
Wisconsin Forestry Notes

April 2012

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

Wildfire season has begun

Fire season got off to an early and active start. Emergency burning restrictions are in place for areas of NW Wisconsin damaged by July 1, 2011 storm.

The 2012 wildfire season got off to a roaring start with 359 fires burning 904 acres in areas of the state under DNR protection as of April 9. Typically, 36% of Wisconsin wildfires occur in April so keep an eye on [burning restrictions online](#) or by calling 1-888-WIS-BURN. The 2012 wildfire prevention campaign, running from April 1 until mid-May includes an [8-page supplement](#) in the April Natural Resources Magazine, statewide newspaper ads, direct mail publications and an on-hold phone message with a fire season jingle for the DNR customer service lines.

Additional efforts are being focused in the areas of northwest Wisconsin where the July 1, 2011 windstorm left an accumulation of tree debris on the ground creating an especially hazardous situation for wildland fire. Emergency burning restrictions were established for these storm-damaged areas effective April 6, 2012. See this [quick reference guide](#) to learn more about the restrictions.

Recent changes to DNR website

Make sure your links to the DNR address use this address: dnr.wi.gov

The DNR website - once reachable at a variety of web addresses - is now only at dnr.wi.gov, reducing costs and improving customer service. Note that there is **NOT** a “www” in front of this address. A redesign of the agency website has expanded the search options and added keyword features. Please “pardon the dust” as final restructuring work is being done on the site. Feedback on the revamped site is welcomed, either [through the Division of Forestry](#) or [via the site](#).

Division reports on 2011 activities

Read about the Division's 2011 accomplishments in our annual report.

The [December 2011 issue](#) of this newsletter offered a brief recap of Division of Forestry activities during 2011, but take a look at the [2011 annual report](#) for a more comprehensive review of accomplishments during the past year. (The address for this report may change as the website redesign is completed.)

Plant a tree on April 27, 2012 to celebrate Arbor Day

Share photos of your 2012 Arbor Day tree plantings on the DNR Facebook page.

Arbor Day – the historic tree-planting holiday – will be celebrated in Wisconsin on the last Friday of April, as it has been every year since 1883 ... but Facebook will be a new component of the 2012 celebration. DNR will be inviting you to post pictures of your tree-planting event on [our Facebook page](#). The Arbor Day tree planting on the State Capitol lawn will be just one of hundreds of celebrations throughout Wisconsin. Please “Like” us and share a photo of your local celebration during Forest Appreciation Week (April 22-28). Here’s the [Governor’s proclamation](#) to help you plan your Arbor Day observance.

Gypsy moths: hatching early and more widespread

Three counties added to gypsy moth quarantine.

Warm March weather caused [gypsy moth](#) caterpillars to start hatching about three weeks early in southern Wisconsin. Forest health specialists expect to more interest in aerial spraying in 2013 as gypsy moth populations rebound to high levels this year. Homeowners are urged to take action to reduce the number of caterpillars that will feed on their trees. The insect's favorite food is oak leaves, but it will feed on many other tree species such as birch, crabapple, aspen and willow. At high numbers, gypsy moth caterpillars are a tremendous nuisance and strip trees of their leaves, which may kill the tree.

Trapping data and field surveys indicate that gypsy moth is taking hold in three more Wisconsin counties. On April 1, Ashland, Bayfield and Clark counties were placed under federal and state [gypsy moth quarantine](#), joining most of eastern and central Wisconsin already considered to be generally infested with the gypsy moth. The quarantine requires that Christmas trees, logs and nursery stock be inspected and certified as gypsy moth-free before being transported into non-quarantine counties or non-quarantine states. People living in a quarantine county must be careful when moving any outdoor item. Because female gypsy moths can lay eggs on nearly anything kept outside, there is a risk of moving gypsy moths when moving things like patio furniture, campers, boat trailers or firewood. For more information about gypsy moth control and quarantine areas, visit <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/>.

Chippewa legacy project wins national award

Forest Service recognizes habitat conservation values of legacy project.

The Chippewa Flowage Forest Legacy project received a 2012 Habitat Management and Partnership Award from Wings Across the Americas, a program of the USDA Forest Service that works with a wide range of partners across landscapes in the United States and overseas to conserve birds, bats and butterflies as well as their habitats. In addition to the wildlife habitat values, the Chippewa Flowage project ensured that more than 18,000 acres will remain open for public recreation and will continue to produce wood to feed mills that provide local and statewide employment. Find more information about the [Forest Legacy Program online](#) or contact Nicole Potvin at 608-266-2388.

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