THURSDAY

JUNE 16

WISCONSIN'S SCHOOL FOREST PROGRAM

OVER 90 YEARS OF CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH OUTDOOR LEARNING

PROJECT LEARNING TREE | SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

PLT is an initiative of SFI

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

JUNE 16

GRETCHEN MARSHALL

Forestry and Outdoor Education Specialist

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

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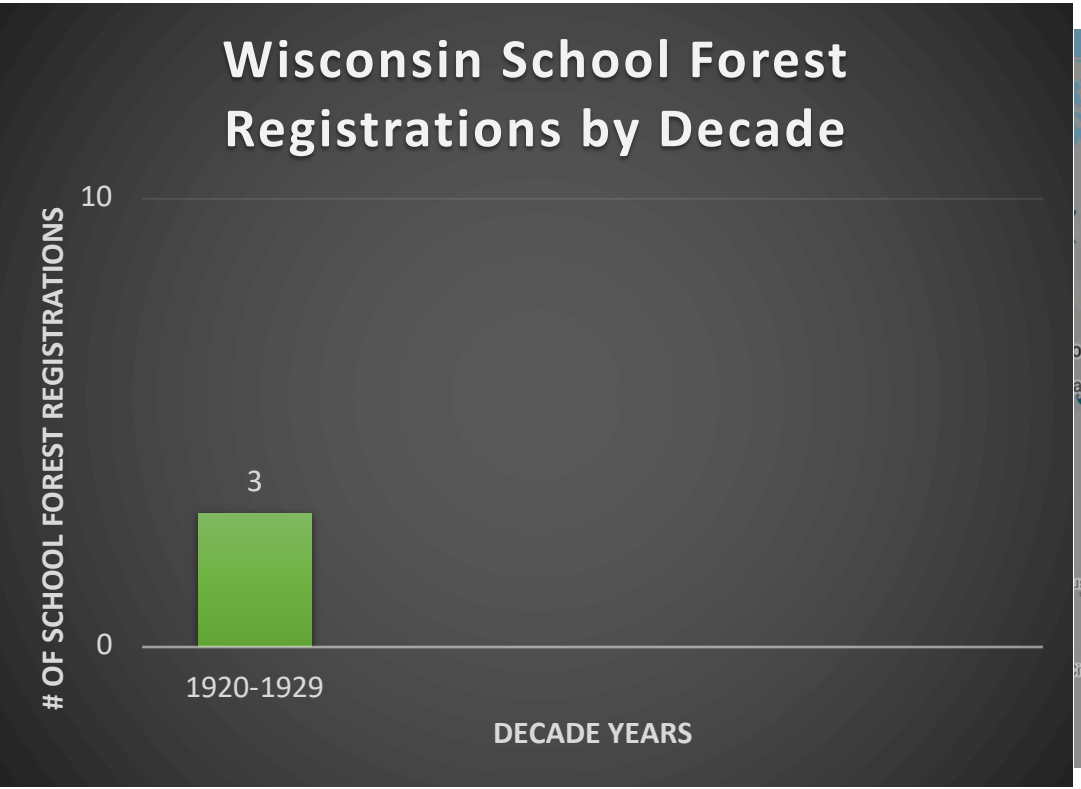
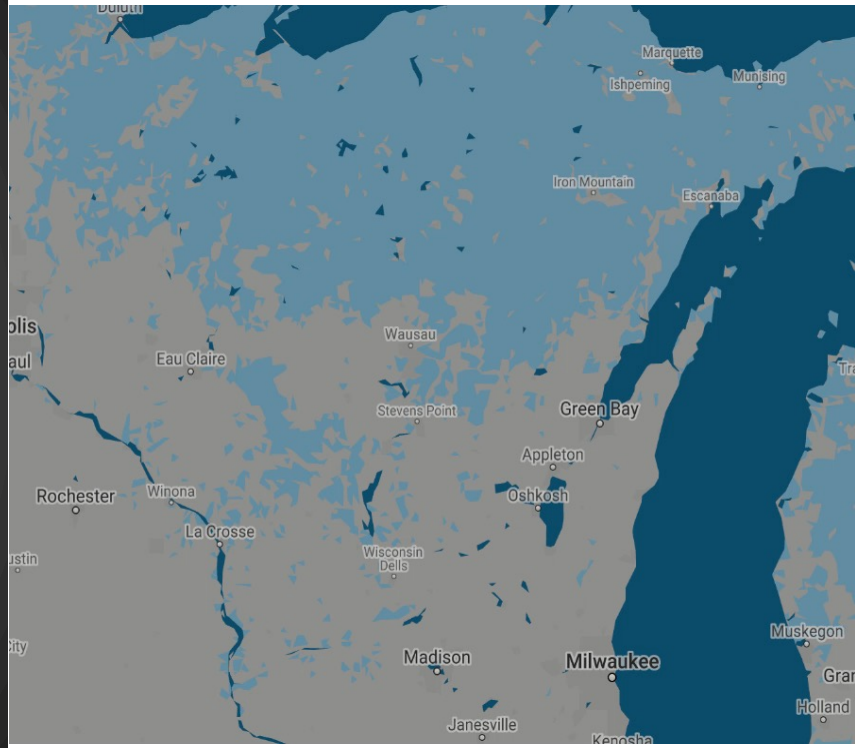
Wisconsin School Forest History

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

School Forest Registrations Through the Years





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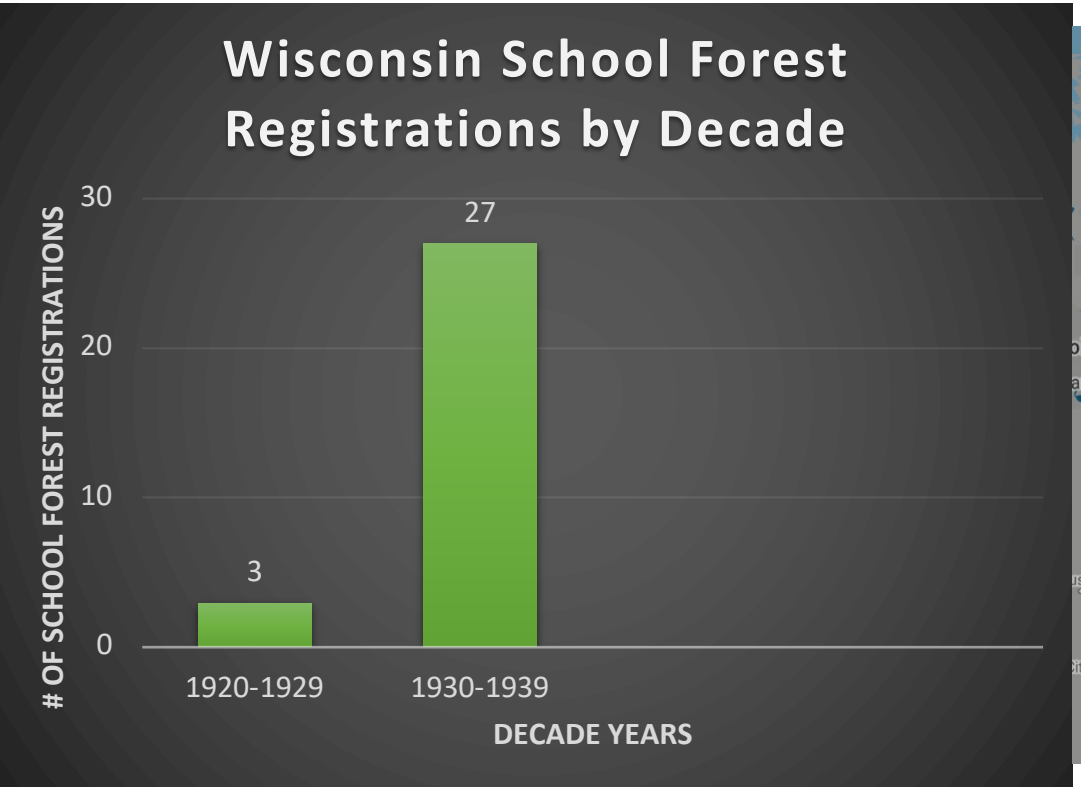

