



You are Invited to
Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association Inc.
45th Annual Meeting
September 26-29, 2024
Hotel Marshfield, Marshfield



Join WWOA members for an autumn celebratory weekend in central Wisconsin! Don't miss this special opportunity to network with new and familiar WWOA members and learn more about your woods through our tours, presenters, exhibitors, and field day. Mark your calendar, make a hotel reservation, and select your registration option(s) to join us in Marshfield on September 26-29!

Gather at Hotel Marshfield (hotelmashfield.com), 2700 S. Central Avenue, Marshfield for all the fun! **Make your hotel room reservation by calling Hotel Marshfield at 715-387-2700 and mention WI Woodland Owners Association** for WWOA's special rate of \$109 per night plus tax. To prevent a cancellation fee, contact the hotel at least 48 hours prior to your arrival date. The hotel offers a variety of amenities including an outdoor courtyard with a fire pit and large sauna. It also offers two Tesla charging stations. The hotel is pet-friendly. Hotel rooms include a single cup coffee maker, mini-refrigerator and microwave. Hotel Marshfield includes a hot complimentary breakfast with your room. Check in time is 3 pm. Special room rates end on August 26.

Annual Meeting Overview

Thursday and Friday offer fun tours filled with opportunities to learn more about nature and caring for your land. Thursday the WWOA Board of Directors will meet. On Thursday evening, after dinner on your own, join us for the popular Sharing Experiences presentations. Friday evening's social will include exhibitors, WWOA's Gift Shop, cash bar with snacks, raffles and silent auction. After dinner, we'll hear from Northwoods historian, Kerry Bloedorn. Saturday morning's keynote speaker, Dan Blake of Forest Data Network, will update us on the timber markets. WWOA's Business Meeting will highlight the past year's activities. Saturday afternoon choose from a variety of concurrent sessions, or sit and stitch craft session. Our celebration continues with a social and Saturday evening's Awards Banquet including the Chapter basket raffle and Annual Fundraiser drawings. Sunday's field day will be hosted by Jim and Debi Swanson at their Pine Bluff Tree Farm just north of Stevens Point. Join us for a beautiful fall day in the woods to learn more about a variety of woodland topics on a very diverse property.

Important Details

Deadlines

August 26 – Special Hotel Marshfield room rates end
August 31 (postmarked) – Early discounted Meeting Registration rates end

- ▶ Please check the WWOA website page at wisconsinwoodlands.org/annual-meeting/ for additional details, links, and updates on 2024 Annual Meeting activities. WWOA's carpool policy can also be found here.
- ▶ The WWOA Board encourages a healthy environment for all participants at WWOA events. If you are feeling sick or have COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home.
- ▶ There are a variety of registration options—attend an event, a day, or come for the whole weekend! Weekend and whole meeting packages are discounted.
- ▶ You will receive a meeting confirmation letter from WWOA with your selected activity schedule, tour maps, and additional details.
- ▶ Unfortunately, due to the shortage of school bus drivers, we are unable to offer bus transportation for our tours, except for Friday Tour #1. Check in at registration before driving to the first tour stop to pick up your nametag and registration packet. Bring the tour maps provided in your confirmation packet. Tour times listed are the times you will leave and return to the hotel.
- ▶ Tours are filled on a first come, first served basis and are limited in size. All tours include lunch. Dress appropriately by wearing sturdy footwear. You are welcome to bring a walking stick. Tours are held rain or shine.
- ▶ Handicapped accessibility is available for some tours, contact the WWOA office if you have concerns. Thursday's Birds in Art tour is handicapped accessible. Most of the Tree Planting Extravaganza is accessible with some walking.
- ▶ Bring silent auction donation(s) to the registration table with donor's name securely attached.
- ▶ Your support of WWOA's fundraising activities is greatly appreciated and helps us provide you with more services. Bring *cash or a checkbook* for shopping at the Gift Shop, bidding on silent auction items, or purchasing raffle tickets.
- ▶ Questions? Contact WWOA at 715-346-4798 or wwoa@uwsp.edu.



Thursday, September 26**Hotel Marshfield**

- 6:00–9:00 AM Hotel Marshfield breakfast available for hotel guests
- 7:45 AM–9:00 AM & 3:00–6:30 PM Registration in the Grand Atrium, tour participants please check in
- 8:15 AM–2:30 PM **Birds in Art & Monk Gardens Tour with lunch...**start the day by driving to Wausau’s Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum for a docent-led tour of the 49th annual Birds in Art juried exhibit. Then travel a short distance to the beautiful Monk Botanical Gardens for lunch and a leisurely guided walking tour. This tour is handicapped accessible. Tour is 97 miles round trip.
- 9:00 AM–3:00 PM **Splash of Red Cranberry Tour with lunch...**drive to Pittsville and then board a bus for a tour of a cranberry marsh. Learn about processing of cranberries followed by a lunch including a cranberry dessert! Then travel a few blocks to visit the Pittsville Area Historical Society Museum’s seven-building complex. Handicapped accessible except for bus steps. Tour is 34 miles round trip.
- 9:00 AM–3:00 PM **WVOA Board of Directors meeting** in Marshfield Room
- 7:00–8:15 PM **Sharing Experiences...**WVOA members will share some of their experiences
- Local Impact: How to Get Involved Addressing Invasive Species** with *Ben Peterson of Aniwa* – Ben will share his experiences volunteering with a local conservation group to address invasive species on his own property, locally, on the county level, and at a state park.
- Black Locust—Truly an Amazing Tree** with *Ken Kempfert of Belleville* – Ken will share his amazement at the benefits and unique properties of this woodland species. Learn about the history of this species and why they call it the tree that “Saved the USA.”
- Storm clean up and beyond** with *Kurt & Jake Schuh of Amberg and Seymour* – Drone footage of before and after tornado damage and the progression as the storm cleanup occurs. Learn what comes next in rejuvenation and plans for the coming years.

