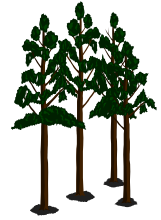


# Wisconsin Tree Farm

News for the Wisconsin Tree Farmer

Spring 2005



## Help Arrives for Private Landowner After Catastrophic Wildfire

Big Flats, Adams County Wisconsin

Local resident Nancy Livingston says she will be “making lemonade out of lemons” as she deals with the aftermath of the 3,410 acre Cottonville Wildfire. About 150 acres of her land were burned by the fire on May 5, 2005. Trees she planted with her parents in the 1950’s and sustainably managed for the last 50 years are now charred sticks. The loss for Nancy and other victims of the fire are both personal and financial. Some lost their homes. Most lost timber stands that they were relying on for future income. As for Nancy, she says “While I miss the sound of the wind in the trees, losing fifty years of carefully nurtured trees is a tragedy to me. The loss of future income is serious, but I will survive.”

During the wildfire the community came together to help evacuated residents and feed hundreds of firefighters. As a continuation of this help the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Sand County Foundation, and Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association are helping fire affected landowners with unique solutions for cleaning up their land as a result of the fire. **On Thursday May 26, a salvage logging and wildlife habitat restoration demonstration project was held for local residents and the news media.**

In one hour the wildfire changed Nancy’s sustainable forestry plans. “Instead of selectively cutting trees on a five year rotation, I have to cut all of them now. In one minute the harvester can cut and delimb a tree that needed 50 years to grow” Nancy reflects. Now by working with the local community and governmental agencies she will be starting over. While this certainly is a personal and financial difficulty, it is also an opportunity to begin anew, maintaining knowledge of the past – a chance for renewal with the better vision of hindsight.

In the areas where trees are too small to be salvaged for construction lumber, poles or chips, a forestry mulcher will be used to grind the standing charred trees. The forestry mulcher will reduce the standing dead trees to loosely spread wood chips. The area will then be allowed to naturally grow providing habitat for many wildlife species.

The Livingston Property is one of the first properties damaged by the fire to implement land management activities. Landowners interested in restoring wildlife habitat with financial assistance and free technical assistance should contact Mike Engel, Biologist with the the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, at (608)221-1206 ext. 21.

Landowners affected by the fire with merchantable wood should contact the Wisconsin DNR Foresters at the Friendship Office at (608)339-3386.

## **Zdanovec Tree Farm Hosts Pleasant View School Students at 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Arbor Day Celebration**

by Jim & Marlene Zdanovec

At our 5th Annual Arbor Day celebration this year with the Pleasant View School of Antigo, the children were surprised by a big, old "Talking Tree"! The idea, which uses a hidden tape recorder and pre-recorded cassette, was gleaned from a field day at the National Tree Farmer Convention in Fort Collins, Colorado.

During our nature wagon ride and tour of the property, we stopped at the tree and told the students that it was time for the maple tree to wake up from its winter nap. I walked to the tree and with a stick, gently tapped on the tree and encouraged it to wake up and talk.

In a slow, loud deep voice, the tree yawns and wakes from its winter nap. The big sugar maple explains to the children how the tree will work during the summer to benefit us. The tree talks about how its leaves provide oxygen, how its branches provide spaces for birds to nest and how the tree gives shade for us and homes for the animals.

The tree reminds the students that cutting down a tree is not bad for the environment because trees are a

renewable resource and will be replaced by many smaller trees which will then have the opportunity and space to grow big as it is.

In addition to our "Talking Tree", the children were taught the proper method of planting a tree. Each child was then given a tree to plant with guided individual assistance in previously dug holes.

Each child was also given a seedling to take home to plant along with a bag of many educational tree items. Special educational materials were also given to the teachers.

While the students were treated to cookies and milk, they enjoyed the educational displays and photo boards. Of particular interest was a table spread with over 50 items from a tree, i.e. soda, toothpaste, vanilla, chewing gum, toys, etc.

The day ended when we presented the students and their teachers with a personalized Arbor Day certificate of participation from the Zdanovec Tree Farm!

## **Third Annual Arbor Day Event at the Czerwonka Tree Farm**

4th grade students and teachers from Elderon and Wittenberg visited the Czerwonka tree farm to participate in tree-planting and listen to a presentation by DNR Forester Shirley Bargander. Shirley instructed the students on the benefits trees provide us, the different characteristics of hardwood and coniferous species, and how to properly plant a tree. Each student had the opportunity to plant a White Spruce

seedling provided by the DNR. Students took home a seedling to plant, along with educational materials, provided to the students and teachers by Shirley and the DNR. Shirley also provided fire safety pins, which stress the danger of unattended campfires.

Each student also received an Arbor Day certificate of participation from the Czerwonka Tree Farm.

## Come to Grant County June 11<sup>th</sup> for a Forest Landowner Demonstration Field Day

Dan Bohlin, Wisconsin family forest owner, is hosting a Forest Landowner Demonstration Field Day on his property, End-O-Way, in Grant County, southwest Wisconsin, on Saturday, June 11, 2005 from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. It is being organized by *Forests for Watersheds and Wildlife*<sup>™</sup> ( $F^2W^2$ ), the national habitat conservation program of the American Forest Foundation, and co-sponsored by the Woodland School, the Aldo Leopold Foundation, and the Bad Axe Chapter of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association.

