

Woodland Leaders News

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The Simple Act of Planting a Tree

Article by John DuPlissis

“There are two great times to plant a tree. The first was 20 years ago. The other is today.” It is an old saying but it is still true. Planting a tree is a simple job that just about anyone can do and the pleasure that you get as you watch your seedlings grow and mature is often the best reward of all.

Planting a tree is simple but there are many questions that come up each year as foresters and landowners alike watch seedlings wither and die. We are often left asking what went wrong?

One of the leading causes of seedling mortality is how they are stored after they are picked up from the nursery. Seedlings should never be stored in a heated building or in an area where they are exposed to warm air, sun, or wind. If you plan to plant your seedlings within 48 hours then leave them as they are and store them in a cool place. If you can not plant your seedlings right away or if weather or circumstances prevent you from planting your seedlings then you will need to put your seedling into cold storage or a cool, dark place like a root cellar.

These conditions are important to prevent the seedlings from breaking dormancy and drying out. Seedling quality deteriorates in storage, even under the best conditions. So plant your seedlings as soon as possible.

As you prepare to plant your seedling never unpack more seedlings than you can plant in ½ hour. Once you remove the seedlings you need to protect their roots from drying out. You can cover the roots with the original packing material or place the seedlings in a bucket of water. However, do not allow the roots of the seedlings to remain submerged in water for more than two hours. Prolonged submersion can literally drown the roots and kill the seedlings.

There are several different tools that you can use to dig a hole for planting. These include a power auger, shovel, post-hole digger, or

planting bar. While each of these tools will work just fine to plant a tree, different tools will often work better in different situations.

The hole you dig should be large enough to accommodate the entire root system of the seedling without crowding or bending it. This is important because a shallow planting hole can cause the roots to turn up at the bottom creating a “J” root that will kill a seedling or at the very least limit its growth. Another common problem is digging the planting holes too deep. Avoid digging the planting holes more than 2 inches deeper than the length of the seedling roots.

You can plant the seedling either directly into the center of the hole or against the side of the hole. Either way will work, however, research has shown that you can expect a slightly better survival rate if you plant the tree directly into the center of the hole.

Also, it is important that you plant bare root seedlings at the same depth that they grew in the nursery. You can determine this by finding the root collar on the seedling. The root collar, the point at which the seedling is differentiated into stem and root, should be clearly visible. If you cannot easily identify the root collar make sure all lateral roots are covered with soil. Finally, pack soil firmly, but gently, around the roots and water the seedling to remove air pockets from the soil.

Planting bars work well on small, bare-root conifer seedlings. One of the most critical steps when using a planting bar is firming the soil around the roots. Too often, air pockets remain in the bottom of the slits made by the planting bar, causing the seedlings to die.

Tree planting is a simple and very satisfying activity that anyone can do. For more information on seedlings, planting, or maintenance contact your local DNR or UW-Extension office.

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Forest Certification: Wisconsin Update, Part 1

By Mark Rickenbach

Certify

1: to attest authoritatively: as

a: CONFIRM

b: to present in formal communication

c: to attest as being true or as represented or as meeting a standard

2: to inform with certainty: ASSURE

from the Merriam-Webster on-line dictionary at <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

Forest certification is an attempt to identify forests that are well-managed toward the goal of ecological, economic, and social sustainability. Through on-the-ground site visits and document review, independent reviewers compare a landowner's management plan and practices against a certification standard. Certification standards address a wide range of activities from harvest practices and habitat protection to management planning and documentation. Forest certification is a voluntary approach to assuring good stewardship. In return, the landowner receives the purported benefits of certification. These can include recognition for good stewardship, access to certified markets, and improved management practices.

Wisconsin, through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is considering

several options for State Forests, County Forests, and those lands under the Managed Forest Law (MFL). Increasing demands from large paper consumers for sustainably produced paper is a factor in the state's move. For example, Time/Warner, a major purchaser of Wisconsin paper, has set aggressive goals for certified supply. Through certification, Wisconsin can remain, in the short term, competitive with other states, regions, and countries that are certified or actively considering it.

State and County Forests are being considered under FSC and SFI. MFL lands are being considered under FSC, SFI and ATFS.

Decisions regarding certification in Wisconsin will come over the next year. The state will first address certification of State Forests. Following that decision, certification of County Forests and MFL lands will be decided. The DNR has investigated the feasibility of certifying these lands, but has yet to begin the full audit process that leads to a certification decision.

