Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, Inc.

47th Year Annual Report

September 19, 2026

2025-2026 Year in Review

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

The WWOA Board of Directors continued work on the 2025-20230 strategic plan, highlights include: Goal 1. Increase membership recruitment, retention, and engagement work focused on highlighting WWOA's gift membership program and promoting WWOA in *Our Wisconsin* magazine. Chapters were encouraged to do outreach in their areas. Goal 2. Streamline workload on WWOA office staff was enhanced by the purchase of new computers and software in Fall 2025. Goal 3. Maintaining long-term financial stability was addressed by creating an ad-hoc committee to review WWOA's assets and generate some future projections and by creating a Finance Committee sub-committee to regularly review and report to the Board on WWOA's investment assets. Goal 4. Enhance Chapter viability to include additional activities was aided by the WWOA office providing support through increased promotion of chapter activities and encouraging members to participate in any chapter activities of their choosing. The Board continued to look for ways to increase the activity of inactive chapters. Goal 5. Increase educational opportunities to boost attendance at Chapter Field Days, Winter Conferences, Annual Meetings, and periodic webinars was facilitated by the creation of a speaker/topic bureau to assist with this. Increased partnerships with like-minded organizations and professionals to provide additional opportunities for programming.

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; Central Sands, Buzz Vahradian; Chippewa Valley, Jerry Hamm; North Central, Rich Warosh; Northwest, Bobbi Freitag; Phoenix Falls, Henry Musto; West Central, Chad Mueller; Winnebagoland, Nancy Wirtz; and Wolf River, Richard Wagner. More than 1,200 WWOA members belong to a WWOA chapter.

WWOA welcomed new Administrative Assistant, Tracie Olson from Weston to the office during the summer of 2025.

WWOA, in partnership with the Wisconsin Council on Forestry members, was successful in increasing ongoing funding for the WI Forest Landowner Grant Program by $90,000 biennially through the state budget process.

In March and April 2026, many destructive storms hit Wisconsin. WWOA reached out to members through email to determine what assistance could be provided. A new website page under Resources with a variety of storm assistance publications and links was created.

WWOA's 2026 UW-Stevens Point Forestry Leader Scholarship of $5,000 was awarded to Hunter Howland of Beaver Dam.

WWOA is very grateful to our special donors who annually step forward to cover WWOA's AmeriCorps member position. Our AmeriCorps member for 2025-26 was Aaron Ballak.

2025 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
STONEY CREEK HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER, LA CROSSE-ONALASKA, WI

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** President Don Hoffman called the 46th annual membership meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

2. **WWOA MISSION STATEMENT:** President Don Hoffman welcomed members to the meeting then led the Pledge of Allegiance and read WWOA's Mission Statement.

3. **AGENDA REVISIONS AND ADOPTION: M/S/P - Tom Kempen/Kris Peterson -** Motion to accept agenda as presented.

4. **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2024 ANNUAL MEETING: M/S/P - Chuck Wagner/Kris Peterson -** Motion to accept minutes of September 28, 2024 meeting as presented.

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**
   The President introduced the current WWOA Board of Directors members: 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. Hoffman thanked retiring board member Tom Kempen for his service and incoming President Ken Kempfert thanked Don Hoffman for his service. Each received an engraved box.

   President Hoffman introduced and thanked WWOA's committee chairs and liaisons to other organizations. He also thanked the Chapter Chairs, Bad Axe – Jeanie Kramer, Warren & Renee Pickar; Black Hawk – Ken Kempfert & Lyndon Russell; Central Sands – Buzz Vahradian; Chippewa Valley – Karen Callaway & Jerry Hamm; NEWFO – Chuck Wagner; North Central – Rich Warosh; Northwest – Bobbi Freitag; Phoenix Falls – Jake Schuh; West Central – Chad Mueller; Winnebagoland – Nancy Wirtz and Wolf River – Anthony Rynish for their time and efforts.

   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 proposed in the last legislative session, which would allow motorized vehicles on open Managed Forest Law lands. He encouraged 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 2024-25 budget and actuals through June 30, 2025. Rassmussen noted WWOA's income primarily comes from the annual meeting, advertising, donations, fundraising, and renewing memberships while major expenses are the annual meeting, payroll and publications. In summary, for FY 2024-2025, total income was $248,928.14, total expense was $232,938.39 and net income was $72,785.39. Total Liabilities and Equity was $590,121.83. He thanked members for their donations, including the various fundraising efforts and memorials. He noted that WWOA's Forestry Leader Scholarship is currently self-sustaining.
   M/S/P - Chuck Wagner/Jim Wagener - Motion to receive the Treasurer's report and have it place on file for review.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
   A. **2025-2030 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 –** Ralph Heiser, chair, thanked the other committee members Randy Cooper, Arlene Roehl, and Bobbi Freitag for their work. He then presented the 2025-26 Board of Directors - Steven Ahrenholz, Karen Cooper, Tom Culbert, Bobbi Freitag, Ralph Heiser, Ken Kempfert, Carl Nelson, Ross Prior, Jack Rasmussen, Jake Schuh and Alan Van Straten. The 2025-26 Executive Committee will be Ken Kempfert - President, Bobbi Freitag-Vice President, Steven Ahrenholz-Secretary, and Jack Rasmussen-Treasurer.

2025 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

8. **ELECTION OF 2025-2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Incoming President Ken Kempfert appointed Ralph Heiser and Bobbi Freitag to the Nominating Committee. Nominations were solicited and accepted from the floor for the other two Members-at-large committee members. Nominees must be voting members and be willing to serve per the by-laws.

   M/S/P – Margaret Parsons/Robert Donnelly - Motion to nominate Arlene Roehl as a Member-at-large Nominating Committee member.
   M/S/P – Ed Moberg/Margaret Parsons - Motion to nominate Randy Cooper as a Member-at-large Nominating Committee member.

