

WISCONSIN LAND+WATER 2024 FRIEND OF CONSERVATION AWARD NOMINATION INFORMATION

1. Please provide the following information:

- Name And Contact Information Of The Nominee.

Lumberjack RC&D Council
315 S. Oneida Ave. Suite 206
Rhineland, WI 54501
715-369-9886
Primary Contact: Tracy Beckman, Executive Director

- Title And Years Of Service Of Nominee, if applicable.

Lumberjack RC&D was founded in 1968 as a local council dedicated to improving the lives of rural residents and protecting their local natural resources. Lumberjack continues to provide an important source of support for local conservation projects, and celebrated its 50th year of service in 2018.

- Name And Contact Information Of The Nominator.

Lumberjack is being nominated for this award by the Forest, Florence, Langlade, Lincoln, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano, and Vilas County Conservation Departments.

Beyond this, Lumberjack is also being nominated by the following organizations: Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership (WHIP), Timberland Invasives Partnership (TIP), Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership (WYFP), Forest, Langlade, Marinette, and Oconto Waterways (FLOW), the Waterways Association of Shawano & Menominee Counties (WAMSCO), and Trees for Tomorrow.

Primary Contacts for Nominators:

Michele Sadauskas
Oneida County Conservationist
715-369-7835
msadauskas@oneidacountywi.gov

Tom Boisvert
Lincoln County Conservationist
715-539-1054
Thomas.Boisvert@co.lincoln.wi.us

- ## 2. In 500 words or less summarize the nominee's project/approach to land and resource management. Include the impact on conservation and/or management of natural resources, as well as any innovative techniques or outreach efforts where they have shared their knowledge or project with others.

The National Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) & the Wisconsin Association of RC&Ds were established by federal legislation in 1962 through the USDA Farm Bill. They focus on the use of area natural resources to improve social, economic, and environmental conditions for area citizens. Local councils, such as Lumberjack RC&D established in 1968, provide assistance to local people in accomplishing their conservation goals.

While many RC&D's were forced to close after losing federal funding in 2011, Lumberjack remains a vibrant and successful RC&D due in large part to their ongoing partnership with the DNR and USFS in the Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) and the Wisconsin Continuous Forest Inventory (WiCFI) programs, allowing them to continue to provide quality programming. In 2018, Lumberjack celebrated 50 Years of Conservation at the School District of Rhinelander's School Forest, a place where Lumberjack has made a difference with several conservation grants. Today, Lumberjack is making more of an impact than ever.

The Lumberjack RC&D service area is made up of 10 Sponsor counties in Northeastern WI. County Land Conservation Committees (LCC) sponsor the Lumberjack RC&D Council by providing one representative and one alternate to the Council's Board of Directors. In addition, the Council may approve up to seven At-Large members who may not be elected or appointed county officials. Members are empowered to conduct and supervise the current Lumberjack activities, review all project proposals brought before the Council, and keep their counties up-to-date with current Lumberjack news. This structure allows Land Conservation Committees (LCC) and Departments (LCD) to be more intimately involved in conservation-related projects in their area.

Lumberjack RC&D's approach to land and resource management values the input of County Conservationists and other local natural resource professionals within its ten-county region. They strive to "enhance area natural resources, promote a higher standard of living, and improve the quality of life for area citizens by fostering partnerships between public and private sectors and strategically investing in area natural resources". Through their competitive grant program, Lumberjack supports conservation projects that have been developed by County staff, land managers, and other deserving nonprofits and clubs. By supporting these key players, Lumberjack fills an important gap in conservation funding and spotlights work that otherwise could not be accomplished in this rural region.

3. Tell us in 500 words or less how the nominee meets the award criteria guidelines.

Through its own community conservation grant program, Lumberjack RC&D has distributed more than \$1.2 million to over 100 conservation projects in the past 20 years alone. Conservation projects have been implemented throughout all member Counties within the Northeastern region of Wisconsin. Specifically, Lumberjack has assisted LCD's with stormwater control, garlic mustard and purple loosestrife management, pollinator conservation, groundwater sampling, and youth education projects.

Lumberjack RC&D recognizes the importance of grass-roots cooperatives that have a conservation goal in mind. Whether it be stopping the spread of invasive species or building young forests, Lumberjack has made a commitment to help smaller groups reach their goals. Being under the Lumberjack umbrella allows groups to apply for state and federal grants to do conservation work while Lumberjack provides organizational development consulting and administrative management services. Lumberjack is currently a fiscal sponsor for three nonprofit groups: Timberland Invasives Partnership, Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership, and the Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership. By working together, an immense impact has been made on our landscape!

