

THURSDAY

JUNE 16



WISCONSIN'S SCHOOL FOREST PROGRAM

**OVER 90 YEARS OF CONNECTING
STUDENTS WITH OUTDOOR LEARNING**

WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOREST PROGRAM – OVER 90 YEARS OF CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH OUTDOOR LEARNING

JUNE 16



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Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point



GRADES
K-2
VARIATION 3-5

Students explore their sense of smell and discover why smell is important to animals, including beetles and humans.

PEPPERMINT BEETLE

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Wisconsin School Forest History

The early 1900's

- Wisconsin was experiencing the cut-over. Farming was not successful on these lands.
- Visionaries in forestry, conservation, and education set the stage for today's program
 - H. L. Russell - UWMadison, Dean of CALS 1907 – 1930
 - Wakelin "Ranger Mac" McNeel
 - Fred Trenk – First School Forest Administrator
 - Continued by Ted Peterson and Bill Sylvester



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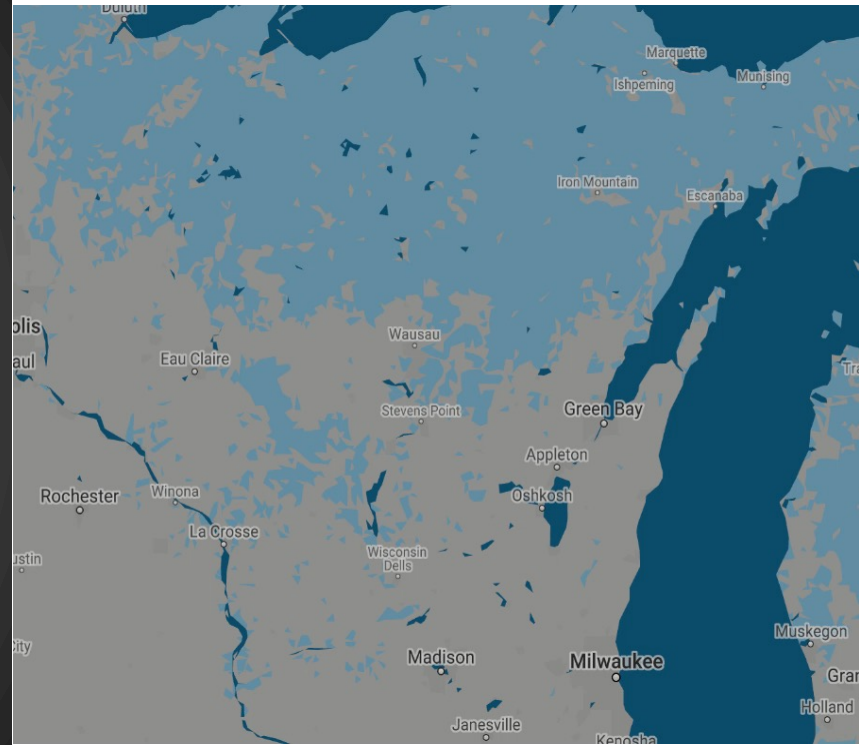
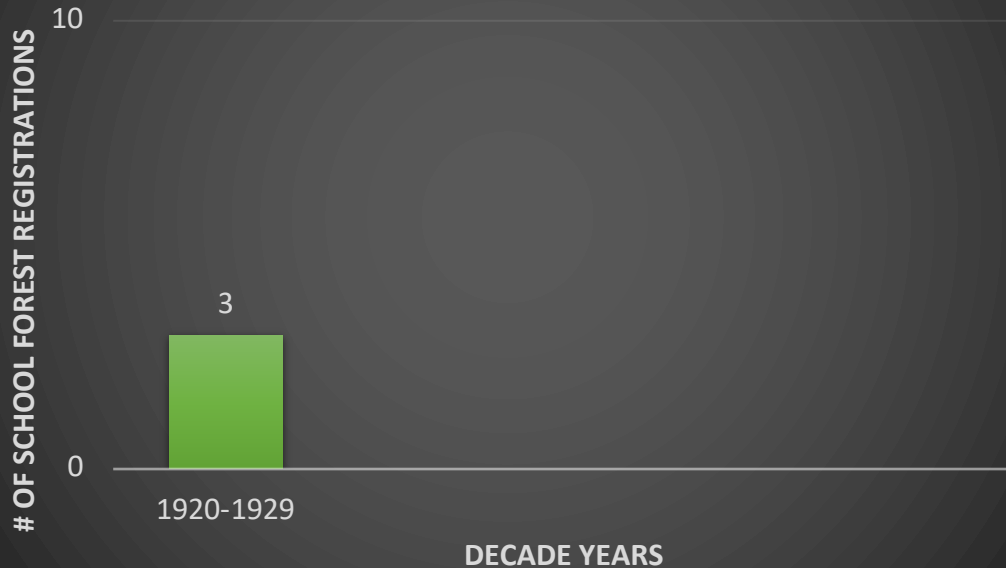
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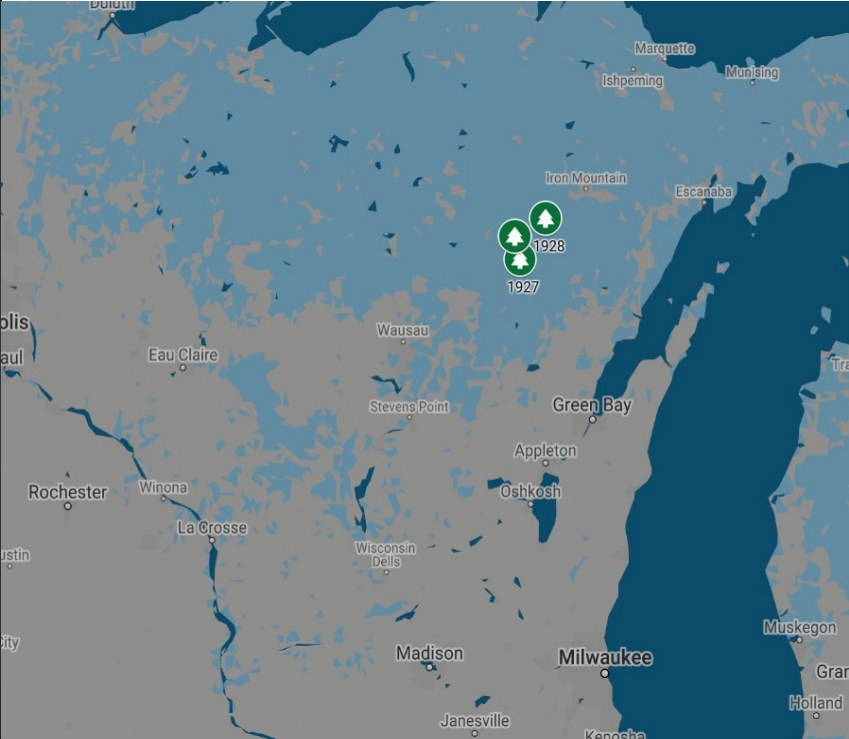
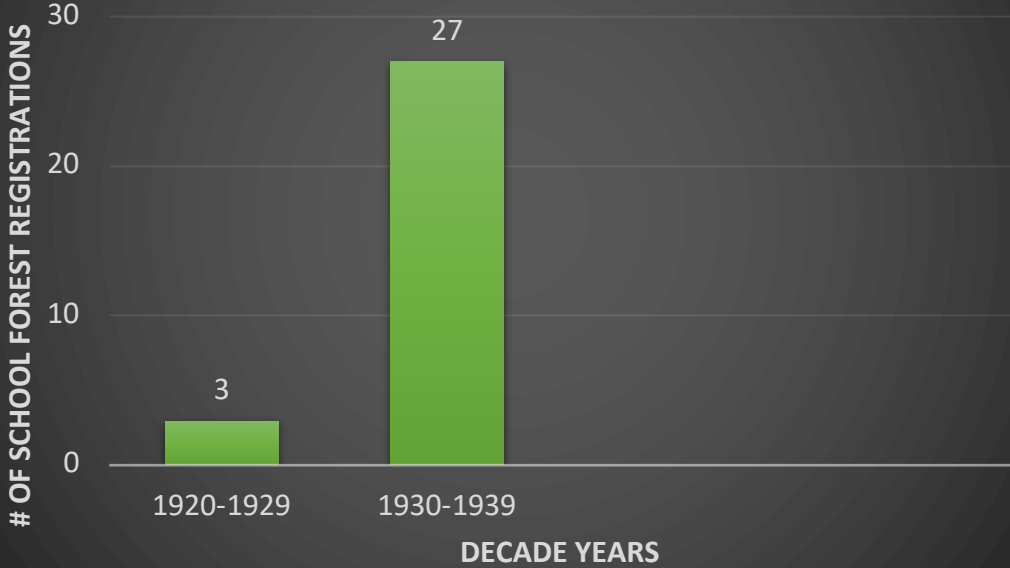