9. **MEMORIAL FUND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** President Don Hoffman requested a moment of silence for the WWOA members that passed away in the last year. He then read a memorial plaque recognizing families with members that had established memorial funds in their loved one's name. In memory of Joanne Wittek a plaque was presented to her husband, David. The families of Jack & Rosie Bazile, Richard Camp, Dottie Staffeldt, Jacquelin Collins and George Woelfel will be sent personalized plaques.

10. **WWOA AWARD PRESENTATION:** *Wisconsin Woodlands* magazine editor, Barbara Schmitz, presented the Special Recognition award to John DeBaun of Brookfield. This award is presented to an individual for special activities or accomplishments that have a statewide impact on WWOA or the private forestry community in Wisconsin. DeBaun has shared his journalism background and editorial skills on the Publications Committee for many years helping us to improve *Wisconsin Woodlands* magazine.

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

12. **NEW BUSINESS:** Question raised about the rationale for discontinuation of Chapter raffle baskets for this year. This was being done as a trial for this year. Feedback from members is requested regarding whether to reintroduce the baskets. Comments may be provided on the Annual Conference evaluation form or directly to Nancy Bozek or Ken Kempfert.

13. **NEXT MEETING**: We hope to announce the date and location soon.

14. **ADJOURN: M/S/P – Chuck Wagner/Kurt Schuh** - Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Ahrenholz, Secretary

2025 – 26 Treasurer's Report

Profit & Loss Statement	July 2025-June 2026	July 2024-June 2025
Income		
ADVERTISING	24,900.00	21,245.00
AMI-ANNUAL MEETING INCOME	41,460.00	35,551.00
DONATIONS	35,377.47	55,779.14
FUNDRAISING INCOME	59,211.61	58,858.00
GSI-GIFT SHOP INCOME	3,941.15	2,277.00
ML-LIFE MEMBER	8,250.00	3,750.00
MN-NEW MEMBER	7,024.00	6,840.00
MR-RENEWAL MEMBER	52,905.00	56,520.00
OTHER INCOME ACCOUNTS	3,627.00	3,299.00
STANDING COMMITTEES	3,300.00	3,300.00
WORKSHOPS INCOME	805.00	1,509.00
Total Income	240,801.23	248,928.14
Gross Profit	240,801.23	248,928.14
Expense		
AME-ANNUAL MEETING EXPENSE	30,839.43	32,847.71
BOARD EXPENSES	141.02	140.91
CONTRIBUTIONS-EXPENSE	5,000.00	5,000.00
EX. DIRECTOR EXPENSES	2,066.34	2,337.37
FUNDRAISING EXPENSE	8,130.68	7,906.66
GIFT SHOP-EXPENSE	2,173.71	740.16
MEMBERSHIP	450.00	450.00
OFFICE EXPENSES	11,965.34	7,363.84
OTHER EXPENSE ACCOUNTS	17,449.87	10,167.87
PAYROLL EXPENSES	162,866.75	141,991.10
PUBLICATIONS	22,592.40	21,877.16
STANDING COMMITTEES-EXPENSE	963.76	521.24
WORKSHOPS EXPENSE	671.37	1,594.37
Total Expense	265,310.67	232,938.39
Net Ordinary Income	-24,509.44	15,989.75
TRANSFERS & REINVESTMENTS	71,907.88	56,795.64
Net Other Income	71,907.88	56,795.64
Net Income	47,398.44	72,785.39

2025 – 26 Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet Statement	June 30, 2026	June 30, 2025
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
BANK – CHECKING	4,697.68	3,329.32
BANK – SAVINGS – 3 YEAR	21,234.72	22,423.43
BANK – SAVINGS – MEMBERSHIP SHARE	455.74	453.71
BANK – SAVINGS – PAYPAL	1,075.61	1,003.46
INVESTMENTS – ASSETS – HERITAGE	98,893.99	96,319.74
INVESTMENTS – ASSETS – LIFE	235,607.51	215,724.01
INVESTMENTS – ASSETS – SCHOLARSHIP	150,265.28	146,990.07
INVESTMENTS – FMV – HERITAGE	4,316.19	-335.88
INVESTMENTS – FMV – LIFE	113,956.79	98,931.18
INVESTMENTS – FMV – SCHOLARSHIP	3,616.41	4,278.44
PETTY CASH	58.80	58.80
Total Checking/Savings	634,178.72	589,176.28
Total Current Assets	634,178.72	589,176.28
Fixed Assets		
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	-9,160.00	-9,098.00
EQUIPMENT	12,501.55	10,043.55
Total Fixed Assets	3,341.55	945.55
TOTAL ASSETS	637,520.27	590,121.83
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current Liabilities	0.00	0.00
Total Liabilities	0.00	0.00
Equity		
MARKET APPREC/DEPREC INVESTMENT	118,272.98	102,873.74
RESTRICT NET ASSETS-SCHOLARSHIP	154,472.69	151,859.51
RESTRICT NET ASSETS-TEMP OTHERS	124,103.49	124,241.50
RESTRICTED NET ASSETS - LM FUND	104,465.79	97,865.79
RETAINED EARNINGS	88,806.88	40,495.90
Net Income	47,398.44	72,785.39
Total Equity	637,520.27	590,121.83
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	637,520.27	590,121.83

2025-26 Donors

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

WWOA Donations

Acorn Donors ~ $1 - $10

George Amelse, Irma
Renee Gayhart, Juneau AK
Kevin Gehring, Iron Ridge
Michael Goc, Friendship
Sara Harstad & Anthony C. Grabski, Blue Mounds
Paul & Jeri McGinley, Gordon
Jim & Mary Joslin, Marshfield
Jeff Niese, Arpin
James, Chuck & Joe Richards, Kronenwetter
Reuben Roehl, Wausau
Jesse Sebero, Porterfield
Thomas Spaay, Wausau
Casey Stratton, Kansasville
Tim & Stephanie Stover, Darlington
Ray Wilde, Waupaca

