



Woodchips

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A Tour of State Natural Areas

In September we celebrate Public Lands Month. Enjoy this video tour of Southern Wisconsin State Natural Areas, hosted by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. Locations include Rocky Run Oak Savannah in Pardeeville, Blue River Sand Barrens in Grant County, and Lulu Lake in East Troy. The video also contains information about how State Natural Areas are funded and managed. [Watch Here](#)

In the News

Havilah Babcock House Open for Rare Tours

The historic Babcock House in Neenah will open to the public for the first time in 60 years, with tour proceeds supporting the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society following recent Fox Valley tornadoes. The home was built in 1883 by Havilah Babcock, a joint founder of Kimberly-Clark and an inductee in the Paper Industry International Hall of Fame. The home is owned by Babcock descendants and is kept in the style maintained by Havilah and Frances Babcock. Tickets for the Sept. 26th tours must be purchased in advance. [Read More](#)

Learning from Birds to Advance Old-Growth

The presence of certain birds can be an indicator of the characteristics that mark an old-growth forest, which means surveying those birds can help researchers know if habitat management techniques are reaching their objectives. In the Managed Old Growth Silviculture Study, or MOSS, researchers are looking for birds like Brown Creepers and Black throated Green Warblers. [Read More](#)

The Benefits of “Veteranizing” Trees

Artificially speeding up the aging process, or *veteranizing* a tree, can recreate decay-related habitat components like cavities, microbes and insect communities that large stands of young trees can’t otherwise provide. This can reduce effects of the “age gap” problem sometimes found in forests near developed areas. Methods of veteranizing include breaking branches or creating hollows. [Read More](#)

Help Tell the School Forest Centennial Story

As we approach the 100th year of the Wisconsin School Forest Program being celebrated in 2027, the LEAF K-12 Forestry Education Program is collecting stories, memories, photographs, maps, newspaper articles, management plans, educational documents, and other historic materials that help tell the story of school forests around the state. Copies are acceptable to submit. [Read More](#)

“Stacked Stressors” Affecting Oak Trees

Spongy moth, drought, increased storms, old age, poor planting techniques and oak wilt are piling on to increase the vulnerability of many of Wisconsin’s oak trees, but remedies for better health exist when problems are caught early. [Read More](#)

Exploring the Wabeno Logging Museum

A WJFW reporter takes a look at the history of the Wabeno Logging Museum and the resources it has available to visitors. [Read More](#)

A Historic Look at Smokejumping

It’s been 86 years since the first smokejumpers parachuted into a forest fire in Idaho. Read about the history of smokejumping as it is presented in this historic article from the Forest Service, originally published in 1980. [Read More](#)

The Past Meets the Future with Giant Sequoias

The giant sequoias of California evolved with frequent natural and human-caused fire, but high intensity fires that are a result of modern fire suppression are killing the trees at a fast rate. Prescribed fire that mimics past patterns may save these ancient trees. [Read More](#)

WPFC Hires First Executive Director

Rose Brown has been hired to lead the Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council, which strives to increase Wisconsin’s prescribed fire capacity, address conservation needs, enhance public understanding, and serve as a unified voice for the prescribed fire community. She will lead the Council’s effort to increase the annual use of prescribed fire in the state to 1,000,000 acres. [Read More](#)