



Woodland Leaders News



University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Forestry Outreach Programs

Volume 2, Issue 1



An Update on the Woodland Leadership Institute Class of 2001

One of the goals of the Woodland Leadership Institute is to connect graduates to their communities where they can play an active role as leaders to impact forest management by woodland owners through peer-to-peer contacts, taking leadership roles in woodland landowner organizations and planned activities in their local community.

Graduates of the Class of 2001 were asked to fill out a survey to help us understand the impact they were having in their communities. This survey was also designed to help the graduates review and reassess their Personal Leadership Goals that were a part of their commitment to this program.

The following are some of the results from the survey.

Since graduating from the Institute members of the Class of 2001 have put in almost 1,100 hours of volunteer work reaching out to their neighbors and other woodland owners. They have spoken to over 160 woodland owners on a one-to-one basis and made presentations to over 660 people. Outreach activities to neighbors include:

- 91 percent have talked one-on-one with another woodland owner about the benefits of sustainable forest management
- 82 percent have helped a neighbor to obtain management assistance
- 82 percent have showed other landowners management activities on their lands
- 45 percent have taken the lead to address forestry issues in their community
- 91 percent are actively involved with a local woodland owners organization.

And 73 percent are incorporating what they have learned into the management of their lands.

Some of the outreach activities they have been involved with include:

- 12 of the graduates have held a workshop or gathering on their land
- 20 have written articles for a newspaper, newsletter, or magazine
- 1 has appeared on television to discuss woodland stewardship
- 13 have talked with local community groups or organizations in their area.

We also asked if they had been working with elected officials in their community. Graduates have attended a total of 44 local government hearings or board meetings.

- 18 percent have talked with a planning commission member
- 18 percent have talked with a conservation commission member
- 18 percent have talked with a Town Board member
- 45 percent have talked with a County Board member.

As a part of the Institute participants were asked to develop a set of Personal Leadership Goals to think about how they would use what they have learned. Each member of the Class of 2001 set at least 3 goals and each graduate has completed at least one and made some progress on each. The quote at right is an example of a graduate's Personal Leadership Goal.

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Special points of interest:

Class of 2001 active and moving in their communities.

Master Woodland Steward Program - some first year results

Representative Friske reestablishes the Assembly Committee on Forestry

"I am currently setting up an organizational meeting of our new local Woodland Owners Group. I have had many conversations with DNR foresters to get another point of view. The form of this group seems to be constantly evolving even though we

The Master Woodland Steward Program was piloted in 2002 with sessions being held in Rhinelander and Hayward, Wisconsin. These sessions gave us an opportunity to test the curriculum and our ability to deliver the program as well as whether there was any interest among woodland owners for a program like this.

To evaluate the success of the program we collected baseline data through an application, per session evaluations that evaluated speakers and curriculum, and a post session evaluation that asked the same questions as the application to see if there was any change in knowledge, skills, or attitude.

The application showed participant's knowledge was highly variable. Some felt they were very knowledgeable and had years of practical hands-on experience in the management of their woodlands while others felt they were novices. The results from the survey summary showed that each participant felt their level of knowledge had increased. The overall average increase between the pre- and post-surveys was 21 points (see Table 1).

Overall, graduates were pleased with the Program and the experiences and information that were presented. 90% of respondents' felt that the Master Woodland Stewards Program exceeded their expectations.

Initially, 71% of respondents were "interested" to "very interested" in providing neighbors and other community members

with advice or information on forest stewardship. Upon course evaluation, all participants felt prepared to discuss Program materials with members of the community. Additionally, by the end of the course all of the participants felt confident that they could refer a woodland owner to the appropriate professional for various types of forest management assistance.

Based on the pre- and post-surveys and the per session evaluations we know that the Program participants felt that they received valuable information and that they would be able to incorporate it into the management of their lands. We also learned that their comfort level in presenting this information to their neighbors and peers had risen remarkably.

While each of the Program participants were very interested in the curriculum and what they would learn many were skeptical about working with their neighbors. However, the Program is designed to provide participants with the opportunity to share their ideas and receive feedback from each

other through the development of an Action Plan. The purpose of the Action Plan is to help participants focus their ideas and provide a direction for outreach activities. By the end of the Program all of the graduates felt had developed a plan prepared to discuss what they had learned with their neighbors.

Most graduates developed plans to provide their neighbors with information on financial and technical assistance programs. An outstanding example of this is a Program graduate who mailed a copy of his management plan to all forest landowners in his township. He invited them to visit his property or offered to visit them on their land to discuss forest stewardship. Graduates also planned to develop field days or walking tours of their properties for their local community or to develop workshops in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources or University of Wisconsin Extension to share what they have learned.