Friday, September 27**Hotel Marshfield**

- 6:00–9:00 AM Hotel Marshfield breakfast available for hotel guests
- 7:45 AM–6:00 PM Registration in the Grand Atrium, tour participants please check in
- 8:15 AM–3:30 PM **Tour 1—Heil Ginseng Enterprises & Mead Wildlife Area Tour with lunch...**This bus tour will cover the history and growing of commercial ginseng in Wisconsin in the morning. If weather permits, group will travel to a ginseng field. Enjoy lunch at Mead Wildlife Area followed by a tour of multiple prescribed burn units to look at the benefits of burning and see their pond structure. Restrooms are not available at ginseng field. This tour is not handicapped accessible.
- 8:15 AM– 3:30 AM **Tour 2— Where have All the Flowers Gone? Recognizing Diversity & Change in Wisconsin’s Plant Life Tour with lunch...**Wisconsin is a convergence point for six regional floras. Join the experts to help you recognize and understand the floristic elements found on your property. Learn skills to locate interesting plant life, use tools, printed and online, to identify, collect, preserve and define flora. Tour is 27 miles round trip.
- 8:30 AM–2:30 PM **Tour 3—Tree Planting Extravaganza Tour with lunch...**Spend the day at the DMC Tree Farm where hosts Dick & Mary Czaja along with the experts they have assembled will focus on all aspects of tree planting including soils, vegetation management, seedling selection and care, planting techniques and various equipment options. Help your seedlings get off to a good start! This will be a 1/2 mile leisurely walking tour, bring a walking stick! Tour is 26 miles round trip.
- 8:45 AM–2:00 PM **Tour 4—G & D Wood Products & Auburndale School Forest Tour with lunch...**Tour G & D Wood Products to learn more about their custom hardwood molding shop specializing in architectural window lite molding, applied moldings and louvers. Stop at Pizza Ranch for their lunch buffet. Then it is onto the Auburndale School Forest for a walking tour and interaction with students and a presentation on maple syrup. Tour is 29 miles round trip.
- 4:00–6:00 PM **Friends & Exhibitors Social...**Enjoy time with fellow members, visit exhibitors, WVOA’s Gift Shop and Raffles. Cash bar and snacks available. *Bring your checkbook or cash for purchases.*
- 6:00–8:30 PM **Friday Evening Dinner, Raffles, and Presentation...** enjoy a casual evening of good friends, a delicious buffet, and lots of laughter as you share the events of the day. After dinner, pull out your tickets for the Friday evening raffle. Then Northwoods historian, Kerry Bloedorn, will present Logging History of North Central, Wisconsin 1850-1900, a fascinating look into the logging history, the people and the way it shaped North Central Wisconsin.