School Forest Registrations Through the Years

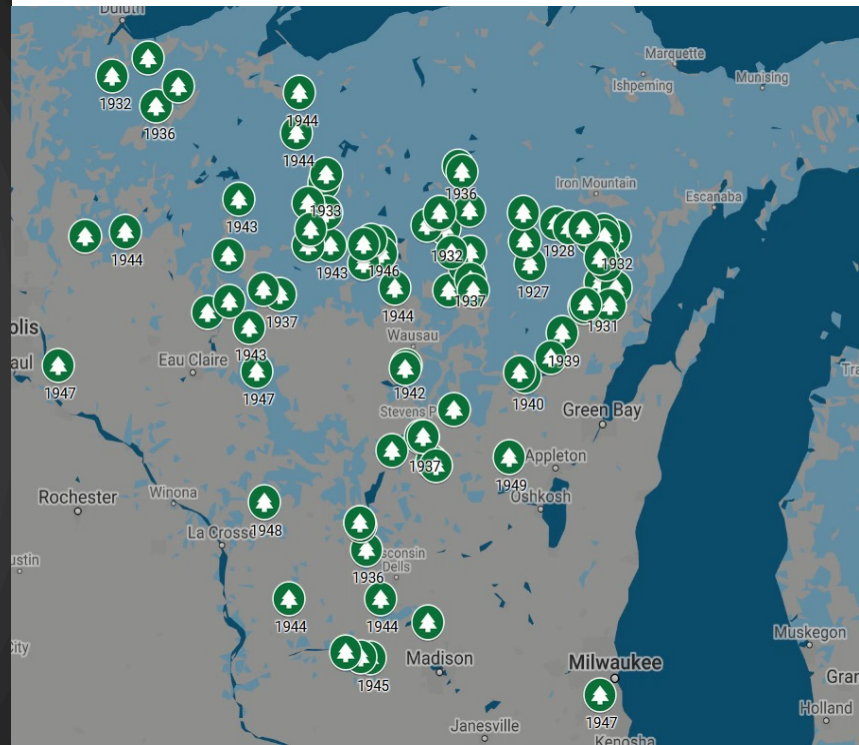
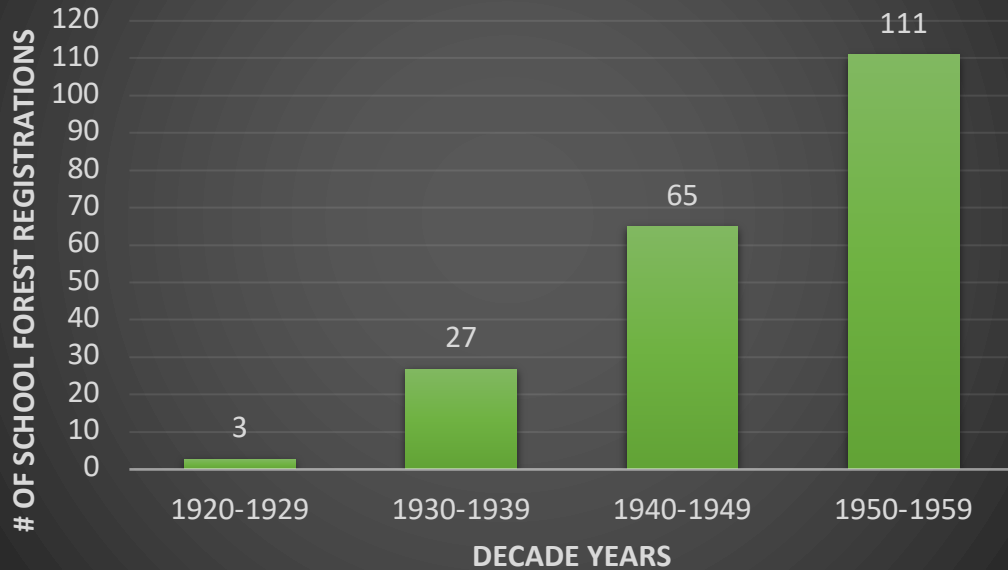
Wisconsin School Forest Registrations by Decade