Lumberjack RC&D has a local, regional and statewide impact on natural resource events and culture. Lumberjack assists in furthering the goals of LCD's by participating in advisory groups to update and revise 10-year Land & Water Resource Management (LWRM) plans and lake classification systems to protect healthy watersheds and high priority lakes. They frequently sit on organizational committees for events such as the Sustainable Forestry Conference, National Association of RC&Ds, Trees For Tomorrow "ForestFest", and youth events such as student poster and speaking contests encouraging conservation in the classroom. Lumberjack further reaches beyond its borders by administering the \$500,000 Northern WI Ecofootprint Grant Program to provide funding to help protect and restore the natural environment in and around areas affected by Enbridge's Line 5 relocation project.

If applicable, entries can be supported by a maximum of eight photos that are no larger than 4"x6" in color. Applications can also include supporting material such as news articles, letters of support or other resources (no DVD or video clips please).

Attachments Include:

- Support letter from Lumberjack RC&D's membership Counties
- Support letter from Lumberjack RC&D's fiscally sponsored organizations
- Support letter from the Waterways Association of Shawano & Menominee Counties (WAMSCO)
- Support letter from Trees for Tomorrow
- Photo compilation
- News Article "*A Decade of Invasive Species Management*"
- News Article "*Wild Ones Makes Good Use of \$10,000 Grant*"
- News Article "*Lumberjack Receives GLRI*"
- News Article "*Nature Playscape Emerges on The Campus of Trees For Tomorrow*"
- News Article "*New Website for Forest Landowners*"
- News Release "*Ecofootprint grants announced*"
- Excerpt from the November 2023 "*Northwoods Journal*"

December 21, 2023

WI Land+Water
121 S. Pinckney St.
Suite 420
Madison, WI 53703

Dear WI Land+Water Professional Improvement Committee,

On behalf of the counties represented below, this letter expresses our enthusiastic support for the nomination of Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) as a candidate for the 2024 Friend of Conservation Award.

Lumberjack RC&D is a multi-county non-profit organization with a mission to enhance area natural resources, promote a higher standard of living, and strategically invest in area natural resources. They rely on multi-county cooperation and foster partnerships between public and private sectors.

Lumberjack is an invaluable partner for county-level conservation, working very closely with County Land & Water Departments throughout their 10-county region. Their support can range from funding county projects, providing staff to help with projects, and participating in the development of conservation policy and plans.

Here are just a few great examples of how they have assisted member counties:

- “For over 25 years Shawano County has been able to further its outreach and education on water quality, invasive species and youth conservation field days through financial support from their grant program.”
- Provided funding for a stormwater control project at the Eagle River Public Library (Vilas County) which included a rain garden.
- Before pollinator conservation became mainstream, Lumberjack stepped up and funded two consecutive years of pollinator projects in Oneida County, which included critical staff funding. Their vision and leadership began a movement of pollinator conservation in Oneida County.
- Provided grant funding to treat Garlic Mustard on hundreds of acres within the Lincoln County forest. Without this grant, effectively controlling this invasive in the face of current County financial constraints would not have been possible.
- Participated in Oneida County’s 10-year revision of their Land & Water Resource Management Plan and currently sits on our Lake Classification advisory group which is developing a lake classification system to better protect healthy watersheds and high priority lakes.
- Provided funding for a Groundwater Sampling Project in Vilas County where 150 private wells were sampled.
- “A great resource for AIS programming” in Marinette County
- Assisted private forest landowners with Forest Management plans in Forest County
- Lumberjack staff have “provided multiple educational presentations to Vilas County volunteers and students in our schools.”
- Lumberjack is the fiscal sponsor and key organization that keeps the Timberland Invasives Partnership (TIP) functioning, which is based in Menominee County in the Land Conservation Office. TIP completes an abundance of outreach and control work to combat invasive species.

Lumberjack RC&D is a perfect example of a conservation organization that not only provides grant monies to support worthy conservation projects, but one that is also able to “stand in the trenches” with county Land & Water Departments. They are as happy to be in the classroom educating our youth, as they are wading through a wetland releasing biocontrol beetles to manage Purple Loosestrife. Most importantly, their organization provides opportunities for both members and community partners to work together and learn from each other to achieve their vision, “*sustainable resources for vibrant communities*”.

They are a vital partner for North Central and North East Wisconsin’s County Land & Water Departments and we sincerely believe they are deserving of this award.

Thank you,



Michele Sadauskas, County Conservationist
Land and Water Conservation Department
Oneida County



Steve Kircher, Conservation Director
Land Conservation Department
Forest County



Chris Arrowwood, Land Conservationist
Conservation Office
Langlade County



Sheri Denowski, County Conservationist
Land Information Department
Marinette County



Ken Dolata, County Conservationist
Land and Water Conservation Department
Oconto County



Scott Frank, County Conservationist
Land Conservation Department
Shawano County



Carolyn Scholl, County Conservationist
Land and Water Conservation Department
Vilas County



Thomas Boisvert, Conservation Program Mgr.
Land Services Department
Lincoln County



Jeremy Johnson, County Conservationist
Conservation, Forestry, & Zoning Department
Menominee County



