

Volume 41

Number 1



A quarterly newsletter from the

**Forest History
Association of Wisconsin, Inc.**

P.O. Box 424
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Spring 2016

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Forest History Association of Wisconsin members interested in serving as a member of the FHAW Board of Directors should submit their name, a brief biographical sketch, and contact information to:

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Chips and Sawdust

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**Keep your mailing address up to date!
Your e-mail address too!**

**Be sure to send both to
membership chairperson
Bob Walkner at**

**FHAW, P.O. Box 424, Two Rivers, WI 54241-0424
anvils@charter.net**

Advantages:

- Faster delivery of **Chips and Sawdust** Newsletter
- Newsletter with full-color photographs
- Monthly electronic FHAW news brief, **Woodchips**



From The President's Chair

Dear friends,

This year our spring turned to summer entirely too soon. With summer comes that time of the year for you to renew your annual membership in the association. Something that I hope you will all do. Renewal notices have already gone out in the mail. Give our membership committee chair, Bob Walkner, a hand by completing and returning it at your earliest convenience.

As mentioned in the last issue of Chips and Sawdust the Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee was meeting to discuss strategies related to our membership. Their final report included these four recommendations:

1. Improve membership recruitment tools
2. Review website content, capabilities and limitations and then Update
3. Improve association outreach and public relations
4. Recruit and Expand committee structure

We will discuss in greater detail each recommendation during the next annual general membership meeting in Burlington. In the meantime, I'd like to invite any member (or their family members) with graphic design skills to help design a new membership brochure that could be introduced during the annual meeting. If you, or someone you know, is willing to share that talent with the association please contact me.

Summer is also the time to unveil final plans for the annual meeting. I have to tell you, this 41st Annual meeting starts and ends with exciting events and presentations, and still provides "downtime" to allow attendees to relax and visit with friends. The plans for this meeting were made based on the comments and feedback you provided at the annual meeting in Antigo. Come to Burlington to enjoy the meeting, and also see if we got it right! It's looking to us like it will be a terrific meeting! Hope to see you there.

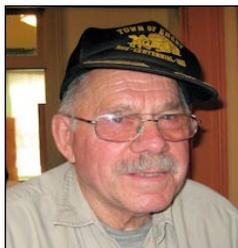
Mike Sohasky, chair of the FHAW Scholarship Committee, received five applications for the John Seaman Scholarship this year. Minnesota resident and Viterbo University student, Megan Plummer, was selected as the recipient for this year's scholarship award. Her essay on the Wisconsin School Forests is included inside this newsletter. Congratulations Megan! And thanks Mike and committee for your time and commitment to our scholarship program.

That's about it for now. I'm looking forward to the upcoming 41st Annual Meeting at Burlington. Again, I hope to see you there!

Best regards,

-- Don "Schnitz" Schnitzler

2016 Fixmer Award Recipient Named



Phillips, Wisconsin native Russell Kirchmeyer has been named this year's recipient of the FHAW Fixmer Distinguished Service Award. Kirchmeyer, a member of the FHAW and perhaps a dozen or more other historical societies, associations and groups has a record of sharing his time, talents and resources to assure the success of those organizations.

Over the years his contributions have been significant—too many to attempt to list all of them here. They include local organizations, like the Price County Historical

Society, the Wisconsin Concrete Park at Phillips, and restoration and adaptive reuse of the East Highland School in the Town of Emery near Phillips. Similar efforts also extend far beyond the Wisconsin north woods to include the Kuse House and Old World Wisconsin in Southern Wisconsin.

Russ has spearheaded many activities to document local history. He has preserved many stories in writing and shared many others in conversations and presentations as well as mapped area logging camps and railways.

Congratulations Russ! Thank you for collecting, preserving and sharing our history.