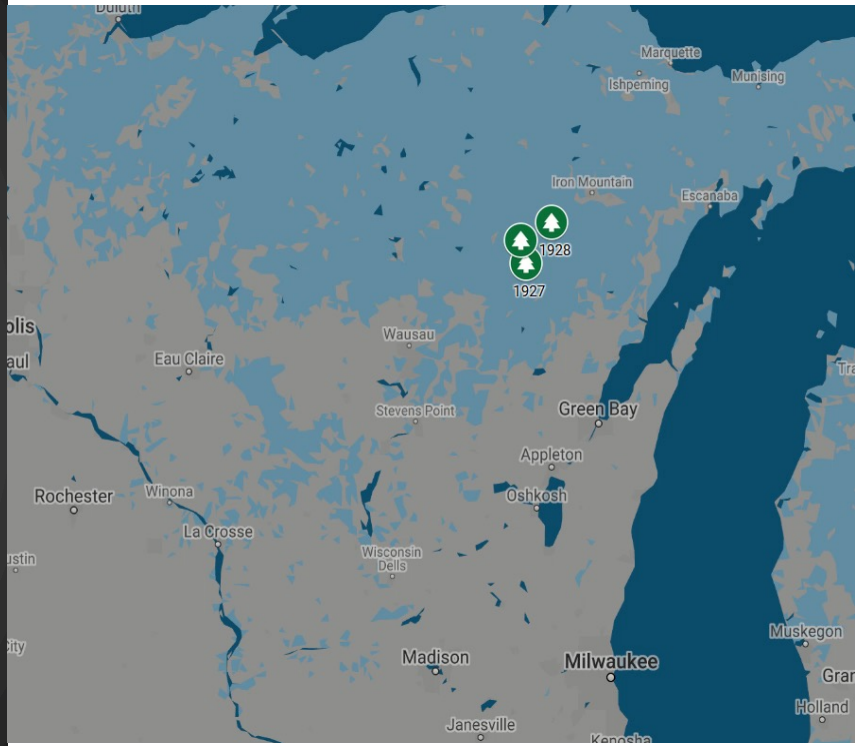

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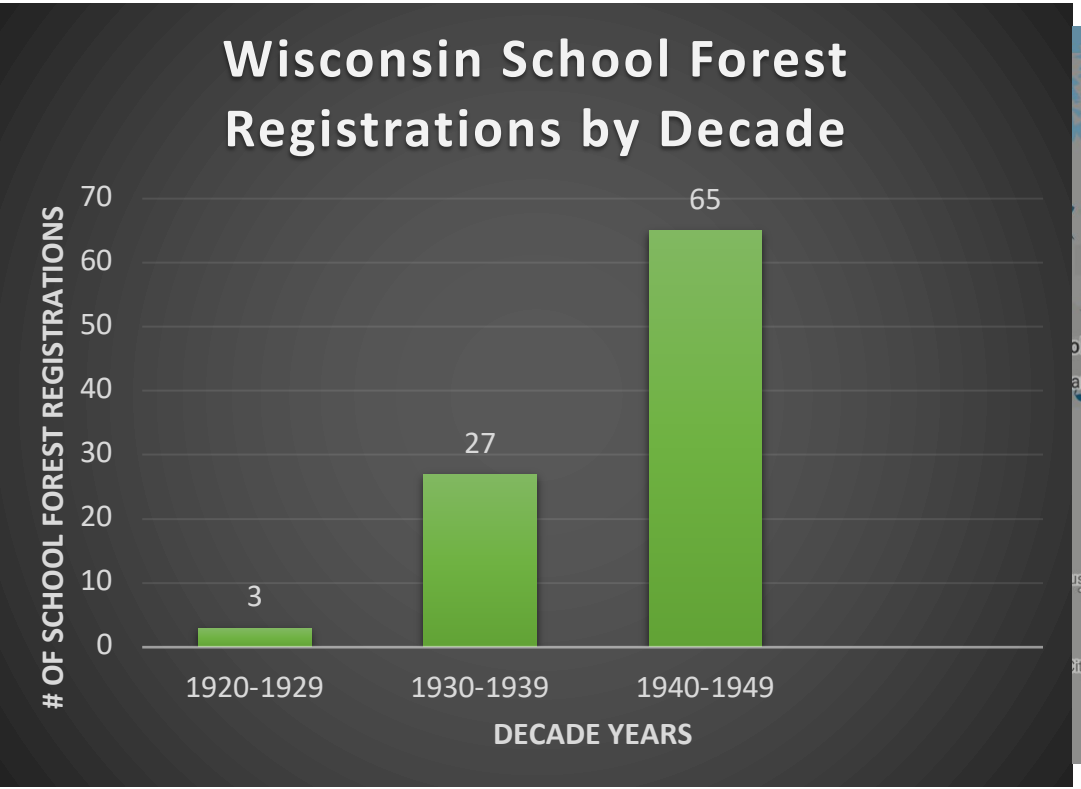

