



# Woodchips

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## SilviCast Podcast | Season 7 Episode 1: Morticulture

A dead tree is not truly dead. How foresters think about and manage dead trees can be just as important as how they manage living ones. This episode of SilviCast explores the concept of morticulture—the intentional management of deadwood in a forest. [Listen here](#)

## In the News

### “Lingering Ash” Trees: A Story of Persistence and Propagation

When Emerald Ash Borer decimates an ash stand, individual trees occasionally survive. These “lingering” trees may hold the key to developing resistant strains of ash. Researchers with Cornell University and The Nature Conservancy’s Trees In Peril project in New York are looking into the possible mechanism for this resistance while propagating offspring from resistant trees found in the wild. [Read More](#)

### The Role of Forest Management in Supporting American Marten Populations

American martens, endangered in Wisconsin, need complex, mature forests and deep snow cover to thrive. A partnership between the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), US Forest Service and UW-Madison has been awarded a \$690,000 research grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation to further study marten habitat preferences, and how land management and timber harvest practices can better support stable marten populations in the face of threats from climate change and habitat loss. [Read More](#)

### Can Exploding Trees Really Happen?

A Michigan reporter asks the Wisconsin DNR to explain frost cracking and the likelihood of seeing so-called “exploding trees” during an extreme cold event like the one felt around the state in January. [Read More](#)

### Building a Resilient School Forest Program

Wisconsin’s School Forest Program has existed for 98 years and currently counts 435 registered school forests, but the activity of most school forests ebbs and flows over time. What does it take to run a program that impacts student learning for the long haul? [Read More](#)

### Jennibel Shipwreck (Schooner) Listed in the State Register of Historic Places

On the morning of September 17, 1881, the Jennibel was sailing through Death’s Door Passage with a load of green lumber and tan bark when a sudden gale struck, and the ship capsized. The Wisconsin Historical Society has announced her inclusion on the State Register of Historic Places. As an early wooden schooner, Jennibel provides opportunity to study wooden schooner construction. [Read More](#)

### Interactive Infographic: Mapping Global Forest Loss Due to Wildfire

Fire has always been part of natural cycles, but in recent decades their frequency and intensity has surged in some parts of the world. Research shows tree cover is being lost at a rate more than doubled from two decades ago. This interactive infographic explores where these losses are hitting the hardest and how increases in global temperatures are correlated to increased tree cover loss. [Read More](#)

### Plans Moving Forward to Launch U.S. Wildland Fire Service

The Department of the Interior has selected Brian Fennessy to oversee the implementation of a unified U.S. Wildland Fire Service. The unified initiative was first announced in September 2025. [Read More](#)

### Sweet News: Wisconsin’s Maple Syrup Industry is Growing

From hobbyists tapping a single tree to landowners launching a small business, the production of maple syrup has exploded across the state in recent years, and Wisconsin is now fourth in the nation for maple syrup production. [Read More](#)

### Sustainable Forestry Initiative Announces Retirement of President and CEO Kathy Abusow

Kathy Abusow, President and CEO of SFI, will retire in 2026. Kathy’s tenure oversaw an expanded scope for SFI, including a strengthening in Indigenous relations and a growth in their environmental education arm centered on the integration of Project Learning Tree into SFI in 2017. A comprehensive search for a new CEO is underway and will include a change in the structure of the position. [Read More](#)