Wisconsin School Forests

By Megan Plummer
Viterbo College

Logging has been an important part of Wisconsin's economy ever since the first white settlers discovered it. The great state of Wisconsin is home to over 6 million acres of forests, making the resources needed for logging plentiful. With all this wildlife came a great amount of responsibility, though. Once railroads were built in the late nineteenth century, logging became a year-round job, leading to even more deforestation. (Fast Forestry Facts...) By the time of 1925, no one had been bothered by the fact that thousands of acres of forests were being cut down every month, and no new trees were being planted. No one was bothered until H.L. Russell came onto the scene.

In 1925, H.L. Russell, an agricultural professor from the University of Madison, was traveling in Australia when he had a vision. (School Forests: ...) In his vision he saw school children becoming conser-

vation stewards. He saw the children planting trees, watering them, and watching them grow. The moment his feet hit U.S. soil

he started to carry out his vision. With the help of Wakelin McNeel, also known as Ranger Mac, Russell's idea was passed through legislation in Forest County, Wisconsin. Once it was passed, Laono, Crandon, and Wabeno schools, all in Forest County, purchased tracts of land to start the first school forests not only in Wisconsin, but throughout the United States.

The Laono area took off running with the idea of school forests. Due



H.L. Russell. 1888

to the clearing of the land by Page and Landeck Lumber Company much of the surrounding land was bleak and wildlife ridden. (Logging and Forest Products) On one spring day in 1928, a handful of the Laona school children walked into the nearby tract of land just purchased by the school district to plant their first tree. (School Forests: ...) This was just the beginning of a reforestation movement. Today, just 88 years later, that tract of land contains colossal trees, an informational nature trail, and rustic bridges. All had been created by the hands of children; with the help of teachers.

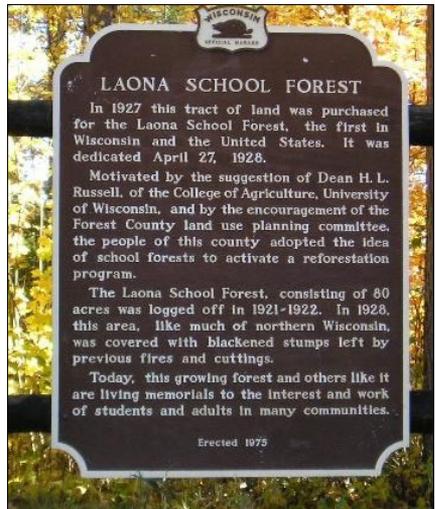
School forests have benefited not only the environment, but also the children. It has created a better future. Through the planting of school forests, children have learned to respect and care for nature, and become more aware of the impact they have on the environment. The forests surrounding the Great Lakes area have been impacted greatly due to school forests. All in all, school forests have created a better future for the surrounding landscape, the children planting the trees, and future generations.

H.L. Russell's vision was successfully completed. By 1977, 328 school forests were established, with 25,084 acres of active forests. (History of the Lake States Forests: ...) The forest conservation effort spread from the Great Lakes states to other states within the United States. Universities, including University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, and Ivy League University Yale have adopted the idea of school forests and are using them to create better environments in their own backyards. U.W. Stevens Point now even offers the major of School Forest Education. Professor H.L. Russell was just one individual with a vision, which has brought life back into bleak forests, and

dreams into the minds of children, and enjoyment of nature for future generations.

Works Cited

- "Fast Forestry Facts -- Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine -- December 2005." Fast Forestry Facts -- Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine -- December 2005. N.p., n.d. Web. 30 Mar. 2016.
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- "Logging and Forest Products." Turning Points in Wisconsin History. N.p., n.d. Web. 30 Mar. 2016.
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Wisconsin historical markers identify, commemorate and honor the important people, places, and events that have contributed to the state's rich heritage. This Laona School Forest Historical Marker is located south of Laona.

Justice Roujet Marshall

Part III—The Forestry Fight

By Ed Forrester

Our last article ended with the state forestry program having been terminated by a Wisconsin Supreme Court decision, authored by Justice Roujet Marshall. For over five years that decision put an end to all actions both legislative, and on the ground to deal with the cutover, burned over, and frequently tax delinquent northern counties of Wisconsin.