$F^2W^2$  works with conservation partners and family forest owners to conserve and restore forest habitat for birds and other wildlife. Invasive species are spreading and degrading woodland and savanna habitat across the upper mid-West. To address this escalating problem and the destructive impact of ecologically invasive plants, Wisconsin Governor James Doyle created the Governor's Council on Invasive Species and declared June 2005 Invasive Species Awareness Month.

Dan has seen how honeysuckle, buckthorn, and garlic mustard has strangled wooded areas in NE Illinois. By regularly conducting prescribed burns, in conjunction with mechanical removal and application of herbicides, he is weakening or killing the invasives and controlling their spread.

Oak savanna restoration is another important goal at End-O-Way.

To request a Tree Farm sign for your Tree Farm, contact the forester that last inspected your property. Tree Farm signs are available free of charge to the Tree Farmer. Contact us at [wffc@athenet.net](mailto:wffc@athenet.net) if you need further assistance.



Restoration of this habitat provides critical habitat for many birds of conservation concern, such as the Red-headed Woodpecker and Golden-winged Warbler. Since 2001, Dan has reintroduced fire to prairie remnants or areas with restoration potential. He's removed buckthorn and, working with consulting foresters and timber buyers, has "cleared out" a 15-acre oak savanna restoration area, as well as other areas. Dan has also enhanced habitat for other wildlife by planting trees and shrubs, establishing native grass cover, restoring a small wetland, and creating ponds on his property.

At the June 11<sup>th</sup> field day, family forestland owners will see the habitat work Dan has done, hear from wildlife and invasive species experts, and learn about technical and financial assistance that can help landowners with conservation goals. Participants will learn how to identify invasive plants, and methods to control them. They'll also see invasive species control tools in action.

The field day is free and lunch is provided. Space is limited, so RSVP to Steve Bertjens, Southwest Badger Resource Conservation & Development phone 608-723-6377, ext 136; e-mail [steven.bertjens@wi.usda.gov](mailto:steven.bertjens@wi.usda.gov). Leave your name, number in party and phone number and/or e-mail. For directions and an informational brochure, leave an email or mailing address.

For more detailed information on the event, please contact Vanessa Bullwinkle at the American Forest Foundation; phone 202-463-2456; e-mail [vanessa\\_bullwinkle@forestfoundation.org](mailto:vanessa_bullwinkle@forestfoundation.org).

**June is Invasive Species Month: Amy Thorstenson profiles two woodland invaders:**

**Garlic Mustard and Buckthorn**

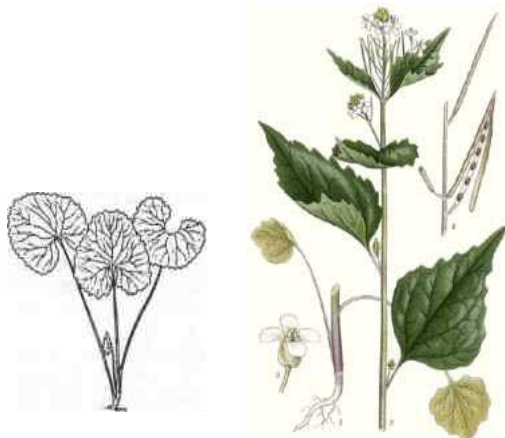
By Amy Thorstenson

**Garlic Mustard**

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is native to Europe and was first introduced in the North America in the mid 1800's for cooking and medicinal uses.

The best way to control garlic mustard is to *identify it early*, before it gets well established and spreads. Garlic mustard may be easiest to spot in early spring and late into fall because the basal rosettes stay green while other plants are dormant. Small numbers of plants can be hand-pulled, taking care to remove the taproot or else new shoots will sprout. Larger infestations may be controlled by cutting or weed-whipping the plants close to the ground while they are in bloom or with early-spring/late-fall herbicide applications.

If garlic mustard is widespread throughout your woodlot, your course of action and the timing of that action may depend greatly on the type of timber/pulp you are producing. For example, if a mature red pine stand will soon have a final harvest and be replanted, it may be most practical to deal with the garlic mustard during the site preparation process for replanting. In contrast, if you have an oak stand where seedling establishment will be hampered by dense garlic mustard growth, action prior to harvest is needed to prevent the loss of that future forest crop. You can also prevent transferring garlic mustard seeds from one woodlot to the next by cleaning cutting blades, tires and other equipment before leaving an infested site.



