



## GIVING.

- Residents and visitors enjoy the beauty of Wisconsin forests all year long. Over two million people each year visit the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest.
- Many rare and endangered plants and animals live in Wisconsin forests.
- Voluntary guidelines followed by forest landowners help protect the high quality of the water resource in Wisconsin.
- Wisconsin forests are a renewable source of wood to build homes, make paper and more than 5,000 products we depend on daily.

Many forestry-related organizations in Wisconsin are celebrating significant anniversaries in 2004:

- Wisconsin DNR Forestry program • 100 years
- Wisconsin Society of American Foresters • 85 years
- Wisconsin County Forest system • 75 years
- Trees For Tomorrow • 60 years
- Smokey Bear • 60 years
- American Tree Farm Program in Wisconsin • 60 years
- Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association • 50 years
- Wisconsin Arborist Association • 40 years
- Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association • 25 years

Many other members of the forestry community are participating in the celebration, including the Forest History Association of Wisconsin, USDA Forest Service, Great Lakes Intertribal Council and various educational institutions, industry associations and conservation organizations.

Visit [www.wisconsinforestry.org](http://www.wisconsinforestry.org) for ideas on how you can become involved in keeping Wisconsin's forests healthy for future generations.



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# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF FORESTRY IN WISCONSIN

LEARN ABOUT THE CELEBRATION AT  
[WWW.WISCONSINFORESTRY.ORG](http://WWW.WISCONSINFORESTRY.ORG)

# WISCONSIN FORESTRY

## GROWING.

- The forest industry is one of the top three employers in 42 of Wisconsin's 72 counties.
- Wisconsin leads the nation in production of paper, children's furniture and millwork.
- Wisconsin's forest volume increases annually because we grow more wood than we harvest each year.
- Recreational use of Wisconsin's forests continues to grow and diversify.
- Through growing partnerships we are securing habitat in Wisconsin for the federally-endangered Karner blue butterfly.
- Wisconsin is among the top maple syrup and Christmas tree producers in the nation.



**Governor Doyle declared 2004 as the “Year of Wisconsin Forestry” recognizing the importance of the forest resource to Wisconsin – past, present and future.** The dramatic recovery of Wisconsin’s forests from the cutover, abandoned forest land of the early 1900s to today’s high value forest has been the result of 100 years of hard work and investment by many landowners, foresters and leaders whose vision and commitment shaped today’s forests.



**In 1899, Wisconsin led the world in lumber production.** Wood from Wisconsin helped build the great cities of the Midwest, and provided an economic base for the state. “Forestry Conditions and Interests of Wisconsin,” a report written by Filibert Roth in 1898, set the stage for professional forestry to begin in Wisconsin. Fires raged across the cutover areas and farming often failed on the former forestlands of the Northwoods due to a harsh climate and poor soils. As the logging companies moved on and settlers deserted the unproductive farmland, unemployment and tax delinquency plagued the North in the early 1900s.

Celebrate 100 years of professional forestry and reforestation achievements in Wisconsin.

Fifth inventory of Wisconsin forests shows 46% of the state’s land area is forest.

First “Tree City USA” communities named in Wisconsin.

First mechanized tree planting machine developed in Wisconsin.

Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) forms, controls forest fires and begins replanting forests.

First forest land tax relief legislation enacted.

State constitution provides a mill tax to fund forestry.

U.S. Forest Service opens the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison.

First official observance of Arbor Day in Wisconsin.

Legislature sets aside 50,000 acres in Northern Wisconsin as state forest reserve.

Forests cover 63% of the land that will become Wisconsin.

**2004**

**1996**

**1976**

**1943**

**1933**

**1927**

**1924**

**1910**

**1899**

**1892**

**1878**

**1825**

**FORESTRY TIMELINE**

**2001**

Peshtigo River State Forest becomes Wisconsin’s 10<sup>th</sup> state forest.

**1986**

Managed Forest Law promotes sustainable forestry in exchange for landowner tax benefits.

**1944**

Smokey Bear campaign created, public embraces fire prevention and forest conservation in Wisconsin.

**1928**

First county forest and first school forest established.

**1926**

First state nursery produces over one million tree seedlings.

**1925**

First state forest established—today known as the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest.

**1911**

First 12 forest rangers report to work at the new Trout Lake Facility.

**1904**



**1871**

Peshtigo fire burns over one million acres and claims over 1200 lives.

**Trees once again cover nearly half of Wisconsin, and forests supply vast ecological, economic and social wealth.** The 16 million acres of forest in Wisconsin today support a great diversity of wildlife species, provide a wide range of recreational opportunities and improve our quality of life in many ways every day!

Wisconsin’s forests are closely monitored, continually growing and among the most productive in the world, making a bright future for the forest and all that depend on it.

**E.M. Griffith, the state’s first professionally trained forester begins work.** Griffith was a strong advocate for forest conservation. He led the effort to begin state-owned forest preserves, oversaw construction of the first state nursery at Trout Lake north of Minocqua, implemented new fire control strategies, was influential in locating the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison and set the stage for policies and infrastructure established over the next 20 years to rebuild the forests.