However, the 1910 vote by the citizens of the state, to modify the state constitution, thereby creating a forestry

Wisconsin forest fire, Wisconsin Div. of Forestry

program lurked in the background. That approximately 58% of voters in the state supported modifying the constitution almost guaranteed that a future legislature would revisit the issue of forestry.

One of the leaders in bringing the forestry issue back to the forefront was State Senator William A. Titus of Fond du Lac, who began that effort in 1921. He has stated “I had determined the summer before that if elected, I would do something to help remedy the intolerable situation of Wisconsin’s forests...”¹ with this attitude Senator Titus had become one of the most important leaders in managing a forestry bill through the legislature.

The supporters of creating a state forestry program did not have an easy time in reaching their goal. Loud opposition came from three important groups;

First, there were objections from town and county boards from a fear of losing tax base. To address these concerns a system of payments in lieu of taxes were provided.²

Second, a number of people objected because a forestry program would result in increased taxes. These people had to be shown that the long term gain for their communities would outweigh the costs.³

Third, there remained groups in the agricultural community who continued to believe that all of northern Wisconsin could be transitioned into family farms. These beliefs continued long after the idea of farming the glacial till of the north had been shown to be a losing proposition.

However, despite the opposition Senator Titus guided a bill to amend the constitution through both the 1921 and 1923 legislative sessions. The final step in the process was for the public to vote on the proposed amendment. The vote for ratification was 336,360 in favor, and 173,563 against.⁴ By a vote of almost 63% in favor of the constitutional amendment, the voters had overturned the Supreme Court! Interestingly, virtually all of the northern counties voted

against the amendment.

Titus's bill not only allowed forestry to begin a second time, but it also put into the constitution a permanent funding mechanism for forestry. That funding mechanism continues today.

"The battle was won almost nine years after the Supreme Court had rendered it's just but adverse decision."⁵

Roujet Marshall Comes Full Circle

However, that is not the end of the story for in 1917, just two years after the Forestry Decision, Justice Marshall was required to run for reelection. He found himself opposed by Mr. Owen, the Attorney General who had tried to defend the forestry laws, and who made an election issue of the courts Forestry Decision. Mr. Walter Owen defeated Justice Marshall.

"After his defeat, Mr. Marshall devoted his remaining years to State Bar activities and to writing a lengthy autobiography. He died in 1922. A year later the court all but officially repudiated his concepts of individualistic liberty and substantive due process when it upheld a broad zoning law that would probably have appalled Marshall."⁶

Perhaps the retroactive view that Professor William Hurst, a noted legal historian, provides in his critique of the Forestry Decision gives better insight into that decision. Hurst states that it was "a deep emotional decision against the style of legal action that the (Forestry Law) represented." He further stated Marshall's mindset "grew out of the confrontation between men bred in the buoyant optimism of nineteenth-century action and an emerging twentieth-century insistence on closer, more professional rationalization of economic and social processes"⁷

Perhaps Hurst's scathing remarks related to Justice Marshall are too harsh, as the Justice did participate in decisions that would conflict with the opinions provided above, such as supporting workmen's compensation.

In fairness, we provide a response which came from Justice Marshall himself, when he stated; "I consider my personal work in the (Forestry) case as of as great public importance as any I was ever involved in".⁸ In any event it is all history for you to read about, and come to your own conclusions!

Ed Forrester, January 2016, ed@theforresters.net

Citations:

1. W.A. Titus , Two Decades of Wisconsin Forestry, Wisconsin Magazine of History, December 1946, Vol 30, No2 , p-189
2. Ibid p-190
3. Ibid p-190
4. Ibid p-191
5. Ibid p-191
6. Joseph Ranney Wisconsin Lawyer: Justice Roujet Marshall: The World of Buoyant Opportunism p-2 <http://www.wisbar.org/newspublications/wisconsinlawyer/pages/article.aspx?volume=76>
7. Ibid P2 Also see: J. Willard Hurst, Law and Economic Growth: The Legal History of the Lumber Industry in Wisconsin, 1836-1915, p 572-591
8. Roujet Marshall Autobiography, Volume 2, p-84
- 9.



