



# Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, Inc.

## *46th Year Annual Report* September 20, 2025

### *2024-2025 Year in Review*

🍁 Thank you to WWOA's Board of Directors - President Don Hoffman, Vice President Ken Kempfert, Secretary Steven Ahrenholz, Treasurer Jack Rasmussen, Past President Tom Kempen, and Directors Tom Culbert, Bobbi Freitag, Ralph Heiser, Ross Prior, Jake Schuh, and Alan Van Straten for their leadership.

🍁 Thank you to WWOA's Chapter Chairs and Chapter Board members for your efforts this year. Chapter Chairs were Bad Axe, Jeanie Kramer and Warren and Renee Pickar; Black Hawk, Ken Kempfert and Lyndon Russell; Central Sands, Buzz Vahradian; Chippewa Valley, Karen Callaway and Jerry Hamm; North Central, Rich Warosh; Northwest, Bobbi Freitag; Phoenix Falls, Jake Schuh; West Central, Chad Mueller; WinnebagoLand, Nancy Wirtz; and Wolf River, Anthony Rynish. More than 1,200 WWOA members belong to a WWOA chapter.

🍁 The WWOA Board of Directors approved the new strategic plan for 2025-2030 on September 26, 2024. The plan has five goals: Goal 1. Increase membership recruitment, retention, and engagement; Goal 2. Streamline workload on WWOA office staff; Goal 3. Maintain long-term financial stability; Goal 4. Enhance Chapter viability to include additional activities; Goal 5. Increase educational opportunities to boost attendance at Chapter Field Days, Winter Conferences, Annual Meetings, and periodic webinars.

🍁 WWOA welcomed member, Mark Bohrnstedt, as *Wisconsin Woodlands* magazine's new Advertising Sales consultant in January 2025. As a member, Mark knew the types of advertisers we are looking for and he has already brought in several new advertisers.

🍁 WWOA's Legacy Circle was created for gifts by WWOA members and others who wish to designate WWOA as a recipient through their will or estate plans, or for designated gifts to WWOA upon their passing. Through the Legacy Circle, this fiscal year WWOA gratefully received a significant donation from the estate of Lee and Donna Johnston of Oconto Falls. The Board approved expanding the Legacy Circle for members to designate either the Endowment, Scholarship or Heritage Funds. If no fund is designated the WWOA Board of Directors will determine the allocation.

🍁 WWOA is very grateful to our special donors who annually step forward to cover WWOA's AmeriCorps member position. Our AmeriCorps member for 2024-25 was Kristen Summers. In addition to her work with WWOA's Learn Something New emails, she hosted WWOA's first virtual Book Club this past winter, and she will be leading a 2025 Annual Meeting tour.

🍁 WWOA's 2025 UW-Stevens Point Forestry Leader Scholarship of \$5,000 was awarded to Michael Steinhoff from Madison.

🍁 WWOA participated in the discussions with the WI Council on Forestry on state budget provisions related to forestry needs. WWOA supported many of the Council's proposed initiatives. WWOA sent letters to the Governor and members of the Joint Committee on Finance requesting additional forestry funds for the WI Forest Landowner Grant Program. This cost-share program had not received an increase in funding for many years, while costs to implement projects has increased. Thanks to WWOA, a small increase in this funding was approved in the state budget.

# 2024 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024**  
**HOTEL MARSHFIELD, MARSHFIELD**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** President Don Hoffman called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.
2. **WWOA MISSION STATEMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS:** President Don Hoffman read the WWOA Mission Statement and introduced the current and new WWOA Board of Directors members. He thanked the retiring board members Randy Cooper and Dick Czaja for their service.
3. **AGENDA REVISIONS AND ADOPTION: M/S/P - Tom Kempen/Chuck Wagner** - Motion to adopt agenda as presented.
4. **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 ANNUAL MEETING: M/S/P -Warren Pickar/Jim Wagener** - Motion to approve minutes of September 23, 2023 meeting.
5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Don Hoffman encouraged members to give a gift membership as their donation to WWOA. Hoffman mentioned the Mentorship program and encouraged the chapters to help the new "Aspens" with local mentorship in each chapter until the WWOA office is fully staffed again. He also mentioned Senate Bill 999 that was proposed in the last legislative session and for WWOA members to be alert if it comes up again. He referenced an article written by board member, Steve Ahrenholz, in the Summer 2024 issue of *Wisconsin Woodlands* describing the negative aspects of the bill.
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Jack Rasmussen presented the Treasurer's Report for FY 2023-24 budget and actuals through June 30, 2024. He noted that the report was printed in the Annual Report in the registration packet. Rasmussen touched on several year-over-year trends. In summary, for FY 2023-2024, total income was \$197,583.18, total expense was \$219,659.68 and net income was \$15,741.90. Total Liabilities and Equity was \$517,336.44. He explained the financial reports and briefly summarized the profit and loss statement, and thanked members for their donations, including the various fundraising raffles, memorials and endowments, all help with keeping WWOA going. He explained the scholarship, gift shop expenses and a brief description of each category and mentioned the recent donation from Lee Johnston's estate in memory of longtime WWOA members Lee and Donna Johnston. Jack thanked past treasurer Arlene Roehl for her continued assistance and the Finance Committee for their support.  
**M/S/P - Chuck Wagner/Steve Raether** - Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and place on file for audit.
7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - A. **2025-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN** - President Hoffman gave a brief description of the updated Strategic Plan and importance of getting our office back to full staffing is critical.
  - B. **NOMINATING** - Randy Cooper, chair, thanked the other committee members Ralph Heiser, Arlene Roehl, and Steve Ring for their work.  
**2024-25 Board of Directors** - Cooper presented the 2024-25 Board of Directors – Steven Ahrenholz, Tom Culbert, Bobbi Freitag, Ralph Heiser, Don, Hoffman, Tom Kempen, Ken Kempfert, Ross Prior, Jack Rasmussen, Jake Schuh and Alan Van Straten.  
**2024-25 Executive Committee** - Cooper presented the 2024-25 Executive Committee: Don Hoffman-President, Ken Kempfert-Vice President, Steven Ahrenholz-Secretary, and Jack Rasmussen-Treasurer.
8. **ELECTION OF 2024-2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** The President appointed Ralph Heiser and Bobbi Freitag as Nominating Committee members during the Board meeting. The remaining two committee members are nominated from the meeting floor. Nominations were solicited from the floor.

## 2024 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Randy Cooper was nominated by Jim Wagener and Arlene Roehl was nominated by Chuck Pogorelnik to be the two non-board committee members.

**M/S/P – Andrew Schmidt/Bobbi Freitag** - Motion to accept the nomination of voting members to the Nominating Committee.

9. **MEMORIAL FUND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** President Don Hoffman read off the memorial plaques recognizing families with members present that had established memorial funds in their loved one's name: In Memory of Glenn Charlson a plaque was presented to Evelyn Charlson, in memory of James Shea a plaque was presented to his daughter, Mary Ellen Shea.

WWOA's Legacy Circle recognizes members who have included WWOA in their estate planning documents. This past year Lee Johnston passed away. He and his wife, Donna, a former WWOA Treasurer, included WWOA in their estate plans. The Legacy Circle plaque reads, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association Inc. Legacy Circle – Donna & Lee Johnston 2024 – in recognition and appreciation of their contribution toward conserving and enhancing the future of Wisconsin's private woodlands and WWOA Inc.

10. **OLD BUSINESS:** No old business.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:** No new business.

13. **NEXT MEETING:** September 18-21, 2025 in Onalaska at the Stoney Creek Hotel. Please remember to complete your evaluation form for this meeting.