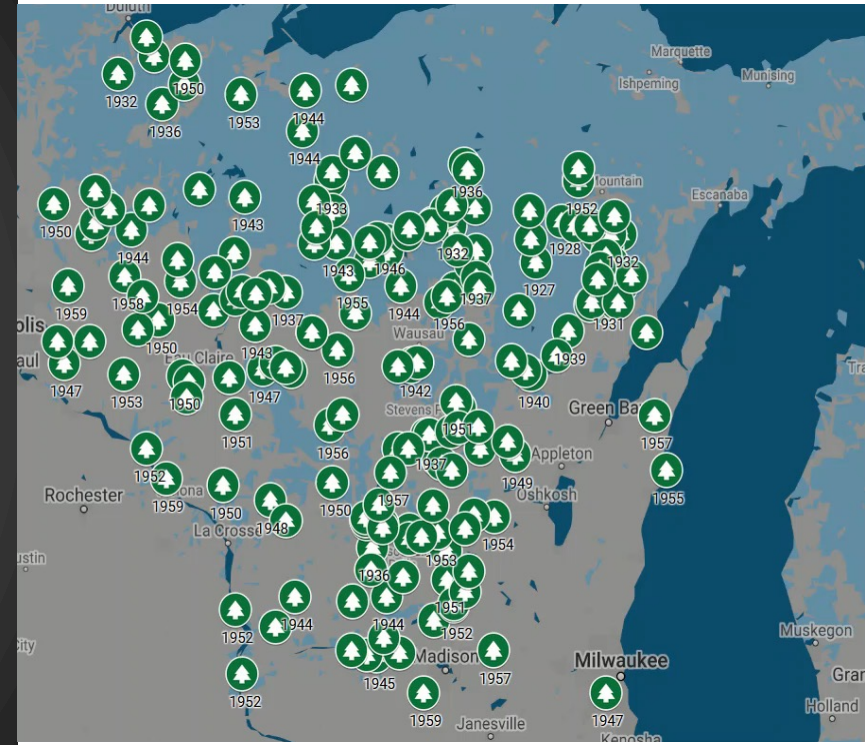
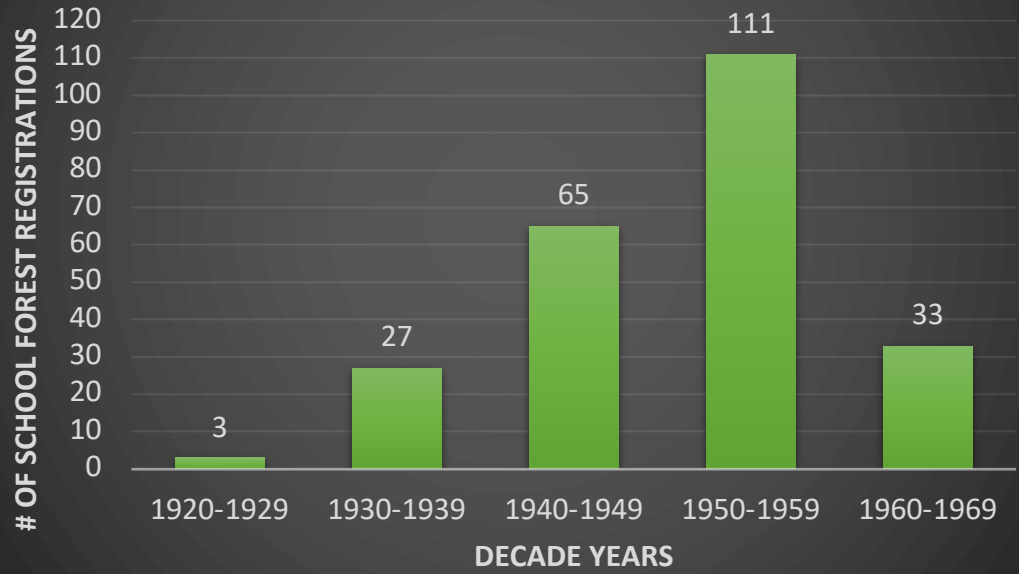
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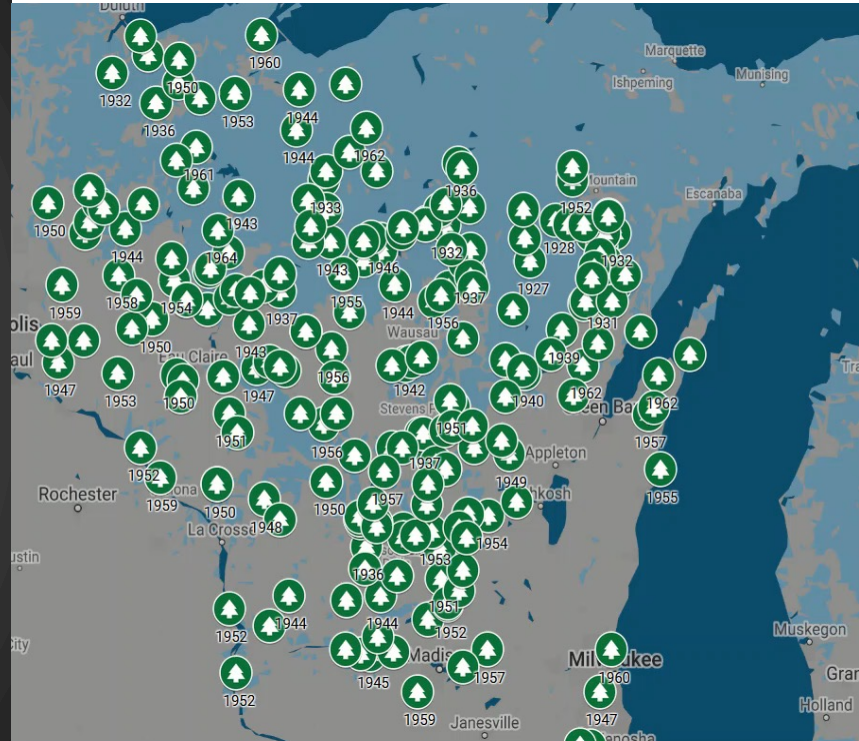
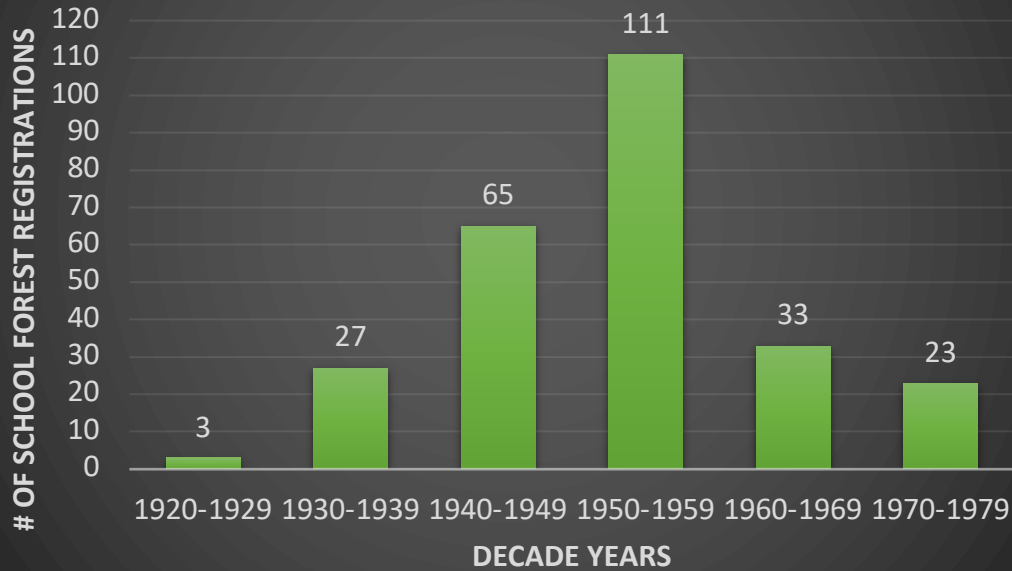
