



Learning, Experiences, & Activities in Forestry Wisconsin K-12 Forestry Education Program

Press Release – May 6 2004

On May 6, The LEAF (Learning, Experiences, & Activities in Forestry) program is cooperating with the Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry and the Department of Public Instruction on the Wisconsin summer library reading program kick-off event. The event will take place at the Wisconsin Lion's Camp near Rosholt and is part of the yearlong celebration of Wisconsin forestry. The May 6th event for librarians is planned to introduce them to the forestry materials as they gear up for summer activities. Speakers from UW-Stevens Point, DPI, DNR, and other forest-related organizations and agencies will share their knowledge of and excitement for Wisconsin's forests with the 130 librarians attending the event.

"Forestry means many things to many people," said Paul DeLong, Chief State Forester with the DNR. "To the family on vacation, the birder, angler, skier or hunter, there is the obvious scenic quality and opportunities for recreation and quiet reflection. But Wisconsin's forests are also working forests. Forests support a \$20 billion industry and 96,000 jobs, protect our water quality, filter our air, and provide homes and habitat for many of the 200 endangered or threatened species in Wisconsin as well as for countless common species."

The Year of Wisconsin Forestry is intended to celebrate the wealth of our forest resources under all ownerships and our shared commitment to sustainable management of our forests. The celebration includes many partners in forestry who are dedicated to the protection, wise use and careful stewardship of our forest resources.

"Governor Doyle has declared 2004 as the "Year of Wisconsin Forestry" to recognize 100 years of professional forestry in Wisconsin," says Scott Hassett, Secretary of DNR. "Wisconsin's forests have recovered from the stark cut-over lands of the early 1900s to today's high-value forest, a tremendous success story that is the product of hard work by people of vision and commitment. We sincerely hope that all Wisconsin citizens will join us in celebrating our collective accomplishment, and to renew our commitment to sustaining our forests for future generations."

LEAF is the Wisconsin K-12 forestry education program based in the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE) in the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point. The program is a partnership between DNR-Forestry and the WCEE. For more information, visit www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf or contact Sterling Strathe, LEAF director at 715-346-2633 or sstrathe@uwsp.edu.

For more information on the Year of Wisconsin Forestry, visit www.wisconsinforestry.org or contact Kirsten Held, DNR forestry outreach specialist, at (608) 264-6036 or Kirsten.Held@dnr.state.wi.us

For more information on the 2004 summer reading program, visit www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dltcl/pld/slp.html or contact Barb Huntington, DPI Youth and Special Services Consultant, at (608) 267-5077 or Barbara.Huntington@dpi.state.wi.us.