for both properties. Recognizing the value of working with professionals over the years, he has utilized the services of industrial foresters, consulting foresters, and DNR foresters.

To ensure his woodlands will continue to be sustainable and vigorous in the future, he has worked on legacy planning. He will be updating all of his management plans to ensure there is an understanding of his heirs as to what needs there are for the future of his woodlands.

PIF applauds Chuck and hopes his actions inspire others.

## Section 2: Chuck's personal recollection- From hunter to woodland manager

Management and stewardship of my woodlands began when I was in third grade and met Norm Weiland. Norm had three sisters, and I had one sister. We did not have any brothers, so Norm and I became brothers, to each other, and best friends. Norm's father was from Medford Wisconsin and had a brother, Omer, living there on the family home place ranching mink.

When Norm and I were in our teens, Norm's Uncle Omer gave us a job working on his mink ranch during the summer school recess. We received \$2.00 a day in wages, room and board, and an old pick-up truck and all the gas we needed for our use. We put many miles on the truck going fishing and live trapping skunks in the surrounding area. Norm's uncle de-scented and bred the skunks. He sold the de-scented and vaccinated kits thru Montgomery Wards Catalog. Norm's

uncle had only three daughters and considered us his sons. I returned and stayed with Norm's uncle, to hunt in the area, every year until 1975. After 1975 until 1993, I stayed every year with one of Norm's mother's cousins who also lived in the Medford area.

While Norm was attending the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point obtaining his degree in Wildlife Management, I stayed with him when we hunted in the area. Since we had always hunted, I was looking for land of my own on which to hunt. In 1973, while staying with Norm, I found a 100 acre partly wooded parcel for sale near Stevens Point and purchased the land. The land was named the Eau Pleine Woodlands (EPW).

In 1993 I learned of a local resident the Medford area, that had his woodland in Price County for sale. Norm and I spent three days looking over the land. The 1,000-acre woodland had been previously logged, but was still well stocked. It had an old homestead house with water and electricity on it. It was located on a dead-end town road in the area we had hunted in the past. I contacted the owner. Following some negotiation, I purchased the whole 1000 acres. I named the woodland 'Silver Creek Camp Woodlands' (SCCW) since the Silver Creek runs through it and after the regional use of the word 'camp' to designate a place where one goes to stay while hunting or fishing. Historically it was also used to designate the different logging areas during the logging era. The woodland is located in the Town of Ogema in Price County.

Since I purchased the EPW and SCCW woodlands, I have purchased two more 40-acre parcels in Price County adjacent to and near to SCCW. In 1993, I realized the woodlands that I am a Steward of (own) provide both timber and wildlife, and could be managed, accordingly. After retiring in 1994, I began my second career which involved learning as much as I could about timber and wildlife management. I manage all my woodlands for timber, wildlife, recreation, and water.

Both EPW and SCCW have always been hunted by my family, friends, and me. I have also provided hunting opportunities to a handicapped Viet Nam veteran and young potential hunters under Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) pre-season youth hunts. The youth hunters and their mentors were successful in harvesting deer, antlered and antlerless deer, turkeys, and bear. It would be very selfish of me to say that my woodlands are only mine and not share them with others.

In addition to using the land for hunting, Norm's children and grandchildren, my nephew and niece, and friends have enjoyed the opportunity to come to the land and enjoyed a variety of activities in the woods. Norm's three-year-old granddaughter visiting from Australia was excited to see the deer, beaver, turkey, and the other indigenous wildlife and flowers.

I have two WDNR Snapshot Wisconsin Program cameras located on the EPW in Portage County and SCCW in Price County. The cameras provide information for WDNR to study wildlife indigenous to Wisconsin. Continuing management of my woodlands I have executed another USDA-NRCS CSP contract to change another log landing into a pollinator plot and to control invasives (Honeysuckle) and an USDA-NRCS EQIP contract to shear additional areas of alder.

Since retirement, in 1994, I reside at the cabin April thru December and will stay longer if I have an active timber harvest. I have completed a total of 10 timber harvests, one in Portage County and nine in Price County- resulting in 8449 cords of pulp, 508 cords of bolts and 65 MBF of sawlogs being harvested. Living on the land in Price County keeps me busy and engaged.