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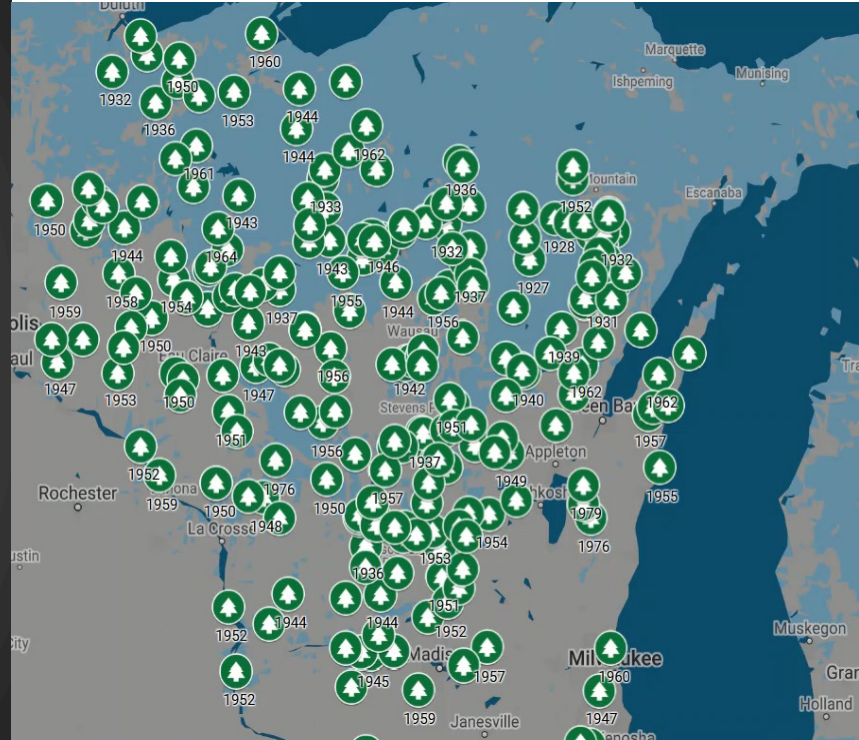
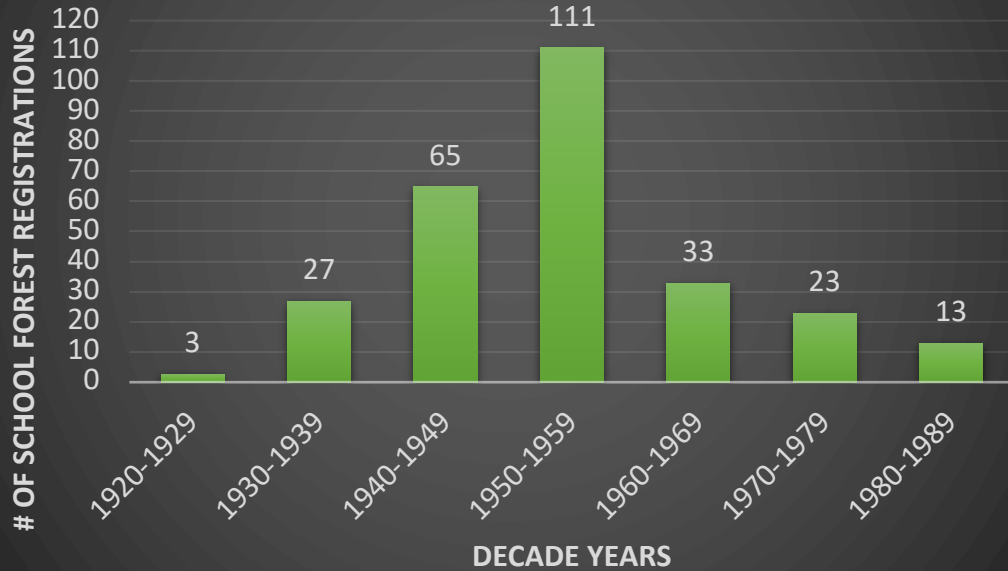
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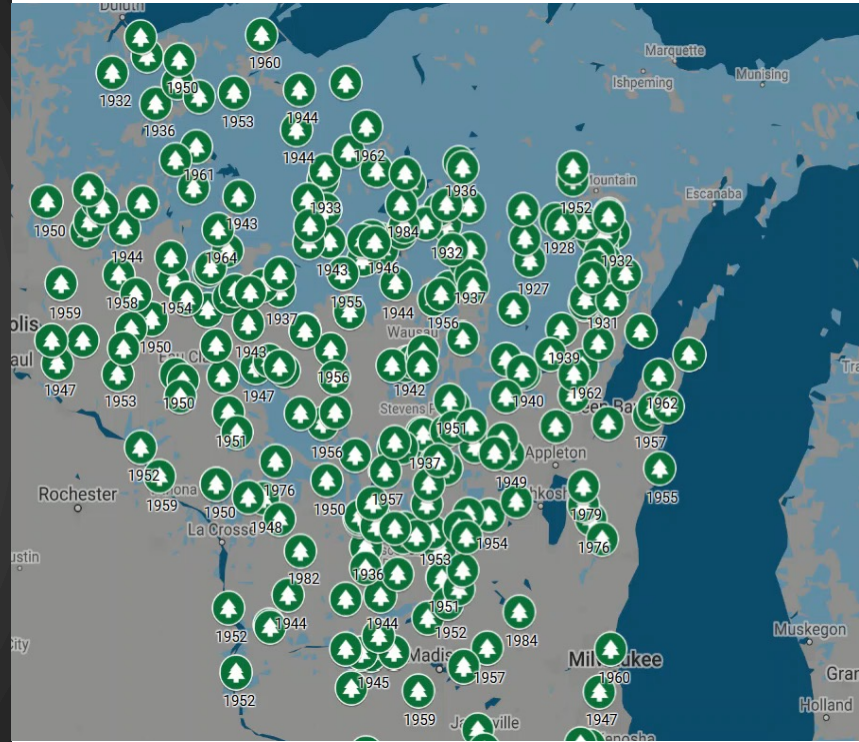
