



FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION of WISCONSIN

Woodchips

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The Paper Files Podcast | Episode 12: Learning with LEAF

The March 2025 WPC recorded with Gretchen Marshall, Forestry & Outdoor Education Specialist at LEAF. LEAF is Wisconsin's K-12 forestry education program, partnership program with the Wisconsin DNR Division of Forestry that focuses on providing training and resources to K-12 teachers to support forestry education in Wisconsin. To learn more about the LEAF program. [Listen Here](#)

In the News

Logging Legacy Kept Alive with Rib Lake Display

The village of Rib Lake is located on the north shore of its namesake lake. It started as a logging town during the height of the timber-barren era of Wisconsin's history where there was a race to harvest the state's rich timber reserves. Looking at the quiet residential community now, and it is hard to imagine the bustling industrial community of a century prior. Local historian Robert Rusch, of the Rib Lake Historical Society recently partnered with the village board to help remind people of the history of the community and its logging tradition, and especially the role railroads played in the area's logging industry. [Read More](#)

Wisconsin May See More Logging of National Forest Land Under Trump Order

President Donald Trump wants to ramp up timber production by fast-tracking projects under laws that protect endangered species and other environmental regulations, which could expand logging of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Earlier this month, Trump issued an executive order directing federal agencies to issue guidance on increasing timber production and sound forest management. The order is intended to make the nation "more self-reliant" as Trump has imposed, and then paused, tariffs on Canada, the nation's largest supplier of lumber. [Read More](#)

An Insect Update from a Forest Health Specialist

Wisconsin's woodlands face growing threats from a variety of destructive insects, making it crucial for landowners to stay informed and proactive. Bill McNee, Wisconsin DNR Forest Health Specialist, highlights key concerns, as well as emerging threats. [Read More](#)

Wisconsin Has Early and Unusually Active Wildfire Season

Just three months into 2025, at least 151 wildfires have burned nearly 430 acres across Wisconsin, at the time of this writing. A lack of late-winter snow cover, drought conditions throughout the state, and high winds have created the perfect conditions for fires, which can quickly spread out of control. [Read More](#)

'The Goal is Reforestation with Species that Support Wildlife'

La Crescent, Minnesota, is on a mission to reclaim its forests. What was once a lush hardwood forest was overwhelmed by aggressive invasive species, suffocating native biodiversity, according to Caledonia Argus News. But thanks to an ambitious restoration project, the city is transforming Stoney Point's ecosystem back to its natural state — and the before-and-after results are striking. [Read More](#)

New Report — Why US Forests Alone Can't Solve the Lumber Shortage

The US Forest Service is under-resourced and ill-equipped to deliver on Trump's agenda to "free up" forests for domestic lumber production and reduce dependence on Canadian and European wood. That is according to a new report produced by Global Wood Trends, revealing that decades of under-investment — dating back to the Clinton administration — and DOGE cuts means that the department, headed by Tom Schultz, needs a massive injection of on-the-ground training and recruitment to make up the shortfall. [Read More](#)

Older Forests do not Necessarily Store More Carbon

It's easy to think that older forests, with their diverse and well established trees, are better at storing carbon. Many assume that, as trees grow and ecosystems mature, they naturally become more effective at soaking up carbon from the atmosphere. A new study from scientists at the University of Michigan Biological Station challenges this assumption, however, and suggests that the reality is much more complicated. [Read More](#)