Scott Goodwin, County Conservationist
Land Conservation Department
Florence County



December 20, 2023

Wisconsin Land+Water
121 S. Pinckney St., Suite 420
Madison, WI 53703

Dear WI Land+Water Award Reviewers:

This letter is to express our unequivocal support for the nomination of Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) as a candidate for the 2024 Friend of Conservation Award. We are the coordinators of the conservation programs fiscally sponsored by Lumberjack RC&D, representing the following groups:

- Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership
- Timberland Invasives Partnership
- Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership
- FLOW AIS Program
- Lumberjack Forest Inventory Program

As coordinators of multi-county conservation programs, we have a unique and valuable relationship with Lumberjack RC&D, which allows our work to flourish across the ten Lumberjack RC&D counties in northern Wisconsin. Lumberjack provides fundamental structure for our groups, including vital components such as project guidance, steering committee membership, an office “homebase”, employee payroll services, and significant administration of all our grant awards from multiple sources. Without Lumberjack’s contributions to our groups, it would be extremely difficult to achieve the same level of assistance to rural citizens and protection of our local natural resources.

Lumberjack is defined as a rural development program working to protect area natural resources and to improve social, economic, and environmental conditions for area citizens. One of the main ways it accomplishes these goals is by supporting our respective programs. For example, Lumberjack’s support allows us to offer: individual forest landowner assistance, invasive species education and control, recommendations on forest management programs, forest health tracking such as Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) and the Wisconsin Continuous Forest Inventory (WiCFI), aquatic invasive species community workshops, and more.

It is undeniable that our groups’ successes are in large part thanks to the existence and backing of Lumberjack RC&D, who have been a key player in conservation across our area for more than 50 years to date. We believe they have earned the honor of this recognition and would be delighted to see them receive this award.

Please contact us at any time should you have any questions or desire more information about our programs. Thank you so much for this opportunity!

Sincerely,



Rosie Page, Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership



Abby Vogt, Timberland Invasives Partnership



Derek Thorn, FLOW AIS Program



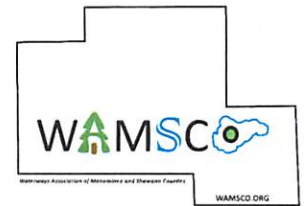
Coleman Kaiser, Lumberjack Forest Inventory Supervisor



Randee Smith, Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership



WAMSCO
1263 S. Main Street
Shawano, WI 54166
WAMSCO@gmail.com
WAMSCO.org



November 24, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Lumberjack RC&D's nomination for the Friends of Conservation Award. RC&D, currently lead by Tracy Beckman, is the epitome of what this award represents. The Lumberjack RC&D in Northeastern Wisconsin lost its federal funding in 2011 along with all other RC&Ds. While other national organizations dissolved, the Lumberjacks continued to thrive and never lost sight of their mission, *"...strives to enhance area natural resources, promote a higher standard of living and improve the quality of life for area citizens by fostering partnerships between public and private sectors and strategically investing in area natural resources."*

Lumberjack RC&D awards up to \$60,000 in cost share grants annually to organizations for conservation projects! WAMSCO (Waterways Association of Menominee and Shawano Counties, Inc.) was one of their grant recipients in 2023. We were beyond grateful for the \$7500 awarded to us to be able to bring our education programming to the youth and community with the addition of our Mobile Conservation Education Classroom. Although we received multiple donations for this project, this would not have been possible without the assistance from the Lumberjack organization.

Many non-profit conservation organizations rely on DNR grant funding. We all know that is limited and also look to outside funding sources. Every grant and donation is always appreciated. That being said, it is refreshing when a sponsor is also invested beyond their donation. The Lumberjack RC&D council is engaged and actually interested in helping to make each project successful from the application process through the completion of the project. They require an in-person Project Proposal Presentation. The council actually asks questions to applicants to make the difficult decision on who to fund. Tracy then contacted me several times throughout our grant to just check in and see if we needed anything. They also require a Follow-up Presentation at the completion of each grant. They are again very interested in how they made a difference.

I believe that their passion and commitment to conservation makes the Lumberjack RC&D the perfect nominee for the Friends of Conservation award! Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, additional information needed, or even pictures from our project!

Respectfully,

Shanda Hubertus
WAMSCO President
715-367-2309



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www.TreesForTomorrow.com

December 13, 2023

WI Land+Water
121 S Pinckney St, Suite 420
Madison, WI 53703

Dear WI Land+Water Awards Committee,

On behalf of Trees For Tomorrow, an environmental education center in Eagle River, I am thrilled to recommend Lumberjack RC&D for a 2024 Friend of Conservation Award. Lumberjack RC&D continues to demonstrate their support of natural resources conservation education by providing grant funds towards projects at Trees For Tomorrow. Past projects funded by Lumberjack RC&D included the expansion and updating of our publicly used nature trail with updated seating and a new boardwalk installed. They also provided funding to help Trees For Tomorrow develop and launch an early childhood nature-based program, KinderWild Camp, as well as a community nature playscape on our campus used by TFT program participants as well as local and visiting families. Most recently, Lumberjack RC&D grant funds supported the expansion of our Outdoor Classroom with the installation of additional picnic tables and the addition of outdoor teaching supplies for use throughout our school and community programming focused on teaching the science of natural resource management.

