

# School and Community Forests—1956

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The state's oldest, largest town forest has come into the spotlight. School and community forest registrations have been increasing in recent years.

On April 6, 1937, voters in the Town of Sterling, Polk county, approved a resolution to establish a town forest, and voted a revolving fund of \$1,500 to finance its forestry operations. The first town forest unit acquired that year was a half section of land—320 acres. Nineteen years later the town holds deeds to 4,125 acres, while its initial revolving fund has long since been repaid to the town treasurer.

Town Chairman G. W. Sornson, well past four-score years in age, championed the referendum vote in 1937, and has been in charge of land purchases and timber sales through the intervening years. He reports his banner sales year was the winter of 1955-56, when 50 cars of pulpwood were sold. A faded ballot of that 1937 referendum is testimony to the sentiment he attaches to that election day. That the town board has gone about its work without agitation or publicity is best illustrated by the fact that only during the current year was the existence of the forest called to the attention of the Conservation Department. Sustained income from harvest cuts has helped to meet the financial needs of the town, and to provide money for additional purchases of land. We strongly suspect that future community forest "box scores" will record additions to the town forest reported this year.

The accompanying summary of new community forest registrations represents a net income of 11,243 acres, over half of which are in newly-registered forests, the balance being additions to established forests. There are nine new school forests, two of which are in the 200-acre bracket.

During the year Rib Lake acquired from Taylor county the 210-acre tract it had earlier leased from the county for its grade and high school forest.

The Princeton Consolidated district purchased a 200-acre farm for its school forest. Formal dedication ceremonies for the entire school body were held early in May. Part of the area is well wooded, but most of it will provide ideal planting opportunities for future generations of students.

Marinette County registered an addi-

## COMMUNITY FOREST REGISTRATION

July 1, 1956

|   | Number<br>of Forests Acres |        |
|---|----------------------------|--------|
| Forests Previously Registered                         | 368                        | 83,778 |
| Colby Union Free High School                          |                            | 20     |
| Roche-a-Cri School Forest,<br>Adams County            |                            | 40     |
| Castle Rock School Forest,<br>Adams County            |                            | 37     |
| Springstead School Forest,<br>Iron County             |                            | 40     |
| Dunn County School Forest                             |                            | 40     |
| Grant School Forest, Portage<br>County                |                            | 50     |
| Boyceville School Forest, Dunn<br>County              |                            | 40     |
| Fond du Lac Exchange Club—<br>Girl Scout Forest       |                            | 80     |
| Rib Lake School Forest, Tay-<br>lor County            |                            | 210    |
| Princeton Consolidated School<br>Forest               |                            | 200    |
| Chippewa Valley Boy Scout<br>Forest                   |                            | 40     |
| Pound Equity Club Forest,<br>Marinette County         |                            | 20     |
| Juneau County Forest, Lyndon<br>Unit                  |                            | 80     |
| Town of Sterling, Polk County                         |                            | 4,125  |
| Additions   |                            |        |
| Juneau County Community<br>Forest                     |                            | 349    |
| Arena School Forest, Iowa<br>County                   |                            | 60     |
| Marinette County Forest and<br>Watershed Area         |                            | 5,692  |
| Town of Washington Memorial<br>Forest, Eau Claire Co. |                            | 40     |
| Ludington School Forest, Eau<br>Claire County         |                            | 80     |
| Net Totals  | 382                        | 95,021 |

tion of 5,692 acres to its community forest and watershed area, which consisted of 3,620 acres in 1946. Timber sales and tree planting on these lands are receiving the same county services as land under the forest crop law.

Three incorporated service club forests, nine new school forests, one new county forest unit, additions to two county forests, and the Town of Sterling Forest make up this year's registration report.

Wisconsin's school and community forests are apparently growing in popularity—and in public service. The area registered with the department in the five-year period July, 1951 to July, 1956 is about equal to all registrations recorded in the nine-year period prior to 1951.

### **Book Review: The "Deer Book"**

*The White-Tailed Deer in Wisconsin*, by Burton L. Dahlberg and Ralph C. Guetinger. Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison 1, Wisconsin, 1956. 282 pp.

Here is the most comprehensive compilation of information ever published on Wisconsin deer. It compares favorably with anything published by other states on the subject of deer.

Basically the book is a summary of findings made in 14 years of Pittman-Robertson research. However, it is relatively easy reading, and it is well illustrated.

Part I devotes three chapters to the history of Wisconsin deer.

Part II, The Deer Herd and Associated Subjects, deals with life history, movements, food habits, relation of deer weights to range conditions, natality and mortality factors, and a life equation for Wisconsin deer.

Part III, The Range and Its Problems, has chapters devoted to general environment, winter range, range surveys, artificial feeding, and range carrying capacity.

Part IV, Deer Management Problems, discusses hunters and the kill, regulations, habitat management, and the outlook for Wisconsin deer.

An appendix carries useful miscellany, including information on deer aging, diseases and parasites, browse identification, and a check list of 110 species browsed by deer in Wisconsin.

Adults may obtain single copies of *The White-Tailed Deer in Wisconsin* free on request. For those citizens of Wisconsin who are interested in deer, here is an opportunity to obtain a 282-page book that is likely to become one of the most intensively read and re-read volumes on their bookshelves.

### **Book Review: Wisconsin Deer Data**

*A Century of Wisconsin Deer*, by Otis S. Bersing. Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison 1, Wisconsin, 1956. 184 pp.

This book can settle a lot of arguments. When did Wisconsin first have a closed season on deer? When did the buck law come in? Was there an open season in 1935? Which counties had a bow season in 1940? What county shot the most deer in 1949? How many deer-hunting accidents were there in 1954? The answers are here—and thousands more.

In the main this book is a mass of statistics, the factual record of Wisconsin deer seasons and other data pertaining to deer. Wisconsin deer hunters will find them interesting statistics, and valuable in placing our deer history in proper perspective.

The author includes a lengthy preface which is, in effect, a synopsis of events and conditions affecting deer from the time the Indians roamed Wisconsin. A number of maps indicate how the area of deer range has changed over the years.

Single copies of *A Century of Wisconsin Deer* are sent free of charge to adults on request.