



Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association

Creating tomorrow's woodlands today

Kick Off Your Week by Learning Something New: Woodland Succession & You

When asked about the future of their woodlands, many WVOA members respond that they plan to keep their woods in the family. This is in keeping with many national surveys of private woodland owners - they hope that their woods will stay in the family.

The question is

What are YOU doing to make this a reality?



Did YOU Know?

- Childhood experiences with nature often motivate later conservation interests and actions.
- School teachers in Wisconsin must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of environmental education including the conservation of natural resources.
- In recent years, studies have shown an array of benefits when time is spent in nature such as decreased depression, quicker healing after illness or surgery, and a healthier, more active lifestyle.
- People who identify themselves as woodland owners are usually males 55+ years old.
- Landowner surveys find that overwhelmingly woodlands in Wisconsin are owned jointly by spouses. These surveys also show that decisions about the woods are usually made by only one person not jointly.
- U.S. current life expectancy for males is 73 years while for women it is 79 years. It is probable that the woman will be the final caretaker and decision maker for the

woodland.

Don't Just Dream it, YOU can Make it a Reality

- Have you shared stories of your woodlands with your spouse, children, or grandchildren? Young children love silly stories of funny things that happened, young adults might like to hear of a unique find, successful hunt or problems you have overcome, and adults appreciate hearing how much your woods means to you and why.
- Do you invite family members to spend time on the property with you just to take the dog for a walk, help you with a project, or to have a picnic in a special spot? Family memories made in the woods can help form an attachment to the land. Visit [WWOA's Growing Your Legacy webpage](#) for ideas on how to involve your family.
- Can you involve family members who don't live nearby by sending them photos or videos of the woods, remember "a picture is worth a thousand words"? Can you share observations, projects or other information about the woods through emails or letters, on your Facebook page, by starting a family website or blog?
- Looking for ways to reach family members with woodland information? Give the gift of a [WWOA membership](#) for a year for only \$25. As a current member, you can give an unlimited number of gift memberships as long as the application and payment come from you and the gift recipient is a first-time WWOA member.
- Are discussions about how to care for the woodland tension filled? Encourage family members to participate in [WWOA's Woodland Mentor Program](#) to learn more from other WWOA members about woodland stewardship. Sign up now for this winter's self-paced virtual course!
- How about starting a new family tradition by setting aside a special time each year for your family to gather in the woods whether it is for a couple of hours, a day, long weekend or week?
- Could you create special places on your property that show your children and grandchildren that you are thinking of your family even when they can't be there - such as trails named after your children or grandchildren, designating a family tree as in the photo above, or a memorial tree planting?
- Did you know that since 2014 WWOA has offered educational opportunities for women woodland owners through our Women of WWOA (WOWWOA)? A gathering is scheduled for October 22 near Stevens Point. Learn more at [WWOA's Women of WWOA webpage](#). All women are welcome and scholarships are available for those in need to cover the cost.
- Have you started your copy of [WWOA's My Land Handbook](#)? It is designed to help you document the information that your spouse and next generation will need to carry on your tradition of caring for your woodland. See the link for the Handbook in a variety of formats (Word, pdf or fillable forms) or order a hardcopy [from WWOA](#).
- Do you help family members learn more about caring for your woods by forwarding interesting [Learn Something New](#) emails that you receive from WWOA - *Start today by sharing this one!*



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Questions? Contact the office at 715-346-4798 or wwoa@uwsp.edu