

Wisconsin SAF at the 2005 Wisconsin State Fair

Tuesday, August 9, was a great day to be at the Wisconsin State Fair. In addition to all the typical sights and sounds you will find at the fair, there was a day-long special event called Ag-Ventures Day. The State Fair Coliseum was filled with interactive displays from all the various agriculture industries found in Wisconsin. The booths included dairy, swine, sheep, genetics, growing crops and more. The Wisconsin Society of American Foresters did their part by hosting a booth highlighting wood products and their importance in Wisconsin as an agriculture industry. This is the second year WISAF participated in the event.

The Ag-Ventures program encouraged the booths to have activities and displays that were interesting, educational and interactive. Kids and some adults enjoyed coloring tree leaf designs and then having WISAF members making a button with the artwork. Of the six leaf designs available, four of them (paper birch, basswood, sugar maple, and red oak) were represented by standing logs that had doors opening to cavities. The cavities held products or uses of that tree and visitors enjoyed opening the doors to see what was inside. There were forestry related handouts, coloring books, stickers, and pencils for the public to take home and a forest insect display that included live bark beetles.

A children's forestry t-shirt drawing and sample wood display were two new additions to the booth this year. The t-shirts came from the SAF store and were won by Maureen Vento, Milwaukee; Mary Jaskie, Milwaukee; Samantha Wegerbauer, Franklin; and Tina Hennig, Franklin.

A big thanks to Kirsten Held, Julie Peltier, Jeff Kante, Randy Cooper, Gus and Jane Wahlgren and Ruby Kerkman for helping staff the booth and providing supplies and materials to make this forestry outreach activity a success.