I was born, raised and worked my formal career in Milwaukee. I still own the house there and go back for doctor appointments and other business but cannot wait to return to the woods. Living on a dead-end road where there is no traffic or big city noise is quiet, peaceful, and serene. After a day in the woods, I truly enjoy sitting outside by the fire ring, surrounded by trees, having a beverage, listening to the wildlife and watching the sun set.

#### **Interview questions answered by Chuck:**

**PIF:** Your 1000-acre tract looks interestingly diverse. The white pine stands caught our attention. Is white pine a desired species for you as it is for many PIF members?

**Chuck:** "Of course. The white pine has been aged at about 120 years old. There was a significant blow down of white pine just before I bought the property and I have since salvaged most of it. All of these logs were sawn into lumber. As

for regeneration, the white pine is struggling due to deer browse. My thought is to wait for a good seed production year and open up the understory to encourage good seed germination in the hope of overwhelming the deer."

**PIF:** Are the swamp hardwoods comprised of ash, leading to EAB concerns? Any thoughts of converting to other species?

**Chuck:** "The wet areas are heavy in Tamarack which is hard to market. Some has been harvested for conversion to wood pellets for fuel. There is also a small component of oak, silver maple, and basswood. I have had ash harvested, and although there has been significant stump sprouting, it hasn't had a chance to mature due to excessive deer browse."

**PIF:** Will your objectives continue to rotate the aspen for wildlife, or begin converting to other species? Is the northern hardwood heavy to sugar maple and yellow birch?

**Chuck:** "My intention is to maintain 50% in aspen for wildlife. I have had 9 timber harvests in 25 years, the proceeds of which have realized about 85-90% return of my original investment. Of course, I was able to purchase this land at a good time. In 1993, I paid \$185/acre. I never would have been able to afford this property today. Also, using the MFL program to reduce my tax burden was absolutely essential."

**PIF:** Please give a brief description of your alder treatment if any.

**Chuck:** "I have been working with the USDA-NRCS, ABC, and the Rough Grouse Society for guidance. They, of course, are all very concerned about grouse decline and woodcock habitat. I have about 250 acres of alder wetland. I have been grinding the areas to the ground in stages on a 5-year rotation. The alder re-sprouts to provide good habitat, especially for woodcock."

**PIF:** Congratulations on your award nomination from Tree Farm, Chuck. Anything to add?

**Chuck:** "Thank you. I certainly feel honored about that. I received the Conservationist of the Year Award from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation in 2018, and was also recognized as the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year in Price and Portage Counties and for District 4 and 10 for 2018. In 2019, I won the State Outstanding Tree Farmer of the year award. All of this has been a bit overwhelming and very rewarding. I am expecting to hear more regarding regional and national status of my nomination any day now."

A virtual tour of Chuck's land can be viewed at:

<https://www.witreefarm.org/tree-farm-virtual-field-day-2020>

PIF note: Please share your woodland management with us. These types of member profiles are an integral part of the Partners in Forestry mission and a center piece in Partners News.



Chuck with white pine logs.

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## Congratulations to Geary and Kay.

With input from Joe

Long time PIF members Geary & Kay Searfoss were selected as the 2022 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year by the Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee. Geary has long been a friend of PIF, being a speaker at PIF meetings, contributing stories for the Handbook and newsletters, and having helped with PIF accounting prior to retiring from his CPA business. They have some exceptional property, and we are happy to touch on that by celebrating with them. Geary and Kay Searfoss's goals include growing timber for profit, but as most of us the model goes much further. Other objectives include producing other forest products such as mushrooms (shiitake, oyster, winecap, etc) for profit on a commercial basis. (See Geary's past story in Partners news). Other goals include maintaining the water quality on the property and maintaining wildlife habitat. Their Tree Farm is located in southeastern Sawyer County. The property itself has significant topography even though the surrounding landscape is one of gently rolling hills. The Brunet River cuts through the southeastern corner of the property and has substantial frontage on a cold-water stream that is classified by the WDNR as a Class 1 trout stream. Kay and Geary have implemented an objective addressed in their management plan, of growing forest mushrooms as a crop with 2021 being the third year in commercial production. Total acreage of the "Brunet River Property" is 91. They were married in April of 1979. They purchased their first Tree Farm, a 32-acre pine plantation, in 1980. They were therefore woodland owners before they became homeowners. They started out thinning the pine plantation themselves using a chainsaw, tractor, and pulp wagon. It was hard work but Geary could cut and skid roadside three cords of pine pulp per full day and did that for quite a few years. They eventually cut and skidded the pine logs that make up the bulk of their log home in which they now live on the property in Sawyer County. They built the structure themselves, by hand, using the Swedish cope method of round log construction. Even the trusses are built of logs and by hand. It took about seven years to build, but one could argue whether it is yet finished!