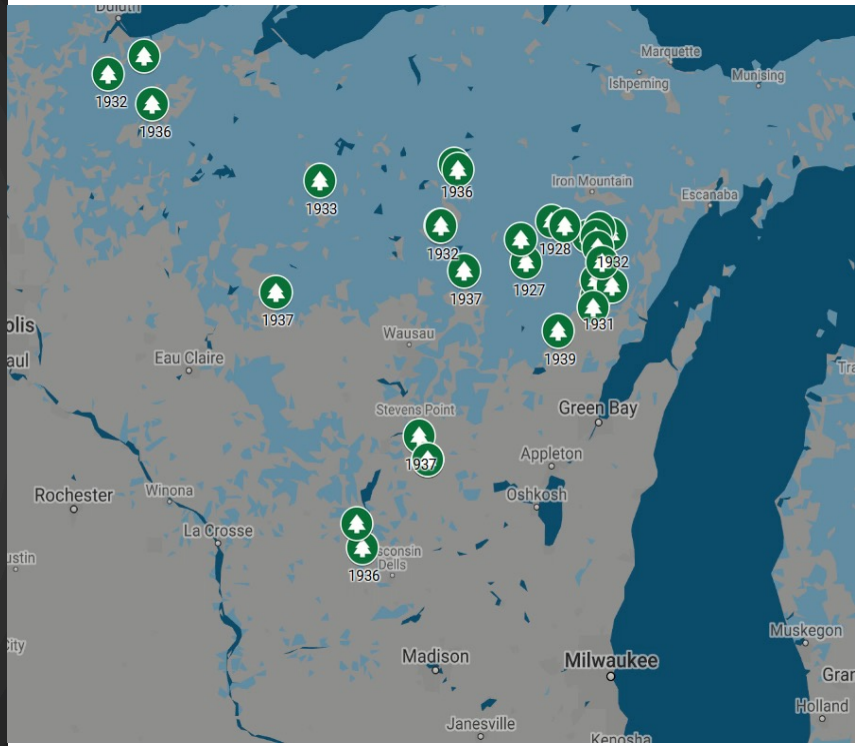

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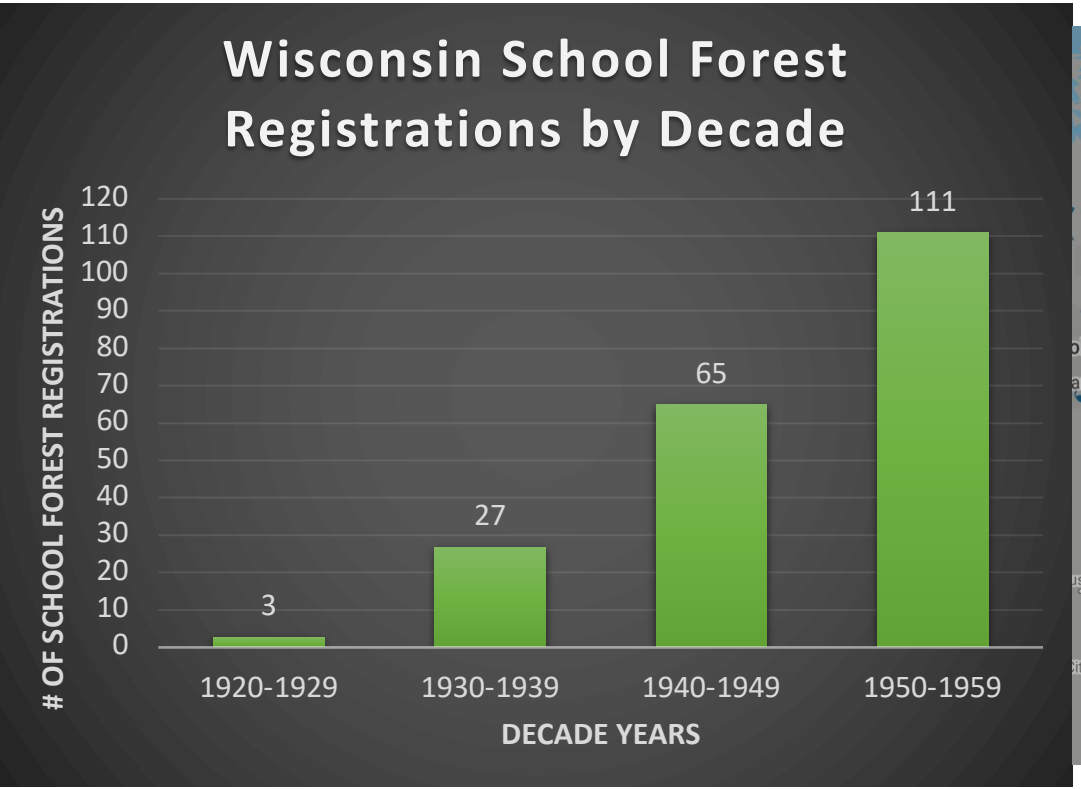