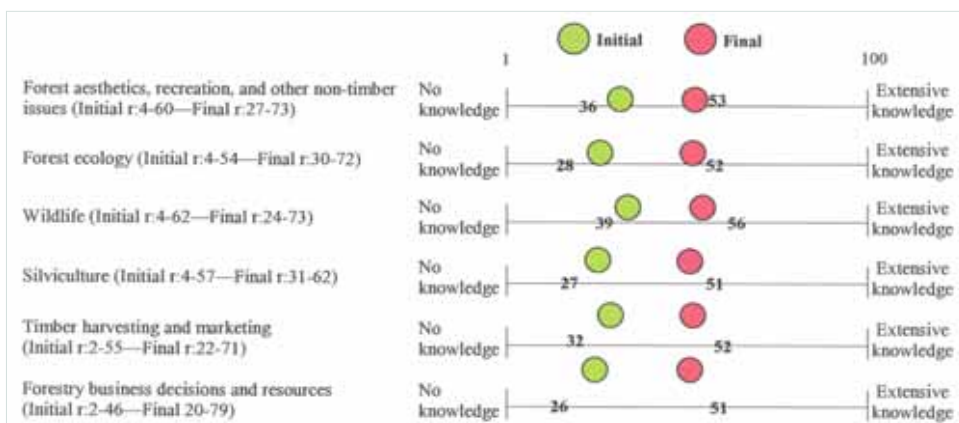


Table1. Current levels of knowledge associated with the following areas before (application/

Two Classes of the Master Woodland Steward Program will be held this year. The first class will be an intensive 4-day workshop, June 19th through the 22nd, to be held at the Marvin M. Schwan Conference Center near Trego.

The second class is scheduled at the WWOA Foundation's Seno Center near

Burlington. This program will occur over a series of Monday Evenings and Saturday mornings and afternoons in September and October.

To learn more about these workshops you can visit the Master Woodland Steward's Website at

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/fop/MWS.htm>

where you can download the workshop brochures.

If you are interested in attending you can also download a printer ready version of the Master Woodland Steward program's application form there as well or contact us directly and we will mail these forms out to you.

Items and Issues

Wisconsin State Assembly's Committee on Forestry

Representative Donald Friske (Merrill) has re-established the Assembly Committee on Forestry. According to the Legislative Reference Bureau, this is the first time since 1927 that the legislature has had a committee dedicated solely to forestry.

Members of the Committee include Representative Donald Friske (Chairman), Representative Mary Hubler (Ranking Member), Representative John Ainsworth (Vice Chairman), Representative Frank Boyle,

Representative Lorraine Seratti, and Representative Mary Williams.

To see the work that this committee is involved in visit their website at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm35/news/Committee/Index.htm> where you can find the Committee's hearings schedule and review the bills that are currently in Committee and those that have been voted out.

Environmental Concern Down This Earth Day

According to Gallup's annual Environment/Earth Day poll Americans grew more negative over the past year

about the quality of the environment in the United States. At the same time, they also became less likely to favor aggressive action to correct environmental problems. An important reason for this incongruity in environmental views appears to be Americans' heightened worries about the U.S. economy, although the situation with Iraq could also be a factor.

You can view the complete results of the poll at the Gallup Organization's website at: <http://www.gallup.com/>



2nd Annual Sustainable Forest Management Summit - Meeting Emerging Ecological, Economic, and Social Challenges

June 9 – 11, 2003

The Water Tower Inn and Convention Center; Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

The Great Lakes Forest Alliance and its partners will host its Second Annual Summit on Sustainable Forest Management on June 9 – 11, 2003 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario at the Water Tower Inn and Convention Center to bring together a diversity of citizens,

government, business and the academic community from Michigan, Minnesota, Ontario and Wisconsin. The Summit's theme, Meeting Emerging Ecological, Economic and Social Challenges will be addressed through an array of program offerings.

Showcase sessions will feature speakers from the province and all three states and include an equal number of ecological, social and economic best practices and emerging efforts. The presentations range from The Nature Conservancy and Mead-Westvaco's land planning partnership to elk

reintroduction, carbon dynamics, urban and rural forests, woodland owner training programs, sustainable development, forest products diversification and work on local level indicators by Michigan State University and the Lake Abitibi Model Forest Programme.

Registration in advance is recommended and can be done through the Alliance website at: <http://www.lsfa.org>

For more information contact Wendy Hinrichs Sanders at the Great Lakes Forest Alliance

Forest Certification - Skills and Standards for Foresters and Land Managers

June 12th and 13th, 2003

Wausau, WI

Forest certification has become an important tool for achieving excellence in forest management along with providing commercial incentives for managers and landowners to adopt sustainable forestry

practices. This two-day workshop will address the myths and realities of certification, with a particular emphasis on the Forest Stewardship Council's North Lakes Regional Standards.

We'll present recent examples of certification in practice, both from a landowner and resource manager perspective, and discuss some of the key standards, including monitoring, silviculture, high conservation value

forests, and development of management plans. The second day will take us into the field to examine forest tracts managed under certification guidelines and talk with the landowners and foresters who work the land.

For more information about this workshop contact Rob Nelson at the Aldo Leopold Foundation

Phone: (608) 355-0279 or by

Email: rob@aldoleopold.org

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Photo Courtesy of Paul Pingrey, WDNR

*WDNR Forester Sue Brisk leading the WLI Class of 2002
on a tour of the forest management activities on the*

University of Wisconsin Extension
Forestry Outreach Programs
Helping Wisconsin's Woodland Owners
put their Vision's into Action

*For more information about
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