

Resources for Teachers

***If Trees Could Talk* Stories about Wisconsin Trees**

Written By R. Bruce Allison

If trees could talk, what stories would they tell? Author and arborist R. Bruce Allison tackles this question in an engaging, accessible format in this children's companion to his 2005 adult title, *Every Root an Anchor*.

Inside the pages of *If Trees Could Talk*, Allison gives readers aged 7-12 fascinating stories that introduce them to noteworthy trees, both past and present, across Wisconsin. From Kenosha's buried forest on the shores of Lake Michigan to the Wyalusing maple that saw the last of the passenger pigeons; from Aldo Leopold's "good oak" to the disappeared elms of State Street in Madison, these stories open up a fascinating ecological and social history of Wisconsin to young readers. Other stories showcase the state's history: Readers will encounter Chief Black Hawk hiding in a hickory, Civil War soldiers enlisting for battle under "sign-up" trees, and trees used to hang criminals without a trial. They will also learn of large and unusual trees like the Columbus Cottonwood, which was over 26 feet around or, in the words of the author, so large that "it would take you and eight of your friends with arms outstretched to reach all the way around it!"

Told in compelling narrative style and supplemented with historic photographs and illustrations, these stories instill a sense of place and understanding of the rich heritage of our trees and forests. The book also carries an environmental message encouraging children to appreciate and manage natural resources wisely and respectfully. The highly accessible format includes a map of historic trees' locations, a glossary of tree terms, a tree identification chart, and a list of suggested books and websites for further reading.

R. Bruce Allison is an arborist in Madison, Wisconsin. He holds a masters of science in forestry and a PhD in land resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has served as the president of the Wisconsin Arborist Association and as chairman of the Dane County Tree Board and Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council. Allison is the author of several books and articles about trees, the most recent being a revision of *Wisconsin's Champion Trees: A Tree Hunter's Guide* and *Every Root an Anchor: Wisconsin's Famous and Historic Trees*. This is his first book for children.

Due for release in May 2009

Paperback: \$15.95

80 pages, 80 b/w photos and illus., 8 x 9

ISBN: 978-0-87020-419-7



Celebrate Arbor Day at your School

In Wisconsin, Arbor Day is always celebrated on the last Friday in April. **This year Arbor Day falls on April 24.** There are many ways that you can celebrate our tree and forest resources in your classroom. Here are some sources that can help you plan activities at your school:

- ★ The *EEK!* website offers information on the history of Arbor Day as well as activities and games. – <http://dnr.wi.gov/EEK/veg/arbor.htm>
- ★ The National Arbor Day Foundation's website is jam-packed with information on trees and activities to bring into your classroom. Many of the materials can be downloaded for free. – www.arborday.org/arborday/index.cfm
- ★ If you are hoping to plan a celebration for your school, the National Arbor Day Foundation website offers a free "Celebrate Arbor Day" booklet that is available for ordering. – www.arborday.org/Shopping/Merchandise/MerchDetail.cfm?id=55
- ★ You can order trees for your students to plant at home or in the community through DNR's Nursery Program. See the last page of this booklet for details.



Free Book Teaches Wisconsin Forest History

Would you like a fun and engaging way for your students to learn about the history of Wisconsin's forests? *Wisconsin Forest Tales*, a collection of eight historical fiction stories, is a useful tool to help teach Wisconsin history and boost reading skills. The book is available at no cost to 4th grade teachers in Wisconsin. It was written in 2004 by local author Julia Pferdehirt with funding from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and LEAF, Wisconsin's K-12 forestry curriculum.

If you are a Wisconsin 4th grade teacher and have not already received one, please request a Wisconsin Forest Tales kit by sending an email to leaf@uwsp.edu with your name, the name of your school, and the school's shipping address (for UPS delivery).

Each classroom kit includes:

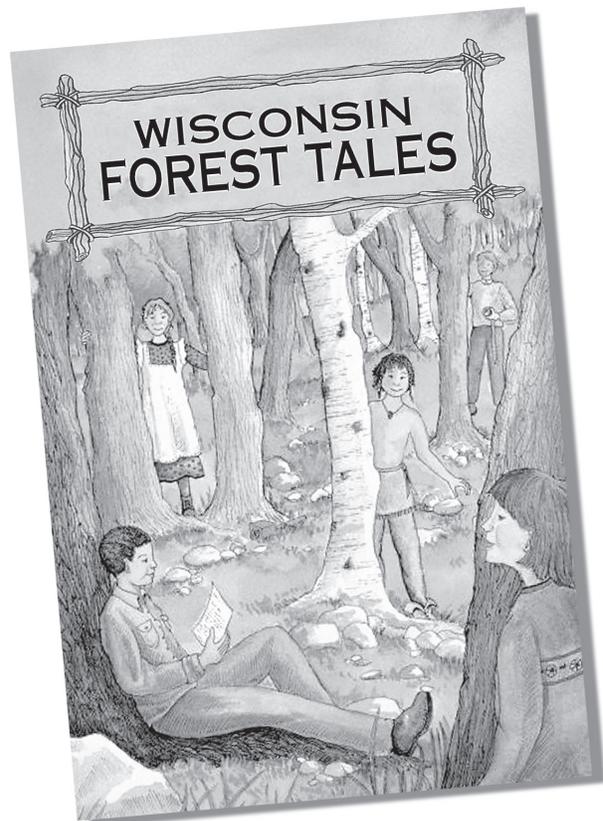
- ✦ One copy of the book, *Wisconsin Forest Tales*
- ✦ A guide book with a related classroom activity for each story
- ✦ A Wisconsin Forest Tales poster
- ✦ A CD
- ✦ A "Trees are Tremendous" video

The CD included in the kit features topic-related songs (and words so your students can sing along) by Wisconsin musicians Stuart Scotts and Ken Lonnquist; a reader's theater script written by the author to accompany each story in the book; the entire book (each story is included as a PDF file for you to print as many copies as needed for your class); and various other resources.