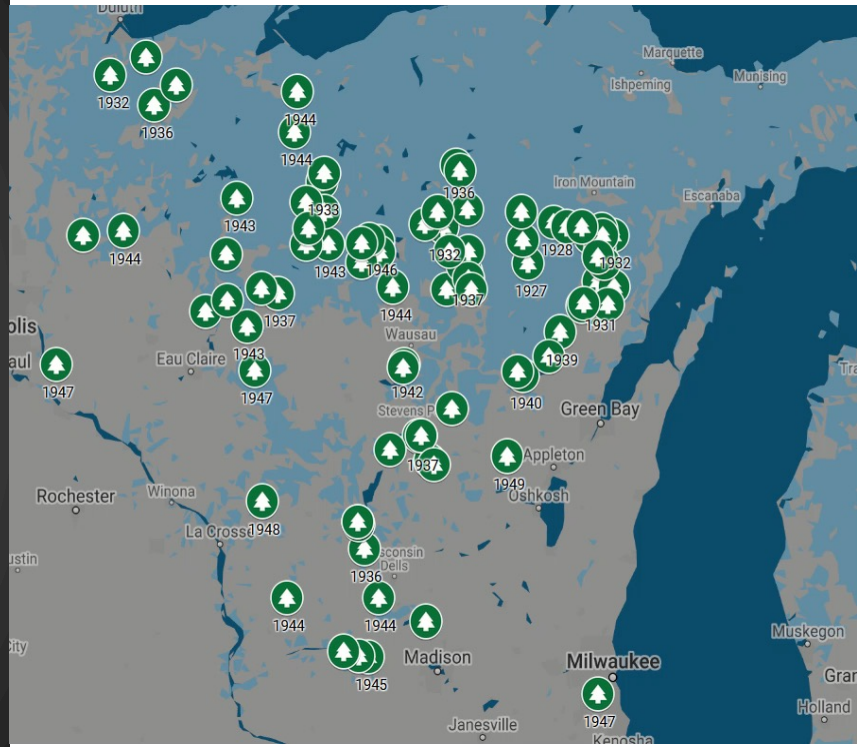

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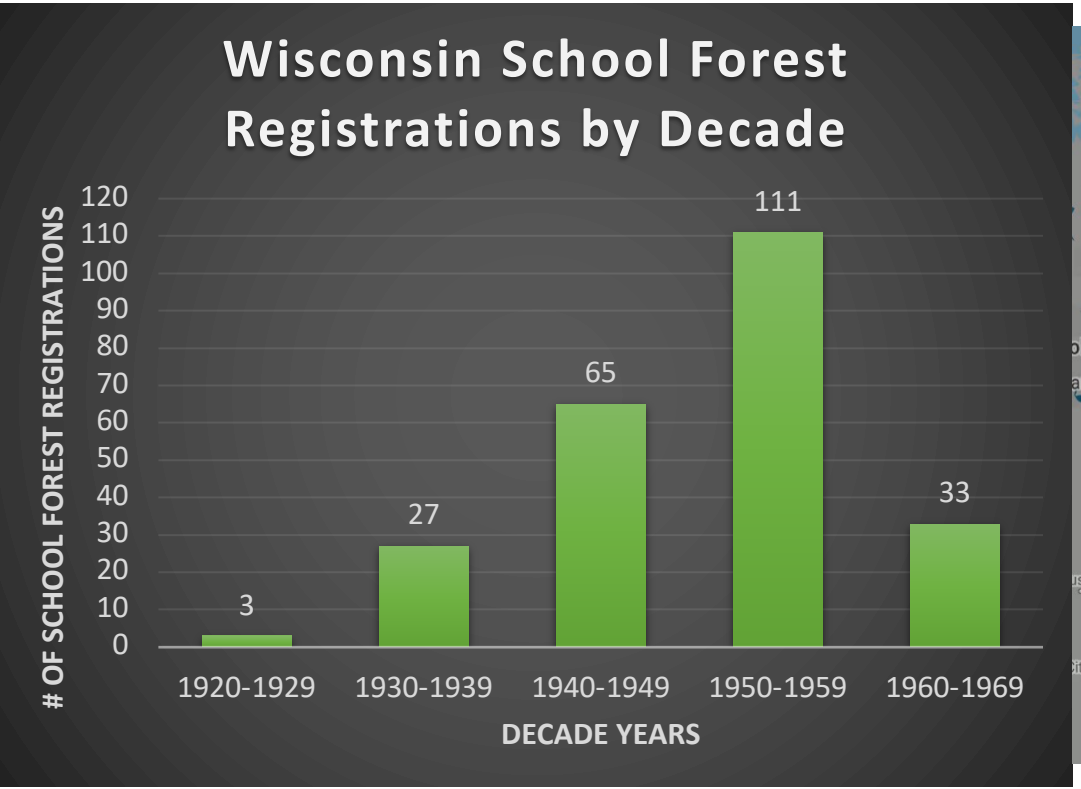
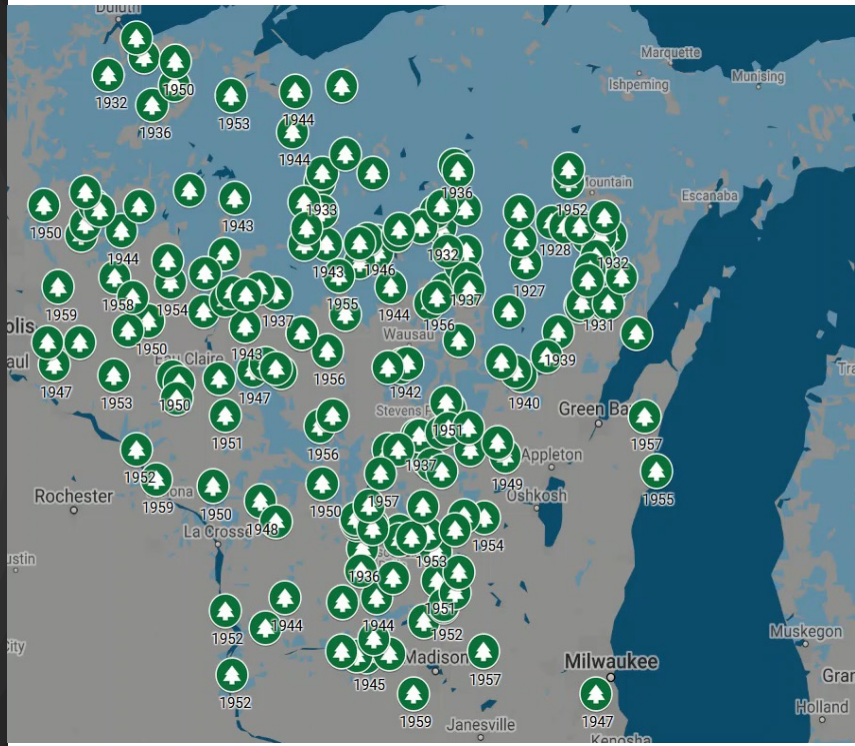
Wisconsin School Forest Registrations by Decade





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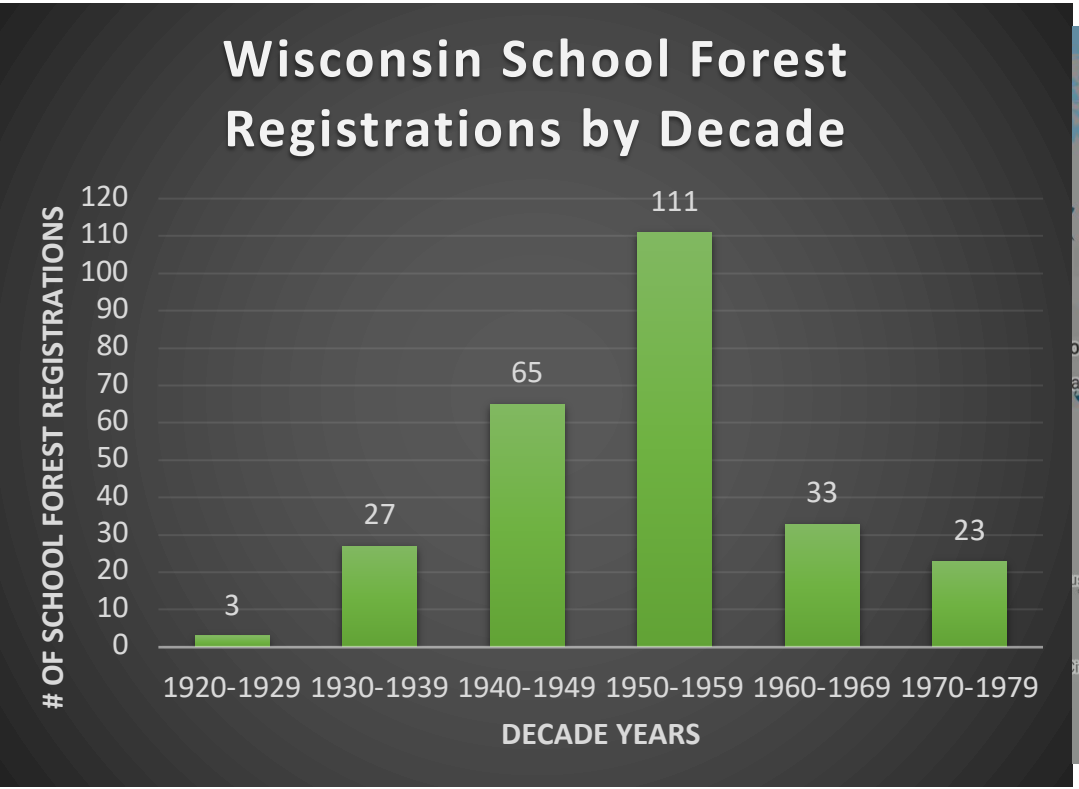