14. **ADJOURN:** **M/S/P – Andrew Schmidt/Bobbi Freitag** - Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, October 5, 2024  
Randy Cooper, Secretary



## 2024 – 25 Treasurer's Report

### Profit & Loss Statement

	July 2024-June 2025	July 2023-June 2024
<b>Income</b>		
ADVERTISING	21,245.00	16,111.00
AMI-ANNUAL MEETING INCOME	35,551.00	35,772.00
DONATIONS	55,779.14	24,477.53
FUNDRAISING INCOME	58,858.00	48,699.00
GRANTS INCOME	0.00	3,643.00
GSI-GIFT SHOP INCOME	2,277.00	2,150.65
ML-LIFE MEMBER	3,750.00	5,050.00
MN-NEW MEMBER	6,840.00	7,885.00
MR-RENEWAL MEMBER	56,520.00	49,630.00
OTHER INCOME ACCOUNTS	3,299.00	-15.00
STANDING COMMITTEES	3,300.00	2,900.00
WORKSHOPS INCOME	1,509.00	1,280.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>248,928.14</b>	<b>197,583.18</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>248,928.14</b>	<b>197,583.18</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
AME-ANNUAL MEETING EXPENSE	32,847.71	36,196.68
BOARD EXPENSES	140.91	296.38
CONTRIBUTIONS-EXPENSE	5,000.00	5,000.00
EX. DIRECTOR EXPENSES	2,337.37	1,974.87
FUNDRAISING EXPENSE	7,906.66	7591.79
GIFT SHOP-EXPENSE	740.16	1,737.03
MEMBERSHIP	450.00	380.00
OFFICE EXPENSES	7,363.84	9,100.17
OTHER EXPENSE ACCOUNTS	10,167.87	10,462.95
PAYROLL EXPENSES	141,991.10	123,627.44
PUBLICATIONS	21,877.16	18349.08
STANDING COMMITTEES-EXPENSE	521.24	3,935.46
TAXES	0.00	-690.00
WORKSHOPS EXPENSE	1,594.37	1,697.83
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>232,938.39</b>	<b>219,659.68</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>15,989.75</b>	<b>-22,076.50</b>
<b>TRANSFERS &amp; REINVESTMENTS</b>	<b>56,795.64</b>	<b>37,818.40</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>56,795.64</b>	<b>37,818.40</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>72,785.39</b>	<b>15,741.90</b>

# 2024 – 25 Treasurer's Report

## **Balance Sheet Statement**

June 30, 2025

June 30, 2024

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

##### Checking/Savings

BANK - CHECKING	3,329.32	2,645.29
BANK – SAVINGS – 3 YEAR	22,423.43	21,481.26
BANK – SAVINGS - HERITAGE	0.00	54,912.14
BANK – SAVINGS – MEMBERSHIP SHARE	453.71	420.12
BANK – SAVINGS - PAYPAL	1003.46	1,003.34
INVESTMENTS – ASSETS – HERITAGE	96,319.74	0.00
INVESTMENTS – ASSETS - LIFE	215,724.01	199,307.17
INVESTMENTS – ASSETS - SCHOLARSHIP	146,990.07	144,029.09
INVESTMENTS – FMV - HERITAGE	-335.88	0.00
INVESTMENTS – FMV - LIFE	98,931.18	92,020.36
INVESTMENTS – FMV - SCHOLARSHIP	4,278.44	143.32
PETTY CASH	58.80	58.80

Total Checking/Savings	589,176.28	516,020.89
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Total Current Assets	589,176.28	516,020.89
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#### Fixed Assets

##### ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION

##### EQUIPMENT

	-9,098.00	-8,728.00
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	10,043.55	10,043.55
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Total Fixed Assets	945.55	1,315.55
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TOTAL ASSETS	590,121.83	517,336.44
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### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Current Liabilities

Total Liabilities	0.00	0.00
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#### Equity

MARKET APPREC/DEPREC INVESTMENT	102,873.74	92,020.36
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RESTRICT NET ASSETS-SCHOLARSHIP	151,859.51	144,763.41
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RESTRICT NET ASSETS-TEMP OTHERS	124,241.50	83,789.97
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RESTRICTED NET ASSETS - LM FUND	97,865.79	94,865.79
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RETAINED EARNINGS	40,495.90	86,155.01
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Net Income	72,785.39	15,741.90
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Total Equity	590,121.83	517,336.44
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	590,121.83	517,336.44
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## 2024-25 Donors

*Your donations assisted us in providing more sustainable forestry education across Wisconsin and more member services to you! Thank you!*

### WVOA Donations

#### **Acorn Donors ~ \$1 - \$10**

Steve & Sandy Berg, Savage, MN  
William Briggs, Eau Claire  
Patrick & Sarah Delaney, Hayward  
Fox Hollow Tree Farm LLC, New London  
Anthony Grabski, Blue Mounds  
Gary Johnson, Cumberland  
Bruce Loberg, Winneconne  
Christopher Pearson, St. Paul, MN  
Tom Spaay, Wausau  
Ray C. Wilde, Waupaca

#### **Root Donors ~ \$11 - \$24**

George Amelse, Irma  
Duane Dorn, Lake Geneva  
Len & Paula Hamman, Medford  
David Jelle, Blanchardville  
Bonnie Jost, Manitowoc  
Tom Moris, Fountain City

#### **Branch Donors ~ \$25 - \$49**

James Albrecht, Athens  
Dana Anderson, Marshfield  
Bruce Ayres, Colfax  
June Baker, Viola  
David & Alice Bertolino, Montreal  
Roger & Mary Beth Bord, East Troy  
Evelyn Charlson, Mountain  
Mark Dacko, Hayward  
Dale Daczyk, Iola  
Clyde Eggett, Elizabeth, IL  
Eric Erpenbach, Oronco, MN  
Howard Garves, Sparta  
Keith Ginner, Monroe  
Greg Herrling (Vermont Lutheran Church), Cross Plains  
John Hogden, Galesville  
Leo Janus, Fitchburg  
Glenn Jonas, Cedarburg  
Jason Kelly, Townsend  
David Koschak, Gurnee, IL  
William "Biff" Kummer, Tomahawk  
Joe Kramer, Madison  
Elizabeth Laack, Rubicon  
Eldon Liebrecht, Waupaca  
Charles Ludwig, Big Bend  
Thomas Manning, Pewaukee  
Hugo Daniel Martin, Sarona  
Michael & Erika Marzitelli, Saint Paul, MN  
Tom & Sue Neal, Appleton  
Scott Omberg, Bovey, MN  
Reuben Roehl, Wausau  
Scott & Melanie Schoepp, Ellsworth  
Sheri Scott, Richland Center  
Dick Seebach, River Falls  
Francis Seroogy, Tomahawk

Joe Solawetz, Monroe  
David Swanton, Hortonville  
Karen Tibbitts, Milwaukee  
Rick Toney, Waupaca  
Scott Tracy, Muskego  
Pete Van Airdale, Neenah  
Donald Wallgren, Hermantown, MN  
Gerda Weitzel, Park Ridge, IL  
James Werner, Marathon

#### **Trunk Donors ~ \$50 - \$74**

Michael Barikmo, Cedarburg  
Theodore Boucher, Brooklyn  
Colleen Carey, Minneapolis, MN  
Bill & Debbie Carothers, Barronett  
Kelly Dudley, Muscoda  
Arthur Elsesser, Sussex  
Bill Euclide, Adams  
Carl W. Foster, Wausau  
Dewey & Sue Fritz, River Falls  
Theresa Gallagher & David Shadis, Winter  
Kevin & May Lee Gehring, Iron Ridge  
Diane & Jim Grunloh, Oshkosh  
Tom Hatch, Mahomet, IL  
Chuck Hoffman, Two Rivers  
Jim & Mary Joslin, Marshfield  
Edward L. King, Eden Prairie, MN  
Dan Konz, Appleton  
Robert Krause, New Auburn  
Peter Luxenhofer, Racine  
John Mikrut, Lake Geneva  
Randall Miller, Manitowoc  
Tracy Morland, Blanchardville  
Robert Mushinski, Wild Rose  
Valerie Naab Phillip, Neenah  
Jean Porter, Sheboygan Falls  
Michael Nothom, Chanhassen, MN  
Dale Parker, La Farge  
David Peters, Freedom  
Kent Prather, Loveland, CO  
Steffan & Stewart Rachwal, Weyauwega  
Bill & Ann Rauwerdink, West Bloomfield, MI  
Douglas Scheffer, Humbird  
Jerald Schoenike, Clintonville  
Susan Seresse, Fond du Lac  
Randy Soper, Gillett  
Wayne Stoflet, Combined Locks  
Jeff Uecker, Adell  
Roy Valitchka, Appleton, WI  
Thomas Werner, Luxemburg  
Bill & Lori Westphal, Shiocton  
Bruce Ayres, Colfax

