

## Schools Lead in New Community Forests

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School forests are becoming more numerous, larger, and better. They are now acquired by purchase or gift, not by begging for unwanted tracts.

Registrations of new community forests for the year ending June 30, 1951 show school forests to be in the lead in number of newly established units. Twenty new forests were created during the year, having an area of 1,309 acres, while four schools added 172 acres to older forests.

Eight other community forests, including town, county, city, village and reservation groups added 5,212 acres to the general community forest roster. The total stands at 6,693 acres of new land registered by 32 different owners. The 4,500 acres in the Superior

municipal forest of the city of Superior sets an all-time city forest record in Wisconsin with this list of registration. Superior also rightly lays claim to a national record. It has the largest city forest located entirely within its limits of any city in the United States.

The Superior forest land was acquired from Douglas county about two years ago in settlement of an excess delinquency claim against the county by the city. Early in the year the city enacted a new zoning ordinance which designated that most of land obtained from the county should be used only for



Students of Ladysmith high school unveil a memorial marker in their school forest, dedicated to a former student.

forestry. The Conservation department has been requested to assist in making an inventory of over 3000 acres of wooded land, and to draw up a forest management plan. Other areas are to be reforested.

More school forests in the state are being dedicated as memorials to former students. Rural schools in the town of Wilson, Eau Claire county, dedicated their school forest to boys from the town who were lost in World War II. Colfax re-dedicated a small school forest tract at the edge of the village to the same patriotic purpose on the same day that high-school students began planting a 40-acre addition to their new forest 12 miles away. Ladysmith high school unveiled a plaque in memory of a former student when it dedicated an addition to its forest, the former County Normal school forest.

**SCHOOL BOARDS** are no longer begging "cast-offs" from the counties—those tracts of land which are too poor to attract buyers. Most of the new school forests represent outright purchases by school boards, or outright gifts by citizens who are interested in the work. *The new forests, and the new additions to older forests, are generally closer to the schools, are more easily reached, and offer better chances for students to carry on annual tree-planting in parallel blocks.* Experience is showing that school forests which are built up year by year, with the new planting set out next to last year's, offer the best examples for the study of a growing forest.

School boards have had some very real evidence of the financial values in their forests. Ladysmith has sold approximately \$1,000 worth of material from its forest, Merrill is continuing to get income from its Nels Evjue memorial forest, while the Noqueby and the Amberg school forests in Marinette county banked nearly \$1,000 each for the purchase of school equipment.

Juneau county's policy of putting every acre of county owned land to its best use accounts for cancellation of part of

its large acreage. Over a year ago the Juneau county board ordered a careful re-appraisal of its county lands registered as community forests. Any lands which looked like they might help round out the farm ownership of the neighbors, or which would fit into the forest crop law forests of the county, were withdrawn from community forest registry. This reduced the Juneau county community forests by 2,632 acres, leaving 4,837 acres still to be developed by the county for forestry without the help of the forest crop law. Even with this reduction, Juneau county retains more community forest land than any other county in the state.

### Community Forest Box Score

	Forests	Acres
Community forests previously registered -----	272	49,147
New registrations		
Superior Municipal Forest -----		4,500
St. Croix Youth Forest -----		40
Richland County -----		80
Oconto County -----		154
Necedah School Forest -----		40
Northwest-Maple School Forest, Douglas Co. -----		160
Forestville School Forest, Door County -----		40
Appleport School Forest, Door County -----		60
Gibraltar School Forest, Door County -----		20
Avoca School Forest, Door County -----		30
Stevens Point High School Forest - Union Town Youth Forest—Eau Claire -----		80
Augusta School Forest -----		80
Wild Rose School Forest -----		139
Brookdale School Forest, Marinette -----		40
Frederic High School Forest -----		80
Rush River Parish Forest, Pierce Co. -----		36
Princeton School Forest -----		20
Holcombe School Forest -----		80
Neva Town Forest, Langlade Co. -----		240
Rosholt School Forest, Portage Co. -----		23
Alexander High School Forest, Nekoosa -----		35
Athelstane School Forest, Marinette Co. -----		40
Marathon City High School Forest - Osseo School Forest -----		80
Coloma Village Forest -----		142
Edgar High School Forest -----		80
Fall Creek School Forest -----		40
		6,521
Additions to existing community Forests		
Montello High School -----		80
Colfax High School -----		40
Pembine School Forest -----		40
Shawano School Forest -----		12
		172
Total new registrations and additions		6,693
Cancellations -----		2,632
		4,061
Juneau County Forest -----		
Total new forests (net) -----	28	
Total community forests (to date) -----	300	53,208