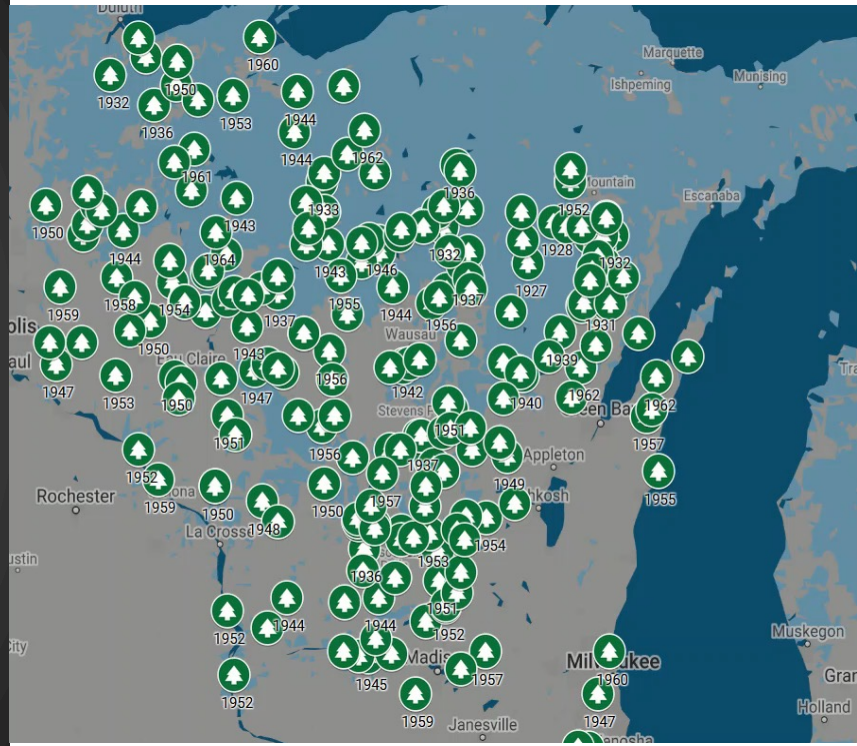

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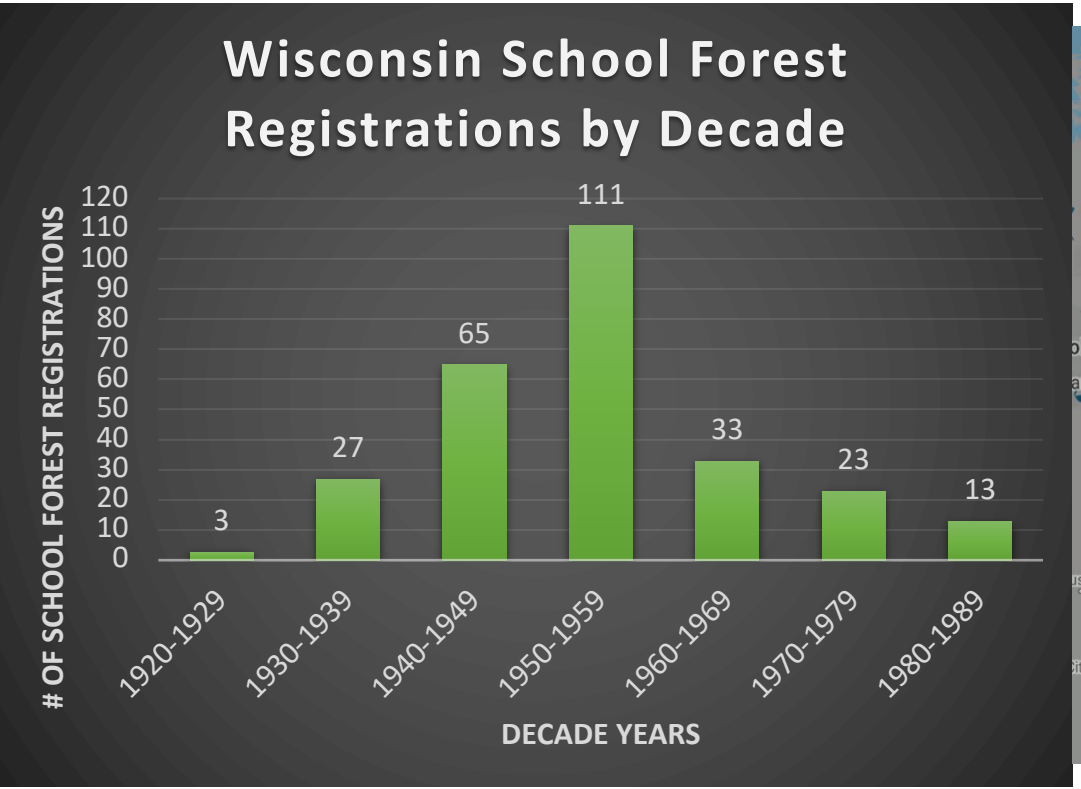