#### **Tree Donors ~ \$100 - \$499**

Acorn Farms LLC/Ted Knorrng, Wheaton, IL  
Steven & Theresa Ahrenholz, Cincinnati, OH  
Gary & Jill Amel, Green Bay  
Gerald Backes, New Richmond  
Jeffrey Basford, Kasson, MN  
Merlin & Georgie Becker, Manawa  
Joe & Carrie Bird, Iowa City, IA  
Brian & Mary Blakeley, Boyceville  
Nancy Bozek, Stevens Point  
Daniel Breunig, La Crosse  
John & Nita Carson, Monroe  
Gary & Bonnie Christenson, Cameron  
Tom & Margaret Culbert, Holcombe  
Kirk Dahl, Eau Claire  
Gerald Dayboll, Friendship  
John & Gayle DeBaun, Brookfield  
Darrel Degelau, Gays Mills  
Keith & Karla Dobberstein, Hortonville  
Larry Eggman, Loyal  
Mark & Roxanne Erickson, Medford  
Randall Fredricks, Wisconsin Dells  
Joy & Rob Gottschalk, Madison  
Robert Gundlach, Arlington  
Jerry Hamm, Neillsville  
Alan Haney, Custer  
Richard & Cleo Hendricksen, Hancock  
Earl Hildebrandt, Mayville  
Rita Hoffmann, Viola  
Franka Iwen, Madison  
James Jensen, Verona  
Jeff Johnston, Pigeon Falls  
Gerald Kann, La Crosse  
Tom & Mary Kempen, Greenleaf  
Ken Kempfert, Belleville  
Paul Kientz, Merrill  
Dennis & Catherine Kilbane, Stillwater, MN  
Jim Kingsbury, Mountain  
Curt & Martha Knoke, Gresham  
Lee & Chris Knuteson, Monroe  
William "Biff" Kummer, Tomahawk  
Lee Laechelt, Birmingham, AL  
Gary & Jane Larson, Wonder Lake, IL  
Dale & Fay Lightfuss, Ogdensburg  
Dan Lightfuss, Appleton  
Joseph P. McCormick, Appleton  
James McDermott, Leesburg, VA  
Heinz & Helen Melzl, Big Bend  
Fred & Teresa Miller, Brooklyn  
Louise Pacholik, Palmyra  
David Patek, Oshkosh  
Ben & Melissa Peterson, Aniwa  
Jack Rasmussen, Baldwin  
Randy & Ann Reed, Seymour  
Dennis Rezner, Menasha  
Rick & Kim Roberts, Appleton

## 2024-25 Donors

Brent Rystrom, Waller, TX  
Randy Schacht, Osceola  
Charles & Wendy Schmidt, Wild Rose  
Dennis & Kim Schoeneck, Pelican Lake  
James Schwanke, Weyauwega  
John Swanson, Sturgeon Bay  
Lon & Ellen Swedberg, Shawano  
Richard Teske, Boulder Junction  
Steven Thaler, Chippewa Falls  
Thomas Thayer, Fitchburg  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans,  
Appleton – Match behalf Merlin Becker  
Peg & Michael Uihlein, Cedarburg  
Richard & Kathy Wagner, Weyauwega  
Bob Wick, Wisconsin Dells  
Wilson Family Trust, Austin, TX  
Robert & Ellen Wing, Chippewa Falls  
Lyle Wuestenberg (Cooper & Sawyer  
Genz), Johnson Creek  
Lon M. Yeary, Cross Plains  
Bob Zahn, Weyauwega  
Jim & Marlene Zdanovec, Oshkosh

### **Forest Donors ~ \$500+**

Kurt & Debra Boettcher, Seymour  
Mike Bohman, Algoma  
Randy & Karen Cooper, New Berlin  
Don Evans, Merrill  
Bryon Hill, Ripon  
Dean & Kay Mehlberg, Hales Corner  
Doris Mueller, Onalaska  
Stanley Peskar, River Falls  
Steve & Lois Raether, Chippewa Falls  
Dane Rasmussen, Baldwin  
Allan Robertson, Milwaukee  
Jim & Debi Swanson, Stevens Point  
Andrew & Susan Schmidt, Wausau  
Janette Sweasy, Bay City

### **Life Members**

Daniel Flees, Marshfield  
Rob Gottschalk, Madison  
Sam Musto, Milwaukee  
Arthur R. Obst, Madison  
Gary Welsch, Madison

### **AmeriCorps Member Donations**

Anonymous

### **In Kind Donations**

Nancy Bozek, Stevens Point  
KerberRose S.C., Green Bay  
Steve & Lois Raether, Chippewa Falls  
Andrew Schmidt, Wausau

### **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

Wendy Goerke, Arkdale  
Ronald Koenig, Sauk City  
Ed Moberg, Nekoosa  
Rhonda Richards, Townsend  
Sue Ring, Shiocton

Darrell Ruechel, Appleton  
Jeffrey Thering, Waunakee  
William & Debra Vandertie, Forestville

### **Annual Fundraiser Donations**

Steven & Teresa Ahrenholz, Cincinnati,  
OH  
Alvin Barden, Eagle River  
C. Andrew Beagle, South Plainfield, NJ  
Michael Bohman, Algoma  
Nancy Bozek, Stevens Point  
David Burbach, La Crosse  
Randy & Karen Cooper, New Berlin  
Tom & Margaret Culbert, Holcombe  
Dennis & Nora DeSalvo, Morton Grove,  
IL  
Dewey & Sue Fritz, River Falls  
Carl & Mary Beth Garske, Harshaw  
Warren & Kathleen Gerds, Green Bay  
Charles Haubrich, Burlington  
Ralph Heiser, Baraboo  
Donald Hoffman, Black River Falls  
Ken Kempfert, Belleville  
William Kempley, Montello  
Jim Kingsbury, Mountain  
Bob Menzel, Cedar Grove  
David Rabl, Adams  
Jack Rasmussen, Baldwin  
Rick Toney, Waupaca  
Elizabeth Victor, Fond du Lac

### **Annual Fundraiser In-Kind Donations**

B & I Lumber, Inc., Stratford  
Bear Butt Chainsaw Carving, Medford  
Merlin & Georgie Becker, Manawa  
Bill's Service Center, Stratford  
Nancy Bozek, Stevens Point  
Mark & Roxanne Erickson, Medford  
John Klemaseski, Lino Lakes, MN  
Klingbeil Lumber Co., Inc., Medford  
George Lehrer, Deerbrook  
Meyer Lumber Co., Inc., Dorchester  
Riesterer & Schnell, Stratford  
Dona Schwichtenberg, Wausau  
Vortex Optics, Barneveld  
Karen Wedde, Oshkosh  
Wick Habitat Services LLC, Wisconsin  
Dells

### **Annual Meeting Donations**

Merlin & Georgie Becker, Manawa  
Dean Mehlberg, Hales Corners  
Schmidt & Schmidt S.C., Wausau –  
Sponsorship  
USDA – Natural Resources Conservation  
Service, Madison – Sponsorship  
Jim & Jackie Wagener, Madison  
Rich Warosh, Wausau  
WI DNR, Division of Forestry,  
Rhinelander - Sponsorship

### **Endowment Fund Donations**

John & Gayle DeBaun, Brookfield  
Richard & Deborah Hall-Reppen,  
Geneva, IL  
Michael Hovel, Stevens Point  
Bonnie Jost, Manitowoc  
Ed Moberg, Nekoosa  
Darrell Scherwinski, Plover  
Wolf River Refuge LLC, Madison

### **WWOA UW-Stevens Point Scholarship Fund**

#### **Aspiring Forester ~ \$1-10**

Andrew Halada, Madison  
Bruce & Monica Robb, Brule

#### **Wildfire Crew ~ \$50-74**

Keary Gallagher, Walworth  
Patrick Kennedy, Cedarburg

#### **Forest Ecologist~\$100-499**

Russ & Carolyn Plagemann, Wisconsin  
Dells  
Charles Schmidt, Milwaukee in honor of  
Charles Pogorelnick  
Sandra Tibbetts, Green Bay

#### **Chief Forester~\$500+**

Green County Forestry Educational  
Center, Monroe

WVOA Memorial Funds

-  **Rosie Bazile**  
John & Gayle DeBaun, Brookfield
-  **Richard Camp**  
Jim March, La Crosse
-  **Jacquelin Collins**  
WVOA Chippewa Valley Chapter
-  **David Downs**  
Ed Moberg, Nekoosa to Endowment Fund
-  **William Horvath**  
Ed Moberg, Nekoosa to Endowment Fund
-  **Lee Johnston**  
Merlin & Georgie Becker, Manawa  
Randy & Jane Bigelow, Oconto Falls  
Nancy Bozek, Stevens Point  
Jim & Pat Brien, Wausaukee  
Deb Buchanan, Appleton  
Evelyn Charlson, Mountain  
Randy & Karen Cooper, New Berlin  
Jeannie Daul, Oconto Falls

