

Wisconsin Forestry Center

2022 Annual Report

Our Mission

The mission of the Wisconsin Forestry Center is to promote vibrant, sustainable forests and forest-based economies through professional development, workforce development, applied research, and public outreach.

Workforce Development



Gov. Tony Evers and WEDC Secretary Missy Hughes announced the \$8 million grant award to the Wisconsin Forestry Center in June 2022.

Workforce Grant: Awarded an \$8 million grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. to develop a forestry education and careers pathway program. The program is expanding high school forestry curriculum, developing short-duration, post-high school immersion training programs in forestry operations and mill technology, and increasing public outreach about the forestry industry and its career options. Through the grant, the WFC has added three staff to develop the program.

2023 Farm Bill: Developed a white paper for a forestry workforce initiative as part of the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition.

Tree Felling Course: Offered a 3-day Science of Tree Felling course in March 2022 at Treehaven, with 4 high school students participating alongside UWSP students. Five high-schoolers are enrolled for the 2023 course, with support from the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, Wisconsin DNR, Milwaukee Tool, and Husqvarna.

Professional Development

Workshops/Trainings: Offered 13 in-person and online trainings, with a total of 231 participants.

Online Courses: Offered 6 on-demand online courses, with a total of 93 participants.

Certificates: Enrolled 358 participants in the Foundations of Utility Vegetation Management (UVM) and UVM Professional certificate, with six graduates earning the Utility Arborist Association Pro-UVM credential. The Forest Management for Wildlife Habitat certificate, now its second year, had its first graduate.

SilviCast Podcast: Released 10 episodes in Season 3, surpassing more than 16,000 listeners worldwide. Added CEU/CFE credit eligibility to all episodes and secured the first corporate sponsorship from the Nelson Paint Company.



Milwaukee Tool Endowment: Assisted in facilitating a \$1 million Milwaukee Tool equipment endowment to give UWSP College of Natural Resources students access to world-class tools, equipment, and training.



Students and instructors participated in a Science of Tree Felling course in March 2022 at Treehaven.

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Applied Research

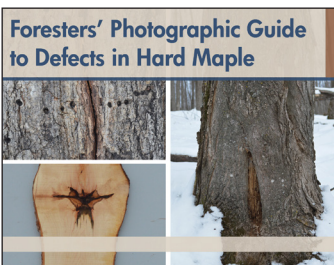


The WFC hosted a Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers workshop led by Dr. Bob Freckmann in May 2022 at Powers Bluff County Park, Arpin.

NRCS National Forestry Handbook: Awarded a two-year grant from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to coordinate a full revision of the National Forestry Handbook, a resource for conservation planners.

DNR New-Forester Training: Served as instructional design consultants for the Wisconsin DNR New-Forester Training Series for new hires, which includes six courses in silviculture and WisFIRS Public.

DNR Local Use Lumber Certificate: Contracted by the DNR to coordinate the Local Use Dimension Lumber Grading Certificate database and course marketing/registration services.



Hardwood Defect Guides: Continued development of A *Photographic Guide to Stem Defects in Hard Maple* and submitted a successful Wisconsin SFI grant proposal to

develop a guide to defects in red oak.

Professional Development Needs Research: Continued work on a forestry professional development needs assessment, funded through a McIntire-Stennis grant. A survey of employees in all sectors of Wisconsin's forest industry will be distributed in spring 2023, with results available in 2024.

Public Outreach

Educational Programs: In partnership with the UW-Stevens Point LIFE program, offered 3 educational programs, with a total of 62 participants.

Demonstration Sites: Began developing webpages for 9 wildlife habitat demonstration areas that will serve as an educational resource for landowners.

Conferences and Meetings: WFC was represented at several conferences and meetings, including: WI-SAF, SAF-National, Wisconsin Arborist Association, Wisconsin County Forests Association, Forest Resources Association, Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers, and Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators. A general session presentation at the Trees & Utilities annual conference was attended by more than 400 people.

Services Offered

Workshops and Trainings: The WFC works with UW-Stevens Point forestry faculty and industry partners to deliver high-quality, application-based forestry professional development trainings. Our trainings are delivered in a variety of formats, including in-person, online (self-paced courses), and virtual (live webinar-style workshops).

CEU-Certified Trainings: All WFC trainings are pre-approved for continuing education credits. Customized training services are available.

Instructional Design: The WFC provides instructional design and course development consulting services.

Outreach and Communications: The WFC can assist in identifying audiences and writing, editing, and designing publications such as brochures, booklets, and educational/interpretive signs.



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