Harvests Completed – include salvage cutting, commercial thinning, final harvests and overstory removals. Total Harvest Volumes: include 56,700 Board Feet and 510 cords; plus, every year about 2 cords for mushroom cultivation through Timber Stand Improvement. They have conducted Non-Commercial Timber Stand Improvement (TSI), Reforestation accomplishments, Insect / Disease treatments, Invasive Species treatments, Protection of special sites and rare plants. I recall conversations with Geary, and learning about his seasonal caging of white pine to protect from deer browse. Furthermore, their home is almost exclusively heated with wood, where they utilize 2.5 to 3 cords per year of wood from thinning or salvage. They also have a small sawmill to utilize salvaged wood. They have many unique water resources on the property with frontage on both sides of a cold-water stream that bubbles and rolls, like a mountain stream, on its way to the Brunet River. There is significant frontage on both sides of two other intermittent streams, frontage on the Brunet River, three vernal ponds (with their own intermittent outflow streams) and multiple lowland and riparian areas. Equipment is generally restricted or not allowed in these areas. These streams are beautiful by any account, I recall the location where Geary inoculates his mushroom logs stream side, from my November 2018 visit. They don't create artificial food plots for wildlife but feel the best thing for wildlife is a healthy forest with abundant natural food sources. The property contains a wide variety of habitats, an abundant amount of cover, and a year-round supply of water as the cold-water stream never completely freezes over. Thus, the property generally tends to be heavily used by wildlife during the winter months. Additionally, the Brunet River is a great fishery yielding some nice size northern pike and smallmouth bass. I had many times talked to Geary about a spring fast water paddle, but we have not accomplished that as yet.

There are a couple kilometers of dual use hiking and cross-country ski trails that are made available for public use. Geary is an avid skier, training for the

American Birkebeiner, which he now has a little more time to do since stepping down from the winter-spring havoc of tax-preparation in his CPA business. They also have a small sugar bush on the property, primarily for personal use.

Though the property isn't very conducive to field days and the like due to the rugged topography and the lack of parking, they have had several events take place on their land. Geary has written numerous articles for publication and Kay has entered photography contests with all pictures being taken on the Sawyer County property.

Partners in Forestry congratulates Kay & Geary, for this much deserved award. We are very grateful for Geary, who has helped PIF through the years in a number of capacities. These folks embody the Coop spirit, as they do cooperate for the betterment of the common good.

Kay had a career as a dietitian and helped people in a number of capacities. Geary's unique career as a CPA and a forester, coupled with his work ethic and physical condition have contributed to this recognition. We wish them the very best and are happy to have them as part of PIF.

Several past stories from Geary in his support of the PIF mission. See Partners News: March-April 2022 for Geary's feature on his portable Capstan winch, November 2020 for Geary's story titled Growing Mushrooms for Fun and Profit, and January 2016 Geary wrote about the charitable deduction for conservation easements. Page 5, Northwoods Forest Conservation: A Handbook, Geary shared his view of conservation. Geary was also a speaker on tax issues at the PIF 2010 annual meeting, and the 2014 annual meeting he spoke on tax related issues of conserving forest land.

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

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

**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](mailto:partnersinforestry@gmail.com) or by mail:

Partners In Forestry  
6063 Baker Lake Rd  
Conover, WI 54519

**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

*PIF favorite Paul Hetzler has acquired a bit more fame. He was recruited by the Saturday Evening Post to contribute natural resource stories to the publication. We congratulate Paul and thank him for his contributions to Partners News.*

## **WINTER POLLINATOR GARDENS (SIT BACK AND HELP THE PLANET)**

By Paul Hetzler

In the face of a deepening climate crisis, it's easy to feel as though there's nothing we can do to help. Those of us with Laziness Syndrome (I'm sure it will be recognized as a medical condition one day) should take heart, because many times, "nothing" is the best thing we can do for the environment.

The urge help can unwittingly cause harm if we don't have enough information. As Henry David Thoreau once wrote, "If I knew for a certainty that a man was coming to my house with the conscious design of doing me good, I should run for my life." Mother Nature likely feels this way as she watches us "assist" her to disastrous ends: Kudzu in the Southeast, mongoose in Hawaii, and the Asian multicolored lady beetles that invade our homes each fall are a few instances of us being too helpful.

