

Natural Resources Institute



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Overview of changes

Three Extension Programs (48 staff/faculty) – Water, Forestry & Wildlife, and Community Engaged Science & Education

- Branded Programs (24 staff) – E.g., Regional Natural Resources Education Pgm, Master Naturalist
- Campus Extension-funded Faculty/Staff Specialists (20 faculty, staff, admin)
- County Educators (Washburn, Dane, Pepin, and Wood)

Three Extension Centers/Reserves (48 staff/faculty)

- Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey
- Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center
- Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve

NRI Service Units & NRI Administration (20 staff)

- Evaluation
- Marketing & Communications
- Instructional Design
- NRI Administration & Operations

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How we align with Council on Forestry (CoF) strategic goals:

- Promote the benefits of sound forest management and policies that provide ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits for present and future generations.
- Research, promote and support efforts to increase utilization of the State's forest products.

Forestry and Wildlife Program



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Extension Outreach Specialists

- 6 regional Forestry Educators across the state

3 UW-Madison campus-based staff

- Scott Bove- Forestry Specialist
- David Drake- Wildlife Specialist
- Jamie Nack- Wildlife Outreach Specialist

2 UW- Stevens Point campus-based staff

- Steve Hubbard- Director of Wisconsin Forestry Center
- Jason Riddle- Director of Wisconsin's Center for Wildlife



Programming Outcomes



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Sustainable forest management

- Working with Family Forest Owners to understand their forest resource, navigate working with professionals and cost-share, and make informed decisions about the management of their woodlands

Sustainable, vibrant forest-based economies

- Training the next generation of forest workers and continuing education for professionals
- Supporting industries with products markets and process improvements

Sustainable, healthy wildlife populations

- Working with landowners to integrate wildlife management into land management
- Working with urban residents to manage and co-exist with urban wildlife

Programming Examples



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Outreach for family forest owners

- Engaging them in the **first 5 years of ownership** through a series of webinars showcasing people and programs to help (with Adena Rissman lab)
- **Basic forestry classes** to “Learn About Your Land”
- **Next steps** classes for wildlife management, hiring a professional, timber sales

Programming Examples



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Outreach for family forest owners

- Support (outreach and financial) for landowners to have a *management plan* written by a Cooperating Forester
- Specific support for *women woodland owners* (chainsaw safety)
- *Family succession planning*



Programming Examples



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Outreach for family forest owners and forestry professionals

- Carbon market and climate change assistance
- Maple syrup (USDA ACER funding)
- Rural Partnership Institute (USDA, NIFA) – Indigenous Food Systems
- Agroforestry (with Adena Rissman lab)

Programming Examples



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- Urban Forestry Council
 - Tricia Gorby (Rep), with proposal for next Rep of Allen Pyle (Extension Horticulture)
- Multi-State Work
 - Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference; Iowa/ Illinois

Funding



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UW-Madison Division of Extension programs are supported in part by grants and contracts with:

- WI DNR Division of Forestry
- USFS
- USDA National Institute for Food & Agriculture
 - Agriculture and Food Research Initiative
 - Renewable Resources Extension Act
- Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science

Forest Products Extension

- Scott Bowe: current projects focus on forest products markets, wood manufacturing process improvement, and applications for hardwood lumber drying; all strategies for remaining competitive within a global forest products marketplace.
- NRI partners with groups including the Great Lakes Kiln Drying Association, Lake States Lumber Association Education, Inc., Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, Northcentral Technical College, Forest Products Lab, WI DNR, UW-Stevens Point, and more



Industry Outreach Courses

- Hardwood Lumber Inspection Course
- Sawing, Edging, and Trimming Course
- Dry Kiln Operators Short Course
- OSHA Industry Safety Course
- Engaging Tech Ed - Linking High School Instruction to the Forest Industry



Applied Projects

- Understanding Timber Sale Costs and Revenue in Wisconsin
 - Extension publication
- Stain in Lumber
 - Extension publication
- Mexican Near-Shoring Project
 - Extension project and publications



Applied Projects

- Applied Kiln Technology and Training in Northeastern United States
 - Extension project and publications

- Drying Stress Relief Strategies for Hardwood Lumber in Wisconsin
 - Extension publications



Recent Publications

- Effects of end coatings on defects during air-drying of lumber. Research Paper FPL-RP-722.
<https://doi.org/10.2737/FPL-RP-722>
 - Scott Lyon, Collin Buntrock, Michael Wiemann, and Scott Bowe
- Comparing conventional and vacuum kiln-drying of hard maple lumber: board flatness and drying time. Research Paper FPL-RP-723.
<https://doi.org/10.2737/FPL-RP-723>
 - Alex Anderson, Michael Wiemann, Scott Lyon, and Scott Bowe
- The Logging Sector in Minnesota and Wisconsin: Journal of Forestry, January 2025.
<https://rdcu.be/d7ZJk>
 - Scott A. Bowe, Julie M. Ballweg, Charles R. Blinn, David A. Nolle, and Robert A. Smail



Hello...