In addition to grant funding, Tracy Beckman, executive director of Lumberjack RC&D, serves as an active member on our Forest Fest planning committee. Forest Fest is a one-day event scheduled to return in 2024 and will educate approximately 2000 participants about sustainable forest management with net proceeds providing scholarship to schools participating in our K12 school programs. With the support of the Lumberjack RC&D Board of Directors, Tracy has gone above and beyond on this committee helping us accomplish our marketing and fundraising goals and identifying new ways to grow the impact of the event.

Tracy continues to serve as an ambassador of Trees For Tomorrow, sharing our message and collective purpose with others as appropriate. Tracy and the team at Lumberjack RC&D should be an easy choice for the Friend of Conservation Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Todea", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Cheryl Todea
Trees For Tomorrow Alumna and Executive Director

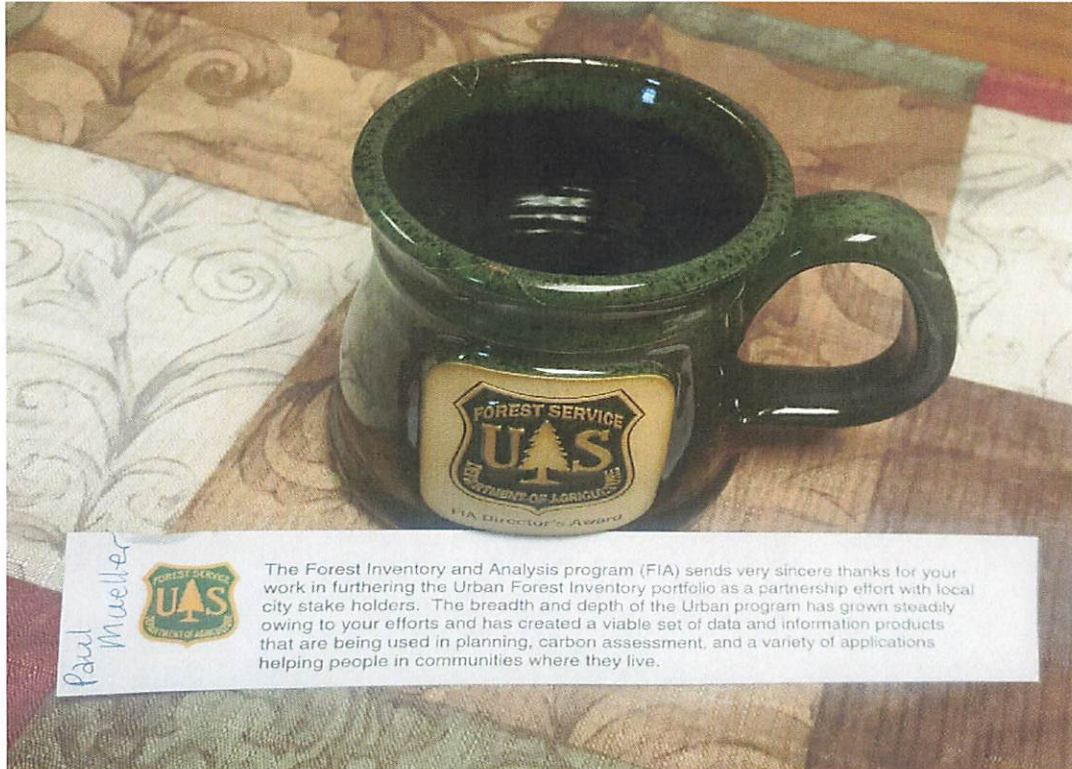




Volunteers planted native seedlings into the Thunder Lake Wildlife Area, one of four sites in the Oneida County Roadside Pollinator Project. The project was fully funded by Lumberjack RC&D.



This is the Friends of Town Line Lake Parks, ADA accessible, combination fishing pier and kayak launch. Installation was done in 2023 with financial support provided by Lumberjack RC&D.



Lumberjack's ongoing participation in the Forest Inventory Analysis Program provides data that is used in planning and carbon assessments, bettering local communities.



Staff from Lumberjack RC&D collect invasive purple loosestrife pots from the Deerskin River in Vilas County to raise biocontrol beetles.



Lumberjack invested part of a Wisconsin DNR Grant toward new educational invasive species signage at the outdoor recreational area in the Town of Newbold in Oneida County.