- Ken & Doris Eisner, Allenton
- Bruce & Lavon Frazier & Family, Forest Grove, OR
- Ken & Judy Kaphingst, Little Chute
- Jim Kingsbury, Mountain
- Diane Kirschling, Custer
- Todd & Nancy McCourt, Oconto Falls
- Dan Mertz, Wausaukee
- Steve & Lynn Michalko, Oconto Falls
- WVOA Phoenix Falls Chapter
- Rhonda Richards & Keith Mietus, Townsend
- Ed Moberg, Nekoosa
- Steve & Lois Raether, Chippewa Falls
- Arlene Roehl, Long Lake, MN
- Mike Stahl, Oconto Falls
- Craig & Becky, La Von Strutz & Families, Marinette

-  **Don Krahn**  
Geneva Krahn, Arkdale  
Cheri & James Ross, Friendship

-  **Bev Rosenfeldt**  
Thomas Rosenfeldt, Greenville

-  **Janet Samsel**  
Ed Moberg, Nekoosa – to Endowment Fund

-  **James Shea**  
Doris Dix, Shorewood  
Joseph & Rita Musto, Milwaukee  
Jeffrey & Donna Whittle, Shorewood

-  **Dottie Staffeldt**  
Nancy Bozek, Stevens Point  
Randy & Karen Cooper, New Berlin  
WVOA Phoenix Falls Chapter

-  **Grace White**  
Julia Jaegersberg & the Janke Kids, Sussex

-  **Joanne Wittek**  
Doris Mueller, Onalaska  
Steve & Lois Raether, Chippewa Falls  
WVOA Chippewa Valley Chapter

-  **George Woelfel**  
Nancy Bozek, Stevens Point  
Karen & Randy Cooper, New Berlin  
Evelyn Charlson, Mountain  
Ken & Doris Eisner, Allenton  
Mark & Roxanne Erickson, Medford  
Ralph Heiser, Baraboo  
Tom & Leslyn Jacobs, Crivitz  
Jim Kingsbury & Arlene Roehl, Mountain  
Tom Raimann and Raimann Family Trust, Milwaukee  
WVOA Phoenix Falls Chapter

## 2024-25 Volunteers

### *YOU are WWOA*

*More than 160 WWOA members volunteered for over 2,000 hours!*

*Your generous gifts of time and sharing of your talents allows us to achieve so much.*

*Thank you – we couldn't do it without YOU*

Steven & Teresa Ahrenholz,  
Cincinnati, OH  
Glenn Badje, River Falls  
Shirley Bargander, Marshfield  
Mike Bisswurm, Germantown  
Brian & Mary Blakeley, Boyceville  
Brian & Dawn Borreson, Pigeon  
Falls  
Allan Braun, Madison  
Karen & Dave Callaway, Altoona  
Sara Cardwell, Menomonie  
Evelyn Charlson, Mountain  
Bonnie & Gary Christenson,  
Cameron  
Bill & Peg Connelly, Augusta  
Karen & Randy Cooper, New Berlin  
Tom & Margaret Culbert, Holcombe  
Jerry Curnow, Frederic  
Dick & Mary Czaja, Pittsville  
Kirk Dahl, Eau Claire  
John & Gayle DeBaun, Brookfield  
Mike Deneen, Hudson  
Keith & Karla Dobberstein,  
Hortonville  
Anthony Dzialowy, Chippewa Falls  
Steve Dzubay, River Falls  
Kenneth & Doris Eisner, Allenton  
Mark & Roxanne Erickson, Medford  
Bobbi & Rick Freitag, Birchwood  
Sue & Dewey Fritz, River Falls  
Keary Gallagher, Walworth  
Carl Garske, Harshaw  
Alex Gerstenhaber, Cross Plains  
George Grimm, Redgranite  
Mike & Michelle Grover, Underhill  
Jim Grunloh, Oshkosh  
Rich Hall-Reppen, Geneva, IL  
Jerry Hamm, Neillsville  
Loren Hanson, Janesville  
Ralph Heiser, Baraboo  
David & Diane Hoffman, Stoddard  
Don & Jacki Hoffman, Black River  
Falls  
Diane Humphrey Lueck, Coloma  
Tom Jacobs, Crivitz  
Jim Karpinsky, Madison

Tom & Mary Kempen, Greenleaf  
Ken & Jean Kempfert, Belleville  
Paul Kienitz, Merrill  
Jim Kingsbury, Mountain  
Jolene Kingsbury-Kaczmarek,  
Delavan  
Alice Kissinger, Eau Claire  
Jim & Kathy Kjorlie, Middleton  
John Klemaseski, Lino Lakes, MN  
Jill Konopacky, Stevens Point  
Jeanie Kramer, Madison  
Elizabeth (Betty) Kramer, Madison  
Tom Kretovics, New Richmond  
Jack & Mary Kucksdorf, Marion  
Judy Kucksdorf, Marion  
Angela Larson, Eau Claire  
Dale Lightfuss, Ogdensburg  
Dan Lightfuss, Appleton  
Dave Lindner, Richfield  
Kent & Jeanette Makela, Maple  
John & Rosanne Marquardt,  
Wittenberg  
Colleen Matula, Mellen  
Steve McDonald, Hudson  
Dan & Mary Meyer, Crivitz  
Ed Moberg, Nekoosa  
Russ Moody, Monona  
Chad Mueller, Blaine, MN  
Doris Mueller, Onalaska  
Michael Nee, Richland Center  
Carl & Cindy Nelson, Minnetonka,  
MN  
Carol & John Nielsen, Mount Horeb  
Mike Nothom, Chanhassen, MN  
Margaret Parsons & Felix Grutzik  
Jr., Junction City  
Dale & Judy Paust, Crivitz  
Roger Perrault, Gillett  
Ben & Melissa Peterson, Aniwa  
Kris Peterson, Rothschild  
Warren & Renee Pickar, West  
Salem  
Russell Plagemann, Wisconsin Dells  
Chuck Pogorelnik, Milwaukee  
Ross Prior, Coleman  
Dan Pubanz, Shawano

Lois & Steven Raether, Chippewa  
Falls  
Jack Rasmussen, Baldwin  
James Richards, Kronenwetter  
Gary & Jean Rieniets, Dubuque, IA  
Steve Ring, Shiocton  
Arlene Roehl, Long Lake, MN  
Mike Roy, Madison  
Deborah & Lyndie Russell, Gleason  
Anthony Rynish, Fremont  
Barbara Sauer, Iola  
Darrell Scherwinski, Plover  
Andrew & Susan Schmidt, Wausau  
Mary Beth Schmidt, Almond  
Bob Schmit, Shawano  
Scott Schoepp, Ellsworth  
Vern Schroth, Stevens Point  
Gloria & Kurt Schuh, Amberg  
Jake Schuh, Seymour  
Kay Searfoss, Ojibwa  
Dick Seebach, River Falls  
Mary Ellen Shea & Henry Musto,  
Milwaukee  
Ken Staffeldt, Porterfield  
Marilyn Steele, Valparaiso, IN  
Terry Strong, Rhineland  
Jim & Debi Swanson, Stevens Point  
Dick & Charlotte Thompson, Lake  
Geneva  
Buzz & Marcia Frost Vahradian,  
Wautoma  
Roy Valitchka, Appleton  
Alan Van Straten, Shiocton  
Joel Wagenaar, Wisconsin Rapids  
Jim & Jackie Wagener, Madison  
Richard & Kathy Wagner,  
Weyauwega  
Rich Warosh, Wausau  
Gary Welsch, Athelstane  
Chris Wyman, Hortonville  
Randy Zastrow, Shawano  
Jim & Marlene Zdanovec, Oshkosh

*If your name is inadvertently missing from these lists, we sincerely apologize. Please notify the WWOA office so we can correct our records.*

*If you are interested in sharing your talents with WWOA,  
please contact the WWOA office or complete the volunteer interest form on our website.*



# Strategic Plan Updates

## 2025-2030 WWOA Strategic Plan Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2024-25

WWOA's Strategic Plan for FY 2025-2030 was finalized and approved by the WWOA Board of Directors on September 26, 2024. The plan was shared with WWOA members at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

This plan has five goals along with suggested ways on how to meet these goals. The plan is dynamic and will be updated regularly by the Board of Directors. When evaluating suggested ideas, the Board will consider relevance to our mission and vision as well as executability with available resources and partners.