Root Donors ~ $11 - $24

Arthur Elsesser, Sussex
Leonard Hamman, Medford

Branch Donors ~ $25 - $49

James Albrecht, Athens
Robert & Miriam Bennett, Janesville
David Bertolino, Montreal
Evelyn Charlson, Mountain
Larry Coleman, Wisconsin Rapids
Verdel Dawson, Bangor
Steve Eager, Evansville
Richard Horn, Brooklyn
William Johnson, Pardeeville
David Koschak, Gurnee, IL
Elizabeth Kramer, Madison
Larry Krause, Appleton
Inez Krohn, Wisconsin Rapids
Bruce Loberg, Winneconne
Charles Ludwig, Big Bend
Alan Martens, Waupun
Hugo Daniel Martin, Sarona
Dale Paust, Crivitz
Valerie Naab Phillip, Neenah
Bill Rauwerdink, Oostburg
Art Reimer, New Berlin
Bill Rosandick, Granton
Susan Seresse, Fond du Lac
Kenneth Stach, Cambridge
Terry Strong, Rhinelander
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Gerda Weitzel, Park Ridge, IL

Trunk Donors ~ $50 - $74

Carol Adleman, Luck
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William Briska, Elgin
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Glenn Christiansen, Pleasant Prairie
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Mark Dacko, Hayward
Michael DeCleene, Green Bay
Carrie Duffield, Almond
Herman Gagnon, Two Rivers
Theresa Gallagher & David Shadis, Winter
Barbara Gosh, Lindenhurst, IL
Diane & Jim Grunloh, Oshkosh
Ralph Heiser, Baraboo
John Hogden, Galesville
Dennis Ireland, River Falls
Ken Jawonski, Green Bay
Edward King, Eden Prairie, MN
Bradley Koschak, Spring Grove, IL
Jeanie Kramer, Madison
Keith Lemburg, Sister Bay
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James Maier, Birnamwood
Richard McDermott, Chicago, IL
John Mikrut, Lake Geneva
Bob Mushinski, Wild Rose
Richard & Kristen Plendl, Mazomanie
Kent Prather, Loveland, CO
Eric Rittenhouse, Elroy
Dennis & Kim Schoeneck, Pelican Lake
Jerald & Julie Schoenike, Milwaukee
Sharon Sharratt, Westby
Joseph Solawetz, Monroe
Rick Toneys, Waupaca
Warren Zaug, Sister Bay

Crown Donors ~ $75 - $99

Dennis & Sue Fritz, River Falls
Alan Haney, Custer
William Loehrke, Appleton

Tree Donors ~ $100 - $499

Steven & Teresa Ahrenholz, Cincinnati, OH
Jill & Gary Amel, Green Bay
Jay & Wendy Arneson, Spring Valley
Alvin Barden, Eagle River
Robert Beaderstadt, McHenry, IL
Merlin Becker, Manawa
Steve & Sandy Berg, Savage, MN
Phil Blake, Madison
Brian & Mary Blakeley, Boyceville
Debbie Boettcher, Seymour
Nancy Bozek, Stevens Point
Daniel Breunig, La Crosse
Hayes Brown/Alabama Forest Owners Association, Birmingham, AL
Pamela Callahan & John Walte, Highland
John A. Carson, Monroe
William Cary, Richland Center
Jerry Curnow, Frederic
Darrel Degelau, Gays Mills
James Deppeler, Monroe
Keith & Karla Dobberstein, Hortonville
Larry Eggman, Jamestown, IN
Mark & Roxanne Erickson, Medford
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Randall Fredricks, Wisconsin Dells
Thomas Gaertner, Forestville
Rob & Joy Gottschalk, Madison
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Deb & Rich Hall-Reppen, Geneva, IL
Jerry Hamm, Neillsville
Mark Hansen, Rochester, MN
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Richard & Cleo Hendricksen, Hancock
Janice Hoettels, Marshfield
John & Rita Hoffman, Viola
Sarah Huemoeller, Sun Prairie
Jim Jensen, Verona
Tom Jodarski, Mauston
Jeff Johnston, Pigeon Falls
Gerald Kann, La Crosse
Tom & Mary Kempen, Greenleaf
Paul Kienitz, Merrill
Curt & Martha Knoke, Gresham
Ted Knorring – Acorn Farms, Wheaton, IL
Gary Krosnicki, Green Bay
William Kummer, Tomahawk
Gary & Jane Larson, Wonder Lake, IL
Mark & Janet Lesko, Burlington
Gary Lichtenberg, Appleton
Eldon Liebzeit, Waupaca
Dale & Fay Lightfuss, Ogdensburg
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James McDermott, Leesburg, VA
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Heinz & Helen Melzl, Big Bend
Robert & Colleen Menzel, Cedar Grove
Frederick & Teresa Miller, Brooklyn
David & Sandra Olson, Cedarburg
Louise Pacholik, Palmyra
Roger Perrault, Gillett
Ben & Melissa Peterson, Aniwa
David Rabl, Adams
Stewart & Steffan Rachwal – Rachwal Bros Farm, Weyauwega
Randy & Ann Reed, Seymour
Lois & Steven Raether, Chippewa Falls
Scott Rifleman, Stevens Point
Kurt Rossebo, Appleton
Randy Schacht, Osceola
Mike & Sally Schendel, Menomonie
David & Kim Schiedermayer, Appleton
Debra Schroeder Fisher & Jerry Fisher, Appleton
James Schwanke, Weyauwega
Henry Simon, Middleton
Randy Soper, Gillett

2025-26 Donors

David Stingle, Black Creek
John Swanson, Sturgeon Bay
Lon & Ellen Swedberg, Shawano
Richard Teske, Boulder Junction
Steven Thaler, Chippewa Falls
Thomas Thayer, Fitchburg
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans – Match behalf of Merlin Becker
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans – Match behalf of Debra Schroeder Fisher
Sandra Tibbetts, Green Bay
Scott Tracy, Muskego
Michael Uihlein, Mequon
Richard & Kathy Wagner, Weyauwega
James Werner, Marathon
Paul Wertsch, Madison
William Westphal, Shiocton
Bob Wick, Wisconsin Dells
Sid & Linda Williams, Saxon
WWOA Northwest Chapter
Lon Yeary, Cross Plains
Jim & Marlene Zdanovec, Oshkosh

