



# NEWS FROM WISCONSIN'S WOODS



A partnership of the Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee and Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association

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## Letter from the President

Welcome to the first "joint" newsletter of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA) and the Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee (WTFC). We plan to issue two joint newsletters a year to provide more timely information between issues of WWOA's quarterly magazine, *Woodland Management*, and the *Tree Farmer* magazine.

WWOA is the oldest nonprofit private statewide woodland owner association in Wisconsin organized in 1979. WWOA presently has over 2300 members. WWOA's mission is to foster and encourage sustainable forest management through the education of Wisconsin's private woodland owners.

WWOA members receive forestry information from WWOA's quarterly magazine, *Woodland Management*. The September 2006 issue covered Wisconsin's deer herd and woodlands. Remember good forestry practices result in good wildlife habitat! WWOA's website [www.wisconsinwoodlands.org](http://www.wisconsinwoodlands.org) has publications, coming events, chapter contacts, membership services and links. WWOA members really enjoy our four-day annual meeting each fall. WWOA testifies on forestry bills to the state legislature and partners with the DNR and WTFC, as well as other organizations, regarding forestry issues.

WWOA has 14 chapters and every county in Wisconsin is included in a chapter. The chapters have a spring and fall field day touring a local woodland owner's property and discussing current forestry topics. Chapter dues vary, but a chapter member must be a WWOA member.

There is strength in numbers and you can be heard by belonging to WWOA. We believe with a joint effort both WTFC and WWOA can become stronger and provide a forum where woodland owner issues and concerns may be voiced.

Thanks for your support,

Dale Zaug, President  
Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association

## Words from the Chair

The Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee (WTFC) also wishes to welcome you to the first "joint" Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA) / Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee Newsletter.

This is an important time for both organizations. The future of our organizations lie within the members and the members' ability to work together to achieve similar goals.

Our Mission is to promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive sustainable forestry.

To be able to succeed in our Mission it is important that we must protect our greatest asset, the passion of our Tree Farmers and hard work and dedication of all volunteers.

For over 50 years the Wisconsin Forest Products Industry and the Wisconsin DNR have done a good job in promoting the Tree Farm Program and other landowner educational organizations. The Wisconsin DNR Managed Forest Law program under the American Tree Farm System Group Certification program has increased Wisconsin Tree Farms to over 34,000 accounting for about 3,000,000 acres of family forests.

Wouldn't it be nice to see all 34,000 Tree Farms also join a local chapter of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association? The more family forest landowners we have communicating the word of good forestry the more we will be acknowledged by the public for practicing sustainable forestry and experiencing good results.

Thank you for your support,

Tom Jacobs, Chair  
Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee

## 2006 Annual Meeting

WVOA's 2006 Annual Meeting in Onalaska on September 7-10 was attended by more than 300 members.

Thursday and Friday highlights included workshops on GPS sponsored by Plum Creek; estate planning sponsored by UW-Stevens Point Forestry Outreach Programs; tours of the Mississippi River bluffs and wildlife refuges; and tours of Tree Farms owned by Bob Skemp and Larry Severeid. Friday evening featured a German-themed dinner and entertainment by the OktoberFest Singers.

On Saturday, members discussed changes to the WVOA By-Laws. Approved changes included the title of Vice President to President Elect and creation of a year-round Nominating Committee with details on appointments and duties. A proposed amendment on how By-Law amendments are adopted was tabled. The business meeting was followed by concurrent sessions on a variety of topics.

During the Saturday evening banquet the work of many WVOA members was celebrated. The **Koerner Family**, Oshkosh, received the 2006 Wisconsin Tree Farmers of the Year Award. Their nominating forester was **Paul Lochner**, DNR. The WVOA Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Nancy Livingston**, Hancock, for her many years of service. **Donald and Inez Krohn**, Port Edwards, received WVOA's Special Recognition Award for their outreach efforts as a result of the Cottonville Fire. The first WVOA Next Generation Award recognizes the partnership between a WVOA member and youth educator in educating the next generation about the value of Wisconsin's private woodlands. **Nancy Livingston** and teacher **Peggy Werner**, both of Hancock, were presented with this award.

Sunday's field day was sponsored by the WI DNR and hosted by the West Salem School District at their Outdoor Education Center. Stations included school forests, land surveying, aspen and ruffed grouse, tree identification and forest succession, deer browse, protecting your cabin from wildfire, and bluebirds.