Forest History Association 41st Annual Meeting Waterford/Burlington, Wisconsin

The Forest History Association of Wisconsin (FHAW) is holding its 41st Annual Meeting in the Waterford/Burlington area, August 18-20, 2016 with the Seno K/RLT Conservancy hosting Friday's activities. The theme for this year's meeting "Conservation, Land Preservation and Forest Management" is appropriate considering Seno's dedication to sustainable forestry, natural resources education, conservation and land preservation.

The meeting begins with a gathering Thursday evening at BJ Wentker's Historic Fine Dining, a century-old tavern and restaurant, situated on a triangular lot in the Hillside section of Burlington. If you enjoy warm ambiance, authentic old world charm, local history, and excellent food you will enjoy our visit here.

Following Wentker's unique dining experience we are fortunate to have arranged as our keynote speaker, Dirk Hildebrandt, the Historic Farmer at Old World Wisconsin. Hildebrandt has been working and training oxen for over 20 years, and has used them for logging, farming and historical reenactments. He will describe the importance and historical uses of oxen, which transformed Wisconsin's raw frontier to settled agricultural communities. While sharing these stories he will provide a glimpse into some of the experiences available during our visit at Old World Wisconsin as part of this 41st annual meeting.

On Friday, the meeting continues with presentations, tours, and other activities at the Seno Conservancy Education Center, a renovated two-story barn fitted with rustic but convenient classroom and meeting spaces. The center assures us a comfortable and enjoyable meeting experience.

The morning presentations and tour will showcase resources available in southeastern Wisconsin as well as a discussion of the Emerald ash borers' impact on local woodlots. The afternoon talks focus on Wisconsin Forest History. A special presentation by John Berg, author of a new book, "The Lake Shore and Eastern Railroad, a Logging Railroad in North Central Wisconsin" will conclude Friday's lectures. The annual members' business meeting, auction, and social time will round out the day's activities at the Seno Conservancy.

We'll then finish our day with a relaxed gathering for cocktails and Wisconsin Fish Fry at Docs on the Fox in Waterford just a short distance from the Baymont Inn.

Following Saturday morning's breakfast at the Baymont Inn and the last conference presentation, *Wisconsin's Mormon Loggers*, we'll leave for the optional visit to Old World Wisconsin at Eagle.

Old World Wisconsin is a remarkable outdoor history museum that depicts the lives and times of rural 19th and early 20th-century Wisconsin. Its 1870s crossroad village with traditional small town businesses, mercantile store, wagon shop and blacksmith shop to name a just few, and 10 ethnic farmsteads located on 576 acres of wooded hills in the Southern Unit of Kettle Moraine State Forest are sure to provide an interesting finish to this 41st FHAW Annual Meeting.

Note – trams run between the crossroad village and various ethnic farmsteads. To learn more about Old World Wisconsin visit <http://oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org/> .

**FHAW 41st Annual Meeting
Burlington, Wisconsin**

Lodging



15 rooms blocked at

Baymont Inn and Suites-
Waterford/Burlington
750 Fox Lane,
Waterford, WI 53185

Rooms are \$99.00/night plus tax.

To make your reservation:
call the hotel directly at
262-534-4100
and mention

the Forest History Association.

Rooms blocked until August 1, 2016

**Other area Hotels/Motel
(no blocked rooms)**

Rainbow Motel
733 Milwaukee Ave
Burlington, WI
(262) 763-2491

Bristol Motel
4510 200th Ave
Bristol, WI 53104
(262) 857-2396



**FHAW Special Menu
Thursday, August 18**

All dinner entrées served with home-made bread, roasted garlic, vegetable du jour using locally sourced seasonal vegetables, soup and house salad with homemade dressing.