Forest Donors ~ $500+

Klaren Alexander, Glidden
Jerry Backes, New Richmond
Randy & Karen Cooper, New Berlin
John & Gayle DeBaun, Brookfield
Richard Hansen, Wautoma
Byron Hill, Ripon
Alice Kissinger, Stone Lake
Dean & Kay Mehlberg, Hales Corners
Doris Mueller, Onalaska
Judith Ortiz, Wauwatosa
Dale Parker, LaFarge
Dane Rasmussen, Baldwin
Allan Robertson, Milwaukee
Andrew & Susan Schmidt, Wausau
Jim & Debbie Swanson, Stevens Point
Thomas & Marilyn Swiontek, Pewaukee
Karen Wedde, Oshkosh
David Wilson, Austin TX

Life Members

Peter Anderson, Rib Lake
Kyle Coopman, Eau Claire
Matt DeBaun, De Pere
Karen Donnelly, Kenosha
Robert Donnelly, Kenosha
Michael Grover, Underhill
Joe Jacobs, Elcho
Christopher Jaworski, Pulaski
Kathy Kjorlie, Middleton
David Ritter, Lake Tomahawk
John Weisbrod, Stevens Point

AmeriCorps Member Donations

Anonymous

In Kind Donations

Nancy Bozek, Stevens Point
KerberRose S.C., Green Bay
Lois & Steven Raether, Chippewa Falls – WI Conservation Hall of Fame membership

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Robert Beaderstadt, McHenry, IL
Ronald Koenig, Sauk City
Bruce Kornaus, Kaukauna
Edwin Moberg, Nekoosa
Steven Raether, Chippewa Falls
Rhonda Richards, Townsend
Sue Ring, Shiocton
Darrel Ruechel, Appleton
William Vandertie, Forestville

WWOA Annual Fundraiser Donation

Charles Beagle, South Plainfield, NJ
Mary Bilodeau, Forestville
Mike Bohman, Algoma
Randy & Karen Cooper, New Berlin
John & Gayle DeBaun, Brookfield
Keith Dobberstein, Hortonville
Carl Garske, Harshaw
Charles Haubrich, Burlington
Paul Kienitz, Merrill
Elizabeth Kocol, Waukesha
David & Sandra Olson, Cedarburg
Mark Schultz, Onalaska
Jim & Debi Swanson, Stevens Point
Gerda Weitzel, Park Ridge, IL
WWOA West Central Chapter

WWOA Annual Fundraiser In-Kind Donation

B & I Lumber, Inc., Stratford
Bear Butt Chainsaw Carving, Medford
Bill's Service Center, Stratford
Nancy Bozek, Stevens Point
Mark & Roxanne Erickson, Medford
Klingbeil Lumber Co., Inc., Medford
George Lehrer, Deerbrook
Dane Rasmussen, Baldwin
Jack Rasmussen, Baldwin
Riesterer & Schnell, Stratford
Dona Schwichtenberg, Wausau
Tilden Gun, Chippewa Falls
Vortex Optics, Barneveld
Wick Habitat Services LLC, Wisconsin Dells
WWOA Blackhawk Chapter
WWOA Chippewa Valley Chapter

WWOA Annual Meeting Donation

Anonymous
Merlin Becker, Manawa
Don Evans, Merrill
Kathy Lambrecht, Gillett
Kurt Schuh, Amberg
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans – Match behalf of Merlin Becker
Alan Van Straten, Shiocton
Richard Wagner, Weyauwega
WI DNR, Division of Forestry, Madison
WWOA Bad Axe Chapter
Jim & Marlene Zdanovec, Oshkosh

Memorial Fund

Mary Ellen & Henry Musto, Milwaukee

Jim Kingsbury Memorial Fund

Nancy Bozek, Stevens Point
Evelyn Charlson, Mountain
Randy & Karen Cooper, New Berlin
Ken & Doris Eisner, Allentown
Craig Fox, Mountain
Mark & Roxanne Erickson, Medford
Scott & Kim Gloudeman, Little Chute
Sherry Kissinger, Jackson
Kathy Lambrecht, Gillett
Diana Moder, Neenah
Roger Perrault, Gillett
Lois & Steven Raether, Chippewa Falls
Orlie & Dot Rhode, Appleton
Steven Ring, Shiocton
Tim, Cheryl & Charli Ritter, Mountain
Rick Roberts, Appleton
Arlene Roehl, Long Lake
Gerald & Katherine Roehl, Maple Plain, MN
Jake Schuh, Seymour
Kurt & Gloria Schuh, Amberg
Jacob & Katie Sensiba, Waukesha
Tom & Jeff Stachura, Sobieski
Len & Judy Trojan, South Milwaukee
WWOA Chippewa Valley Chapter
WWAO Phoenix Falls Chapter for Heritage Fund
Jim & Marlene Zdanovec, Oshkosh
W.R. & S.J. Zirbel, Aberdeen, SD

Don Krahn Memorial Fund

Cheryl & James Ross, Friendship – for Scholarship

George Lehrer Memorial Fund

Nancy Bozek, Stevens Point
Mark & Roxanne Erickson, Medford
Barbara Lehrer, Deerbrook
Chris & Kathy Rigotti, Neenah
David & Betsy Schafhauser, Deerbrook
Jim & Marlene Zdanovec, Oshkosh

Chuck Pogorelcnik Memorial Fund

James Albrecht, Athens
Nancy Bozek, Stevens Point
Randy & Karen Cooper, New Berlin
Mark & Roxanne Erickson, Medford
Gary & Jane Larson, Wonder Lake, IL
Edwin Moberg, Nekoosa
Arlene Roehl, Long Lake

2025-26 Donors

Bev Rosenfeldt Memorial
Thomas Rosenfeldt, Greenville

Jim Schmitt Memorial Fund
Nancy Bozek, Stevens Point
Nancy Schmitt, Butternut

WWOA Endowment Fund
Anonymous, Jack & Rosie Bazile Memorial
Keith & Karla Dobberstein, Hortonville
Richard & Deborah Hall-Reppen, Geneva, IL
Michael Hovel, Stevens Point
Edwin & Helen Moberg, Nekoosa
Darrell Scherwinski, Plover