### **Goal 1. Increase membership recruitment, retention, and engagement**

- Partner with WDNR, UW Ex, NRCS, and other sustainable forestry entities (WTFC, TFT, Walnut Council, etc.) to mutually support recruitment activities.  
*In FY 2024-25, the Board of Directors met at Northcentral Technical College (NTC) in Antigo and toured the Wood Technology Center of Excellence. It is a one-of-a-kind, 27,000 square foot facility, that includes the NTC Sawmill (the only commercial scale training sawmill in the U.S.), dedicated to preparing students for careers in the forest products and woodworking industry.*
- Enlist a WWOA graduate of the UW-Ex Coverts Project to make a presentation at the annual Coverts workshop and award gift memberships. The Coverts Project, a three-day workshop, uses sound ecological principles to focus on actions you can take to enhance your land's wildlife abundance and diversity.  
*In FY 2024-25, WWOA member Don Hoffman donated 10 WWOA gift memberships for participants in the Coverts program.*
- Encourage chapters to attend forestry related events in their areas with the WWOA exhibit and brochures
- Update the WWOA PowerPoint slide show to use when engaging other audiences  
*AmeriCorps member has created a draft which will be finalized in FY 2025-26.*
- Mass mailing to WDNR Cooperating Foresters to encourage their clients to join WWOA
- Target gift memberships to woodland owners who aspire to sustainable forestry and are inclined to join WWOA (e.g., winter conferences, Coverts, WDNR engagements, etc.). *All WWOA members are invited to participate in giving gift memberships to encourage fellow woodland owners to join. Membership Committee focused on promoting the gift memberships. Need to continue this focus to promote more gifting and then what we deliver once they join. Encourage the gifter to follow up with invitations to chapter events, winter conferences, and annual meeting etc.*
- Invite chapter/committee leadership to WWOA Board meetings to provide updates  
*The WWOA Board held a discussion with the Fundraising committee co-chairs to review their successful efforts through the years and how it has supplemented WWOA's educational efforts. They hope to continue to receive donations to cover the prizes rather than purchasing them.*
- Personally engage fellow members for volunteer opportunities  
*WWOA volunteers are recognized on the previous page – Thank you so much to all of our volunteers for giving of their time to better our organization!*

### **Goal 2. Streamline workload on WWOA office staff**

- Maintain full staffing in WWOA  
*In September 2024, Kristen Summers, became our 10<sup>th</sup> AmeriCorps member. In January 2025, WWOA hired an Advertising Sales consultant, Mark Bohrnstedt, for Wisconsin Woodlands magazine. Just after the end of FY 2024-25, WWOA hired a new Administrative Assistant, Tracie Olson.*

## Strategic Plan Updates

- Redirect routine tasks to qualified volunteers, in person or remote
- Upgrade office equipment as needed for efficiency  
*The WWOA office has worked with consulting firms and the University of WI – Stevens Point this past summer to determine our IT needs. We are purchasing new office computers and software for all staff this fall after the Annual Meeting. All of our computers are older, have limited capacity, and have been running slow with older software. This is the first time we will be replacing all of our computers at one time. While this is an expensive project, it will help the WWOA office become more efficient and productive. This transition will take some time and we may incur some unexpected issues along the way. We ask for your support and patience during this time.*
- Adjust programming activities to match available resource constraints (temporarily pausing, delegating, outsourcing, merging with others, etc.)  
*The Woodland Mentor program is being reconfigured to be offered through the chapters.*
- Re-establish Government Affairs committee  
*WWOA's Government Affairs Committee was re-established at the WWOA Board of Director meeting on September 26, 2024.*

### **Goal 3. Maintain long-term Financial Stability**

- Transition investment accounts to low fee, acceptable risk portfolios  
*The Board approved moving WWOA's Life membership funds, Heritage, and Scholarship accounts to Vanguard funds.*
- Encourage legacy contributions in estate planning  
*The Board spent the year discussing WWOA's Endowment Fund and possible future options.*
- Investigate pros and cons of creating a land trust for working forests  
*The Board decided that this was a very low priority.*
- Recruit corporate and government sponsors to defray costs of annual meeting  
*The 2024 Annual Meeting was sponsored by Merlin & Georgie Becker, Natural Resource Conservation Service of WI, Schmidt & Schmidt S.C., Thrivent, and WI DNR, Division of Forestry. The 2025 Annual Meeting will be sponsored by Merlin & Georgie Becker, Ruder Ware, Thrivent, and Wisconsin DNR, Division of Forestry. Board member, Tom Culbert, spent the fiscal year trying to recruit meeting sponsors. He was able to encourage Ruder Ware to sponsor our 2025 Annual Meeting.*
- Pursue available grants when relevant

### **Goal 4. Enhance Chapter viability to include additional activities**

- When office staffing allows, support Chapter workload with WWOA website, virtual meetings, and group emails to communicate with all chapter members  
*In FY 2024-25, the WWOA office was able to complete all of the above requests from Chapters even though we were short-staffed.*
- Provide chapter membership data base information for their area  
*In FY 2024-25, the WWOA office provided this information for all requests.*
- Introduce new members at their first chapter event

## Strategic Plan Updates

- De-centralize Mentorship program to allow chapters to pair new members with senior chapter members utilizing state level training materials
- Include at least one WWOA Board member for chapter planning meetings and events
- Form partnerships with UW Extension offices in chapter area
- Remind Chapters to inform WWOA office of their activities for posting on the website
- Investigate reciprocal meetings with cross border activities in MN, MI, IL, IA
- Co-host chapter events with like-minded organizations (e.g., Walnut Council, WTFC, TNC, etc.)
- Consider chapter workdays to assist aging or mobility-limited members in clearing trails, cutting firewood, etc.
- Encourage members in areas without functioning chapters to join any chapter that provides programming of interest to them  
*The Spring 2024 issue of Wisconsin Woodlands in News & Notes, members were encouraged to join a local chapter or a nearby chapter.*
- Restore programming for idle chapters by assigning a Board member to work with defunct chapters to reactivate them

### **Goal 5. Increase educational opportunities to boost attendance at Chapter Field Days, Winter Conferences, Annual Meeting, and periodic Webinars**

- Partner with WDNR, NRCS, UW Ex, and other forestry professionals to provide expert speakers on traditional topics such as forest health, invasives, browse, harvests, market opportunities, MFL, legal, etc, to include virtual opportunities.  
*WWOA Board member, Bobbi Freitag, and Karen Callaway are creating a speaker's list for chapter leaders to use to create programming.*
- Include emerging topics such as climate adaptation, carbon credits, legacy conservancies, remote sensing, advanced mapping, prescribed burns, etc.
- Improve cross links in website and magazine
- Announce educational events thru website, email, and chapter newsletters  
*FY 2024-25, the WWOA office continued to announce WWOA educational events through our website, emails, and Facebook page, while chapters have continued to announce these events in their newsletters.*

***The WWOA Board of Directors encourages members interested in working on any of these goals or sharing their talents to assist us in implementing this plan to contact the WWOA office.***



# WVOA Chapter Reports

## **BAD AXE CHAPTER, Warren & Renee Pickar and Jeanie Kramer, Co-Chairs**

The Bad Axe Chapter consists of 9 counties, Crawford, Grant, Iowa, La Crosse, Lafayette, Monroe, Richland, Sauk, and Vernon. Officers include Warren & Renee Pickar and Jeanie Kramer, Co-Chairs; Rich Hall-Reppen, Treasurer; Kathy Kjolrie, Secretary; Member-At-Large, Stephanie Stover. We have approximately 240 members.

10/12/2024 - Field Day at Warren and Renee Pickar covered invasive species management, disease management for hardwood forests, Chestnut blight, and programs including FMLA and EQIP. ~32 in attendance

6/18/2025 - Joint field day with Black Hawk chapter was hosted by the Savanna Institute in Spring Green WI. Agroforestry topics included alley cropping to include the production of hazelnut, willow, chestnut and currant crops, these interspersed with forage, grain and vegetable. A visit to their woodland included descriptions of restoration work underway as well as tours of the areas held in silvopasture. The outing concluded with an optional lunch at a local restaurant. 19 in attendance

## **BLACK HAWK CHAPTER, Ken Kempfert, Chair**

The Blackhawk Chapter consists of 6 counties which include Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Jefferson, and Rock. We have 176 members. Officers include Ken Kempfert, Chair; Jolene Kingsbury-Kaczmarek, Secretary/Treasurer.