Saturday, September 28**Hotel Marshfield**

- 6:45–8 AM **WWOA Board of Directors & Chapter Chairs Breakfast Meeting**
 7:00–10:00 AM Hotel Marshfield breakfast available for hotel guests
 7:30 AM–2:45 PM Registration, Exhibits, Gift Shop, Silent Auction, Basket Raffle & Annual Fundraiser and Coffee
 8:30 AM Drawing for Door Prizes
- 8:45 AM **Welcome** by *Dick Czaja, WWOA Board member*
 9:00–10:00 AM **Keynote: Timber Trends: How are stumpage prices reacting to volatile Great Lakes markets?**, *Dan Blake, Forest Data Network, Co-Founder and Partner*
 10:00–10:30 AM **Break**— Refreshments, Exhibits, Gift Shop, Silent Auction, Basket Raffle & Fundraiser tickets
 10:30–11:30 AM **45th Year Annual Business Meeting**, *President Don Hoffman*
- 11:30 AM–1:00 PM **Lunch** followed by Exhibits, Landowner Café, Gift Shop, Silent Auction, & Fundraiser tickets
 11:30 AM–2:45 PM **Landowner Café**—*food for thought and your woodlands ...come and go as you please to learn more about a topic or get your questions answered by experts on a variety of topics such as the Managed Forest Law program, Natural Resources Conservation Service programs & cost-share, legal questions on contracts, American Tree Farm System, Women of WWOA, Volunteering, and more!*
- 1:00–2:15 PM **Concurrent Sessions**, *no preregistration necessary, just attend the one of your choosing*
 ► **How and Why Property is Assessed**, *Bob Madvig, Municipal Assessor, Black River Falls*—
 A general overview on how property is assessed in rural Wisconsin.
 ► **Using Natural Models for Forest Management: Ecological Silviculture**, *Brad Hutnik, WDNR, Ecologist/Silviculturist, Madison*— Ecological silviculture is a set of tools that allow us to manage forests as ecosystems, based on emulation of natural models of disturbance and stand development. Thus reducing the differences between a managed and natural stand. This presentation will lay out the foundations of ecological silviculture and illustrate them with local models.
- 1:00–4:00 PM ► **Sit & Stitch Craft Session**, *hosted by Karen Cooper and Margaret Parsons*, bring your needlework or other craft to work on (no supplies provided). The craft room will be open all afternoon. We recommend if additional lighting is needed that you bring a battery powered light source. Join us for a creative session sure to include good conversation.
- 2:15–2:45 PM **Break**— Refreshments, Exhibits, Landowner Café, Gift Shop, Silent Auction & Fundraiser tickets
 Silent Auction ends at 2:45 pm—*so check your bids!*
- 2:45–4:00 PM **Concurrent Sessions**, *no preregistration necessary, just attend the one of your choosing*
 ► **Charlie Brown has a 'Contract' Taken Out on Him**, *Attorney Andrew Schmidt, Schmidt & Schmidt S.C., Wausau*— Charlie Brown wants to have a 'few' trees removed from his land on Big St. Germain Lake! What possibly could go wrong?
 ► **Tick Transmitted Infections in Wisconsin**, *Dr. Jennifer K. Meece, Chief Research Officer, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, Marshfield*— Tick-borne diseases are a significant health problem in the U.S. and of great importance to the citizens of Wisconsin. This talk will highlight what we know about these diseases and what we have learned from our first year of our citizen science project, TICS.
- 4:00 PM **Winners pick up Silent Auction items**—*cash or check payment options*
- 5–6:15 PM **Meet Your Neighbor Social**, visit with friends before dinner at the cash bar and take this last chance to purchase some basket raffle or annual fundraiser tickets before the evening's drawings.
 6:15–9:00 PM **Awards Banquet Celebration**, enjoy a delicious dinner and feel the building excitement as the Annual Fundraiser and Basket Raffle tickets are drawn. Then help us recognize and appreciate the 2024 Wisconsin Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year and selected WWOA members for their dedicated volunteer efforts within WWOA, WWOA chapters, or working with the next generation.

Sunday, September 29

Swanson's Pine Bluff Tree Farm

7:00 AM	Hotel restaurant opens and check out of hotel
7:50 AM	Drive to the Pine Bluff Tree Farm , Stevens Point, WI (map enclosed)
8:45 – 9:00 AM	Welcome by Jim & Debi Swanson
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Time Period A
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Time Period B
11:30 – 12:30 PM	Buffet Lunch
12:40 PM – 1:40 PM	Time Period C
1:55 PM – 2:55 PM	Time Period D

Sunday Field Day...

It is an easy drive to the Pine Bluff Tree Farm from the Hotel Marshfield and you will feel like you are worlds away from Highway 10 and I-39 when you get there! The Swanson property was purchased in 1984 and Jim and Debi built their home on it in 1985. In 1985, the property became part of the Consolidated Papers Inc. Tree Farm Family. Also in 1985, 62 acres of the property was enrolled in the Woodland Tax Law for a 15-year period. The acreage used for the building site and 2 fields made up the remaining 16 acres. In 2000, the property moved into the Wisconsin Managed Forest Law for a 25-year period.

Some of the Swanson's management objectives are:

- Maintain a mix of species, ages and size of trees. They have red and white pine, aspen, and central hardwoods.
- Produce the best sawlogs as practical.
- Development of trail systems for better access and use of the property.
- Control of invasive species along with ironwood, blue beech and brush that interfere with regeneration.
- Prairie restoration on open fields.

Some of their activities on Pine Bluff Tree Farm have included:

- Planting thousands of pine seedlings
- Harvesting 115 MBF sawlogs, 565 cords, and 325 cords of fuelwood
- Pruning to improve sawlog quality
- Creating and maintaining more than 2 miles of trails
- Controlling unwanted brush and invasives
- Prairie restoration
- Encouraging raptors living or nesting on or nearby the tree farm
- A sawmill was purchased in 2009 to allow for the production of higher value wood products and process timber from salvage cuts in a timely manner



Registration includes morning coffee, catered lunch, field day activities, and handouts. During the Annual Meeting more detailed descriptions of the stations will be available and you will be able to preregister for the Sunday stations of your choosing. If you stay for the whole day you will be able to attend 4 stations. Tentative station topics include:

wood identification
sawmill operation
pine plantation management

hardwood silviculture
forest health
invasive species control

prairie restoration
raptors
forest or log measurements