Filet

Grilled 8 oz. filet atop herbal demi-glace served with mashed red potatoes. **\$38**

Pork Tenderloin

Grilled pork tenderloin atop creamy beer mustard sauce served with mashed red potatoes. **\$27**

Stuffed Chicken

Panko coated chicken breast stuffed with spinach, ricotta, & oven roasted tomatoes served with mashed red potatoes. **\$27**

Grilled Salmon

Grilled 8 oz. salmon (sushi grade) topped w/béarnaise & served with mashed red potatoes. **\$34**

About our Presenters

Dirk Hildebrandt is the Historic Farmer at Old World Wisconsin where he oversees agricultural programming. He has been working and training oxen for over 20 years and is a past president of the Midwest Ox Drivers Association. His recent magazine article, A Generation of Oxen, appeared in the autumn 2015 issue of the Wisconsin Magazine of History.

Nan Calvert is the Director of Education for Seno K/RLT Conservancy. Environmental education for adults and kids has been her profession and passion for more than 20 years. She focuses on native plants, native landscaping and native lands management.

Jerry Lapidakis retired as a forester from the Wisconsin DNR in 1998 after working 35 years in the forestry program. Jerry continued to work with the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association's (WVOA) foundation which owns and manages the Seno Woodland Education Center. He was instrumental in the initial planning and development of the property into a forestry and natural resources education center.

Ron Rasmussen is president of the Seno K/RLT Conservancy Board of Directors and a member of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association.

Ed Forrester retired from the Wisconsin DNR division of Forestry after 38 years of service. Forrester is a member of many historical societies, the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, and the Baron County Woodland Owners Association of which he is the current president.

John Berg graduated with a Master of Science degree in Teaching History from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point in May 1987. He studied under Dr. Russell S. Nelson, Jr., majoring in United States and Canadian history with an emphasis on the colonial fur trade frontier. Among his other interests is that of Wisconsin's lumber and railroad industries, and labor history. John has published in several books and magazines and presented lectures on these topics throughout central and northern Wisconsin.

Don Schnitzler is a Central Wisconsin local and family historian. He served as coordinator and co-editor of the book, *The Marshfield Story, Piecing Together Our Past*, and coordinated and edited a second Marshfield history book, *The Marshfield Story, Windows to Our Past*. He is a past recipient of a Local History Award of Merit from the Wisconsin State Historical Society and Historic Preservation Medal of Honor from the Wisconsin and National Societies of Daughters of American Revolution.

About Seno K/RLT Conservancy

History—Kenosha/Racine Land Trust the WVOA Foundation & Seno Center

Since being established in 1993, the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust has focused on permanently preserving land and restoring wildlife habitat. Coincidentally, during that same time period, the nearby WVOA Foundation (a.k.a Seno Woodland Education Center) has directed efforts from its 213 acre facility in western Kenosha County toward educating the public about sustainable forestry and related environmental issues. To leverage the strength of each, as of June 20, 2014 the two organizations officially merged. The name of this organization is now Seno K/RLT Conservancy. The missions of each organization will remain prominent in all endeavors. Environmental education, sustainable forestry, natural resource conservation and land preservation in perpetuity remain the guiding principles and primary goals.

To learn more about SENO K/RLT visit their website at <http://senokrlt.org/> and plan to attend the upcoming 41st FAW Annual Meeting.



