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The Axman

Step back in time! This U.S. Forest Service training film from the 1940s shows proper ax use and care. An interesting look at skills now mostly forgotten in the world of modern forestry equipment. [Watch here](#)

In the News

Take Action on Invasive Species in the Woods!

June is Invasive Species Action Month in Wisconsin. Here are two videos to help you learn more about forest invasives that you can do something about this spring. Lesser celandine, or fig buttercup, is a spring ephemeral that is spreading in Wisconsin and putting native forest groundcover at risk. [Watch here](#) to learn how to identify and stop the pretty yellow flower. Invasive jumping worms can wreak havoc on a forest floor. [This full-length video](#) shows you how to identify different types of earthworms so you can help stop their spread.

Commemorating 250 Years of America's Forest Legacy

The Society of American Foresters, National Forest Foundation, Arbor Day Foundation and the USDA Forest Service are supporting *Forests250*, an initiative that celebrates the history of forest management in our country and sets the stage for the future. The campaign will include events and volunteer opportunities for individuals and organizations throughout the year. [Read more](#)

"Torchy" Gets a Rebrand

Originally designed as a mascot to warn the public of the dangers of fire, the DNR Division of Forestry is bringing flamed-shaped "Torchy" out of retirement to help the public learn about the importance of good fire in the forest. A companion to Smokey Bear, Torchy will be an ambassador for safe prescribed burns and natural fire, which are vital for the regeneration of many key forest species. [Read More](#)

Expansion of Old Growth Tenderfoot Forest Reserve

Situated between the Ottawa National Forest and the Northern Highlands American Legion State Forest, the ecologically important Tenderfoot Forest Reserve has grown by 500 acres following a recent acquisition of private land through the Nature Conservancy. The land, including an old growth yellow birch ecosystem, will be open to the public via boat-in access from Palmer Lake. [Read More](#)

Historic Leopold Pines Lost in Storm

Straight-line winds from an April storm in the 4000-acre Leopold Pines Conservation Area of northwest Sauk County uprooted or snapped two dozen 80-foot tall red and white pines planted by the Aldo Leopold family in the 1930s and 1940s. The nearby Shack, a national historic landmark, was not damaged. The Foundation aims to find an appropriate use for the downed wood. [Read More](#)

Ecosystem Disturbance as a Balancing Force

This essay by former Aldo Leopold Foundation Land Stewardship Fellow Cate Nelson reflects on how destructive events, even those carried out by humans, can be restorative to forest health and conservation. [Read More](#)

Dane County Land Purchase Returns Ancestral Lands to the Ho Chunk Nation

A purchase of 165 acres of land in the Lower Mud Lake Natural Resource area will be permanently protected through a conservation easement, and ownership given to the Ho Chunk Nation. The land holds ecological, archeological and cultural significance. [Read More](#)

Researchers from MTU Develop New Building Material from Wood Waste

Using wood-decay fungi to remove lignin, researchers at Michigan Tech's College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science are turning sawdust, bark and scrap wood into a densified building material that is and both lighter and stronger than steel. [Read More](#)

It's Getting Tick Out There

Use this website from the UW-Madison Department of Entomology to brush up on your knowledge of ticks and tick-borne disease and stay safer in the woods this spring. [Read More](#)