

# Wisconsin Tree Farmer

August 2008

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## 2008 Wisconsin Tree Farmers of the Year

By Shirley Bargander

I would like to extend congratulations to all of the 2008 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year (OTFY) at the County, District, and State levels of recognition as well as their nominating foresters.

The Tree Farmers recognized this year for promoting sustainable forestry and the standards of the Tree Farm program are:

District 3: **(Lundberg Trust) Herb and Corrine Lundberg – Polk County. County & District 3 OTFY.** Nominating Forester: Paul Heimstead – DNR Forester

District 5: **Dennis and Kim Schoeneck – Oneida County. County & District 5 OTFY, Runner-up for State OTFY.** Nominating Forester: District 5 Chair, David Czysz – New Page Forester

District 6: **Jim and Diane Mroczenski – Marathon County. County, District 6 & State OTFY.** Nominating Forester: Shirley Bargander – DNR Forester

District 8: **Maenner Trust (Theresa Maenner) – Eau Claire County. County & District 8 OTFY.** Nominating Forester: Chris Widstrand

– DNR Forester

District 14: **Gerald “Dick” O’Gara – Monroe County. County, District 14 OTFY.** Nominating Forester: Kevin Schilling – DNR Forester  
District 16: **Alan and Madeline Matuszeski – Dodge County. County, District 16 OTFY.**

Nominating Forester: Randy Stampfl – DNR Forester

District 16: **James and Cherie Miller – Jefferson County. County OTFY.** Nominating Forester: Randy Stampfl – DNR Forester

### *2008 Wisconsin Tree Farmers of the Year*

Congratulations to **Jim and Diane Mroczenski** of Marathon County on being selected as the 2008 Wisconsin Tree Farmers of the Year. They purchased 49 acres of woodland in 1990 for the purpose of hunting and recreation for themselves and their three sons. This piece of property was part of the Fromm Corporation, originally a group of brothers who started a silver fox, mink and ginseng dynasty known world wide. It was logged heavily in 1976 and was growing unmanaged. In 1997, an adjoining 80 acres was harvested for the purpose of removing only saw logs. The Mroc-

zenski’s tried without success to purchase a portion of this 80. The seller would not split the property, so finally in 1998 Jim and Diane purchased all 80 acres with the idea of selling off 40 acres. Once they owned the woodland, they could not bear to sell any of it and today the Mroczenski Family Tree Farm consists of 130 acres. Family and friends refer to the tree farm as the North Forty, Middle Forty and South Forty. The woodlot includes a wide variety of tree species and the west branch of the Little Rib River runs across the property.

The Mroczenski’s follow a written management plan and directions provided by a private consulting forester as well as Department of Natural Resource foresters. They want to do everything they can to make the woods the best it can be and the most productive. Their objective is to enhance the capabilities and to improve diversity of the woodlot, create a bounty of wildlife habitat, generate more income, and provide a place to recreate, including hunting, sightseeing, hiking, snowshoeing and a place to take many photographs.

Their enthusiasm and admiration for their tree farm is very evident in their willingness to open

## 2008 Wisconsin Tree Farmers of the Year *(continued from page 1)*

are eager to learn more about practicing sound forest management and are very willing to share their knowledge. They actively participate in woodland organizations. They are excellent ambassadors for forestry. Nominating forester for the Mroczenski's is Shirley Bargander.

Some of the accomplishments on their land include upgrading easements by adding culverts and additional road base. They seeded ditches and hand placed rocks and mesh for erosion control.

Old logging roads were cleared and leveled to improve trails for walking and hiking and they now mow and maintain 5 miles of trails. A soil test was obtained prior to planting trees and food plots.

They planted 14 acres of red and white pine as well as some red oak. White oak was planted in a harvested area to help re-establish white oak in the woods. They band sprayed and mowed the plantation as well as utilized tubes and cages to protect the oak from deer browse.

They started a bird house program for blue birds, constructed brush piles for wildlife, and cleaned up debris. Dead falls are left for grouse and they removed old wood tree stands and eliminated trees with nails. Wild ginseng is re-seeded to promote regeneration.

They monitor growth and change

through photography.

Timber harvesting is a big part of their management. The aspen stand was clear-cut when it matured. They cleaned up 55 acres of tree tops left by the prior owner/logger and utilized it for fire wood and some pulpwood. They harvested 15 acres in the Middle Forty as recommended in their management plan and completed all mandatory practices as recommended in the North Forty.

Jim and Diane encourage others to practice good woodland management. They are both members of Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA) since 2001. In 2006 Jim moderated the North Central Chapter Winter Conference. In the fall of 2007, the Rural Living Section of the *Record Review*, a local newspaper, ran a two page article of their woodland along with colored photos. Also in the fall of 2007 Jim and Diane hosted the North Central Chapter field day on their property.

They served on the 2007 National Tree Farmer Convention planning committee and managed "The Store" during the convention. ("The Store" sold Tree Farm shirts and caps).

They were members of the 2008 WWOA North Central Chapter Winter Conference planning committee. At the winter conference in February, Jim and Diane made

a presentation to the group about the management of their tree farm.

On Arbor Day, 2008, they planned a tree planting and educational event for St. Mary's School in Marathon. The weather did not cooperate, so they put together a power point and other educational tools and took their program to the school.

