

Foreword

The state of Wisconsin derives much of its personality from its trees. Whether in the extensive forests that cover nearly half our state, or in Wisconsin communities both large and small, trees are profoundly influential in creating our sense of place. Wisconsin's trees provide our citizens with livelihoods, recreation, spiritual renewal, a vast array of forest products and essential ecological functions that clean our air and water, as well as provide a diversity of plants and animals.

It is no wonder then that, as the chapters in this book relate, trees are woven into the fabric of our state's history and into its people's personal lives. Trees sustain us, and as Wisconsin's first scientist, Increase A. Lapham, warned in his 1867 article "Report on the Disastrous Effects of the Destruction of Forest Trees," we must also sustain them.

Planning a sustainable future for Wisconsin's trees and forests is a primary function of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry. Our mission is to protect and sustainably manage Wisconsin's forest resources so that they provide

ecological, economic and social benefits both for us and for the generations that follow.

Enhancing the quality of urban forests, in which 81 percent of us live, is an important component of sustainable forestry. Forests in these urban settings strongly influence the local environment and our quality of life; the benefits trees in our communities provide are many and diverse.

It is in our communities that we also tend to develop special relationships with individual trees. I imagine that as you read this, one or more trees that have been or are special to you come to mind; that's certainly true for me.

We in Wisconsin are blessed with a richness of trees and forests. By collecting and providing these fascinating tree stories in this new edition of *Wisconsin's Famous and Historic Trees*, Bruce Allison reminds us of that blessing and provides further encouragement to manage the resource wisely.

Paul DeLong
Wisconsin Chief State Forester