### Date and Location of Chapter Events

2-22-2025	Annual meeting	Turner Hall, Monroe	Chapter meeting, agroforestry	24
4-18-2025	Tapp’N Woods	Hop Haus Brewing, Fitchburg	woodland events	10
5-21-2025	Tapp’N Woods	Full Mile Brewing, Sun Prairie	woodland events	6
6-19-2025	Field Day	Savannah Institute, Spring Green	agroforestry	5
7-16-2025	Tapp’N Woods	Night Owl, Evansville	woodland events	10

## **CENTRAL SANDS CHAPTER, Buzz Vahradian, Chair**

The Central Sands Chapter consists of 6 counties, which includes Adams, Juneau, Marquette, Portage, Waushara, and Wood. Officers include Buzz Vahradian, Chair; Marcia Frost Vahradian, Secretary; George Grimm, Treasurer. We have 85 members.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapter Event 2024-2025</b>	<b>Hosts</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>	<b># Attending</b>
4/11/2025	Annual Meeting	Ponderosa Pines, Alexandra Hornung,	DNR Forest Health Specialist	43

## **CHIPPEWA VALLEY CHAPTER, Karen Callaway, Jerry Hamm, Co-Presidents**

The Chippewa Valley Chapter consists of 7 counties, which includes Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, and Trempealeau. Officers include Karen Callaway, Co-President; Jerry Hamm, Co-President; Brian Borreson, Vice President; Arlene Roehl, Secretary; Kris Peterson, Treasurer; and Ralph Heiser, Past President. We have 87 members.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapter Event 2024-2025</b>	<b>Hosts</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>	<b># Attending</b>
7/20/24	Log Jam Picnic – Chippewa Falls, WI			25
10/12/24	Fall Field Day – Trempealeau, Cty	Karen & Dave Callaway	Invasive Plants	30
1/11/25	CVC Annual Meeting – Altoona, WI	DNR Forester & Liaison		40
3/22/25	Spring Conference – Baldwin, WI		Chainsaw safety, DNR reports	43
5/4/25	Spring Field Day – Gilmanton, WI	Steve Thaler	Walnut seeding, plantings	25

# WVOA Chapter Reports

## NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, Rich Warosh, President

The North Central Chapter consists of 9 counties, which includes Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Price, Taylor, and Vilas. Officers include Rich Warosh, President; Andrew Schmidt, Vice President; Roxanne Erickson, Secretary/Treasurer; and Members at Large, Keith Dobberstein, Mark Erickson and Susan Schmidt.

Date	Chapter Event 2024-2025	Hosts	# Attending
2/8/2025	NCC Winter Conference	Rib River by Accentu, Inc.	69 Registrants

Registrants were offered the ability to attend the conference in person or view it online, and once again snowy weather made its arrival, impacting some attendees. The topics covered included: Surveys & Boundaries, Land Surveying and the different types of surveys, Herbalism in your woods, Forest health updates, Ecology & ID of forest raptors in north central Wisconsin.

## NORTHWEST CHAPTER, Bobbi Freitag, Chair

The Northwest Chapter consists of Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn counties. Board Members are Bobbi Freitag, Chair; Kay Searfoss, Secretary/Treasurer, Kent Makela, Douglas Co rep; Alice Kissinger, Sawyer Co rep; Jerry Curnow, Polk Co rep. We have 145 members.

Date	Chapter Event 2024-2025	Hosts	Topics Covered	# Attending
9/14/24	Chapter Field Day	Rick & Bobbi Freitag	Timber markets, Aspen Regeneration Conversion to uneven aged forest	24
11/4/24	Board planning meeting	Spooner DNR	Board business	6
4/12/25	Annual Spring Conference	Hayward	Forest land Assessments, Edible Plants of the Northwoods, Forest Health Update, Annual business meeting	38

## PHOENIX-FALLS CHAPTER, Jake Schuh, President

The Phoenix-Falls Chapter of WVOA covers Florence, Marinette, Menominee, and Oconto counties. Our chapter board members include Jake Schuh, President; Ross Prior, Past President; Ken Eisner, Treasurer; Judy Paust, Secretary; Members at Large include Dale Paust, Roger Perrault, Ken Staffeldt, Randy Zastrow. Publicity delegate is Jim Kingsbury and Historian is Tom Jacobs.

Date	Chapter Event 2024-2025	Hosts	Topics Covered	# Attending
8/3	Summer/Picnic/Tree Farm Day	Gary Welsch	Geology, fire breaks	60
10/19	Fall Field Day	Mike and Shelly Grover	Forest Restoration	65
3/8	Winter Banquet	Rene's Dining Hall	Ash Swamp Replanting	40
8/2	Summer Picnic/Tree Farm Day	Ross Prior	Swamp planting, tubing trees	73

## WEST CENTRAL CHAPTER, Chad Mueller, Chair

The West Central Chapter consists of Pierce, St Croix, Pepin and Buffalo counties. Officers are Chad Mueller, Chair; Steve Duzbay, Treasurer; Dick Seebach, Secretary; Members at Large include Scott Schoepp, Mike Deneen, Mike Nothom, and Rex Secrist. Current membership is 154.

Date	Chapter Event	Hosts	# Attending
5-Oct-24	Chapter Fall Field Day (Maiden Rock, WI)	Carl & Cindy Nelson	20

## WVOA Chapter Reports

**Topics Covered:** Carl provided background on oak tree management and options for keeping deer browse down with fencing along with success of excavated dams and prairie introduction

Weather Chapter Winter Meeting

Cancellation

22-Mar-25 Co-Chapter Spring Conference West Central & Chippewa Valley 74  
Baldwin, WI

**Topics Covered:** DNR review, NRCS assistance, Chainsaw safety in the woods, First Aid in the forest, and Midstory removal and proper maintenance

11-Oct-25 Chapter Fall Field Day West Central & Chippewa Valley TBD  
(Elk Mound, WI)

### **WINNEBAGOLAND CHAPTER, Nancy Wirtz, President**

The WinnebagoLand Chapter consists of Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Sheboygan, and Winnebago. Officers are Nancy Wirtz, President; Pete Meyer, Vice President; and Kim Destree, Secretary/Treasurer. Current membership is unknown. There were no activities in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

### **WOLF RIVER CHAPTER, Anthony Rynish, President**

The Wolf River Chapter consists of Outagamie, Shawano, & Waupaca counties. Officers are Anthony Rynish, President; Steven Ring, Vice-President; Kathy Wagner, Secretary; Mary Kucksdorf, Treasurer; Chris Wyman, Event Planner; John Marquardt, Membership chair; Jack Kucksdorf, Communications chair. We have 217 members.

The Wolf River Chapter of WVOA has had an active year with a variety of speakers that covered topics of invasives and cost share opportunities! The following are the events held by the Wolf River Chapter (WRC).

#### Taking Control of Your Invasives

On Saturday September 14, 2024, the WRC met at the home of Bob and Barb Sauer. Barb has been very determined to take control of the invasives on her property. She toured attendees around her property and showed some of the tools and techniques she used to get control of the invasives. Barb gave a great tour and was able to offer several tips to those in attendance!

#### Annual Meeting on Cost Share Opportunities

On Friday January 31, 2025, the Wolf River Chapter held its annual meeting at Buzz's Pub and Grill in Freedom, WI. There were 50 members in attendance. At the meeting, Jon Fox, a procurement forester for Krueger Lumber Company, gave an update on the markets for various forest products.

From there, we focused on landowner experiences with cost share opportunities for various projects on their property (tree planting, invasives control, deer exclosures, etc.). Richard and Kathy Wagner spoke about their experience with the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Steve Ring spoke about his experience with Conservation Stewardship Practices (CSP). Both EQIP and CSP are programs offered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Lisa Neuenfeldt with the NRCS attended the meeting to answer any questions about the program. Lastly, Jordan Westrick, a forester with the Wisconsin DNR, gave a presentation about the Wisconsin Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP). The WFLGP is a cost share program through the Wisconsin DNR.