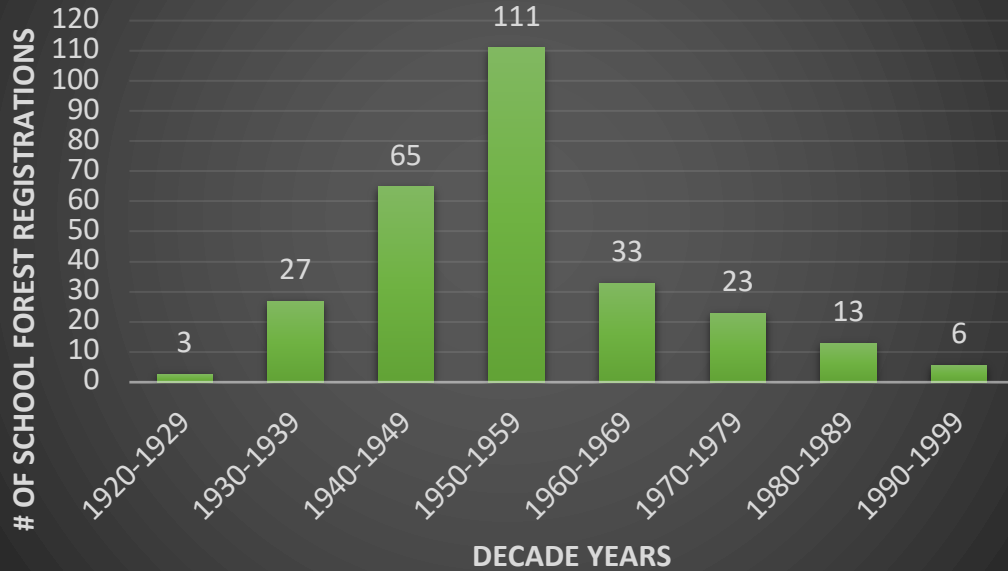
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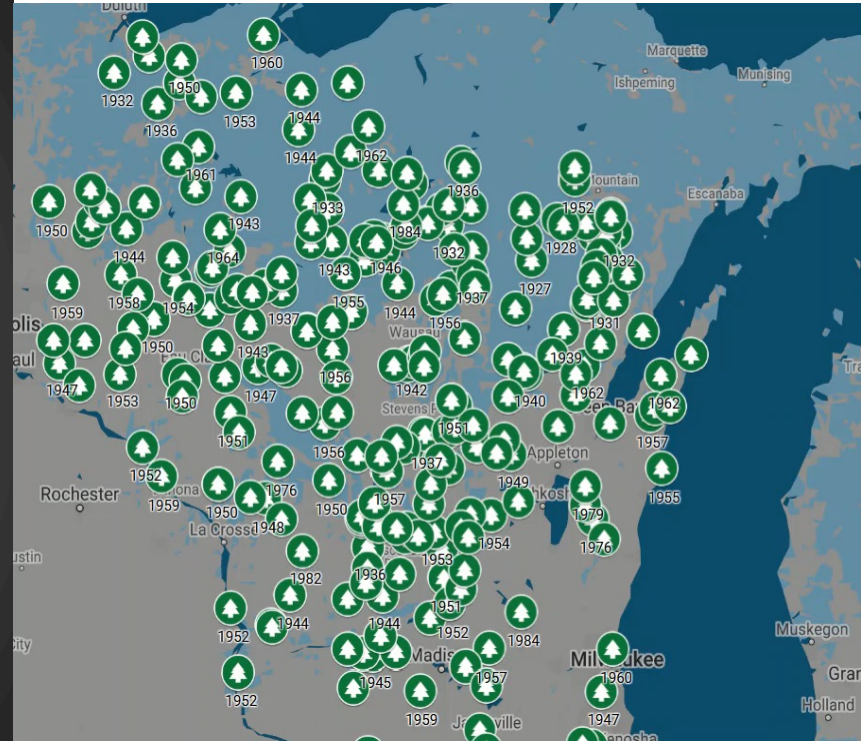
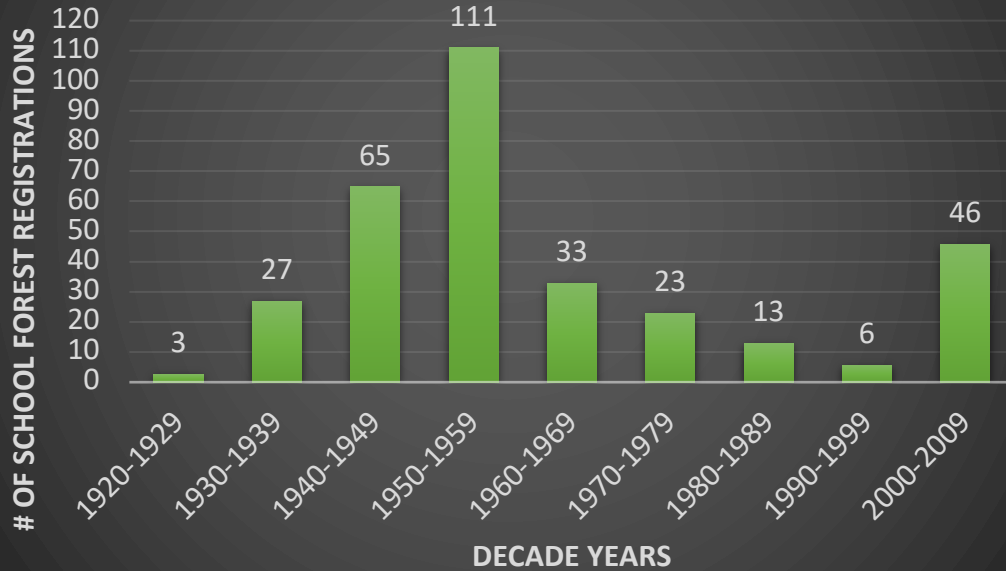