*SENO K/RLT Conservancy
Education Center*

FHAW 40th Annual Meeting — Schedule at a Glance

Waterford/Burlington, Wisconsin

August 18 –20, 2016

Thursday, August 18, 2016

- 5:00 pm Depart Caravan/Car Pool to B.J. Wentkers
B.J. Wentkers Historic Fine Dining, 230 Milwaukee Street
(Hwy 36) Burlington, WI 53105
- 5:15 pm Cocktails (cash bar) - Brief history of BJ Wentkers
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm Presentation—*Oxen and Horses for Logging, Farming and Historical Reenactments* — Dirk Hildebrandt

Friday, August 19, 2016

- 7:00 am Breakfast at Baymont Inn and Suites
- 8:45 am **SENO K/RLT Conservancy**, 3606 Dyer lake Road,
Burlington, WI 53105
- 9:15 am Welcome and orientation to SENO — Nan Calvert
Lectures:
History of SENO Conservancy — Jerry Lapidakis
Woodland Plants of Southeastern Wisconsin — Nan Calvert
Break — Quick breads and sweet and salty snacks
Emerald Ash Borer, Southeastern Wisconsin Experience —
Ron Rasmussen
- 11:15 am SENO trail tours/demos — Jerry Lapidakis and Nan Calvert
- Noon Wisconsin Picnic Lunch -- Grilled brats, hot dogs and fixings
- 12:45 pm **Lectures:**
Southern Secession and the Wisconsin Pinery — Ed Forrester
The Lakeshore and Eastern Railroad — John Berg
Break — Cookies, bars and sweet and salty snacks
- 2:45 pm General membership meeting
- 3:15 pm Auction
- 4:30 pm Depart SENO K/RLT for Baymont Inn
- 6:00 pm **Doc's On the Fox Waterfront Bar and Grill**,
232 N Milwaukee St., Waterford 53185
Friday Night Fish Fry

Saturday, August 20, 2016

- 7:00 am Breakfast at Baymont Inn and Suites
- 8:30 am **Lecture:** *The Mormon Loggers (1840—1845)* - Don Schnitzler
- 9:15 am Drive to Old World Wisconsin
Old World Wisconsin, W372 S9727 Highway 67, Eagle, WI
53119
- 10:00 am Visit Old World Wisconsin
(optional attendees pay regular admission fee at Old World)

Adults (18-64) \$19

Seniors (65 & older) \$16

Wisconsin Historical Society Members FREE



FHAW 41st Annual Meeting Registration Form



Name(s) _____

Address _____

City / State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Meeting Registration (\$25) \$ **25.00**

Thursday, August 18, 2016

Reception (Cash Bar) & Dinner
at BJ Wentkers, Burlington, Wisconsin

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <u>Select One</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 oz. fillet \$38 |
| Descriptions | <input type="checkbox"/> Pork tenderloin \$27 |
| found | <input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Chicken \$27 |
| Page 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Salmon \$34 |

\$ _____

Friday, August 19, 2016

Wisconsin picnic lunch and break items
(included with Meeting Registration)

Doc's On the Fox Waterfront Bar and Grill

Friday Night Fish Fry \$13 \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

** All prices include tax and gratuity*

Any Special Dietary Considerations: _____

Saturday, August 20, 2016

Old World Wisconsin I will attend (*admission fee paid at gate*)

I will not be attending



Please Register by August 4, 2016

Make Checks Payable to FHAW and send to:

FHAW

PO Box 424

Two Rivers, WI 54241-0424

Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member and participant in the Association's program of developing the educational and historical aspects of Wisconsin's forestry and logging industry. Attached is payment for:

- _____ Student Membership (\$10.00)
- _____ Individual Membership (\$20.00)
- _____ Family Membership (\$30.00)
- _____ Non Profit Organization Membership (\$30.00)
- _____ Corporate Membership (\$55.00)
- _____ Individual Life Membership (\$250.00)

Other Contributions:

- \$ _____ Student Awards
- \$ _____ Capital Fund
- \$ _____ Operations



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Detach and mail this application with payment to:

Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

P.O. Box 424

Two Rivers, WI 54241-0424

41st Annual Conference

Committee

Don Schnitzler
Jim Romlein

Membership

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Auction Committee

Archives

Exhibits

Don Schnitzler



41st FHAW Annual Meeting
Waterford/Burlington, Wisconsin

August 18—19, 2016

Please Plan On Attending



Forest History
Association of Wisconsin, Inc.
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