WWOA Heritage Fund
Robert Krause, New Auburn
Jack Rasmussen, Baldwin

WWOA Scholarship Fund

Forestry Tech ~ $25 – 49
Herman Gagnon, Two Rivers

Wildfire Crew ~ $50 – 74
Richard & Deborah Hall-Reppen, Geneva, IL
Tom & Sue Neal, Appleton

Forest Ranger ~ $75 - 99
WWOA North Central Chapter

Forest Ecologist ~ $100 – 499
Dean Mehlberg, Hales Corners
Bonnie & Lawrence Paplham, Franklin
Debra Schroeder-Fisher & Jerry Fisher, Appleton
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans – Match behalf of Debra Schroeder Fisher

2025-26 Volunteers

YOU are WWOA
More than 110 WWOA members volunteered for over 1,200 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
Peter Anderson, Rib Lake
Claudia Bartz, Appleton
Barb Benish, Oshkosh
Debbie Boettcher, Seymour
Mark Bohrnstedt, Oshkosh
Brian & Dawn Borreson, Pigeon Falls
Karen & Dave Callaway, Altoona
Bill Connelly, Augusta
Karen & Randy Cooper, New Berlin
Tom & Margaret Culbert, Holcombe
Jerry Curnow, Frederic
Kirk Dahl, Eau Claire
John DeBaun, Brookfield
Dennis Deitelhoff, Chippewa Falls
Keith & Karla Dobberstein, Hortonville
Kenneth & Doris Eisner, Allenton
Mark & Roxanne Erickson, Medford
Bobbi & Rick Freitag, Birchwood
Keith Grosskopf, Larsen
Ralph Heiser, Baraboo
David & Diane Hoffman, Stoddard
Don & Jacki Hoffman, Black River Falls
Diane Humphrey Lueck, Coloma
Tom Jacobs, Crivitz
Ken & Judy Kaphingst, Little Chute
Tom & Mary Kempen, Greenleaf
Ken Kempfert, Belleville
Jim Kingsbury, Mountain
Jolene Kingsbury-Kaczmarek, Delavan
Alice Kissinger, Spooner
Kathy Kjorlie, Middleton
Jill Konopacky, Stevens Point
Jeanie Kramer, Madison
Mary Kucksdorf, Marion
Angela Larson, Eau Claire
Rich LaValley, Merrill
Mark Lesko, Burlington
Dale Lightfuss, Ogdensburg
Dan Lightfuss, Appleton
Dave Lindner, Richfield
Bill Loehrke, Appleton
Peter Luxenhofer, Racine
Kent & Jeanette Makela, Maple
Dan Meyer, Crivitz
Ed Moberg, Nekoosa
Russ Moody, Verona
Chad Mueller, Blaine, MN
Doris Mueller, Onalaska
Carl Nelson, Minnetonka, MN
Carol & John Nielsen, Mount Horeb
Margaret Parsons & Felix Grutzik Jr., Junction City
Dale & Judy Paust, Crivitz
Roger Perrault, Gillett
Ben Peterson, Aniwa
Kris Peterson, Rothschild
Warren & Renee Pickar, West Salem
Russell Plagemann Wisconsin Dells
Ross Prior, Coleman
Lois & Steven Raether, Chippewa Falls
Gary & Mary Rambo, Altoona
Jack Rasmussen, Baldwin
Steve Ring, Shiocton
Mark Robbins, Richfield
Arlene Roehl, Long Lake, MN
Carl Rogaczewski, Marinette
Michael Roy, Madison
Darrell Ruechel, Appleton
Anthony Rynish, Fremont
Andrew & Susan Schmidt, Wausau
Beth Schmidt, Almond
Dennis Schoeneck, Pelican Lake
Vern Schroth, Stevens Point
Jake Schuh, Seymour
Kay & Geary Searfoss, Ojibwa
Mary Ellen Shea & Henry Musto, Milwaukee
Ken Staffeldt, Porterfield
Kristen Summers, Plover
Debi & Jim Swanson, Stevens Point
Marcia Frost Vahradian & Buzz Vahradian, Wautoma
Alan Van Straten, Shiocton
Jim & Jackie Wagener, Madison
Richard & Kathy Wagner, Weyauwega
Rich Warosh, Wausau
Randy Zastrow, Shawano

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 2025-26

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.

- Enlist a WWOA graduate of the UW Ex Coverts Project to make a presentation at the annual Coverts workshop and award gift memberships. *Item consolidated with 6th bullet point below which also describes gift memberships.*

- Encourage chapters to attend forestry related events in their areas with the WWOA exhibit and brochures. *Examples include Coverts Project Reunion, Douglas County Forestry meeting, Winter July 4th Jubilee and WI Wildlife Federation annual meeting.*

- Update the WWOA PowerPoint slide show to use when engaging other audiences. *Development paused until additional AmeriCorps hours available in 2026-27. Plan is to use as introduction for new members and/or recruitment tool.*

- Mass mailing to WDNR Cooperating Foresters to encourage their clients to join WWOA. *Tabled until USPS bulk mail address problems resolve.*

- 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.). *Continue to promote gift memberships. Roughly 50% of gift membership recipients renew their membership. Different chapters have used gift memberships as Silent Auction or door prizes. Continue to solicit donors for gift memberships to be given at Coverts Project. Encourage the gifter to follow up with invitations to chapter events, winter conferences, and annual meeting etc. In FY 2025-26, WWOA members donated WWOA gift memberships for participants in the Coverts program, and at Black Hawk and Phoenix Falls chapter events.*

- Invite chapter/committee leadership to WWOA Board meetings to provide updates.
  The WWOA Board includes chapter and committee chairs in emails about upcoming Board meetings. In FY 25-26, Publications Committee presented to the board to describe their processes. Will continue to invite other committees to share information.