As part of the summer highlight series, the new Waterways Association of Menominee and Shawano Counties, Inc. (WAMSCO) Mobile Conservation Education trailer, purchased with a grant made possible through Lumberjack RC&D, visited the Bonduel Bears students during a Great Outdoors summer school class. The trailer, filled with sampling nets, waders, and other investigative water tools, allowed students to become Water Warriors by sampling a nearby creek to check its health. Based on results found, the creek was reported to be in GOOD condition.



Lumberjack's invasive species program often participates in field days to educate local youth like this Northwoods area Brownie Troop, who gathered at Camp Wilderness to learn about new invasive plants in their area.



By fiscally sponsoring the Timberland Invasives Partnership (TIP), Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership (WHIP), and Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership, Lumberjack advocates for the improvement, protection, and restoration of private forest lands.

Reflecting on the gains made by WHIP



By Laurie Lenten

The Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Partnership, otherwise known as WHIP by those in the know, is one of the least known names among the many out there that are fighting the war against invasive species in the Northwoods.



“We get that a lot,” said WHIP coordinator Rosie Page, “People just don’t know who we are or what we do. It is definitely something we are working on.”



Rosie Page, WHIP coordinator

In the meantime, explained Rosie, WHIP is a multi-agency co-op that serves Vilas, Oneida and as of 2019, Lincoln counties. “We are one of 14 such Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas, or CISMAs, across the state of Wisconsin that work with partner groups to manage invasive species across jurisdictional boundaries,” she said.

To break that down further, WHIP is a completely grant funded organization that serves as a hub to bring together the expertise and resources of such agencies as the United States Forest Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, and the Northwoods Land Trust – to name but a few of WHIP’s 15 formal partners – to tackle the endless barrage of terrestrial invasive species in North Central Wisconsin.

Battling terrestrial invasives, Rosie said, is really what sets WHIP apart and could explain why it is not a household name.

"In our area people are much more aware of aquatic invasive species because of all the lakes we have here and how much our economy is tied to the water. WHIP, however, focuses on terrestrial invasives. We have a huge amount of trails in the Northwoods that also draw people to this area and terrestrial invasives threaten those trails," she said. "We value our forests. We depend on them in so many ways."

It was that sense of valuing the land that prompted a group of concerned individuals to take on some terrestrial invasives, which in turn brought WHIP into existence.

"Back in 2009," Rosie explained, "both invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn were found on the grounds of the Vilas County Courthouse and at a local park. That was enough for a group of people to come together to take care of the problem."

By 2010 members of the fledgling group had reached out to Oneida County, jointly wrote a memorandum of understanding, and WHIP was born.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of W

HIP and a celebration was to be held at the WHIP Annual Meeting on March 18, at the Bradley Town Hall, in Lincoln County, but unfortunately the event was cancelled due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

In a typical year the annual meeting is open to the public, includes a luncheon, and a series of speakers presenting on relevant invasive species topics. The event serves as WHIP's largest single yearly public event at which to educate the public about invasive species, as well as the group itself.

In lieu of the annual meeting, Rosie agreed to share an overview of WHIP's biggest accomplishments over the past decade and the direction she sees WHIP going in the future.

Though WHIP has conducted a variety of projects aimed at identifying and eradicating terrestrial invasives over the years, Rosie said one of the milestone accomplishments was the County Highways Roadside Survey Project that was done in 2012-2013.

The project, which was funded with a grant from the Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., based in Rhinelander, involved hiring individuals who surveyed – foot-by-foot, every county road in Vilas and Oneida counties using GPS technology to map the presence of terrestrial invasives on roadsides. The work took eight months.

The results yielded a bi-county Draft Highway Roadside Management Plan drafted by the WHIP Steering Committee, which is comprised of eleven members from WHIP's partner agencies, that offers recommendations on steps to follow as new species are reported, as well as best management practices for preventing noxious weeds alongside highways.

According to Rosie the final plan and map are invaluable tools for identifying and managing terrestrial invasives going forward. WHIP and the counties involved now have a blueprint to use for comparison purposes. "This was a big project and down the road we will be able to look back, compare changes, and easily identify new invasives as they crop up," she noted.

Just as boats aid in the spread of aquatic invasive species so do vehicles aid the spread of terrestrial invasives. "Terrestrial invasive plant seeds stick to car tires and are spread. That is how we have gotten so many non-native thistles along our roadsides," Rosie said.

Landscaping and gardening are also known sources of terrestrial invasive spread, which, said Rosie, is the story behind another of WHIP's success stories.

"In 2017 we were approached by the Natural Lakes Private Preserve which is comprised of 200 landowners in northern Vilas County. They maintain their own roads and they discovered that they had a huge invasive honeysuckle problem. They came to us to find out what they could do," said Rosie.

The answer? "We did a lot of teaching and educating," said Rosie. "There were lots of volunteer hours involved and hard physical labor. The work paid off, though, and today the Natural Lakes Private Preserve has its own team of volunteers that stays on top of the problem."