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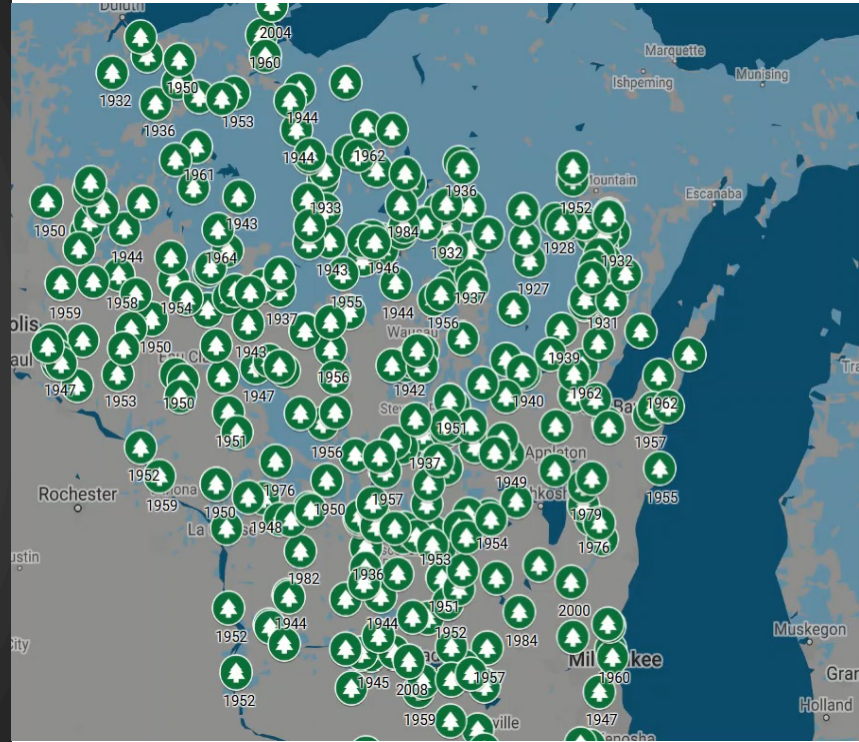
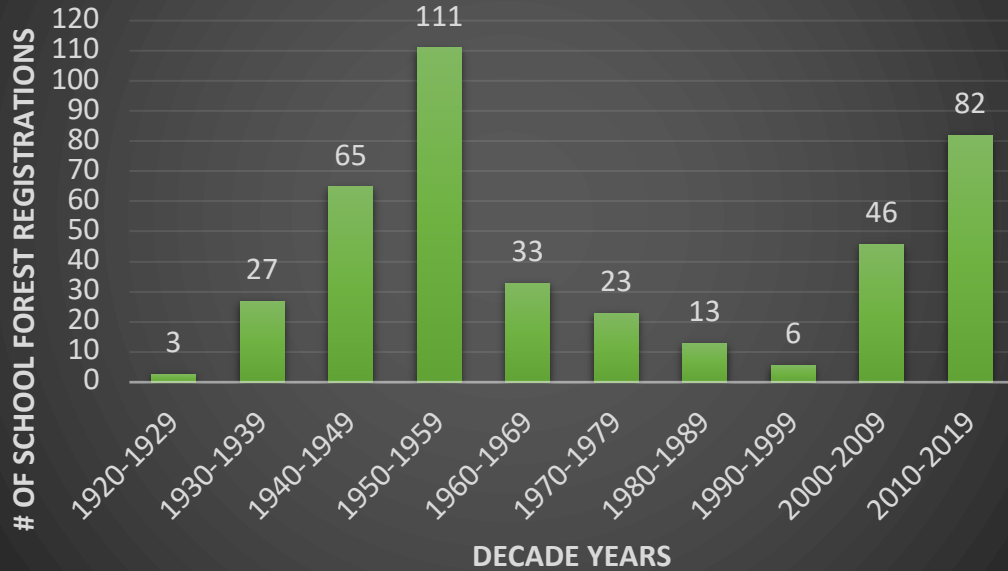
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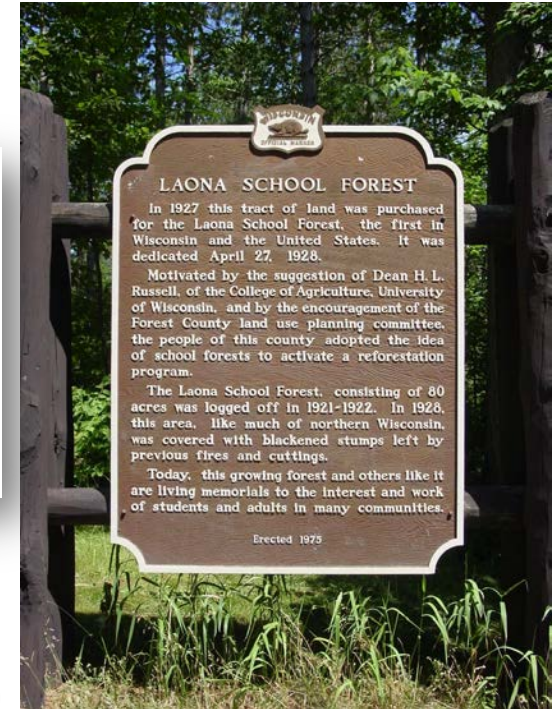