"Forest Improvement" is one case in point. The pandemic-driven rush to the country gave a lot of new homeowners wooded lots or perhaps a few acres. Those who are keen to be good stewards often don't realize the best thing they can do for their land is probably "nothing." Dead standing trees are vital for at least 30 bird species that either nest in cavities or shelter in them, and a lot of what looks like "brush" is key native understory such as witch-hazel, moose maple and spicebush. Even a jumble of downed trees should be left so the trunks and branches can decay and slowly release nutrients into the soil. A neat forest is a sick forest – just relax.

An even better example is pollinator protection. The stunning die-off of insects over the past 25 years has decimated our native bees, with some species at critically low population levels. The reason I mention native bees is that honeybees contribute little to food production other than some industrial-scale nut and fruit orchards. Our native bees, along with moths, butterflies, wasps, flies, beetles and other insects, do nearly all the pollinating of wild and domestic crops.

To support native pollinators through the growing season, some people create "Pollinator Gardens" with flowers of many shapes, colors, and sizes that bloom at various times. Hats off to anyone who can do this, but for those without the time, energy, or space for such projects, there's a simple way to protect pollinators: quit doing yard work. If you're able to designate a "no-mow zone," even just a strip near the back fence, a natural pollinator garden will move in. Asters, goldenrod (which by the way don't cause allergies), milkweed and other flowers will soon volunteer. Plants like raspberry and elderberry often join the party after a few years.

Saving bees of all stripes will take a change in mindset regarding landscape aesthetics. The assertion that cleanliness is next to godliness has yet to be scientifically proven, but research indicates neat, well-coiffed landscapes are pollinator deserts, lacking the diversity of plants native bees require to survive. Anything we can do to stamp out undue tidiness and allow "wild" into our neighborhoods will do wonders for pollinators, and help keep food on our tables.

Practicing inertia in our yard when branches are bare is just as vital as doing nothing when leaves are green. At first blush it seems odd to claim pollinator protection is a year-round consideration. But except for the monarch butterfly, our beneficial insects stay put when cold weather sets in, and to survive need sheltered, leafy, messy places to overwinter. That's where we can make a difference by our meticulous, thorough lack of movement.

While honeybee colonies remain intact in winter, most other bees die at the end of each season, and the same with wasps. Mated queens, however, seek places to hibernate.

Hands down, bumblebees are the most efficient and essential pollinators in North America. Not only do they work longer days than other bees, they vibrate the air at a frequency perfect for shaking loose pollen, doing "fly-by pollination" when they pass near flowers. Of any bee, they deserve protection in winter. According to the National Wildlife Foundation:

"Because most queens overwinter in small holes on or just below the ground's surface, avoid raking, tilling or mowing your yard until April or May. If you do need to mow, do so with the mower blade set at the highest safe level and leave fallen leaves where they fall on your property. It's natural mulch and offers cover for bumblebees."

Though often overlooked because they're tiny, solitary (non-colonial) bees like mason and leafcutter bees are next on the list of crucial pollinators. Wisconsin Pollinators, a project of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, advises that solitary bees "...may overwinter in hollow plant stems – something you should be aware of! As you begin to tidy up your garden for the winter - especially if they are thinking of burning or removing the plant stems, you may be destroying solitary bee nests."

There you have it on good authority: We can do a lot of good by not doing. Laziness may yet save the world.

© 2022 Paul Hetzler

*Paul is a former Cornell University Natural Resource Educator and not necessarily lazy.*

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Laugh. Learn about nature whilst laughing. Repeat.

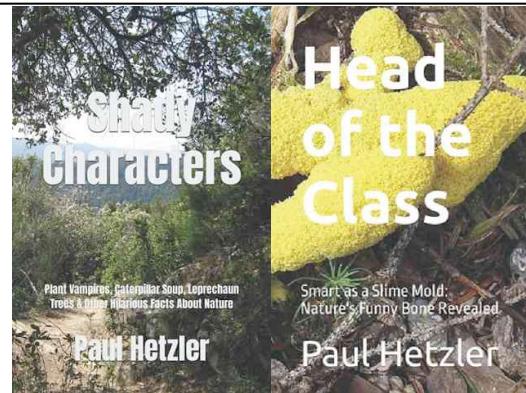
That's what happens when you open one of Paul Hetzler's books, Shady Characters and Head of the Class.