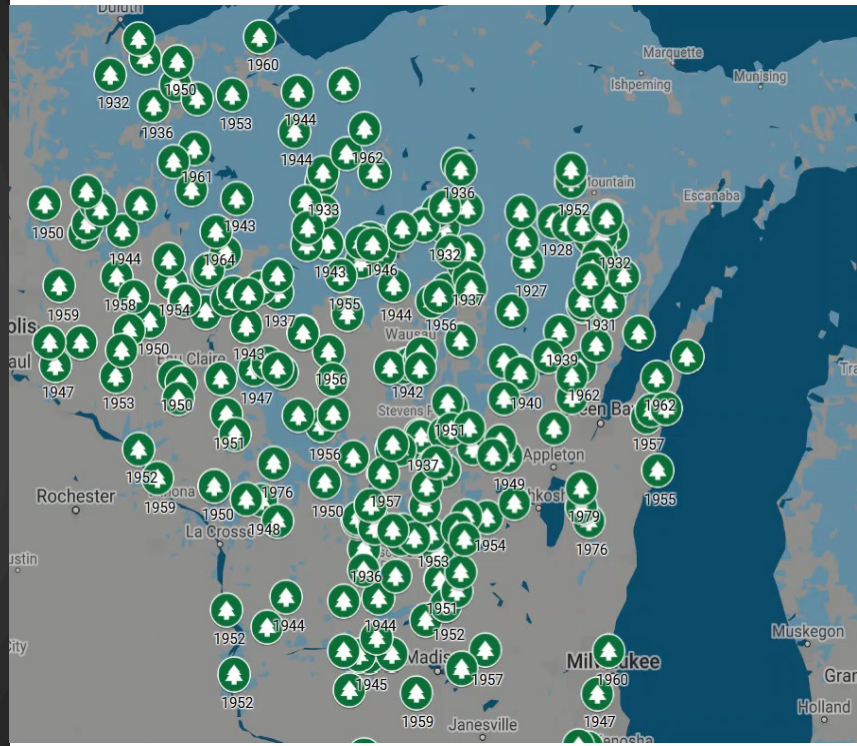

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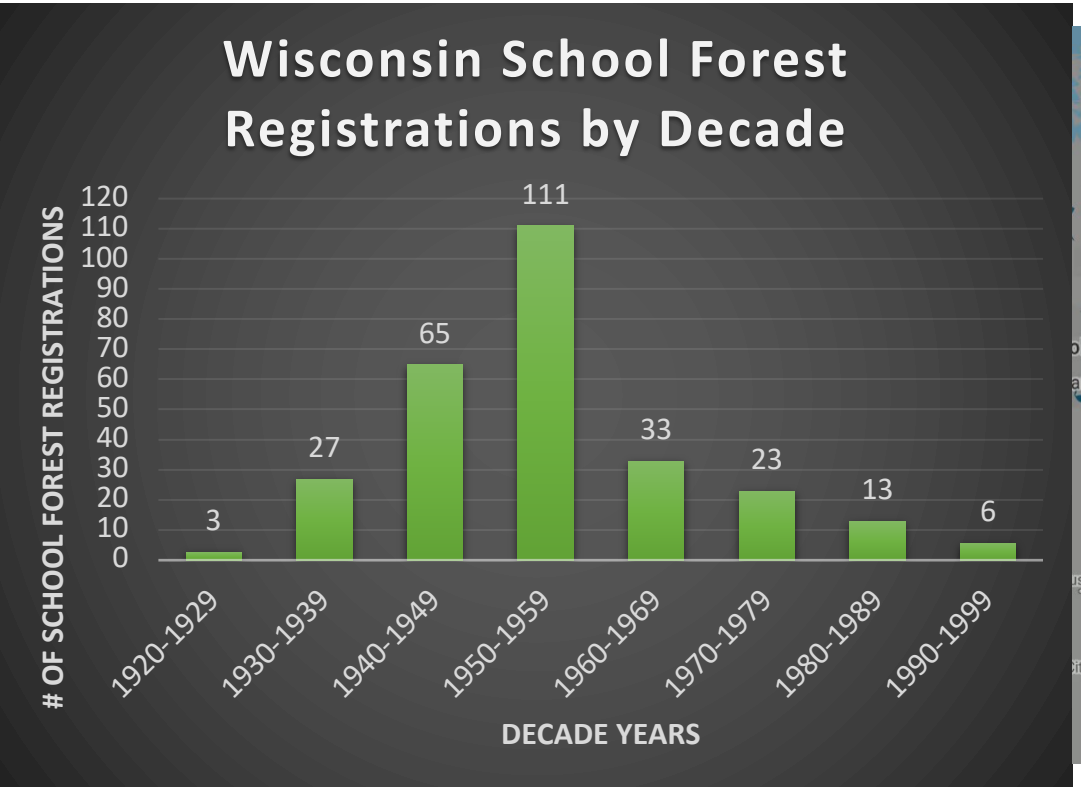

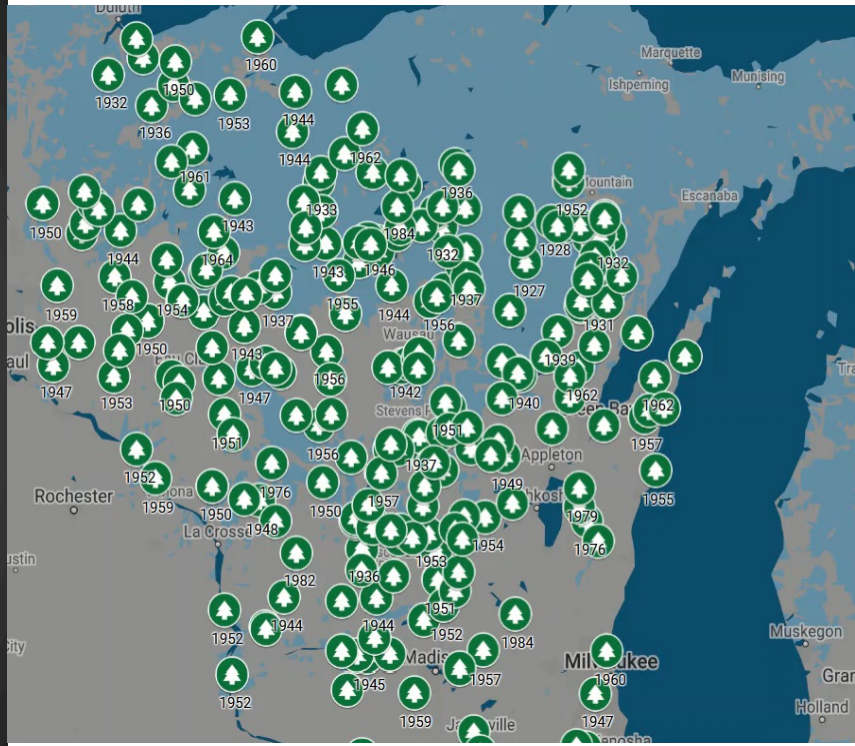

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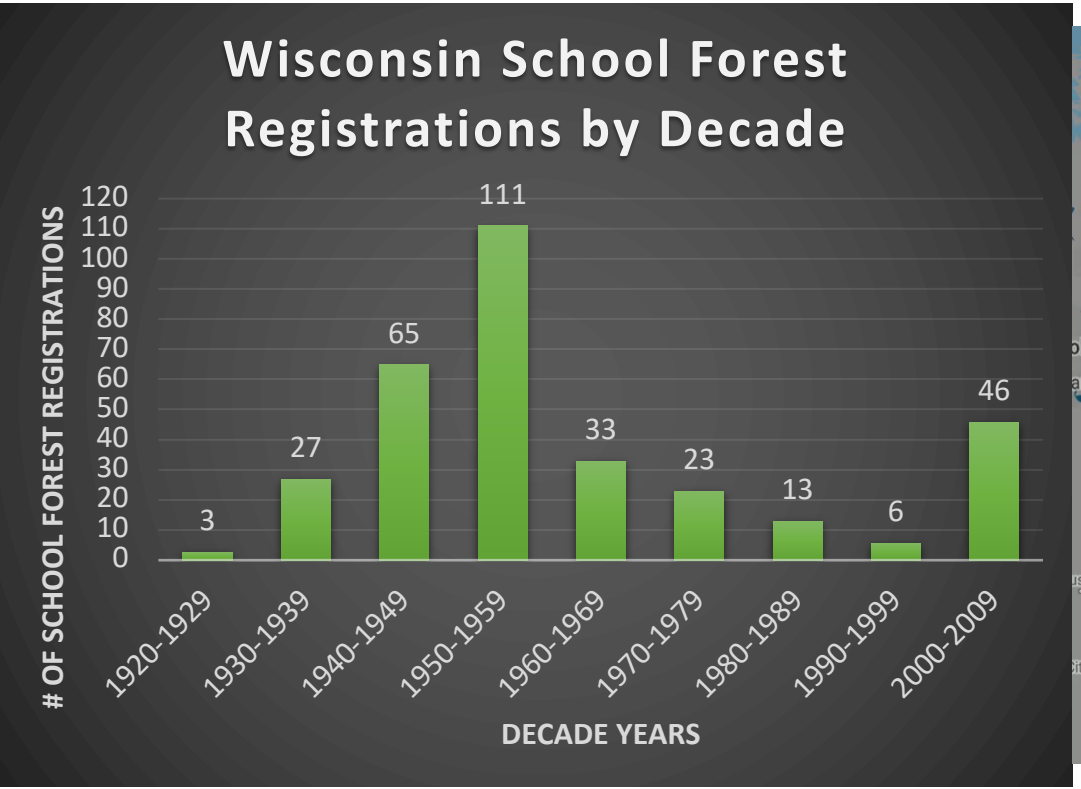

