

June 6, 2005

**MEDIA ADVISORY: *LEAF (Learning Experiences and Activities in Forestry)
Forestry Education Teacher Tour***

Who & What: Twenty-five educators who teach about forestry in their classrooms will participate in a hands-on inventory of a forest. The inventory will take place at the Nine Mile Creek Recreation Area in Marathon County. Marathon County Forester Doug Brown will also discuss how county forests lands are managed for a multitude of uses. Later in the day the teachers will tour the Wausau Homes manufacturing facility.

Additional information on forest inventory and LEAF follows on page 2.

When: Friday, June 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Tour begins at Gander Mountain at 9 a.m. and continues to a section of forest at Nine Mile County Park at 10 a.m., Rib Mountain Park at noon and Wausau Homes at 1:45 p.m. We will conclude the day at Gander Mountain at 3:30 p.m.

Contact: Jessica, Sterling, Sunshine or Sarah at LEAF 715-346-4956
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TEACHERS TAKE INVENTORY OF WISCONSIN FORESTS

When Wisconsin became a state in 1848, the state's forest resource was thought to be endless. In roughly a half century, those forests all but disappeared from the landscape. Not only were our forests logged to build a growing nation, but catastrophic wildfires burned the landscape. Some historians estimate that as many acres were lost to wildfire as were removed for lumber.

Now, a hundred years later, our forests are in the best shape they have been in since the cutover and fires of the late 19th century. Today, the U.S. Forest Service is charged with maintaining regular periodic inventories of the forest resources of the Nation. In Wisconsin this inventory is conducted continually on a five-year rotation. "Forest inventory tells us what is in our forests and how they are changing over time. Really it's like taking the pulse of the forest," says LEAF staffer and former inventory forester, Jessica Tomaszewski. "By measuring the forest we can understand and appreciate the tremendous resource that is all around us."

Twenty-five educators who teach about forestry in their classrooms will participate in a hands-on mock inventory of a forest on Friday, June 17 at the Nine Mile Creek Recreation Area in Marathon County. The same methods utilized in the U.S. Forest Service Inventory will be used. Marathon County Forester Doug Brown also will discuss how county forests lands are managed for a multitude of uses. Later in the day the teachers will tour the Wausau Homes manufacturing facility. Following the tour, the teachers will extrapolate how many of similar sized trees they measured earlier in the day it would take to build one home.

All teachers participating in the tour have previously attended a workshop offered by the LEAF Program. Each teacher received a forestry education lesson guide and training in the use of the activities. LEAF is the Wisconsin K-12 Forestry Education Program and is a partnership program between the Wisconsin DNR-Division of Forestry and the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education at the College of Natural Resources at UWSP. The purpose of the LEAF Program is to help develop future citizens that understand the important values forests provide each of us and that are willing to play an active role in helping to sustain our forest resource. Sustaining forests includes sustaining ecological, economic, and social values of forests for current and future generations. For more information on LEAF, call 715-346-4956 or visit the Web at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf.

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