- 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!*

- Advertise in external publications. *Committed to one year of advertisements in Our Wisconsin magazine. Investigated options for publishing Wisconsin Woodlands magazine in full color; tabled for the present.*

Strategic Plan Updates

Goal 2. <u>Streamline workload on WWOA office staff</u>

- Maintain full staffing in WWOA. *In July 2025, WWOA hired a new Administrative Assistant, Tracie Olson of Weston. WWOA's 2025-26 AmeriCorps member, Aaron Ballak, came on board in September 2025. Current full staffing includes Tracie Olson, Administrative Assistant; Mark Bohrnstedt, Advertising Sales Consultant for Wisconsin Woodlands magazine; Barbara Schmitz, Editor of Wisconsin Woodlands magazine; and Nancy Bozek, Executive Director.*

- Redirect routine tasks to qualified volunteers, in person or remote.

- Upgrade office equipment as needed for efficiency. *During FY 25-26, new computers, telephone equipment, and a separate internet service provider were implemented. This took place because of changes in the UW-Stevens Point office space agreement.*

- Adjust programming activities to match available resource constraints (temporarily pausing, delegating, outsourcing, merging with others, etc.). *Removed in March 2026; consolidated under Goal 4, 4thbullet point. Decentralize mentorship program.*

- Re-establish Government Affairs committee. *Tabled due to lack of volunteers. Will continue current process of monitoring government communications for keywords and reaching out to the board and/or membership as needed. Some government proposals have very short notices for response, unlike the traditional legislative timetables.*

Goal 3. <u>Maintain long-term Financial Stability</u>

- Transition investment accounts to low fee, acceptable risk portfolios. *Investment accounts have been transitioned to other investments. President Kempfert created an ad hoc committee to review WWOA's assets and generate some future projections. WWOA's Financial Reserves Management policy was updated in 2023. A subcommittee of the Finance Committee was established to regularly review and report to the Board on WWOA's investment assets.*
  Investigated alternative custodians for Endowment fund currently managed by Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin. Staying with CFCW for now, but will continue to monitor and compare annual dividends and costs.

- Encourage legacy contributions in estate planning. *WWOA offers the WWOA Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin and the newer Heritage Fund, which is a quasi-endowment or board-designated endowment. Article drafted for Wisconsin Woodlands magazine to provide clear information on various donation options.*

- Pursue available grants when relevant.

Goal 4. <u>Enhance Chapter viability to include additional activities</u>

- When office staffing allows, support Chapter workload with WWOA website, virtual meetings, and group emails to communicate with all chapter members. *In FY 2025-26, 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 2025-26, the WWOA office provided this information for all requests.*

- Introduce new members at their first chapter event.

- De-centralize Mentorship program to allow chapters to pair new members with senior chapter members utilizing state level training materials. *Volunteers currently updating mentorship materials.*

- Include at least one WWOA Board member for chapter planning meetings and events.
- Form partnerships with UW Extension offices in chapter area. *Changes to UW Extension organization has reduced UW Extension involvement in Winter Conferences. See Goal 5, 1st bullet point.*
- Remind Chapters to inform WWOA office of their activities for posting on the website.
  In FY 2025-26, the WWOA office posted all requests.
- 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. *Another article was included in the Summer 2025 magazine. Plan to include a similar reminder annually.*
- Restore programming for idle chapters by assigning a Board member to work with defunct chapters to reactivate them. *Current inactive chapters are Kettle Moraine, NEWFO and Winnebagoland. Phoenix Falls chapter adjusted the location of their annual meeting and invited WWOA members in the NEWFO chapter area.*

Goal 5. <u>Increase educational opportunities to boost attendance at Chapter Field Days, Winter Conferences, Annual Meeting, and periodic Webinars</u>

- 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. *Changes to UW Extension organization has reduced UW Extension involvement in Winter Conferences. Consider working with UW Extension to provide similar conference topics in multiple locations.*
- Include emerging topics such as climate adaptation, carbon credits, legacy conservancies, remote sensing, advanced mapping, prescribed burns, etc. *A database of speakers and topics presented at various conferences and chapter meetings has been compiled and will be updated semiannually. Potential speakers for emerging topics can be included. Database shared with Chapter Chairs and Program Committees, Board of Directors and WWOA Office.*
- Improve cross links in website and magazine. *Resource page on website is checked annually for accuracy. Publications committee chooses one article from each magazine to make available on the website, rotating to make room for new ones as needed.*
- Announce educational events thru website, email, and chapter newsletters
  FY 2025-26, 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.

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 Kjorlie, Secretary. We have approximately 240 members.

The Bad Axe chapter hosted a winter gathering/ fellowship luncheon last spring.
The event was held on Sunday, March 22, 2026, 12:00pm (noon) - 2:30pm at the Kickapoo Creekside Restaurant in Reedstown, WI.

Tony Johnson, Natural Resources Educator from UW- Madison Extension presented topics including agroforestry, non-timber forest products, forest farming, and other areas of interest. Don Hoffman also spoke briefly on his work with a product called Biochar.

Bad Axe chapter members Rich Hall-Reppen and John Nielsen hosted an informational table at the 2026 Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference again this year, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM in Dubuque, IA.

BLACK HAWK CHAPTER, Ken Kempfert, Chair

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

Date	Chapter Event 2025-2026		Topics Covered	# Attending
7-16-2025	Tapp'N Woods	Capital Brewery, Middleton	Woodland Events	_
8-20-2025	Tapp'N Woods	Vintage Brewing, Sauk City	Woodland Events	9
9-10-2025	2026 Planning Mtg	Paoli Tree Farm, Belleville	2026 Events	6
10-15-2025	Tapp'N Woods	Viking Brew Pub, Stoughton	Woodland Events	13
2-21-2026	Annual Meeting	Turner Hall, Monroe	Chapter Items, Black Locust	20
4-22-2026	Tapp'N Woods	Hop Haus Brewing, Fitchburg	Woodland Events	
5-13-2026	Tapp'N Woods	Timberhill Winery, Milton	Woodland Events	
6-17-2026	Tapp'N Woods	Viking Brew Pub, Stoughton	Woodland Events	

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 73 members.