They hosted the spring picnic for the North Central Chapter WWOA and many members came to their tree farm for a picnic and a work day in preparation for the state conference fall field day.

They are members of the 2008 WWOA state conference planning committee. As part of the conference they will be hosting a tour of Menzner Lumber and Marth Wood Shavings on Friday, September 19, 2008. They will also be hosting a tour of their tree farm on Sunday, September 21.

Jim is on the ballot for the WWOA board. Diane is seeking the Secretary/Treasurer position for the North Central Chapter WWOA board.

Jim and Diane truly earned the recognition of 2008 Wisconsin Tree Farmers of the Year. They work hard on their tree farm as well as working hard to encourage others to do the same. They are not afraid of taking on tasks to help others. They sincerely care for their woodlot and take much

## Do you have a 25-year Tree Farm?

If so, 25-year anniversary Tree Farm signs and crossbars are available from the Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee for Tree Farms that have been certified for over 25 years. **Up to two signs can be shipped to eligible Tree Farmers at no cost.**

The signs are constructed of UV-resistant Polyethylene. For 2008, any Tree Farms that were initially inspected in 1984 or earlier and have remained certified Tree Farms are included in this recognition program.

This does not include MFL properties that became Tree Farms in the MFL Group certification program in May 2005 that were not already enrolled in the Wisconsin Tree Farm program.

Please contact the WTFC at (715) 252-2001 or email [wtfc@athenet.net](mailto:wtfc@athenet.net) for more information.

Download the online version of the order form at [www.witreefarm.org](http://www.witreefarm.org).

**Do you have an article to contribute to the next issue of Wisconsin Tree Farmer?**

**Call (715) 252-2001 for submission guidelines.**

## Koerner Family Tree Farms are named 2008 Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year

Koerner Family Tree Farms, including John and Diane, Scott, Jeff and their families, were recently named the 2008 North Central Regional Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year (ROTFY) by the American Tree Farm System. The North Central Region includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Wisconsin has a tradition of participating in the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year (OTFY) program at the national level, including two National OTFY awards in 1996 and 2004. Wisconsin more recently has had a Regional OTFY two years in a row, with Nancy Livingston as the 2007 ROTFY, and the Koerner's as 2008 ROTFY.

The Koerner's nominating forester, Paul Lochner, recently completed the nomination packet for the national OTFY competition. The Koerner's, along with the other finalists from the Northeast, South, and West regions will be in attendance at the National Tree Farmer convention in Portland, Oregon on October 16-18<sup>th</sup>, where the

National Tree Farmer of the Year will be announced.

Although the Koerner family resides in Oshkosh, their 1729 acre Tree Farm is located in three townships in Portage County. They made their first land purchase of 80 acres in 1967 and continued increasing the acreage to the present size. They discovered that the sandy soils of their property are some of the poorest in the state and began planting trees and have been planting ever since. They found that this soil would grow red pine very well and is now their primary type. Other tree species include, oak, aspen, along with some brush areas and wetlands and grass. They have removed acres of invasives such as black locust as well over 60 acres of Austrian and Scotch Pines and replanted to the higher quality red pine.

John wanted to do what was best for the property. His philosophy remains the same today as it was when he first purchased the land. He strongly recommends that when it comes to forest management, people need to seek the advice of a professional forester and to

follow that advice. He also believes that we need to prepare for the next generation through family planning and developing Trusts.

The Koerner's are a wonderful example of ambassadors for forestry. They use their property continually to show others what they have done, their successes as well as their failures. They are willing to help others get started and help others not to get discouraged. In addition to individual visits to the tree farm, they have hosted field days, and were the 2006 Wisconsin State OTFY. Scott serves on a number of statewide committees including the Governor's Council on Forestry and the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association. He works with school groups and other youths to share the word of sound forestry.

Wisconsin Tree Farmers like the Koerner's and many others throughout the state share a passion for promoting the Tree Farm program in their local community, speaking with their elected officials on issues impacting family forest landowners, and implementing sustainable forestry practices on their Tree Farms.

## An invitation to attend the 2008 National Tree Farmer Convention

Mark your calendars for the **2008 National Tree Farmer Convention, to be held in Portland, Oregon, October 16-18, 2008** at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower Hotel.

Check the ATFS website [www.treefarmssystem.org](http://www.treefarmssystem.org) for updates and to register.

"Where Tall Trees Grow" is the theme for this year's event. The three-day gathering will feature educational presentations, workshops and social networking opportunities, including exciting hands-on field trips to local tree farms, including the Little Beaver Creek Tree Farm, the site of the Saturday Field Day.

New this year! This year the ATFS is offering a discount to members of your family who have not previously attended one of our conventions. Register 2 attendees at full price, and any 'first timers' in your family, up to 5 members, can register at the rate of \$150. This deal is available only to those who register online, and all family members must be registered together.

To request a hard copy of the registration form, contact the ATFS at 202-463-2451, or email them at: [info@treefarmssystem.org](mailto:info@treefarmssystem.org)

**For more info and photos of this year's award winners, visit [www.witreefarm.org](http://www.witreefarm.org) and click on "Current Events"**

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Committee**

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