What a Cool gift idea!

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09DN16VYC> (Head of the Class)

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08BR6NHDY> (Shady Characters)

Read more of Paul Hetzler at [The Saturday Evening Post](https://www.saturdayeveningpost.com/authors/paul-hetzler)



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**The following two stories are sobering.**  
**There are valid reasons to protect our woodlands.**

Scientists say that Earth's trees are facing an unprecedented level of extinction and humanity should be worried. The state of our world's trees has been an ongoing issue for decades now. But that issue seems to be getting worse, and now we're facing a massive extinction level issue that could threaten entire ecosystems. At least one-third of Earth's trees are facing extinction.

Trees play an important role in the various ecosystems that cover our planet. Last year, a team of researchers released a paper titled *State of the World's Trees*, which looked at how the loss of some tree species has affected entire ecosystems. Now, that same team of researchers has issued a warning as the ongoing issue with Earth's trees has become even more dire. The research is backed by 45 additional scientists from over 20 different countries and outlines the many impacts that losing any of these tree species could have on the world. It isn't just the local ecosystems that would be affected by these losses, either. The researchers say these losses will affect our livelihoods, economies, and food.

Scientists say that half of the world's plants and animals rely on trees for their habitats. Yet, humanity continues to destroy these important ecosystems in the name of progress. It's a sad expanding problem that has plagued Earth's trees for centuries. As it continues, though, the effects of this expansion are showing more and more.

It's chilling to think of just how much the extinction of certain species of trees could throw our world into disarray. Not only do these important plants play a vital role in the ecosystems of animals, providing food and habitats, but they also play a vital role in our planet's cycling of water, carbon, and other nutrients. And, should we continue down this path, that cycle could be in jeopardy.

Protecting the Earth's trees has never been more important than now. And, if we don't take steps to curb the rapid destruction of these environments, climate change isn't the only problem we'll have to worry about, our entire ecosystem may start to fall apart.

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For the first time, researchers have completed threat assessments for all 881 native tree species in the contiguous United States, resulting in a comprehensive checklist and synthesis that will serve as a critical baseline to guide future forest conservation efforts. The new assessment of U.S. trees reveals that 11-16% of tree species in the contiguous 48 U.S. states are threatened with extinction, with the most common threat being invasive and problematic pests and diseases. This study is the culmination of five years of research conducted by Botanic Gardens Conservation International-U.S., The Morton Arboretum, and NatureServe, in partnership with the United States Botanic Garden and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service. [Click here to view the paper online.](#)

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## DEAD ASH TREES POSE SAFETY HAZARD BUGS HAVE DEVASTATED SOUTHERN PART OF STATE

Story by Joe Taschler Milwaukee Journal Sentinel November 11, 2022

Condensed by Charlie Mitchell for Partners News

**TOWN OF ERIN** – The thousands of ash trees killed by the emerald ash borer across southern and central Wisconsin have not only become an eyesore, the trees that are still standing have become dangerous, forest and tree care pros say.

The borer was first found in Wisconsin in 2008 near Saukville in Ozaukee County.

Now, less than 15 years later, the devastation wrought by the invasive green bug can be seen everywhere across the southern half of the state. Entire stands of ash trees, once lush and growing, are dead, leafless and increasingly prone to breaking apart.

“You can see what the predictions of 99.7% tree mortality look like,” said Bill McNee, a forest health specialist who covers southeast Wisconsin for the Dept. of Natural Resources.

All these thousands of dead ash trees are increasingly unsafe.

“You can drive down the highway and you can see the trees are snapping. They are breaking. They are falling apart. They are starting to fall over or break apart in large numbers, and that’s part of the issue with the ash borer,” McNee said.

The infestation causes ash wood “to become dry and weak in a way the public has not seen before,” McNee said. “It is structurally different than a tree dying. It’s a safety hazard. That’s the biggest issue right now. These trees are more likely to snap in storms.”

“For loggers, tree services and individuals who cut their own trees down, be very careful with these dead ash trees,” McNee said. “They behave differently than you expect. They can fall 180 degrees from where you think they will. They break on the way down.”