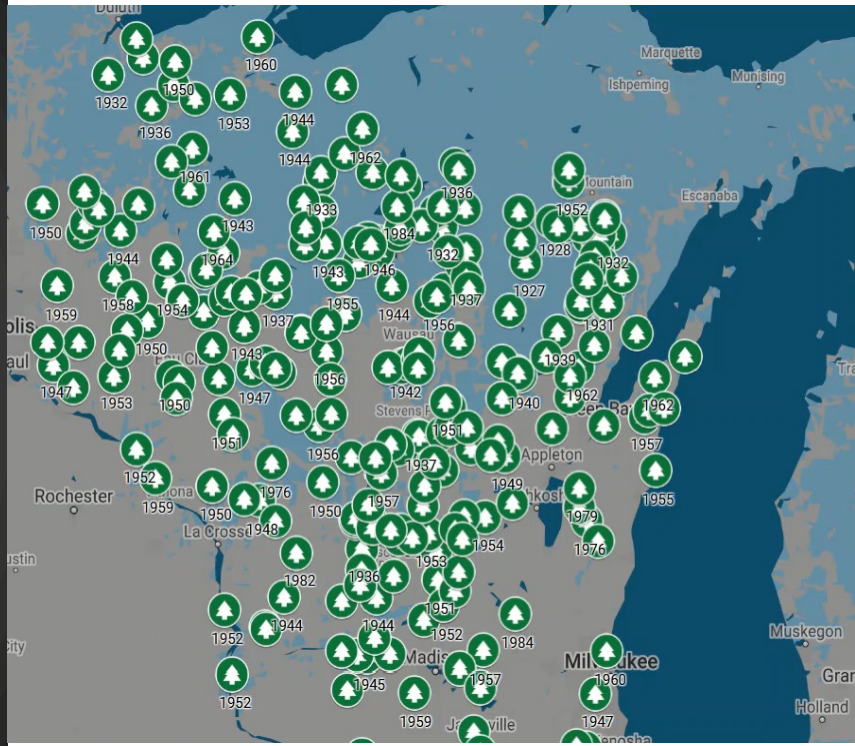

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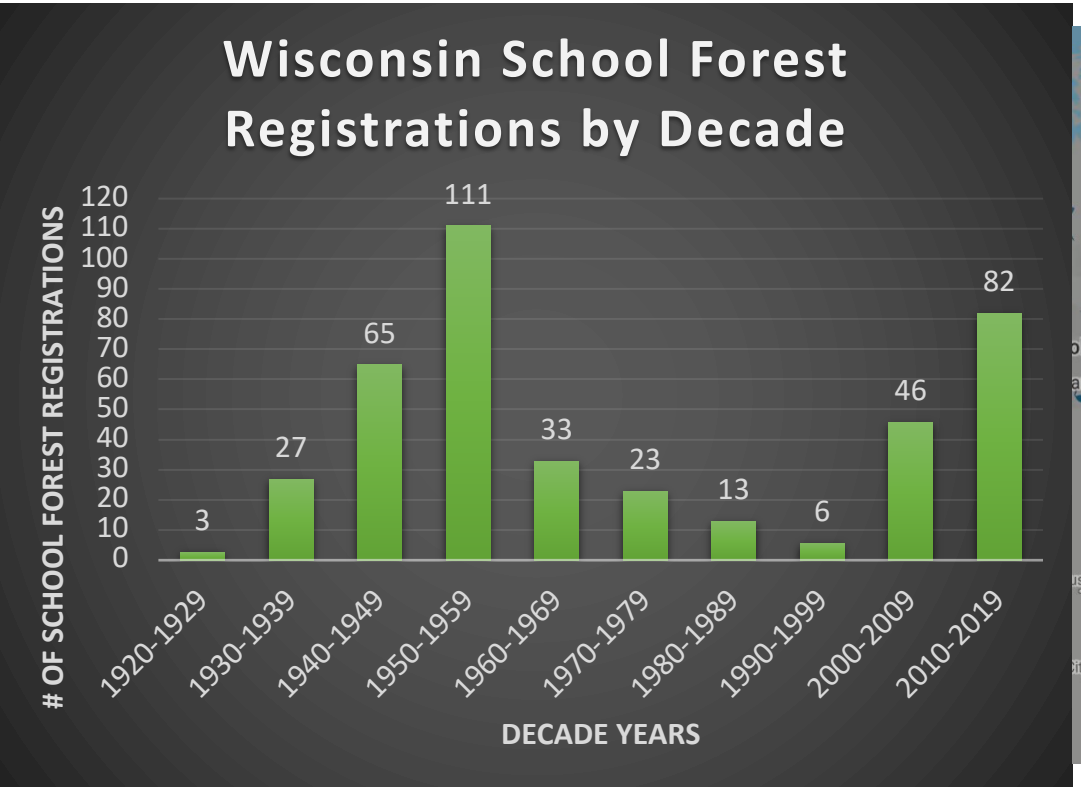

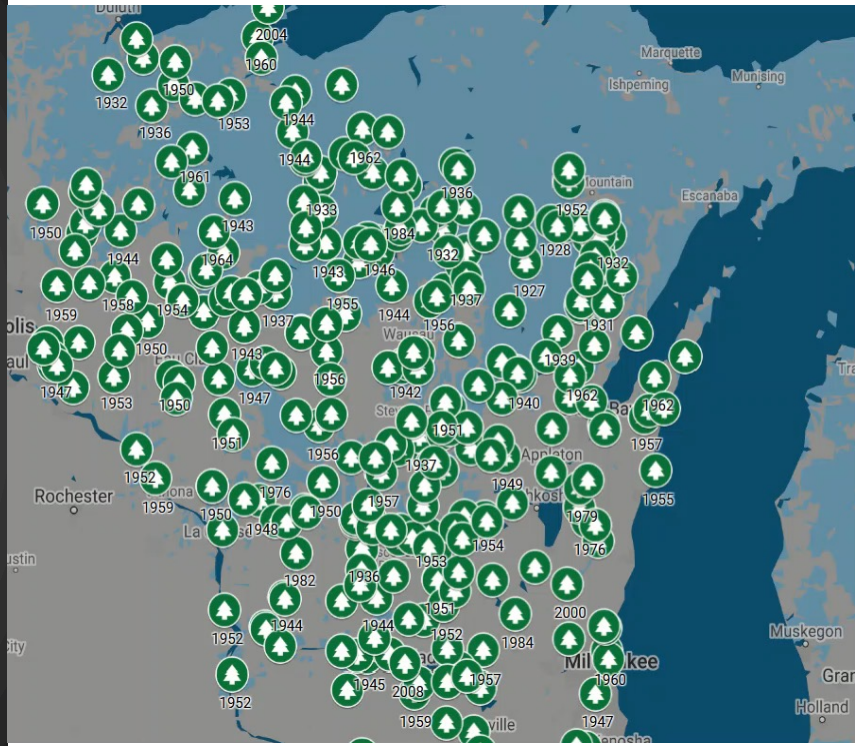

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Growth through the years….