The next year will include much news and debate on certification. Most important to landowners will be the certification of the MFL program. How it will affect current and future enrollees? That will be the topic of an article in next newsletter.

There are four primary certification systems in the U.S.:

- ⌘ American Tree Farm System (ATFS)
- ⌘ International Organization for Standardization 14001 Environmental Management System (ISO 14001)
- ⌘ Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- ⌘ Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).¹

¹ For a review of certification, systems see Fletcher, R., M. Rickenbach, and E. Hansen 2002. *Forest Certification in North America*. Oregon State University Extension Service EC-1518 revised. <http://eesc.orst.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/EC1518.pdf>

Managed Forest Law Revision

from the DNR's Draft 2003 Wisconsin Act fact sheet

The following information reflects the effects of the changes included in Assembly Bill 323, which is currently awaiting the Governor's signature.

This act implements revisions to the Managed Forest Law (MFL) which came directly from recommendations made by the Governor's Council on Forestry's December 2002, Review of Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law report. Most of the changes included in the revision are effective immediately but some have a delayed effective date. These delays were provided to allow the department time to create the programs/process to go with the revisions or to plan for revenue changes in the forestry account.

Changes Effective Immediately

A.) New MFL Application Deadline set at July 1 (18 months prior to the effective date of entry) for owners of less than 1,000 acres. This deadline replaces the former January 31 deadline. All complete applications received by July 1 will be processed for entry effective the second January 1 (a complete application received by July 1, 2004 is eligible for entry effective January 1, 2006).

B.) MFL Application Fee raised to \$300. Applications must be accompanied by a \$300 fee. The application fee for applications submitted with an approvable management plan package remains at \$20.

C.) Deed(s) submitted with the application must be recorded. A copy of the recorded legal instrument (deed, land contract, etc.) showing ownership of the land applied for entry must accompany the application.

D.) Additions to NEW MFL entries (entered January 1, 2005 or later) will be allowed. The rules for these additions will be same as in the past (minimum of 3 acres, contiguous to the MFL entry, same ownership and municipality)

E.) Additions to old MFL entries (entered prior to January 1, 2005) will not be allowed. Two provisions have been provided for cases when an owner was considering adding contiguous lands to an old MFL entry.

- 1) If the new land being considered for entry is 10 or more acres and meets the entry requirements for MFL it must be entered under a NEW and separate order.
- 2) If the new land being considered forestry is less than 10 acres or it does not meet the entry requirements for MFL the owner has an option to withdraw the old entry and re-enter with the new land. The entire old MFL entry contiguous to the new parcel is withdrawn without penalty. Then the original acres along with the new acres would be entered under a NEW and separate order. All acres would be taxed under the new MFL tax rates described later in this fact sheet.

F.) Closed Acreage allowed increased to 160 for new enrollees. Anyone entering land under managed forest law may have up to 160 acres closed to public access per municipality (city, town, village).

G.) MFL Tax Rates are changing for NEW MFL entries. Beginning with MFL entries effective January 1, 2005 a new formula will be used to calculate MFL rates.

- 1) The new formula sets the acreage share tax at 5% of the average statewide tax on forest land and the closed acreage fee at 20% of this average.
- 2) Lands designated as open to public access pay the acreage share tax and lands designated as closed pay the acreage share tax plus the closed acreage fee.
- 3) The rates calculated for old MFL orders will continue to be calculated based on the old formula.
- 4) All acreage share taxes are split between the municipality (80%) and county (20%) where the land is located.

Table 1: Old and New MFL Rates

	Current Rates Old Entries	Estimated New rates
Open Lands*	\$0.83	\$1.30
Closed Lands t	\$1.95	\$6.50

* Rates on open lands = acreage share tax

t Rates for closed lands = acreage share tax plus closed acreage fee

Managed Forest Law Revision

H.) The open/closed designation of MFL land may be modified up to 2 times. The designation of open and closed lands may be modified up to two times per MFL entry. This applies to all MFL entries (old and new).

I.) The Transfer Fee set at \$100. This is the fee required when land currently under the managed forest law is transferred to another ownership.

J.) \$300 Withdrawal Fee is created. The withdrawal fee will be added to the withdrawal tax assessed when land is removed from managed forest law designation early (before the 25 or 50 year order period is completed).