An electronic copy of the book, the reader's theater scripts, and the activity guide are also available online at: <http://wisconsinforestry.org/webtemplate.php?linkname=wiforesttales>

Three sets (25 copies each) of the books are also available for checkout from the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education Resources Library at UW-Stevens Point. Contact them at (715) 346-4854 or online at: www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/library/index.htm

Teachers with access to school or public libraries in the Wisconsin Library Delivery System Network (<http://psw.scls.lib.wi.us/delivery/networks/networks.html>) can borrow these books up to four weeks.



Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education

EE Resources Library

The Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE) maintains an Environmental Education (EE) Resources Library for use by educators in Wisconsin. It is located in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, on the UW-Stevens Point campus.

The library houses an up-to-date collection of EE materials including:

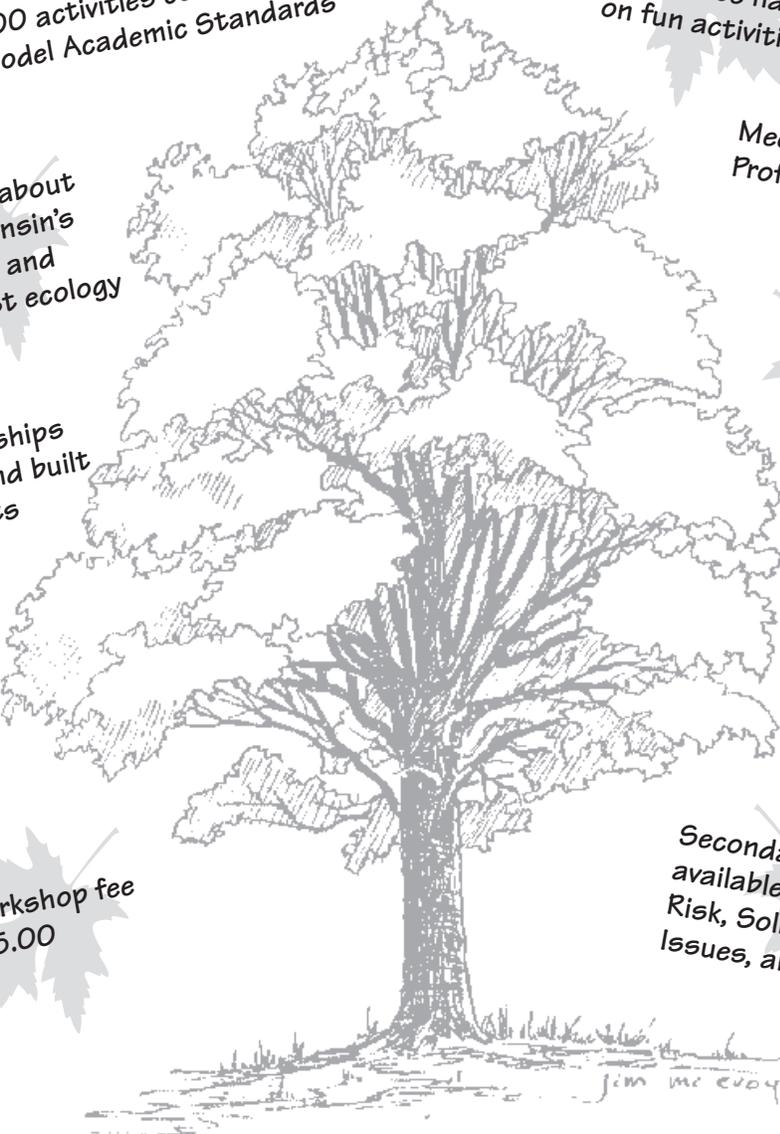
- ✦ Curriculum and activity guides
- ✦ Children's books
- ✦ Reference books
- ✦ Multimedia – DVD, CD, VHS, cassette
- ✦ Demonstration materials, games, puppets, posters and more

Materials can be checked out on-site or via the web. For contact information, directions and hours of operation, visit the EE Resources Library webpage – www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/library/index.htm



Project Learning Tree (PLT)

An award-winning environmental education program for PreK-8 formal and non-formal educators. Go out on a limb . . . attend a workshop!



* Receive a PreK-8 PLT Activity Guide with nearly 100 activities correlated to Wisconsin Model Academic Standards

Experience hands-on fun activities!

Meets Teacher Standards for Professional Development

Organize a workshop at your school or nature center and receive one free registration!

PLT Early Childhood Materials, ages 3-6

Secondary modules available on Forest Ecology, Risk, Solid Waste, Forest Issues, and Places We Live

Workshop fee \$15.00

Branch out - meet other educators - share ideas!

Discover the interrelationships of natural and built environments

Learn about Wisconsin's trees and forest ecology

*Correlations available on the DNR website at <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/education/pltwildwet>
Click on Project Learning Tree, then Educational Resources



WDNR – PLT/WILD/WET

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