#### Member Awards

The Wolf River Chapter had two members receive the Distinguished Service Chapter Award, Aaron Burmeister and Debbie Schoeder-Fisher. They were presented with the awards at our annual banquet. Thank you, Aaron and Debbie, for your dedicated service to our chapter!

## WWOA Committee Reports

### **AWARDS COMMITTEE, Marcia Frost Vahradian, Chair**

Committee Members: Nancy Bozek, Chuck Pogorelnik, Arlene Roehl, and Richard Wagner.

The Awards Committee selects the recipient(s) of WWOA's Distinguished Service Award for outstanding dedication and achievement in furthering the goals and principles of WWOA. Recipients of WWOA's Special Recognition Award are considered for special projects that have a statewide impact that may be narrow in focus. The Next Generation award is a dual award presented to an educator and a WWOA member who work together in a continuous effort to inform the next generation about the value of Wisconsin's private woodlands and sustainable forest management. The Chapter Distinguished Service Award is given for outstanding dedication and achievement in furthering the goals and principles of a WWOA Chapter(s). The nomination form is available to all members with a deadline of June 1 each year. Chapters are encouraged to consider awards for their members based on chapter activities and accomplishments.

WWOA, represented by Lois & Steve Raether, is a member of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. This year's inductees include J. Baird Callicott, David Carlson, and Robert Freckmann. To learn about conservation leaders across the state that have been inducted go to <https://wchf.org>. WWOA, represented by Chuck Pogorelnik, is a member of the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame. This year's inductees have not been announced yet. Visit: <https://www.wisaf.org/wisconsin-forestry-hall-of-fame/>.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE, Jack Rasmussen, Chair**

Committee members: Mary Kempen, Dale Lightfuss, Daniel Lightfuss, Ross Prior, Steve Ring, Jack Rasmussen and Arlene Roehl.

We started the fiscal year on July 1, 2024, with a balance of \$2,645.29 in our checkbook. The market value of WWOA's funds as of June 30, 2025, was Life mutual fund investments \$314,655.19, scholarship investment was \$151,268.51, heritage investment was \$95,983.86, 3-year membership savings \$22,423.43, and PayPal savings \$1,003.46. In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, WWOA's income was \$248,928.14. Per by-laws 80% of the money from the five new life memberships at \$3,750.00 was transferred from the checking account and invested in Life mutual funds. The checkbook balance as of June 30, 2025, was \$3,329.32.

As of June 30, 2025, the WWOA Endowment Fund held by the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin was valued at \$102,117.93. WWOA receives a grant from this fund each year to be used for WWOA's mission, to increase acreage under active management and to enhance WWOA membership. This year, WWOA received a distribution of \$3,299.00.

At the April 14, 2025, Finance Committee meeting, the fiscal 2025-2026 budget was developed with input from the standing committees, gift shop, publications, and the executive director. Committee recommendations for the proposed budget were provided to the Board of Directors at their meeting on May 29, 2025, for their approval. WWOA's 2025-2026 budget is projected to have an income of \$196,275.00 with expenses of \$292,064.00 leaving a deficit of (\$95,789.00).

### **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE, Mark & Roxanne Erickson, Co-sChair**

Fundraising has wrapped up acquiring prizes for this year's raffle. We hope to have another great year. We feel we have a good selection of prizes and think it should bring in good revenue for WWOA's mission. All that's left is printing and mailing to get tickets to members.

### **GIFT SHOP COMMITTEE, Mary Ellen Shea & Henry Musto, Co-Chairs**

Members of the WWOA Gift Shop Committee are: Nancy Bozek, Deborah Russell, Jim and Jackie Wagener.

The WWOA Gift Shop Committee met on March 18 and again on May 9th, 2025, to review current inventory and choose new merchandise. Current inventory was reviewed for items to restock or put on sale. For new merchandise it was decided to limit the number and cost of new offerings due to the economic uncertainty at the time and it was decided that bigger ticket items should be introduced for the 50th Anniversary. A new long sleeve t-shirt with a different style and color for men and women will be offered, along with books that encourage use of our woodlands.

## WWOA Committee Reports

To simplify future sales, prices will be rounded to the dollar and updates were made to postage rates for mail orders. Remember – 100% of the proceeds benefit WWOA programs! If you are not able to attend the Annual Meeting in Onalaska, support WWOA the easy way – shop the web at [wisconsinwoodlands.org/about-us/gift-shop/](http://wisconsinwoodlands.org/about-us/gift-shop/)

### **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

The WWOA Board worked with the WI Council on Forestry to keep up-to-date on the state budget proposals regarding forestry issues. We sent a letter to the Governor in December 2024 asking for his continued support to maintain forestry funding from General Purpose Revenue per the promises legislators made in 2017 when they ended the Forestry Mill Tax. WWOA expressed support for many of the WI Council on Forestry proposals and specifically requested an increase in the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant program (WFLGP). When the state budget reached the Joint Committee on Finance, WWOA sent letters to the JFC members expressing our support for many of the WI Council on Forestry proposals including increasing funding for WFLGP.

### **GRANTS COMMITTEE, Don Hoffman, Chair**

No relevant opportunities available.

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, Ken Kempfert, Chair**

The WWOA membership committee thanks their contributing members for input and guidance to maintain and extend membership. Our current membership as of June 30, 2025 includes regular/associated members - 999, family members – 218, life members – 287, and student members - 3. The total as of June 30, 2025 was 1507. Year-to-date we have gained 48 new members including 21 gift memberships.

Our team met via Zoom on March 18, 2025. Our good news is that our efforts to maintain “gifted membership” seems to be working – as gifted members are renewing at a beneficial rate. So, we continue this program and utilize our marketing efforts to do so. An example includes making the membership page in *Wisconsin Woodlands* magazine more explicit and attractive about the gifting program. We are also looking into an advertisement in *Our Wisconsin* magazine.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE, Randy Cooper, Chair**

Nominating committee members include Board members Ralph Heiser and Bobbi Freitag and elected from the membership at the 2024 Annual Meeting, Arlene Roehl and Randy Cooper.

At the end of the 2025 Annual Meeting, Board Members Tom Kempen, Don Hoffman, Ross Prior and Jack Rasmussen's terms will expire. The following members have agreed to be candidates for the four open positions on the WWOA Board of Directors; Karen Cooper of New Berlin, Carl Nelson of Minnetonka, MN, Ross Prior of Coleman, and Jack Rasmussen of Baldwin.

Many thanks for their willingness to offer leadership skills, time and energy toward furthering WWOA's mission. Serving on the WWOA's Board of Directors provides another opportunity to learn from fellow woodland owners about their experiences with owning and managing their woodlands, besides the opportunity to give back to the forest community.

All WWOA members are asked to PLEASE consider running for the Board of Directors or local chapter boards.

### **PAST PRESIDENTS COMMITTEE, Tom Kempen, Chair**

The Past Presidents committee has nothing to report.

### **PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON CHAPTERS, Ken Kempfert, Chair**

Committee is chaired by WWOA's Vice President and is comprised of WWOA's Chapter Chairs.

WWOA Chapter Chairs met at the Annual Meeting at the Chula Vista resort on 9-28-24. We collected thoughts and comments related to all items affecting their chapters. Most comments related to attracting membership. Suggestions included WI-DNR YouTube resources and feature trees Tuesday on the WWOA Facebook site.

## WWOA Committee Reports

### **PUBLICATION COMMITTEE, Kirk Dahl, Chair**

Current committee members are Steven Ahrenholz, Nancy Bozek (WWOA Executive Director), Kirk Dahl (chair), John DeBaun, Ed Moberg, Russ Moody, Carol Nielsen, Margaret Parsons, Dan Pubanz, Barbara A. Schmidt (editor), Roy Valitchka, and Rich Warosh.

The Publications Committee's twelve members meet three times per year to discuss and establish content for WWOA's magazine, *Wisconsin Woodlands*. The Committee's mission is to produce an informative and interesting quarterly magazine to keep members informed of current issues as well as to help foster good management practices and general enjoyment of woodland ownership. Our magazine also features articles that help connect members to each other, plus advertisements for products and services of interest. The Committee also provides some content for the WWOA website. WWOA members are encouraged to share their thoughts, article ideas, original articles, and advertising leads with the Committee.

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE, Paul Kienitz, Chair**

Committee members are Jim Grunloh, Charlotte and Dick Thompson, and chair Paul Kienitz.

