

**May 26, 2005**  
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**Workshop offered to help communities maintain viable forests:  
“Sustaining Wisconsin Forests & Woodlands to Strengthen our Economy”**

Wisconsin’s forests and woodlands have been a key topic across the state recently as indicated by the 2004 Year of Forestry, the Governor’s Conference on Forestry and several other recent forestry conferences. We all have an interest in managing Wisconsin’s increasingly fragmented forests and woodlands for jobs, recreation and health.

Providing current information on the status of our forests as well as skills and materials to help communities maintain the benefits of this valuable resource for the future, the University of Wisconsin Extension’s Center for Land Use Education (CLUE) is offering forestry workshops for community leaders and forest stakeholders. The workshop will be especially beneficial to UW-Extension basin educators and community natural resource economic development educators, local government officials, woodland owners and forest managers. Interested citizens are invited to attend as well.

“Sustaining Wisconsin Forests & Woodlands to Strengthen our Economy” will be offered in Rhinelander at the Timber Producer’s Association on June 9 and in Baraboo at UW-Baraboo/Sauk County on June 30, both from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Cost to attend is under \$20 and includes lunch, afternoon break and resource materials. The classes are funded in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board.

The workshops are based on information presented in a Web site that CLUE released last fall, “Forest Planning for Wisconsin’s Future.” Through presentations, engaging discussions and exercises, the workshops will provide participants with a better appreciation of social, environmental and economic importance of their local forests; experience identifying approaches and tools to address local forest issues; perspectives from various points of view on how and why to maintain local forests; and resources to convey all of this information to others. Participants will also receive materials to help them facilitate forest planning in their communities.

Speakers include Scott Bowe and Mark Rickenbach of the Department of Forest Ecology and Management at UW-Madison; John Exo, a Lower Wisconsin Basin educator; Bill Klase, Headwaters Basin Educator; Kris Tiles, Upper Chippewa Basin Educator; Bobbie Webster of the Center for Land Use Education as well as woodland owners, citizen volunteers on local government committees and forest industry and tourism representatives.

To register or for additional information, contact workshop coordinator Bobbie Webster at 715-346-2407 or [bwebster@uwsp.edu](mailto:bwebster@uwsp.edu) or visit [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/landcenter/forestplanning/news.htm](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/landcenter/forestplanning/news.htm).