Growth through the years....

Laona School Forest – recognized as first in the Nation

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1928

Laona School Forest today.....



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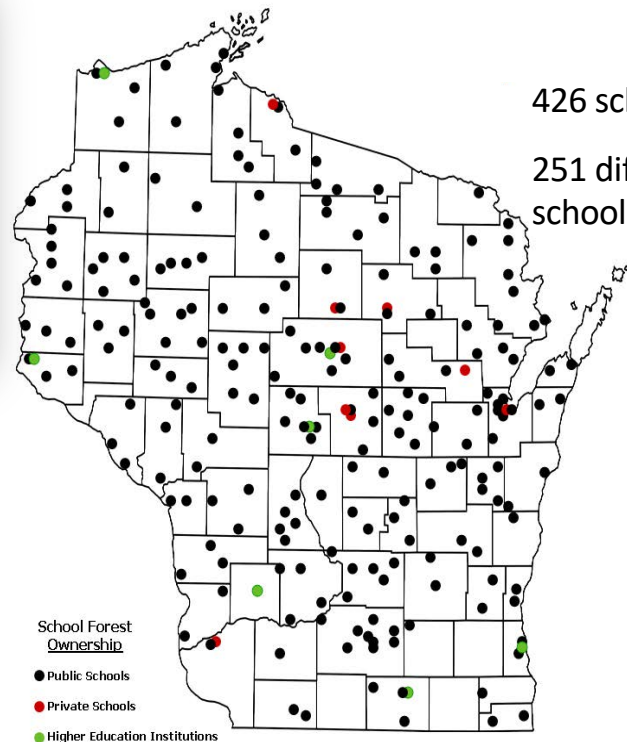


The WI School Forest Program



A school forest is...

- land registered through state Community Forest Program *Wisconsin State Statute 28.20 Community forests.*
- owned or *controlled* by a school and used for environmental education and natural resource management



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School Forest Benefits



- Forest management assistance from DNR forester
- Tree seedlings from the state nursery
- LEAF Program support, teacher PD, and networking with other School Forest programs



Education and Management partnership



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LEAF: Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program



www.leafprogram.org



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LEAF: Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program

- **What does LEAF do?**
 - LEAF connects formal and non-formal educators in Wisconsin with quality forestry education materials
- **What is LEAF?**
 - Partnership between the WI DNR-Division of Forestry and the WCEE at UW-Stevens Point.
- **What is LEAF's Impact?**
 - Over 7,200 teachers have been trained to use LEAF and PLT materials



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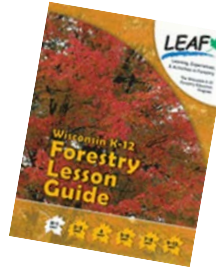
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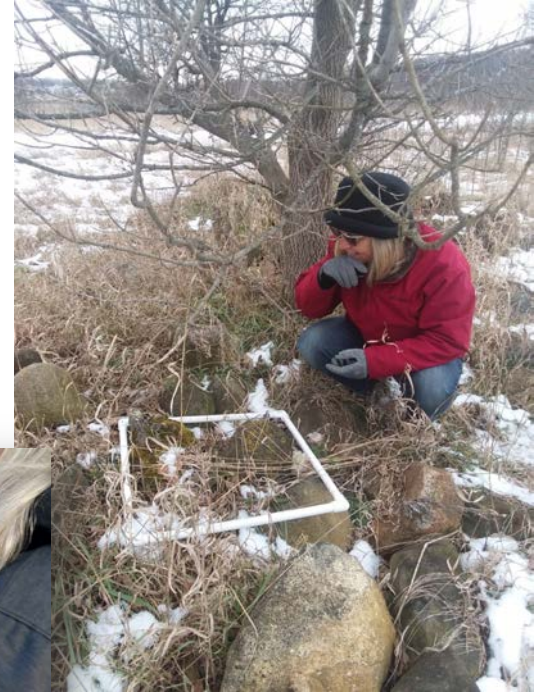
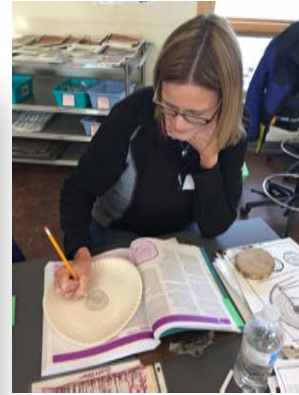
➤ What LEAF Offers

- **Professional Development for Educators**
 - School staff in-service trainings
 - Workshops
- **Curriculum Materials**
 - Free to download (LEAF only)
 - Grade-specific curricula tied to educational standards
- **Hands-on forestry education kits**
 - Free to borrow from statewide locations
 - Contain real forestry tools and suggestions for connecting to curriculum
- **Support for Outdoor Classrooms**
 - School Forests
 - Project Learning Tree (PLT)

➤ Visit www.leafprogram.org for more info



Collaboration in Professional Development



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Working together for Students

GRADES K-2
VARIATION URBAN

From their leafy branches to their tangled roots, trees provide habitat for a host of plants and animals. Students will inventory the plants and animals that live in, on, and around trees and discover how plants and animals depend on trees in many ways.

TREES AS HABITATS



The Shape of Things

Activity 1



GRADES K-2
VARIATION 3-5

Students are often surprised to learn how many different products we get from trees. Use this activity to help students learn just how much we depend on trees in our daily lives.

WE ALL NEED TREES



GRADES 3-5

By conducting research and modeling a food web, students take a close look at a forest ecosystem and discover ways that plants and animals are connected to one another. Although this activity focuses on forests, you can also use it to study other ecosystems, such as oceans, deserts, marshes, or prairies, by substituting the appropriate information.

WEB OF LIFE



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Looking toward the Future

100th
Anniversary!



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Looking toward the Future

Expanded partnerships and collaboration efforts

- Initiatives focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion for forestry and forestry education across Wisconsin
- Forestry workforce development
- Increasing forestry education for K-12 students



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Reflections...

What connections did you make at this conference and how will the collaborative efforts enhance forestry education?



Scan the QR code to evaluate this PLT session.



Questions?

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