



NEWS FROM WISCONSIN'S WOODS



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

Volume 3, Issue 1 • March 2008

Your Input Is Needed on April 14!

On **April 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** woodland owners are invited to join others concerned about the future of Wisconsin's natural resources at the **WI Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Spring Fish & Wildlife Rule Hearings followed by the WI Conservation Congress (WCC) Annual County Meetings.** These meetings are open to everyone and are held concurrently across the state, one location in each county.

Why should woodland owners care about this hearing and meeting? Citizens vote on proposed rules that regulate fishing, hunting and other outdoor recreational activities – *on both public and private lands.*

Question 61 of the WCC Advisory Questions asks, **Do you support legislation that would require all future Managed Forest Law (MFL) contracts to allow public access as currently defined in state statutes** (for hunting, fishing, cross-county skiing, sight-seeing and hiking)?

WWOA supports a NO vote for this question and hopes you will share the following or your own reasons at the hearing in your county. Ask those present to stop and think about the reasons to vote NO:

- MFL is a private landowner *incentive* program to increase sustainably managed forests to provide the necessary wood supply for society's needs while providing secondary benefits of wildlife habitat, clean air and water, and public access if the landowner chooses. No other incentive program requires public access.
- MFL participants must purchase a management plan, pay acreage share taxes

annually and yield taxes when timber is harvested.

- Many current MFL participants purchased their land for hunting and outdoor recreational activities. They share this experience with family, friends, and neighbors. How many hunters realize whether or not they are already hunting on MFL land?
- MFL participants are concerned about the safety of their families, littering and damage to their property, and liability issues related to public access.
- Requiring landowners to open land to the public would greatly discourage participation in this program resulting in fewer acres of wildlife habitat and sustainable forests. This would increase fragmentation of Wisconsin's forests and lead to more forested lands being lost to development.

MFL is the single most important program that promotes long term public benefits of sustainable forestry on private woodlands. Retaining the rights of landowners that have signed 25 or 50 year contracts will ensure conservation benefits for now and the future.

The meeting locations, agenda, and 72 page questionnaire can be found online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/spring%20hearings/index.html> or call the DNR or WWOA at 715-346-4798 for locations. The questionnaire will be handed out at the meeting. Question 61 and other WCC advisory questions only tally the public votes received the night of the meetings. WWOA members can find more information in the 2008 Spring issue of *Woodland Management*.

New WI DNR Burning Permits

Wisconsin's wildfire season is upon us. Every year hundreds of wildfires in Wisconsin are started because of careless outdoor burning. This year DNR offers a new single, no-cost, season-long, outdoor burning permit for *both burn barrels and outdoor burning on the ground* in all areas of the state where DNR burning permits are required.

Landowners are responsible for knowing what they are burning, their location in the state, and what restrictions apply in that location. Landowners must apply for a burn permit and abide by permit conditions. Burn permits can be obtained from local emergency fire wardens and DNR ranger stations for most rural areas of the state. To learn more about the new burn permit system visit dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire or check with your local DNR office. Permit holders are required to check the above website or phone 1-888-947-2876 (WIS-BURN) after 11 am on the day they wish to burn to determine if fire conditions will allow burning in their county.

If the fire grows out of control, landowners can be held liable for suppression costs and civil damages. Cooking, warming or campfires do not require a burning permit and are allowed anytime, except during Emergency Burning Restrictions. Remember *Only You Can Prevent Wildfires*.

2008 Annual Meeting

WWOA members mark your calendar now for the 2008 Annual Meeting on September 18-21 in Wausau. Call The Plaza at 715-845-4341 and mention room block #9562 for WWOA's special room rate of \$62/night plus tax. Join us for one or all of the events that will be offered. Check www.wisconsinwoodlands.org under Events for more information as it becomes available.

Here's a sample of what we are planning. A Thursday afternoon tax workshop by **Geary Searfoss** CPA with an introduction to IRS codes related to timber property and updates on recent legislation and court cases. Friday tours will include **Clarence Viegut's** woodlands, Birds in Art exhibit, **Dave Solin's** woodlands, and building cordwood structures. Saturday's keynote speaker will be Chris Risbrudt, director of the USDA Forest Products Laboratory. Sunday's field day will be hosted by **Jim & Diane Mroczenski**. Sunday stations will include tree stand safety, soil pits, northern hardwood management with **Marv Meier**, photography and record keeping with **Gary & Penny Shackelford**, pine plantations and oak plantings with **Shirley Bargander** and more. We hope to see you there and bring a new member!



Are You In?

