2026 Tree Farm Day - Recap

A grand total of 58 braved the cold and snow for our 43rd annual Tree Farm Day. Congratulations to these hearty souls, and THANK YOU, Jani Myre, for the mandatory bonfire!

In attendance were Crystal Lake members, friends and family, as well as special guests from our network including the Washington Farm Forestry Association. Thanks you Jeanne Koruga, Shari McLaren, Jani Myre, Jerry Oncken, Allyn Morris, Ozzie Pearce, Klev Schoening, Don Eagle, Dennis Haack, Andy Norton, Chris and Savannah Thompson, Roger Hill, Joan Oncken, Barb Knapp, Kathryn and

Dave Parker, Kattie Cabe, Lorna Smith and Gigi Cabe, Lauren Lessard, John, Cathy and Piret Kaschko, Michael Howe, Stan Lucas, Eric Gedney, Rob Sample, John and Gwendy Reeder, Aaron Cohen, Justin, Leah, Ari, Pat and Alan Harrer (our mail carrier and family), Alan Scott, Paul Wagner, Phyllis Reed, Michelle Morris, Maureen Blum, Keenae Tiersma and Noah Valovich, Spencer Sawas, Sheila Lair, Keagan and Henrik Eckland, Kat Dils and Gaela Schnarre, Jeanne Austing, Rich Guthrie, Paul Johnson and Erik Hannond, Howard Lavela, Lisa Schutten and Lana Growe, Dan the Man Sundgren.

Crystal Lake Tree Farm founder Ron Munro was also present, as channeled through forest shaman Stan Lucas.

Ron assured us we're doing a great job, and reminded us all that the work we do is for our children, their children, and *their* children. A community-owned tree farm is a rare and precious gem and we are fortunate to be stewards of such a gift. Thus Spoke Ron.

There was snow on the ground from the surprise storm the day before, but by mid-morning the weather cleared and we had sun on and off for the rest of the day. We removed the vexar sleeves and bamboo poles from Paradise 6 and Paradise 1. These two areas were harvested in 2019, with an herbicide spray applied in 2020 to inhibit blackberry and invasive weed growth which can choke out seedlings and competes for water and nutrients. In 2021, 6,400 two-year-old cedar seedlings were planted. The sleeves did their job to protect the trees from deer browse. Very little mortality was noted, although some buck rub on some trees was spotted, which is normal.

Eric, Stan, and Don planted about 100 coastal redwoods as infill. The crowd was happy, the food was amazing and appreciated; many thanks to Dan especially, and Jani and Cathy provided fantastic beans and lots bakery donations.