**Millions of ash trees around the state** The University of Wisconsin estimates there are about 770 million ash trees in Wisconsin – 765 million in wooded rural areas and 5 million in urban areas. The borer attacks the layer of tissue by which ash trees move water from the roots and up throughout the tree, according to Purdue University extension. “Unlike elms, oaks, and maples, ash trees use a thin ring of conducting tissue to supply water from the roots to the entire tree,” according to Purdue. “Emerald ash borer grubs will damage these functional water pipes as they chew just below the bark in trunks and branches. This causes the tree to dry quickly and the wood becomes prone to cracking. Internal breaks in the structural wood that bears the weight of the tree are often hidden from view by tree bark. As the trees die, they continue to dry and become brittle.”

**Unsafe for tree services** Tree services say they are hoping to keep up with calls to cut down dead ash trees. Cutting the trees down is no simple undertaking. “They get brittle, to the point we can’t send our climbers up the dead ash trees,” said Bill Klewit, consulting arborist for M&M Tree Care in Milwaukee. “We have to have lifts to access all these trees because you just don’t climb them.”

Anyone who has cut down a borer-infested tree knows the damaging “trails” made by the bugs just under the bark.

The damage done to ash trees has created the need for special equipment such as what is known in the business as a spider lift. This nimble lift with legs that resembles a spider’s is maneuverable in small spaces where a large lift truck can’t go. The spider lifts are not inexpensive, with prices ranging from \$120,000 to \$250,000, depending on how the lift is equipped.

**Unsafe for hunters** State forest specialists are cautioning hunters to avoid placing tree stands in or near weakened dead ash trees. DNR experts say many ash trees may unexpectedly drop large branches and may collapse under the weight of an occupied tree stand.

The best way to identify an ash tree is by its branch pattern, according to UW. Ash trees are among very few tree species that have an opposite branching pattern. That means that the branches emanate from the main stem directly across from each other. (Most trees have alternating branch patterns.)

**Entire forests just gone** The ash borer devastation has advanced far beyond the Milwaukee metro area where it was first discovered in this state. “I’ve seen some areas, in Waupaca County and Waushara County, there are places where 30 to 40 acres of ash trees at a time are gone,” said Jay Kortz, Owner of Woodlot Management Waupaca. “Whole forests are dying out.”

**Dead ashes may be causing more electric power outages** “We believe that ash trees, particularly trees outside our right-of-way but near our equipment, are causing more power outages and extended restoration times,” Brendan Conway, spokesman for Milwaukee-based We Energies said. When these trees fall, they can take out power lines and damage our equipment. Our forestry crews remove ash trees within our right-of-way before they can cause damage, but there are thousands of trees outside our right-of-way but close to our lines.

**Most of Wisconsin’s ash trees are up north** While they grow just about anywhere, ash thrive in moist areas, swamps and wet forests. While there is widespread damage in the south, the borer’s devastation has only impacted a small fraction of the ash trees in the state so far. Ash is most abundant ‘up north.’ “So this is going to be a slow progression,” McNee said. “Probably 20 to 30 years or more in the making, as the bug becomes more widespread in the north. The ecological impacts are going to be huge in coming decades.”

**Change in the forests** Dead ash trees are likely to create problems beyond branches snapping and falling over. A grove of dead trees provides a hole in a forest’s canopy which allows direct sunlight to reach the forest’s floor. This can give certain invasive species the opportunity to grow and multiply. Then there is the issue of moisture management. Dead trees no longer take up water from the ground. “You have all those trees that are not wicking water out of the soil anymore, which means you sometimes have standing water,” McNee said. “That puts stress on other trees.”

In the meantime, researchers are seeking to discover the genetic footprint by which ash trees in Asia resist the borer. They could then breed borer-resistant trees. “That will be a multi-generational project,” McNee said. Researchers believe that the emerald ash borer arrived in North America as a stowaway in a shipping container from China. Ash in Asia have developed resistance to the borer; ash in Wisconsin have not. “Ash trees here have no history of dealing with that insect. They have no resistance and they die.”

**A formidable bug** Wisconsin’s cold weather is not enough to kill off the borers in the winter. The bug is used to brutal cold in regions of Asia. They have lived through the extremely cold January of 2019 when the Polar Vortex brought

wind-chill temperatures as low as minus 55, according to a study in Brookfield, a suburb of Milwaukee. “Winters up north are not enough to kill them,” McNee said. Unlike native beetles that take out weak and unhealthy trees and contribute to the overall health of the forest, the emerald ash borer is simply a killer. “Many insects are recyclers,” McNee said. “The native beetles act like the lions of the forest. They take down the weak and the sick.” The emerald ash borer takes down perfectly healthy trees. “It’s not the lion of the forest,” McNee added. “It’s the grim reaper.”