K.) \$250 non-compliance penalty provision is established. The non-compliance penalty will be assessed when an owner fails to carry out mandatory forestry practices covered in the MFL management plan.

L.) No Yield Tax in first 5 years of NEW MFL entries. The 5% yield tax assessed on timber harvested from MFL land will be waived for the first 5 years of NEW MFL orders.

M.) Withdrawal for delinquent personal property tax. If the personal property tax assessed against a building on land designated as MFL is delinquent the land will be withdrawn from MFL designation. And a withdrawal tax and withdrawal fee will be assessed against it.

N.) Qualifying forested lands with in a city are eligible for entry. Formerly only lands in towns or villages were eligible for entry.

Changes Effective July 1, 2004

A.) Change in the distribution of Yield Tax collections. Beginning July 1, 2004 100% of all yield taxes collected will be split between the municipality (80%) and the county (20%) where the MFL land is located.

B.) Change in the distribution of Withdrawal Tax collections. Beginning July 1, 2004 100% of all withdrawal taxes collected will be split between the municipality (80%) and the county (20%) where the MFL land is located.

Changes Effective (in 18 months)

A.) All management plans must be prepared by a Certified Plan Writer or the DNR Forester. All MFL plans must be prepared by a plan writer certified by the department. The delayed effective date of this provision was provided to allow the department time to establish a certified plan writer process.

B.) Second application deadline created - May 15, (7 ½ months prior to effective date of entry). Beginning in 2006 there will be a second deadline for filing MFL applications. Complete applications submitted with a completed management plan package by May 15 will be considered for entry effective the first January 1 (e.g., completed application with completed plan received May 15, 2006 is eligible for entry January 1, 2007.) This provision does not eliminate the July 1 deadline; it merely provides an opportunity for landowners to have a shorter period between the application deadline and the effective date of the entry if they can supply a completed management plan package.

For more information about changes to the Managed Forest Law Program go to the Department of Natural Resources MFL revision website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/ftax/mflrevisioninfo.htm>

or

you can visit the Wisconsin State Legislature's website at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>

Wisconsin DNR's Forestry Assistance Locator

by Paul Pingrey



Many Wisconsin landowners rely on the annual Directory of Foresters published by DNR. The Directory is a concise guide to contact information for both DNR Service Foresters and private consulting and industrial foresters who sign up for DNR's Cooperating Forester Program. The fifty-six-page book also provides practical information concerning services offered by public and private foresters and questions to ask before hiring a Cooperator. About 10,000 printed copies of the Directory of Foresters are distributed each year.

Considering the popularity of the information in the Directory, the Division of Forestry launched an on-line, interactive version called the Forestry Assistance Locator. The internet tool is available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/private/Assist/index.htm>. Being digital, however, the Forestry Assistance Locator offers a few useful features not possible in the print version.

When users log onto the Forestry Assistance Locator, they are presented with a map of the state. Clicking on a county generates a list of all the DNR and Cooperating Foresters who serve private woodland owners in the county. You can

also narrow the search from the initial page by using a drop-down list of services. If you pick a county and search on "Prescribed Burning Services", for example, only the firms offering assistance with burning are listed. You can add firms providing additional services by clicking the "Search for More" option. The new search results would be appended to the first group.

The Forestry Assistance Locator can then be used like the "shopping cart" on sites like Amazon.com. After viewing the services and qualifications of foresters that match your interests you can pick names to add to your "cart". They appear as your personal contact list. When you are ready to "check-out" of the Forestry Assistance Locator, you are presented with an optional e-mail form where you can let the foresters in your contact list know where your land is and what you want. You can cancel this last step if you wish and just print the contact list for follow-up the old-fashioned way by telephone. If you do send the e-mail, the DNR system directs a copy to you.

Try the Forestry Assistance Locator the next time you are looking for service or just have a question to ask. Since foresters are often in the field during the day, they like e-mail since it can be read and replies sent at any time. The Forestry Assistance Locator can also save you the frustration of making phone calls when foresters are not available to answer.

Woodland Leadership and Master Woodland Steward on-line Discussion Forums

There have been a number of requests by graduates of both the Woodland Leadership Institute and the Master Woodland Steward Program for opportunities to continue relationships that they have built as well as opportunities to continue to hear about current issues and be involved in the debates surrounding forest resource management in Wisconsin.