Invasive honeysuckle is a problem that got its start 50 or 60 years back when the plant was widely used by homeowners as privacy fencing. "Many terrestrial invasives are garden plants that have spread into areas and naturalized. Purple Loosestrife, Lilies of the Valley, and Day Lilies are all garden plants that if left to naturalize can create big problems for our forests," she says.

It's those kinds of invasive problems that will keep WHIP busy heading into the next decade Rosie said. To do that effectively will require increased involvement with local communities and making townships aware that it doesn't take thousands of dollars to fight terrestrial invasives.

"We have been working with the town of Newbold for the past two years. They wanted to know what terrestrial invasives were on their roadsides so we educated their road department crew and the town developed a huge map that is on display in their town hall to show interested land owners what's on the roadsides and at the ends of their driveways," said Rosie. "We had a work day at their disc golf course to identify and eradicate invasives. These are simple things that any township can do and we are here to help. We have the combined resources of many agencies that we can call upon to get the job done."

For anyone interested in knowing just which terrestrial invasives might be on their property, Rosie recommends The Great Lakes Early Detection Network (Great Lakes EDN) App. "Anyone can download the free app onto their phone. It easily helps you identify terrestrial invasives and by using GPS lets you report the exact location of the invasive. It is what we use here at WHIP."

https://www.antigojournal.com/news/local/wild-ones-makes-good-use-of-10-000-grant/article_8d28a056-fc96-5c03-a63d-4969a484a57f.html

Wild Ones makes good use of \$10,000 grant

By Kevin Passon kpasson@antigojournal.com
Dec 12, 2020



1 of 4



Karen Stimac, vice president of the Wild Ones Northwoods Gateway Chapter, left, talks with Tracy Beckman, executive director of the Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council at the butterfly garden in Antigo. The Lumberjack RC&D donated \$10,000 to the garden project.

Kevin Passon

What do butterflies, Christmas trees and lumberjacks have in common?

Visit the butterfly garden on Second Street near the Springbrook Trail and you'll find out.

The Wild Ones Northwoods Gateway Chapter received a \$10,000 grant from the Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council in October 2019 to be used in 2020. The group was finally able to be thanked last week, when members of both groups gathered with 4-year-old kindergarten students from North Elementary School who helped decorate the Christmas tree at the site.

"Funds donated to the project were used to help build the garden and the adjoining landscaping," said Tracy Beckman, executive director of the Lumberjack RC&D Council. "The garden features plants that attract butterflies and other pollinators, which helps to improve pollination efforts at a time when the pollinator population has seen decline. "

The Wild Ones Chapter added the Christmas tree to add some holiday cheer. It is set up in the place where an educational kiosk will be installed next year.

“The kiosk will be an encased display for educational items and articles related to pollinators and native plants,” said Karen Stimac, Wild Ones vice president. “It will promote visual and educational interest throughout the year.”

To begin encouraging children to become interested in the learning about the butterfly and pollinator garden, 4K students were invited to make ornaments and hang them on the tree.

Mick Macklem and Wild Ones President Christine Macklem put solar lights on the tree and encouraged other members to hang plastic ornaments or something for the birds to eat.

Wild Ones is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to educate and share information with members and the community to promote biodiversity and environmentally sound practices. It serves as a resource for individuals, schools, commercial property owners and community decision-makers as they move toward ethical choices in land use.

The Northwoods Gateway Chapter serves the counties of Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas.

“Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council has donated more than \$500,000 toward community conservation projects in the nine-county service area of Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano and Vilas counties in northeast Wisconsin,” Beckman said.

To learn more about the Lumberjack RC&D, visit www.LumberjackRCD.org/projects.

“The generous grant from the Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council and many other groups and individuals in the community have made it possible to build the butterfly pollinator garden,” Stimac said.

Continued support, especially through an end-of-year tax-deductible contribution, is requested of community members.

Donations can be sent to Butterfly Garden, c/o CoVantage Credit Union, P.O. Box 107, Antigo, WI 54409.

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Energy & Environment

Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development receives grant to fight invasive and improve Lake Michigan Watershed

WXPR | By [Katie Thoresen](#)
 Published June 23, 2023 at 5:50 AM CDT



Katie Thoresen / WXPR

Work to fight invasive species in Oconto County forests could help improve the Lake Michigan Watershed.

Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development recently received a \$46,728 grant from the U.S. Forest Service.

It was part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funding.

"Typically RC&D's are a kind of liaison between governments and organizations so we facilitate partnerships and grant funding. The ultimate goal is doing conservation works across our region which is nine counties in northeastern Wisconsin," said Tracy Beckman, the Lumberjack RC&D Executive Director.

The grant money will help pay to remove invasive species like buckthorn and Japanese knotweed on 420 acres in Oconto County Forests.

"Those are the types of species that create monocultures and choke out our natives," said Beckman. "To control them in the watershed will actually improve the water quality and also improves wildlife habitat because we restore the native plants."