CHIPPEWA VALLEY CHAPTER, Jerry Hamm, President

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

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. All State WWOA members who own land or reside in the 9 counties are members of North Central Chapter.

Date	Chapter Event 2025-2026	Hosts	# Attending
2/14/2026	NCC Winter Conference	Rib River by Accentu, Inc.	59 Attendees

- Topics included Easements Made Fun, Private Lands Timber Sales, Managed Forest Law update, Deer Management Assistance Program, and the Update of the Chip Mill in Tilleda.

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 142 members (from WWOA membership list).

Date	Chapter Event 2025-2026	Hosts	Topics Covered	# Attending
8/19/26	Chapter Field Day	Kent & Jeanette Makela -Maple WI	Drones in forestry Private forestry and logging equipment	24
10/27/25	Board planning meeting	Spooner DNR	Board business	6
4/12/25	Annual Spring Conference	Hayward	DMAP changes BMPs for Water Quality Invasive Species display DNR Updates Sustainable Aviation Fuel plant in Hayward Annual business meeting	24

PHOENIX-FALLS CHAPTER, Henry Musto, President

The Phoenix-Falls Chapter of WWOA covers Florence, Marinette, Menominee, and Oconto counties. Chapter board members include Henry Musto, President; Ken Eisner, Treasurer; Judy Paust, Secretary.

Date	Chapter Event 2025-2026	Hosts	Topics Covered	# Attending
08/02/2025	Chapter Picinic	Ross Prior's Farm	Ross Prior and WI Tree Farm Assoc. White Pine growth, Oak Plantings and Tree Tubes, Wetland management.	40
10/04/2025	Chapter Field Day	Thomas Duffey	Walked and discussed Thomas's land.	14
03/07/2026	Annual Meeting & Banquet	Phoenix Falls	Board elections, NRCS presentation by Dan Hoff, Guest Speaker – Rep. Jeff Mursau, 36th Assembly District State Representative	36
08/01/2026	Chapter Picnic	Phoenix Falls Board	Yet to be held	

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 2025-2026 fiscal year.

WWOA Committee Reports

AWARDS COMMITTEE, Marcia Frost Vahradian, Chair

Committee Members: Nancy Bozek, 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 is a member of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame and is represented by Lois and Steve Raether. This year's inductees include William G. (Bill) Lunney, Keith McCaffery, and Neil Payne. To learn about conservation leaders across the state that have been inducted go to https://wchf.org

WWOA, represented by Rich LaValley, is a member of the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame. 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, 2025, with a balance of $3,329.32 in our checkbook. The market value of WWOA's funds as of June 30, 2026, was Life Membership fund investments $349,564.31, scholarship investment was $153,881.70, Heritage savings $103,210.19, 3-year membership savings $21,234.72, and PayPal savings $1,075.61. In the 2025-2026 fiscal year, WWOA's income was $240,801.23. Per the WWOA by-laws 80% of the money from the eleven new life memberships totaling $8,250.00 was transferred from the checking account and invested in Life Membership fund investments. The checkbook balance as of June 30, 2026, was $4,697.68.

As of June 30, 2026, the WWOA Endowment Fund held by the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin was valued at $118,155.74. 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 $3,627.00.

At the April 27, 2026, Finance Committee meeting, the fiscal year 2026-2027 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 June 4, 2026, for their approval. WWOA's 2026-2027 budget is projected to have an income of $208,200.00 with expenses of $283,993.18 leaving a deficit of ($75,793.18).

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE, Mark Erickson, Chair

The Fundraising Committee extends its sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of the 2025 Annual Fundraiser, Friday Night Raffle and Silent Auction held last September. Thank you to all who donated prizes, made cash contributions, and purchased raffle tickets. Together these fundraising events generated more than **$24,000 in gross profit.** A big thank you goes to the many volunteers who assisted with distributing tickets, soliciting and transporting prizes, pulling winning tickets, and delivering prizes to our winners. Planning for the 2026 Annual Fundraiser is already well underway, with prizes being solicited and preparations in progress. We look forward to another successful event and thank everyone in advance for their continued support. 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 supporting WWOA's mission.

WWOA Committee Reports

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 April 10, 2026, to review current inventory and choose new merchandise. Current inventory was reviewed for items to restock or put on sale. For new merchandise various new books have been selected along with a new WWOA patch.

Remember – 100% of the proceeds benefit WWOA programs! If you are not able to attend the 2026 Annual Meeting in Rothschild, support WWOA the easy way – shop the web at wisconsinwoodlands.org/about-us/gift-shop/

GRANTS COMMITTEE, Don Hoffman, Chair

No relevant opportunities available.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, Ken Kempfert, Chair

Membership Committee members: Keith Dobberstein, Jack Rasmussen, Alan Van Straten, and Nancy Bozek.

The WWOA membership committee thanks their contributing members for input and guidance to maintain and extend membership.

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 our *Wisconsin Woodlands* magazine more explicit and attractive about the gifting program. We are now advertising in *Our Wisconsin* magazine and will monitor this for results.

We also thank you the members for gifting WWOA memberships. We cannot do it without you.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE, Ralph Heiser, Chair

Nominating Committee members include Board members Ralph Heiser and Bobbi Freitag and elected from the membership at the 2025 Annual Meeting, Arlene Roehl and Randy Cooper.

At the end of the 2026 Annual Meeting, Board members Steven Ahrenholz, Tom Culbert and Jake Schuh's terms will expire. The following members agreed to be candidates for the three open positions on the WWOA Board of Directors - Kurt Schuh of Amberg, Jake Schuh of Seymour, and Randy Cooper of New Berlin.

Many thanks for their willingness to offer time, energy and leadership skills towards 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, Don Hoffman, Chair

The Past Presidents committee has nothing to report.

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON CHAPTERS, Bobbi Freitag, Chair

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

WWOA Chapter Chairs met in person at the Annual Meeting in Onalaska on Saturday September 20, 2025 and met via videoconference on Monday April 13, 2026. Discussion included winter conferences, member recruitment, speakers list, inactive chapters, and other topics.