In addition to the great Annual Meeting being planned for WWOA members—we will be awarding many prizes! In December 2007, you received a letter about the WWOA's membership drive. Each time you refer or gift a new member until August 31, 2008 your name will be entered in a special drawing for 2 tickets to a 2008 Packer home game or hotel room for two nights or weekend registration package for the 2009 or 2010 Annual Meeting. In February 2008,

WWOA sent out raffle tickets. Additional tickets are available from WWOA. Prizes are \$500, 2-\$250, 2-\$125 and 3-\$50. Don't forget WWOA's photo contest. Photo divisions are: *Enjoying the Great Outdoors* or *All Creatures Great and Small*. Prizes are awarded in each division, for the most entries from a chapter, and for Members Choice voted on at the Annual Meeting. You do not need to be present to win any of these prizes but we hope you are! Are You In?

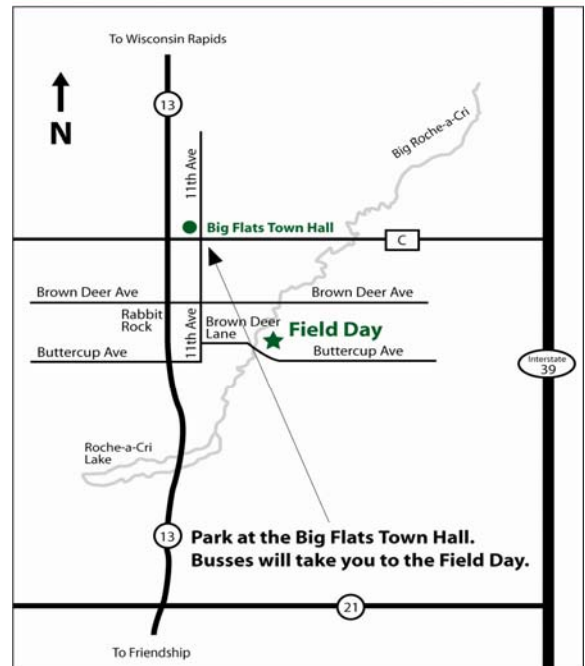
Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee News

Join Don and Inez Krohn for food, fun, and forestry at their Roche-a-Cri Tree Farm in Big Flats on May 31 8:00am to 2:45pm

Events at the Field Day include:

- Forest Health Issues- Insects and Diseases of Red Pine and Oak
- Songbird habitat and identification
- Land Surveying and GPS demonstration
- Stream Management
- Forest landowner grants, availability and application process
- Marketing the wood products on your Tree Farm
- Portable Sawmill Demonstration
- A Silent Auction drawing
- For more information about the Field Day, please contact the Tree Farm Committee by phone at (715-252-2001) or by email: wffc@athenet.net

ROCHE-A-CRI TREE FARM BIG FLATS, WISCONSIN



Driving Distances from Major Cities to Adams County, WI

Minneapolis – 210 miles
Milwaukee – 145 miles
Madison – 76 miles
Green Bay – 125 miles
Chicago – 220 miles



ANNUAL TREE FARM FIELD DAY

Saturday,
May 31, 2008



2008 Tree Farm Field Day • Roche-a-Cri Tree Farm, Big Flats, WI
Please make checks payable to : Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee

of people attending _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Cost: \$18.00/person
\$25.00/Couple/Family

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Wheelchair Access /Assistance Needed _____

Mail completed registration to: WTFC
PO Box 285
Stevens Point, WI 54481-0285

Attendance limited to 100 participants

**Registration Due by
May 23, 2008**

Coffee and Rolls will be provided in the morning

A Catered Lunch will also be provided

To donate an item for the Silent Auction, contact Ruthanne Horning
email: cookie@maqs.net

Suggested items include handcrafted wood items, crafts, and unusual or "unique" items

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

WWOA and WTFC
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Stevens Point, WI 54481-0285

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WVOA MEMBERSHIP

Return to: Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association
P.O. Box 285, Stevens Point, WI 54481
Office Phone 715/346-4798

Voting (owners of 10 acres or more WI woodlands)
 Regular member \$45
 Family membership \$60
 Contributing member \$65+
 Individual Life member \$600 (≥ 18 years old)
 Gift Regular member \$25 (from WWOA member)

Nonvoting
 Associate member \$45
 Associate contributing member \$65+
 Student \$25 (full-time)

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City _____ County _____ Zip _____
State _____ Zip Code + 4 _____
Phone (home) _____
E-mail _____
Location of woods: County _____ Acres _____
Referred or gifted by _____