Part of the project is also working with school forests to educate students and the public about invasive species.

As part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funding, The USDA Forest Service invested \$1.16 million to support 11 local restoration projects on nonfederal lands in Wisconsin.

Tags: [Energy & Environment](#) [WXPR News](#) [invasive species](#) [Forest Service](#)



Katie Thoresen
 Katie Thoresen is WXPR's News Director/Vice President.
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Northwoods STAR JOURNAL™



EAGLE RIVER – A recent collaboration between Trees For Tomorrow (TFT) and Lumberjack RC&D resulted in an outdoor nature playscape nestled in the heart of Eagle River on the TFT campus. The playscape is open to the public from dawn until dusk and is located just inside the tree line on the TFT demonstration trail on the west side of campus.

“The elements of the nature playscape were designed and hand-constructed by our staff,” said Robin Ginner, TFT executive director. “We harvested all of the natural materials from around our campus and included features that entice children to build, dig, climb and explore in an age-appropriate manner.”

The new playscape will be an integral hands-on component for children attending the new KinderWild Camp, a nature-based program for kids ages 3-5 which is a combination of classroom and outdoor learning on Fridays through mid-December.

The playscape was installed in late summer of 2020 and its natural elements include stepping stumps, balance elements, story circle, nature “TV,” rock labyrinth, timber pyramid for climbing, a tree teepee, and seating for adults, all contained in a fenced area to allow children to explore in a safe, contained area. It’s the only nature playscape in the Eagle River area and is located along the demonstration trail system on the Trees For Tomorrow campus.

This playscape offers a number of benefits, including allowing children to learn using what their natural instincts call for, such as exploration, experimentation and play, Ginner said, noting that children also develop balance and advanced motor skills as they navigate the natural landscape. “At Trees For Tomorrow we believe that the best learning happens when students – regardless of age – are allowed to get out and explore in nature. This is critical for children living in increasingly indoor and technology-connected lives. Their childhoods should be filled with adventurous experiences exploring the great outdoors,” Ginner said.

For more information on KinderWild Camp or Trees For Tomorrow, visit treesfortomorrow.com.



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New Website for Private Forest Landowners *(posted June 15, 2023)*
 Author: Tracy J. Beckman
 Source: Lumberjack RC&D Council

Lumberjack RC&D and its partner groups (Timberland Invasives Partnership, Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership, and Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership) are proud to announce the launch of a new website www.yourforests.com! Funded through a Landscape Scale Restoration grant from the USFS, this site is meant to provide information to private forest landowners across the Lumberjack region seeking to improve, protect, or restore their land.

The website also includes information about the grant's goals, workshops, and future events. One exciting aspect is that landowners can also view photos, video and descriptions of demonstration sites which show examples of restoration work in progress. Landowners interested in partnering to implement conservation practices on their own land should visit www.yourforests.com to determine their eligibility and who to contact for more information.

Keep an eye out, as we have also recently published our billboard campaign, with three locations (Hwy 51 Merrill, Hwy 17 at Cherokee Ln in Rhineland, Crandon, and Antigo) showing messages of protecting forests and reducing invasive species. All our media pieces will drive traffic to this new site at www.yourforests.com where we can engage further. Please share!

[Click here to visit yourforests.com](#) »



The primary mission of Langlade County government is to provide essential services in a fiscally responsible manner that protect and promote the health, safety, economic well-being and environmental stewardship of our community.

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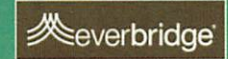
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November 28, 2023 – MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECOFOOTPRINT GRANTS ANNOUNCED

In celebration of #GivingTuesday and the people and communities across the Line 5 Wisconsin Segment Relocation Project area, Enbridge and its partner Lumberjack RC&D announced today the Ecofootprint grant awards in support of conservation work by northern Wisconsin organizations.

Northwestern Sands Barren Restoration is an effort of Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department to create and maintain pine-oak barrens, which is a globally rare landscape left behind by glaciers 10,000 years ago. Historically, barrens were a common landscape in Northwest Wisconsin but were nearly wiped out by fire suppression, agriculture, and reforestation. In collaboration with the Wisconsin DNR, Bayfield County will receive a \$50,000 Ecofootprint award to maintain high quality barrens in strategic locations to maximize the connectivity of these isolated landscapes.

Cranberry River Fish Passage Project is the vision of the Bayfield County Land and Water Conservation Department in collaboration with the Town of Clover and Wisconsin DNR. With support of a \$100,000 Ecofootprint award, this project will add 5.5 miles of spawning grounds for native brook trout to the Cranberry River system through the replacement of a failing culvert that is preventing trout from swimming upstream.

Ecofootprint is a two-year, \$500,000 grant program created in 2023 by Enbridge to support environment restoration and improvement projects along the Line 5 Segment Relocation Project in northern Wisconsin across Ashland, Bayfield, and Iron counties as well as the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa and the Red Cliff Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa.

