



Madison Forestry Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2015

Wisconsin Forestry: Pigs Gone Wild

The Wisconsin DNR released a reminder that wild pigs can be harvested year-round. Feral pigs were introduced to the United States in the 1500s by European explorers. Some were domestic stock that escaped due to free-range management while others were wild boars transported for hunting purposes. In the wild, the two types of pigs interbreed and wreak havoc on Wisconsin's forests. With a snout specialized to sniff out truffles, wild pigs will

search out agricultural crops, small animals, bird eggs, young livestock, grasses, and nuts. A 2005 study estimated the economic loss due to feral pigs bordered on 800.5 million dollars (Pimentel et al). This estimate does not include all the costs associated with disease spread or environmental damages. Pigs are a serious threat to Wisconsin forests. They consume acorns and nuts of hickory and beech in addition

to acting as a major source of disturbance. These disturbances leave the soil bare, allowing invasive species to outcompete natives. In response to the threat imposed by feral pigs, the WI DNR asks WI residents to kill feral pigs

. If you do shoot a wild pig, browse the website below for recipe suggestions
<http://www.marxfoods.com/wild-boar-recipes>



Pimentel, D.; Zuniga, R.; Morrison, D. 2005. Update on the environmental and economic costs associated with alien-invasive species in the United States. Ecological Economics (52)

Upcoming Events

October 1: 6 PM

UW Madison Forestry Club Meeting
Russell Labs Room TBA

September 20: 1-6PM

First Annual Field Forestry Fun Fest
7783 Forest Drive Verona WI

September 15- October 2

Urban Forestry Workshop: Invasives

Visit <http://hort.uwex.edu/articles/events/urban-forestry-workshop/> for details

Upcoming Seminars

Russel Labs Room 184 3:00-4:00 PM

September 18

Laura Prugh: Understanding species interactions to improve wildlife conservation and management

September 25

Wendy Turner: Host, pathogen and environmental effects on transmission of the lethal anthrax bacterium

September 18

Jodi Forrester: The Flambeau Experiment: Consequences of restoring old-growth structure to managed forests





Society of American Foresters Convention

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

November 3-7, 2015

*Established in 1900
by the first head of
the US Forest
Service, Gifford
Pinchot*

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of forest studies and management. SAF serves as a resource and networking tool for anyone interested in the field of forestry. The convention provides an opportunity to discuss contemporary forest management issues, learn about new technologies in the field of forestry and to connect with foresters around the country.

The UW Forestry Club will support juniors and seniors who wish to attend this event. The cost will be \$200-300. A \$100 deposit will be required in the next couple of weeks. For those wishing to attend, there will be an opportunity to participate in a Forestry Quiz Bowl and represent Madison!

If Louisiana is too far away, any student is welcome to attend the Wisconsin SAF convention between September 22 and 23rd in New London, WI. Carpooling will be arranged through the Forestry Club.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.xcdsystem.com/saf/site>

Yosemite National Park: Quercus or Pinus?



Yosemite National Park, nestled in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, is host to millions of visitors each year. As tourists gaze upon the valley from Glacier Point (above) or Tunnel View, they cannot claim that they are reliving the moment John Muir first laid eyes upon Yosemite Valley. El Capitan continues to stand guard over the valley, but its community shifted in composition. Still today, it is possible to wander the valley floor and witness California black oaks (*Quercus kelloggii*), but far more common is the proliferation of pines and cedars.

In 1969 the last Native American village was burned by the Park Service. Long before the last Native village left the park, their role in ecological processes was squelched. Yosemite Valley was burned annually by the Ahwahnechee, resulting in a meadow with abundant oak trees. It was the acorns from these oaks that largely sustained the human populations in Yosemite Valley as well as other regions of the Sierra Nevada. When the European settlers arrived in the mid 1800s, they doused the flames of the Ahwahnechee. During the reign of Gifford

Pinchot in the late 1800s and early 1900s, active fire suppression further tipped the successional scales, and conifers marched into the Valley.

Recent restoration efforts attempt to return oaks to the Valley floor, but deer and rodents foil these efforts. The oaks are not regenerating naturally due to the consumption of acorns and regenerating seedlings by the aforementioned antagonists. The National Park Service is continuing to research the issue of oak regeneration in retaliation.

One day, visitors may observe something similar to John Muir's Yosemite Valley. But are we restoring the area to its "natural state"? Or a pre-European snapshot in time? Yosemite Valley with its ice cream shops, hotels, and crowded roads is not untouched by the human hand; it was not untouched when Europeans first arrived. In deciding our goals for natural areas such as Yosemite Valley, we must first answer the question: what is natural?

University of Wisconsin-Madison Forestry Club

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