Paul Stearns and John Schwarzmann setting up timber sale on a PIF members land in Forest County. They are targeting the ash in an effort to be pro-active.

*PIF note: We have also lost the Ash baseball bat industry as has been shown in recent news stories.*

## THE NOBLE INDIGENOUS

As an old practical ecologist and writer, one must confess he knows nothing in this modern digital age that has followed the information age. So, I spend half of my days trying to catch up on the world of conservation ... if that is even possible. It seems all of conservation worldwide is losing to too many humans and a penchant for economic development.

I do not like the word hope as it is a word that portrays an idleness of action and there is nothing else, we can do. Instead, one constantly laments if what I am doing is beneficial to the cause. This morning I read a 2007 reprint of a 2005 essay on how world conservation organizations have displaced indigenous people from their lands in the name of creating parks for biodiversity. These populations of humanity are called "conservation refuges". The haunts of wilderness definitions of a century ago in North America that states "wilderness as a place where man only visits, "has set a preservation policy into a grave civil rights issue worldwide. But again, have these successful organizations since 2005 humbly reversed or changed their reckoning to these atrocities' as they partner with bias world corporations and remote wilderness governments who chase the almighty dollar for the good of humanity. I have not come up to date on this, but I doubt things have changed.

Meanwhile, species and habitat continue to decline despite the creation and protection of vast areas in the name of conservation. To me this is just one more action of humans where they have separated themselves from being part of nature ... separated from the land that is ecologically intact. A land that was intact for one hundred thousand years with humans on the landscape.

This is a case that civil rights should become living rights for all life to exist in harmony with nature ... and the noble indigenous way of walking softly on the land with simplicity and simple life styles is the lesson that all humans need to address in every aspect.

There is penchant in science that the more knowledge they create, applied to management, will make life better. Our knowledge and understanding of intact ecosystem around the world contain food web complexities and a plethora of reasons for their preservation; and question is for who and when.

The bulk of the money for these world nature-saving institutes for creating park reserves come from wealthy resource extraction companies. These conservation organizations then buy out national debts of these poor countries in exchange for the reserves. Government politics in poor areas fluctuates with old tribal battles ever forgotten in time. The indigenous conservation refuges face civil rights issues and any resources to make a living. Their simple means of a happy life in their indigenous ways have often been eliminated.

Social archeologist/ paleontologist that have studied the advances in early man support the conservation refugee policy. They see that the remaining indigenous people will eventually utilize the tools of technology and destroy these ecologically intact communities. Yet wise elders and leaders shun these technologies knowing that this can and will happen. So, conservationist must realize that indigenous populations and their cultures must be preserved as parts of the system of conservation. This is what the past is telling us.

Someday we will return to the knowledge of the indigenous to restore what we have lost. This wisdom can only exist if knowledge of those original people upon the land remains available. It can only be retained by

a culture that has been on the land for centuries. All that modern societies can do is recognize this value ... and model the restoration of their own communities with these communities. Modern science can only document the ways of indigenous people and do it without prejudice brought by their own methods and culture.

Rand Atkinson

PIF note: Rand has a new book available titled Revolt; Practical Ecology to save planet Earth for our children. He can be reached at:

A.L. Ferndock Publishing, LLC  
3894 Star Lake Road  
Star Lake, WI 54561  
608-778-1131

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**Recording Available for the Connecticut Warbler Virtual Program showcases the importance of jack pine management on the landscape.**

The recording for the Connecticut Warbler virtual program is available on YouTube at [https://youtu.be/\\_oxmSRLgb2k](https://youtu.be/_oxmSRLgb2k). Brian's sound and video that we were unable to play can be found at <https://youtu.be/oqqiI9jA5hw> and <https://youtu.be/o1tQ6ejX50c>.

It was great to see the habitat used by the birds and hear Brian Collins describe his backcountry adventures carefully observing these "mouse-like" birds moving around the blueberry underbrush. Ryan Brady also filled us in on the earlier studies and new actions being taken to protect these birds. This captivating program offers great insights about Wisconsin bird conservation efforts.