Enbridge is partnering with Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. to administer the Ecofootprint Grant Program. Lumberjack RC&D is a nine-county, conservation nonprofit in northeastern Wisconsin which, through its own community conservation grant program, has distributed more than \$1.2 million to over 100 conservation projects in the past 20 years.

Ecofootprint grant awards were selected from among applicants by a panel of ecology, conservation and philanthropy experts according to the following program priorities:

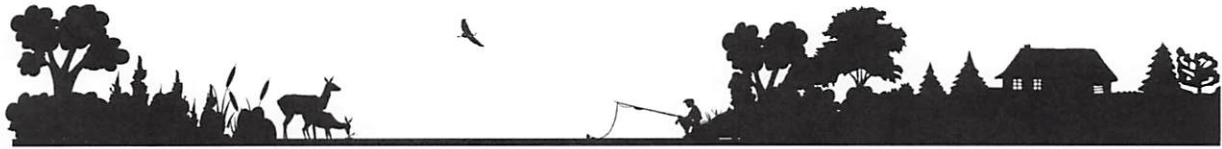
- Improving and/or protecting surface water and/or groundwater quality in watersheds crossed by project.
- Advancing research and science related to threatened and endangered species and/or declining populations.
- Fostering environmental postsecondary education and stewardship.
- Improving research related to the transportation of crude oil as it relates to the environment.
- Focusing on environmental areas most relevant to local communities

The second application round of the Ecofootprint Grant Program will open in 2024. To learn more about the program and how to apply, visit the [Enbridge website](#) or [Lumberjack RC&D](#).

For more information contact:

Juli Kellner at Enbridge 218-461-7837

Tracy Beckman at Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council 715-369-9886



NORTHWOODS JOURNAL – NOVEMBER 2023

A Free Publication about Enjoying and Protecting Marinette County's Outdoor Life

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Marinette County & the Lumberjack RCD – Partners in Conservation

<https://lumberjackrccd.org/> & <https://lumberjackrccd.org/flow-ais-newsletters>

Marinette County is a partner with the Lumberjack Resource & Conservation Development (RCD). RCDs are rural development programs focused on conservation, development and the use of area natural resources to improve social, economic, and environmental conditions for area citizens. The [National RC&D](#) and the [Wisconsin Association of RC&Ds](#) were established by federal legislation in 1962 through the USDA Farm Bill.



Lumberjack RC&D was established in 1968 as a local council. Local councils, along with a variety of organizations, companies and government entities provide assistance to local people in accomplishing their conservation goals. The RC&D Program was unfunded following the recession of 2008 with Lumberjack losing its federal funding in 2011. While this forced many RC&D's to close, Lumberjack remains a vibrant and successful RC&D and continues to provide quality programming.

The Lumberjack RC&D service area is made up of 10 Sponsor counties in Northeastern WI. In order to be considered a Sponsor (a member in good standing with appointee and voting privileges) counties must pay annual dues of \$200. The following counties are currently Sponsors: Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano and Vilas.

- Employs two certified and licensed pesticide applicators for last resort invasive species control.
- Employs an AIS Coordinator to oversee the FLOW AIS program in Forest, Langlade, Marinette & Oconto Counties.

The **FLOW AIS** (Florence, Langlade, Oconto, Marinette Waterways Aquatic Invasive Species) program helps educate the public about aquatic invasive species. Its mission is "For the betterment of all, the FLOW AIS Program works toward improving aquatic ecosystems through Aquatic Invasive Species prevention, education, public outreach, and waterbody monitoring in Forest, Langlade, Oconto & Marinette Counties in Northeast Wisconsin".

This year Marinette County benefitted from education programs and invasive species removal help from Derek Thorn, the FLOW AIS Coordinator. He was part of a two-day European Frogbit removal this summer in Marinette County, where over 1,200 pounds were removed and properly disposed of. Many area organizations came to help with the removal effort, including WDNR, WRISC (Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition), FLOW AIS, UW Extension Lakes, Marinette County Land and Water Conservation, UW-Green Bay, and Menomonee County AIS.



He was part of two different environmental field days in the FLOW AIS area. Coordinator Thorn presented on AIS and their impact to 4th graders in Marinette County for a three-day event, reaching over 430 students in Marinette County. He and staff from WRISC also talked with Forest County high school students about preventing the spread of both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.



FLOW AIS contact information:

315 S. Oneida Ave. Rhinelander WI, 54501

Office phone: 715-490-3325

flowais@lumberjackrccd.org

<https://lumberjackrccd.org/flow-ais-program>



Lumberjack RCD projects and programs include:

- Lumberjack has held the WDNR Forest Inventory Contract since 2002 and employs up to 10 inventory foresters to fulfill contract obligations.
- Community Grant Program, which helps fund conservation projects throughout our nine-county service area.
- Lumberjack is the fiscal sponsor to several non-profit conservation groups.