We congratulate WWOA's Forestry Leader Scholarship recipient for 2025, Michael Steinhoff of Madison. WWOA's Forestry Leader Scholarship at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is awarded to a forest management student. Scholarship applications are accepted from November 1, 2025 through January 1, 2026 with the recipient announced in spring 2026. The application is available on WWOA's website at [wisconsinwoodlands.org/forestry-leadership-scholarship/](https://www.wisconsinwoodlands.org/forestry-leadership-scholarship/). The \$5,000 scholarship is awarded in payments over two semesters, and it is credited directly to the student's university account. Members may donate directly to this fund at any time. As of June 30, 2024, the scholarship fund had a balance of \$151,268.51.

### **WEBSITE COMMITTEE, Rich Warosh, Chair**

The Website Committee consists of the following members: Rich Warosh – Chair, Nancy Bozek, Ed Moberg, Tom Kempen, and Ken Kempfert.

The committee has not formally met this year, but it has been maintained. Facebook now has over 1,700 followers and over 1,500 likes. Year-to-date website analytics show over 8,500 visitors and over 61,000 pages viewed. The top 5 pages viewed are: main page, events/calendar, annual meeting, chapters and magazine page.

### **WOMAN of WWOA (WOWWOA) COMMITTEE**

Steering committee members: Dawn Borreson, Karen Callaway, Marcia Frost Vahradian, Judy Kucksdorf, Mary Kucksdorf, Diane Humphrey Lueck, Margaret Parsons, Arlene Roehl, Mary Beth Schmidt, and Nancy Bozek.

A WOWWOA gathering was held on October 19, 2024 at the Raptor Education Group Inc. near Antigo where we toured the holding areas for the birds and then enjoyed a very informational presentation with a variety of live birds. After lunch, we toured Zdanovec's Outback where hosts, Marlene and Jim, shared some of their woodland work that led to them being named National Tree Farmers. In 2025, we gathered on a chilly May 17 for a guided tour of the International Crane Foundation and naturalist presentation at Devil's Lake State Park followed by hiking on your own. Twenty-five women greatly enjoyed the gathering. Another gathering scheduled for July 26 at Kathy & Richard Wagner's Family Tree Farm to cover invasive species was rescheduled for the coming fiscal year.

### **WOODLAND MENTOR PROGRAM**

WWOA staff shortages resulted in the pausing of the formal program, however, chapters were encouraged to conduct their own pairing between new members and local members.

# Award Recipients

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

1985-86.... <i>Frederic Braun &amp; Jack Densmore</i>	1997-98.... <i>Jack Edson, A. Jeff Martin &amp; Walter Naab</i>	2007-08.... <i>Donna Johnston</i>
1986-87.... <i>H. A. Wakeman</i>		2008-09.... <i>Al Barden, Merlin Becker, Robert Rusch</i>
1987-88.... <i>Hiram Hallock</i>	1998-99.... <i>Michael Hildebrandt &amp; Jerry Lapidakis</i>	2011-12.... <i>Bill Horvath</i>
1988-89.... <i>Rachel Jordan &amp; Tom Rausch</i>	1999-2000... <i>Helen and Ed Moberg</i>	2012-13.... <i>Shirley Bargander</i>
1989-90.... <i>Gordon Cunningham &amp; Grace White</i>	2000-01.... <i>Tim Eisele &amp; Ann Hockerman</i>	2013-14.... <i>Jan Lehrer</i>
1990-91.... <i>Chris Hauge &amp; Bill Seybold</i>	2001-02.... <i>Dale Lightfuss &amp; Everett Queckboerner</i>	2014-15.... <i>Arlene Roehl</i>
1991-92.... <i>Richard Hall &amp; Betty Hauge</i>	2002-03.... <i>Dave Downs &amp; Eugene Roark</i>	2015-16.... <i>Steven and Lois Raether &amp; Charles R. Wagner</i>
1992-93.... <i>LaVern Dierschow &amp; Maurice White</i>	2003-04.... <i>Virgil Kopitske &amp; Beverly &amp; Dale Schendel</i>	2016-17.... <i>Paul Kienitz</i>
1993-94.... <i>Jack Bazile</i>	2004-05.... <i>Ev &amp; Glenn Charlson &amp; Marv Meier</i>	2017-18 ... <i>Steven Ring</i>
1994-95.... <i>Betty Densmore &amp; Marcia Frost Vahradian</i>	2005-06.... <i>Nancy Livingston</i>	2020-21 .... <i>Roxanne Erickson, Margaret Parsons &amp; Felix Grutzik Jr.</i>
1995-96... <i>Clyde Samsel</i>	2006-07.... <i>Dave Hall, &amp; Dale Zaug, &amp; Jim &amp; Marlene Zdanovec</i>	2021-22 ... <i>Mark Erickson</i>

## CHAPTER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

2018.... <i>Mike &amp; Sally Schendel, Chippewa Valley</i>	2024.... <i>Roxanne Erickson, North Central</i>
2021..... <i>Gary Rienets, Bad Axe</i>	<i>Debra Schroeder Fisher, Wolf River</i>
2022.... <i>Jack Rasmussen, West Central</i>	<i>Jackie &amp; Jim Wagener, Central Sands</i>
2024.... <i>Brian Borreson, Chippewa Valley</i>	
2024.... <i>Aaron Burmeister, Wolf River</i>	

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

1993.... <i>Milt Reinke</i>	2014... <i>Faithful Annual Meeting Volunteers –Judy &amp; Ted Bauer, Roxanne Erickson, Dave Hall, Ruthanne Horning, Lee Johnston, Jan Lehrer, Nancy Livingston, Sue Swanson, Jackie &amp; Jim Wagener, Rich Warosh, Marlene &amp; Jim Zdanovec; &amp; John DuPlissis, Richard Wedepohl</i>
1995.... <i>Robert Rusch</i>	2017... <i>Bill Cook</i>
2003.... <i>Gene Francisco &amp; Richard Warosh</i>	2019... <i>Daniel Lightfuss</i>
2004.... <i>Shirley Bargander</i>	2021... <i>Dr. John Kotar, Lars Loberg</i>
2006.... <i>Don &amp; Inez Krohn</i>	2023... <i>Arlene Roehl, Marlene &amp; Jim Zdanovec</i>
2008.... <i>Joe Arington &amp; Cathy Lorang, John Czerwonka</i>	
2009.... <i>Nancy Bozek</i>	
2010... <i>Karen &amp; Randy Cooper, Ray Amiel</i>	
2012... <i>Arington Tree Farm &amp; 3-D Post</i>	

## NEXT GENERATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

2006... <i>Peggy Werner &amp; Nancy Livingston</i>	2017... <i>Aerica Bjurstrom &amp; Chuck Wagner and Bridget Ericksen &amp; Steven &amp; Lois Raether</i>
2010... <i>Jodi Tomczyk &amp; Marlene &amp; Jim Zdanovec</i>	2023... <i>Steven &amp; Sue Ring</i>
2012... <i>Genny Fannucchi</i>	
2013... <i>Ron Shankland &amp; John Czerwonka</i>	
2014... <i>Colleen Lourigan &amp; Joe Arington</i>	
2015... <i>Barbara Krautkramer, Rachel Mroczenski &amp; Diane &amp; Jim Mroczenski</i>	

## WVOA Past Presidents

1979-80..... Ernest Brickner  
1980-81..... A. H. Wakeman  
1981-82..... Edward Steigerwaldt  
1982-83..... Jack Densmore  
1983-84..... Milo Tappon  
1984-85..... Maurice White  
1985-87..... Richard Hall  
1987-88..... Rachel Jordan  
1988-89..... LaVern Dierschow  
1989-91..... Marcia Frost Vahradian  
1991-93..... Norma Belliveau  
1993-95..... Clyde Samsel  
1995-97..... Ann Hockerman  
1997-99..... Jack Edson  
1999-2001...Virgil Kopitske  
2001-03..... Marvin Meier  
2003-05..... Alvin Barden  
2005-07..... Dale Zaug  
2007-09..... Merlin Becker  
2009-11..... Loren Hanson  
2011-12..... Joe Arington  
2012-14..... Charles Wagner  
2014-16..... Paul Kienitz  
2016-18..... Steven Ring  
2018-19..... Richard Wagner  
2019-21..... Randy Cooper  
2021-23..... Tom Kempen  
2023-25..... Don Hoffman