Star Lake Forest

Vilas County

In 1913 in Vilas County, E. M. Griffith, Wisconsin's first state forester, guided the establishment of the Star Lake Forest Plantation, another Wisconsin first. Griffith considered the plot, which jutted out into Star Lake, an experimental plantation to be used as a guide for future tree planters in Northern Wisconsin.

Griffith was indeed ahead of his time. In 1915, the State of Wisconsin declared forestry unconstitutional and abolished Griffith's position as state forester. Today, records from the plantation provide data on tree growth and thinning operations.

Sources: M. N. Taylor, Merrill Paul Pingrey, DNR, Madison