One way that you can do this is to visit the newly created on-line discussion forums. These websites give you the opportunity to post articles or share information that you would like to pass on to your friends and colleagues. The goal of this is to provide you with an opportunity to continue to learn and share information with program graduates.

Because of the different interests of graduates of each program I have created two separate websites each with topic areas related to program content. However, I would encourage each of you to visit both of these sites and participate in the discussions that are going on.

The woodland leader's site is located at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/fop/discussions/wli>

The Master Woodland Steward site is located at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/fop/discussions/mws>



Nominations for the WLI Class of 2004

We are currently in the process of seeking nominations for the Woodland Leadership Institute's Class of 2004. The Institute seeks candidates through nominations because this program is not for everyone. Likewise, many people tend to underestimate their own abilities and are often shy about putting their name forward.

I am asking for your help because your own experiences with these programs are the strongest recommendation that anyone could receive. The nomination process is simple. All you need to do is send me the person's name and contact information and I will send them an application. They are also welcome to contact me directly to receive an application package or download it from our website.

However, I would ask that you take some time to talk with potential candidates about the program and their ability to participate in the institute. I think that you will find that most people will be flattered that you thought of them as candidates for the Institute.

The timeline for the Nomination and application process is as follows: Nominations are due by January 16, 2004. Applications are due by February 27, 2004. Candidate selections will be announced by March 19, 2004.



**Global Positioning Systems and
Geographic Information Systems
April 24th & 25th**

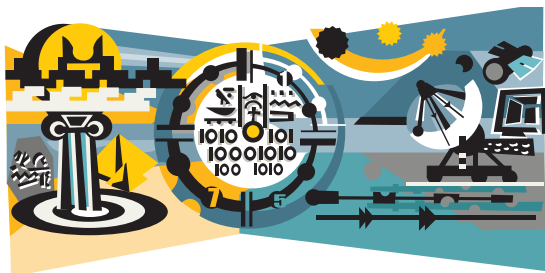
Come to Treehaven Saturday and Sunday, April 24-25, 2004, for Global Positioning Systems & Geographic Information Systems with Applications for the Classroom.

Learn how these fascinating new technologies are reshaping our world and creating new paradigms of understanding. Discover exciting applications for your classroom environments. No previous experience is necessary, and all equipment and meals are provided. All you need is comfortable clothing for our Wisconsin April weather.

Graduate & undergraduate credit is available for this workshop through the College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. Students seeking credit must pay a tuition fee in addition to the workshop fee.

This workshop will be taught by Kevin Lawton, Coordinator of the Advanced Computer Labs at the UW-Stevens Point.

For more information about this workshop contact John Heusinkveld, Treehaven Assistant Director, at 715.453.4106 or e-mail jheusink@uwsp.edu



**Sustainable Forest Management
Workshop for Private Woodland Owners**

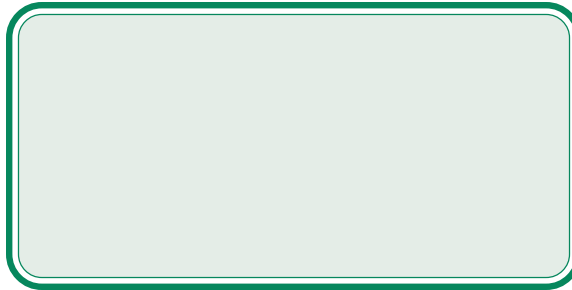
The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP), in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Department of Natural Resources, will be offering a session of the Master Woodland Steward Program this spring.

The Master Woodland Steward Program combines classroom instruction and outdoor experiences to teach participants the basics of forest ecology, forest management techniques, managing for aesthetics, recreation and wildlife habitat, business decision and planning tools as well as sources for technical and financial assistance for woodland owners. Whether you are interested in managing your woodlands for profit or pleasure, you can gain valuable skills and knowledge that will help you become a better steward of your woodlands.

The Program will be held over a series of evening classes and weekend field trips through March, April, and May on the campus of UW - Stevens Point. The program begins on Thursday, March 25th and end with a class project and graduation on May 15th. The cost to attend is \$50 per person. The registration fee covers all program costs including meals, instruction and reference materials. Registrations must be received by Friday, March 19th, 2004



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For more information about
University of Wisconsin Stevens Point's
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