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SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE
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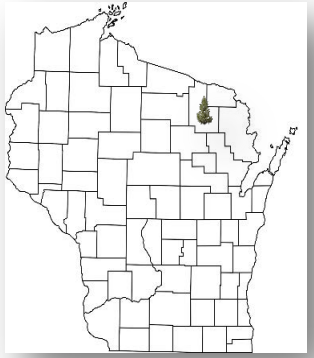
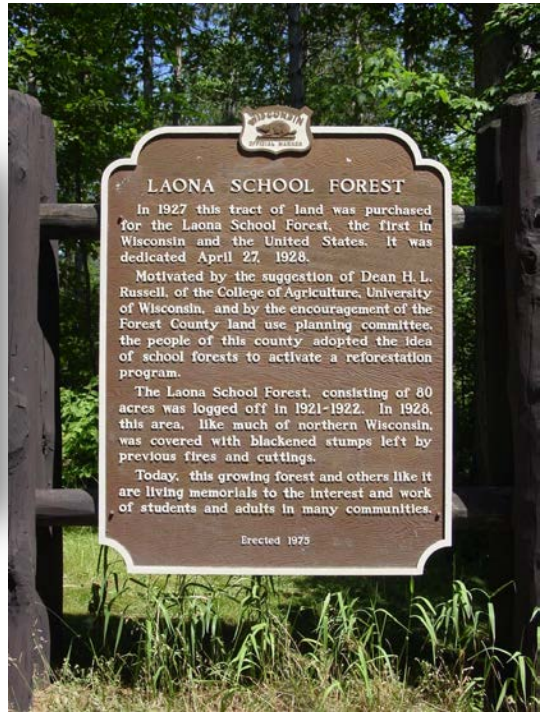
Laona School Forest – recognized as first in the Nation





1928

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Laona School Forest today……

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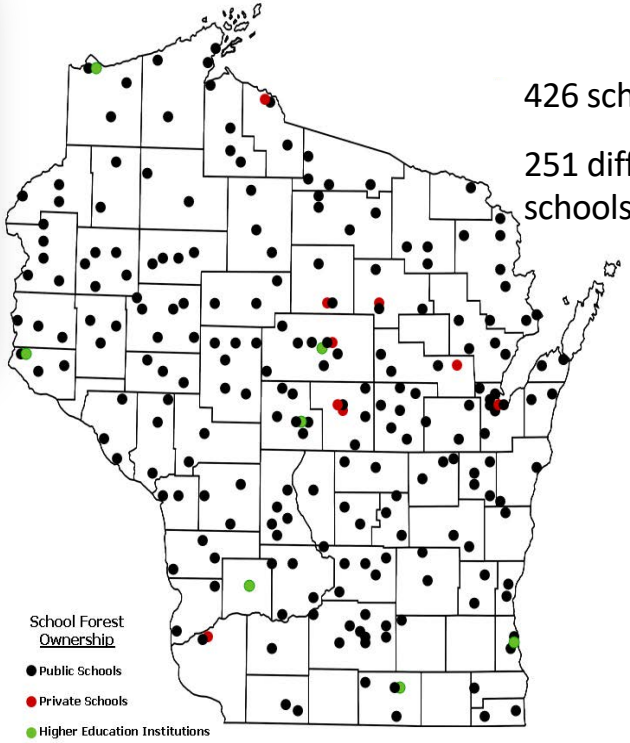
The WI School Forest Program

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



426 school forests

251 different schools

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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

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Education and Management partnership

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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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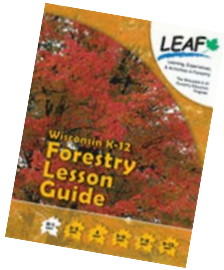
LEAF: Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program

➢ 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)

PROJECT LEARNING TREE® WISCONSIN

➢ Visit www.leafprogram.org for more info

Collaboration in Professional Development

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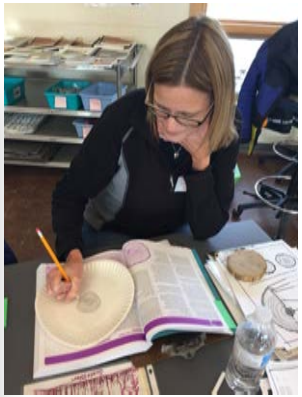

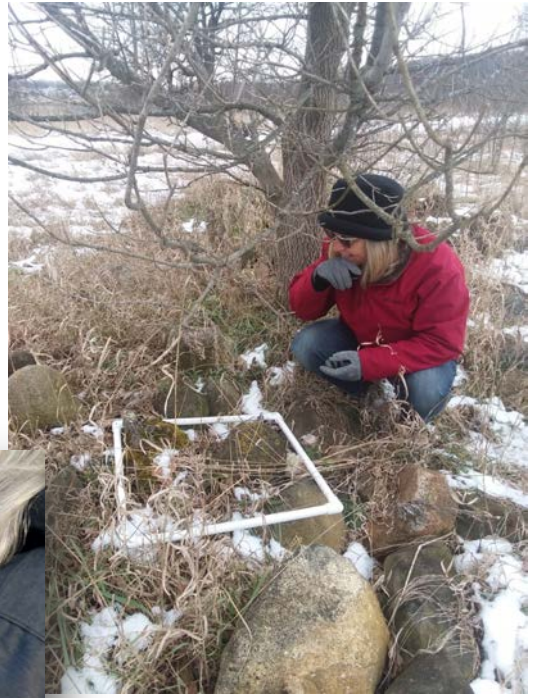

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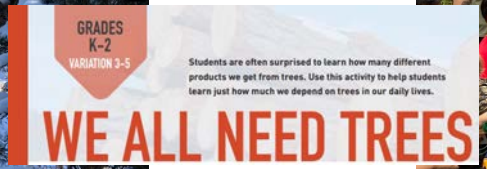
Working together for Students



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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

Reflections…

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

Questions?

Gretchen Marshall

Gretchen.Marshall@uwsp.edu

Scan the QR code to evaluate this PLT session.

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