1<sup>st</sup> – year plant  
Photo from [www.lib.niu.edu](http://www.lib.niu.edu)

2<sup>nd</sup> – year plant  
Photo from [www.brokmans.com](http://www.brokmans.com)

**Buckthorn**

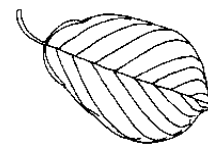
Common buckthorn (also called European buckthorn, *Rhamnus cathartica*) and glossy buckthorn (also called smooth buckthorn, *Rhamnus frangula*) are shrubs or small trees that are prolific seed producers and are adapted to a range of light and moisture conditions

Like garlic mustard, the best way to control buckthorn is to *identify it early*, before it gets well established and spreads. Seedlings can be hand-pulled, sometimes needing the assistance of a weeding tool if the roots are deep. If a large seed-producing shrub is already present, this should be removed first before it produces more seeds. Remove mature shrubs by cutting the stem/trunk close to the ground and applying a concentrated glyphosphate herbicide, such as Roundup®, to the stump immediately after cutting to prevent the roots from re-sprouting. Check the area annually for sprouting from residual seeds.

If buckthorn has already become well established in your woodlot, your course of action and the timing of that action may depend greatly on the type of timber/pulp you are producing. For example, if a mature red pine stand will soon have a final harvest and be replanted, it may be most practical to deal with the buckthorn during the site preparation process for replanting. In contrast, when considering a mature aspen stand, it is necessary to control the buckthorn *prior* to harvest, so it doesn't get ahead of the aspen sprouts. Knowing what control method to use and when may be tricky, so consult with a DNR or private forester to protect your forest crop.



Common Buckthorn  
Photo from [www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu)



Glossy Buckthorn  
Photo from [www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu)

Thanks to Amy Thorstenson, a project assistant with the Golden Sands RC&D for submitting these articles. She can be reached at [thorstea@co.portage.wi.us](mailto:thorstea@co.portage.wi.us)

# Managed Forest Law Program in Wisconsin Achieves ATFS Group-Certification!

ATFS recognition of MFL will create the largest sustainable forestry program for private landowners in North America. Potential membership includes 29,458 landowners with 37,110 MFL orders of designation on nearly 2 million acres. **The MFL Certified Group Program would be free and entirely voluntary for landowners with 10 to 10,000 total acres under MFL with site-specific forestry plans.** Large industrial-owned tracts in MFL would not be included in the MFL Certified Group, but many will be certified under other company plans. Considering the MFL Certified Group together with State Forest and County Forest land, approximately five million acres (a third of Wisconsin's forested area) are poised to be certified by early summer.

Forests are important in Wisconsin. Forests cover 46 percent of the state, and Wisconsin has an estimated 9.8 billion trees! More than 15 trees for every Wisconsin citizen! About 70% of the forests in Wisconsin are privately owned, and there are more than 260,000 individual owners. There are also over 1,800 forest products companies in Wisconsin. Wisconsin's forest products sector is a 28 billion dollar-a-year industry providing nearly 100,000 manufacturing jobs in the state.

Leading companies such as Time Warner, Office Depot, and IKEA, the world's largest furniture manufacturer, are now requiring third-party certification for the paper and wood products that they use.

***Forest certification is voluntary and is not a requirement for MFL enrolled lands, but certification offers an exciting opportunity and many potential benefits.***

## Landowner Responsibilities

Participating landowners, "group members," are responsible for implementing both the Tree Farm certification standards and the policies and procedures required by the MFL program.

In cooperation with the DNR, group members must work to ensure that forestry practices are properly implemented, an up-to-date management plan is maintained, and records are kept that demonstrate that the certification standards are addressed.

Every five years about 100 MFL properties will be selected as part of the certification audit of the group system to assure compliance.

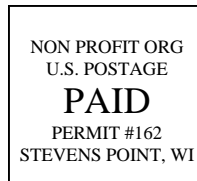
Tree Farms enrolled in MFL are not required to be reinspected individually on the five-year reinspection cycle. This will allow the Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee to shift its resources into more education/ outreach activities, events, and recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the success of the Tree Farm program in Wisconsin. The WTFC is currently in the process of working with the DNR to develop a list of Tree Farmers enrolled in MFL.

*"Certification shows the rest of the nation that Wisconsin is a leader in balancing environmental, social and economic demands on our nation's forests. We have a great story to tell about progressive forest management here in Wisconsin; third party certification provides a forum for us to tell that story and for others to verify it."*

— Paul DeLong, Chief State Forester,  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

WISCONSIN TREE FARM COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 285  
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481-0285

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Mark Your Calendars!

### Saturday – June 25, 2005

Howard and Edna Christenson, along with the Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee and the West Central Chapter of WWOA invite members of the American Tree Farm System, other woodland owners and the general public to join them for a field day on the Christenson's tree farm. Foresters and wildlife biologists will be present to lead discussion on the management practices and to answer participant's questions.

Presentations at noon will include information on local land trusts and recognition of district tree farm inspectors. **A picnic lunch with hamburgers, brats, dessert and drinks will be served.**

For more information call Vern Peskar at (715) 425-5552 or Dennis Waterman at (715) 458-2684.

### 2005 Summer Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
June 11	Dan Bohlin Forest Landowner Demonstration Field Day	Grant County	Steve Bertjens (608) 723-6377 ext. 136
June 25th	Christenson Field Day	Pierce County	Dennis Waterman (715) 458-2684
July 12-14	WI Farm Technology Days	Clark County	Matt Jorgensen (715)743-5129
October	Annual WTFC Field Day	Seno Woodland Education Center	WTFC (715) 445-5991