- Began my new role in October
- Madison native; now reside in Stevens Point
- I am passionate about, and dedicated to, Wisconsin's natural resources

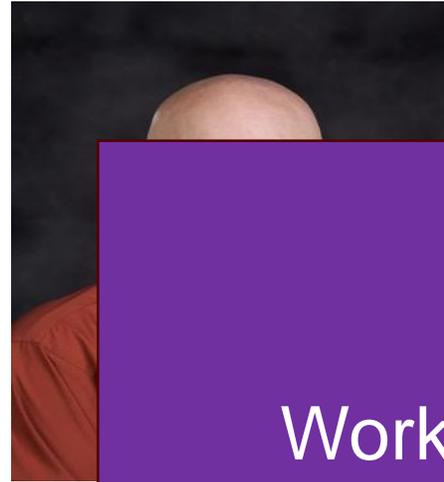


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Bethany Slembariski

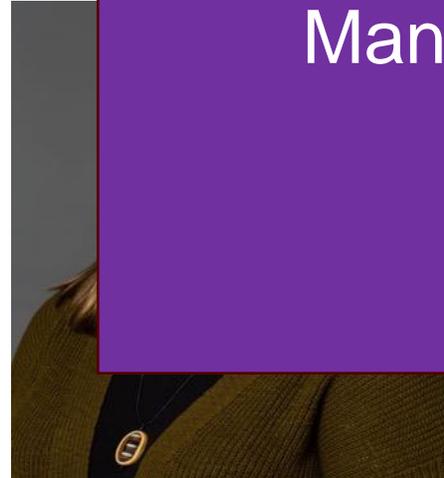
WFC
Associate
Director



Keith Turnquist

Workforce
Development
Operations
Manager

ce Development
n Manager



Barrett

ional
ment Program

Manager

The Wisconsin Forestry Center at the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point (WFC)

The WFC is dedicated to serving the needs of Wisconsin's forestry community. We focus on partner-driven professional development, workforce recruitment and development, applied research, and community outreach initiatives.

\$8 million in funds provided by WEDC

Workforce Development

- Forest Operations Immersion Trainings
- Sawmill Operations Immersion Trainings (NCT Partner)

High School Curriculum Development

- Developed a workforce recruitment curriculum: 4 modules: Tree Biology and Identification, Forest Health, Forest Management, and Forest Products
- High school forestry skills camp

Professional Development

- Utility Vegetation Management education and certificates
- Science of tree felling course (end of March)

Forester Education and Outreach

- Prescribed fire webinar series
- Hardwood defect guides (publication series by species)

Public Education and Outreach

- Partner with WDNR on local use dimension lumber grading course
- Host and support SilviCast (podcast on forest management topics)

Recent and Upcoming Happenings...

- Completion of new Forestry Advancement Center (FAC) at Treehaven field station
- 1st Offering of Forest Operations Immersion Training completed and 2nd is scheduled for March 29th – May 9th
- 1st Sawmill Operations Immersion Training set; New sawmill is operational on the NTC Antigo campus
- Science of tree felling at the end of March (registration is full!)
- Summer Skills Camp (high school students)
 - Will be held at Central Wisconsin Environmental Station
 - June 15 to June 20
 - 7 students attended Skills Camp last summer; two now attend UWSP; one attends Fox Valley Tech for forestry related education

Applied Research

Currently have a McIntire-Stennis grant proposal out for consideration:

- Examines Wisconsin Pulp production from environmental, economic, and social perspective
- Use Life-Cycle Assessment to compare WI vs. Brazilian pulp
- Examine the impacts of mill closures or openings to rural WI communities from economic and social aspects

Questions for you



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- Promote the benefits of sound forest management and policies that provide ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits for present and future generations.
- Research, promote, and support efforts to increase utilization of the State's forest products.

- (1) Having heard what we are working on, what are you MOST excited about that we are currently doing?
- (2) Where do you see opportunities for this work to align more with your strategic goals?