



## Know Your Volunteer

Ced Vig, a volunteer field trip leader for the Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, can spin yarns about the Holmboe Conifer Forest—28 acres of virgin hemlock trees on the Pelican River passed over by lumbermen and, he says, reminiscent of forest areas in early Wisconsin.

Over the past 10 or so years, Ced has led more than 100 people through the Holmboe, telling them about the tarpaper shacks that sheltered hobos who rode the rails in the depression and the photographer who tried to introduce non-native wild orchids to the land. And he has shared his love of nature as he takes people through woods so shaded and secluded that he says it is like walking in a cathedral.

“I think it is a good idea to preserve some of these things in our past history,” he said of Holmboe Conifer Forest. “And of course, I am interested in saving our planet. We have to protect some of our forests and natural resources so future generations can enjoy them.”

Since 1960, Ced has written a column called “Woodsmoke” for the *Rhinelanders Daily News*. Today it is also carried in the *Phillips Bee* and *New Richmond News*. He writes for “Northbound,” published by Trees for Tomorrow, and has two new books out, *Wisconsin Woodsmoke*, a compilation of his columns and *The Four Seasons in the North Country*, a book of photography.

The former superintendent of schools for Rhinelanders, Ced now teaches Elderhostel classes that often end up at Holmboe, which was once a canoe-ride from his home.

“I am a teacher by philosophy, and have been in the teaching business all my life, mostly in administration. In teaching you always try to impart some knowledge or inspire people to do things. Either in class or by my writing, I try to accomplish the same things, get people motivated to enjoy nature a lot more.”

Sandy Wolken

Outreach & Media Relations Coordinator

For information about visiting the Holmboe Conifer Forest, contact our office in Ashland at 715/682-5789 or check out the Places We Protect section of our web site at [www.nature.org/Wisconsin](http://www.nature.org/Wisconsin).