WWOA Committee Reports

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE, Kirk Dahl, Chair

Current committee members are Steven Ahrenholz, Nancy Bozek (WWOA Executive Director), Sadie Brown (WDNR) , 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 Publication Committee meets 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. The magazine also features articles that help connect members to each other, plus advertisements for products and services of interest. The magazine's content attempts to encompass the many diverse individual interests among woodland owners. 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 us.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE, Paul Kienitz, Chair

Committee members are Jim Grunloh, Steven Ring and Paul Kienitz.

We congratulate WWOA's Forestry Leader Scholarship recipient for 2026, Hunter Howland of Beaver Dam. WWOA's Forestry Leader Scholarship at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is awarded to a forest management student. Scholarship applications were 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-leader-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 to this fund at any time. As of June 30, 2025, the scholarship fund had a balance of $153,881.70.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE, Rich Warosh, Chair

The Website Committee consists of the following members: Rich Warosh, Nancy Bozek, Tom Kempen, Jake Schuh, and Ken Kempfert.

The committee has not formally met this year, but the office has been updating and maintaining the website. This year a new page was added with informative publications and links to assist woodland owners with storm damage. Facebook now has over 1,900 followers.

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, Beth Schmidt, and Nancy Bozek.

A WOWWOA gathering was held on October 11, 2025, at the Navarino Nature Center near Shiocton. We viewed a virtual presentation covering the nature center's 15,000 acres and then took a short hike. After lunch, Misty Cook, Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans Tribe shared her life story of becoming a medicine woman and information on the history and uses of various plant species. We took a walk around the Nature Center and discussed the plants we found.

We gathered again on March 28, 2026, at Tapped Maple Syrup's sugar shack and Solin Tree Farm sugar bush near Deerbrook. Dave Solin showed us around the sugar shack while Jeremy led us on a walk in the sugar bush. We learned how they select trees to tap, how they collect the sap and transport it back to the sugar shack for cooking. Of course there was time for sampling a variety of their flavors over ice cream at the end of the afternoon.

On May 14, 2026, Kathy & Richard Wagner welcomed us to their Family Tree Farm. Anthony Rynish led a walk identifying various invasive plants and talked about treatment options. We learned about WFLGP and EQIP cost-sharing for treating invasive plants. After lunch, we took a wagon ride to learn about the Wagner's deer exclosures and see a recent timber harvest with some erosion problems.

Award Recipients

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

1985-86….*Frederic Braun & Jack Densmore*
1986-87….*H. A. Wakeman*
1987-88….*Hiram Hallock*
1988-89….*Rachel Jordan & Tom Rausch*
1989-90….*Gordon Cunningham & Grace White*
1990-91….*Chris Hauge & Bill Seybold*
1991-92….*Richard Hall & Betty Hauge*
1992-93….*LaVern Dierschow & Maurice White*
1993-94….*Jack Bazile*
1994-95….*Betty Densmore & Marcia Frost Vahradian*
1995-96…*Clyde Samsel*
1996-97…*Norma Belliveau*
1997-98….*Jack Edson, A. Jeff Martin & Walter Naab*
1998-99….*Michael Hildebrandt & Jerry Lapidakis*
1999-2000…*Helen and Ed Moberg*
2000-01….*Tim Eisele & Ann Hockerman*
2001-02….*Dale Lightfuss & Everett Queckboerner*
2002-03….*Dave Downs & Eugene Roark*
2003-04….*Virgil Kopitske & Beverly & Dale Schendel*
2004-05….*Ev & Glenn Charlson & Marv Meier*
2005-06….*Nancy Livingston*
2006-07….*Dave Hall, & Dale Zaug, & Jim & Marlene Zdanovec*
2007-08….*Donna Johnston*
2008-09….*Al Barden, Merlin Becker, Robert Rusch*
2011-12….*Bill Horvath*
2012-13….*Shirley Bargander*
2013-14….*Jan Lehrer*
2014-15….*Arlene Roehl*
2015-16….*Steven and Lois Raether & Charles R. Wagner*
2016-17….*Paul Kienitz*
2017-18 …*Steven Ring*
2020-21 ….*Roxanne Erickson, Margaret Parsons & Felix Grutzik Jr.*
2021-22 …Mark Erickson
2024-25 …Karen Callaway
Carol Nielsen

CHAPTER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

2018…. *Mike & Sally Schendel, Chippewa Valley*
2021….. *Gary Rieniets, Bad Axe*
2022…. *Jack Rasmussen, West Central*
2024…. *Brian Borreson, Chippewa Valley*
2024…. *Aaron Burmeister, Wolf River*
2024…. *Roxanne Erickson, North Central*
Debra Schroeder Fisher, Wolf River
Jackie & Jim Wagener, Central Sands
2025…. *Dave Hall, Black Hawk*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

1993…. *Milt Reinke*
1995…. *Robert Rusch*
2003…. *Gene Francisco & Richard Warosh*
2004…. *Shirley Bargander*
2006…. *Don & Inez Krohn*
2008…. *Joe Arington & Cathy Lorang, John Czerwonka*
2009…. *Nancy Bozek*
2010… *Karen & Randy Cooper, Ray Amiel*
2012… *Arington Tree Farm & 3-D Post*
2014… *Faithful Annual Meeting Volunteers –Judy & Ted Bauer, Roxanne Erickson, Dave Hall, Ruthanne Horning, Lee Johnston, Jan Lehrer, Nancy Livingston, Sue Swanson, Jackie & Jim Wagener, Rich Warosh, Marlene & Jim Zdanovec; & John DuPlissis, Richard Wedepohl*
2017… *Bill Cook*
2019… *Daniel Lightfuss*
2021… *Dr. John Kotar, Lars Loberg*
2023… *Arlene Roehl, Marlene & Jim Zdanovec*
2025… *John DeBaun*

NEXT GENERATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

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

Legacy Circle & WWOA Past Presidents

LEGACY CIRCLE

In recognition and appreciation of their legacy contribution toward conserving and enhancing the future of Wisconsin's private woodlands and WWOA

2023… *Peter Luxenhofer*
2024… *Donna & Lee Johnston*

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