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## **Birds are in trouble and we can help! Report shows decline for many birds species**

Paul Smith, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Oct 16, 2022 condensed by PIF

A sobering report released last week showed declines in U.S. birds in every habitat except wetlands and called for new conservation measures to help reverse the losses.

The 2022 U.S. State of the Birds Report released last week by the U.S. Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative used the latest bird monitoring and scientific data to assess the status and health of all U.S. bird species, according to its authors.

It was the first comprehensive look at the nation's birds since a 2019 study showed the loss of nearly 3 billion birds in the U.S. and Canada over the last 50 years. The 2022 NABCI report shows that more than half of bird species are declining and some are at a tipping point toward extinction.

Findings in the 2022 State of the Birds report included: More than half of U.S. bird species are declining. U.S. grassland birds are among the fastest decline. Waterbirds and ducks in the U.S. have increased. Seventy newly identified Tipping Point species have each lost 50% or more of their populations in the past 50 years, and are on track to lose another half in the next 50 years if nothing changes. Shorebirds are down 33% since 1970.

The report tells a tale of two trends, one hopeful, one dire, according to the American Bird Conservancy. Long-term trends of waterfowl show strong increases where investments in wetland conservation, including through the Federal Duck Stamp program and contributions from excise taxes and license sales to hunters, have improved conditions for birds and people.

But data show birds in the U.S. are declining overall in every other habitat — forests, grasslands, deserts and oceans. The Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list, mandated by law and updated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, identified 269 migratory nongame bird species that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act. 'We continue to see that nearly all groups of birds and types of bird habitat have declined significantly,' said Martha Williams, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The report highlights the need for new funding and support.

'The State of the Birds report paints a grim picture for birds, but it also shows how concerted conservation efforts and investments can recover species,' said Sen. Martin Heinrich of New Mexico. Heinrich is a sponsor of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, a bill passed by the House of Representatives but awaiting a vote in the Senate. The proposal would provide about \$1 billion annually to states and tribes for nongame wildlife management. 'Similar to laws like the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act is widely supported and would smartly address the wildlife crisis in this country,' Heinrich said.

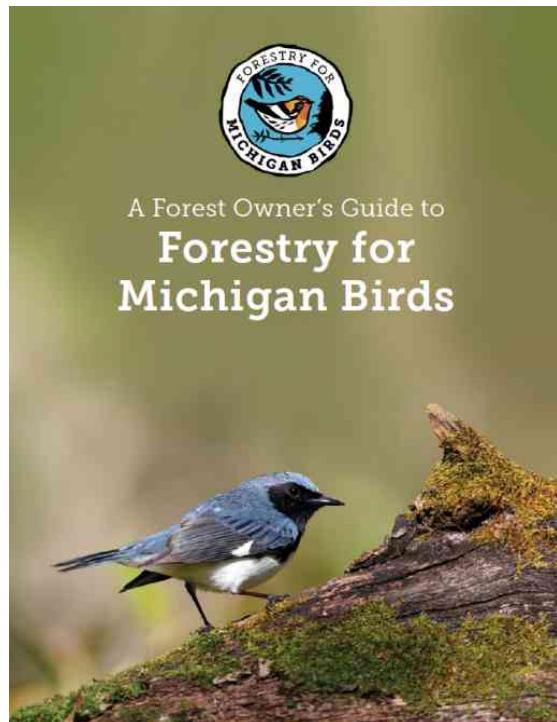
To view the full report, visit [stateofthebirds.org/2022/](http://stateofthebirds.org/2022/).

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Forestry for Michigan Birds has published a toolkit for considering bird habitat as a factor in forest management. Two guides are available. The landowner's guide provides basic information to help landowners as they communicate with professional forest managers. The manager's guide delves deeper into each topic to provide professional land managers with information they can use while talking with private landowners or to help create long-term forest management plans. NIACS was a member of the Forestry for Michigan Birds team and helped incorporate basic climate change information into the guides.

Forestry for Michigan Birds is an initiative focused on improving the knowledge of landowners and other natural resources professionals on the related topics of bird habitat and forest management.

Learn more and access the Forestry for Michigan Birds guides



PIF note: Our management and long-term objectives for our woodland plays a key role in this equation. We have threatened and endangered species right here in our region which rely on habitat. Our decisions have a direct link to the quality of habitat. Current Northwoods Alliance projects are about bird habitat, as can be evidenced by the Weeden Foundation support of Headwaters Cedar Community Forest.

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