## 2007 Annual Meeting

WVOA's 2007 Annual Meeting will be held at the Ho Chunk Casino and Convention Center ([www.ho-chunk.com](http://www.ho-chunk.com)) in Baraboo on September 13-16. WVOA room rates are \$60/night plus tax. Reserve your room now by calling 800/746-2486 ext. 7878 and stating that you are with "WVOA" to receive the discount rate.

**"WVOA's Annual Meeting is a great place to meet woodland owners from across the state!"**

— Nancy Bozek

## Ash Seed Needed

In response to the devastating impact that the Emerald Ash Borer ([www.emeraldashborer.info/](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/)) has had in lower Michigan, and its movement into neighboring states, USDA-NRCS, USDA-ARS, USDA-FS have developed a partnership for a National Ash Tree Collection Initiative ([www.ashseed.org](http://www.ashseed.org)). The goal is to secure enough seed over the next several years through voluntary seed collections for possible re-introduction and genetic research.

The Wisconsin NRCS Plant Materials Committee is seeking volunteer help with the collection of Ash seed. We need people across Wisconsin to identify locations of Ash stands during the spring and summer months so that seed can be collected in the fall. Each collection will be kept separate and will be specifically identified by location of origin so that the same genetic material can be returned to the area where it was collected. All species of Ash (White, Black and Green) that are native to Wisconsin will be collected. The collection is expected to continue for 4 to 5 years.

Visit the websites listed above to learn more or contact Greg Rebman, Area Resource Conservationist, USDA-NRCS at 920/733-1575 ext. 117 or [Greg.Rebman@wi.usda.gov](mailto:Greg.Rebman@wi.usda.gov).

## Koerner Family Tree Farms awarded 2006 Wisconsin Tree Farmer of the Year

By Shirley Bargander

I am very happy to announce the 2006 Wisconsin Tree Farmer of the Year is the Koerner Family Tree Farms. John and Diane Koerner started their Tree Farm with their first purchase of 80 acres in the Town of Belmont in 1967. They soon discovered that the sandy soils in this area are some of the poorest soils in the state, but it does grow red pine very well. The tree farm also consists of oak, maple, aspen, birch, some upland brush, wetlands and grassy areas. Paul Lochner from Portage County is the nominating forester and has been working with the Koerners for 25 years.

Over the decades, many parcels were purchased with pine already growing on it.

Some of the parcels had poor survival, so they were harvested and replanted. Spring planting time

involves the whole family, numerous friends and hunting buddies all pitching in with some long hours to get the job done. As John stated, "it wouldn't feel like spring unless we plant something."

Over the decades the Koerners have built a logging business that involves John and Diane as well as their sons Scott and Jeff. John, Scott and Jeff have Master Logger certification. They encourage landowners to take advantage of cost sharing programs and opportunities to enroll in the Managed Forest Law to ensure long term ownership and practice sustainable forestry.

The Koerners never turn down an opportunity to talk about forest management and sustainable forestry. The entire Koerner family are true ambassadors for forestry. Congratulations to Koerner Family Tree Farms on becoming the 2006 Tree Farmer of the Year.

## WI DNR Division of Forestry recognized with AFF Sustained Excellence Award

MADISON – The American Forest Foundation (AFF) has presented the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry the 2006 AFF Sustained Excellence Award in recognition of the agency's strong advocacy and support of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS).

In accepting the award, State Forester Paul DeLong praised the efforts of DNR staff and partners for working together to advance the practice of sustainable forestry on Wisconsin's privately-owned forest lands.

"This award is a great honor," said Tom Jacobs, Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee Chair. "As a state, we are at our best when managing our woodlands sustainably."



## Tree Farmer Magazine wins Top Honors at APEX

Washington, D.C – *Tree Farmer* magazine, the guide to sustaining America's family forests, was recently awarded the 2006 Apex award for Publication Excellence.

APEX is the Awards for Publication Excellence Competition. It is open to communicators in corporate, nonprofit and independent settings.

In 2006, there were 796 entries in the magazine/journal category with 25 awardees.

To subscribe to *Tree Farmer*, mail the coupon, located on the back page of this newsletter, to

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**WWOA MEMBERSHIP**

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Office Phone 715/346-4798

**Voting (owners of 10 acres or more WI woodlands)**  
 Regular member \$40  
 Family membership \$55  
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