



FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION of WISCONSIN

Woodchips

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Will To Live: The Gary Edinger Story

In 2007, Gary Edinger was deep in the Wisconsin woods by himself cutting down a tree when the tree crushed and severed his leg. It was February, temperatures were freezing, and he was 20 miles from help. That he made it out is a testament to his willpower and strength, but his whole life seems like preparation for that moment. He's 70 now, still out there living in the backcountry, too.

[Watch Video](#)

In the News

Hike Through Some of Wisconsin's Oldest and Biggest Trees in These Old-growth Forests

It was a nearly perfect fall day, with afternoon light filtering through yellow-orange maple leaves above and casting a golden glow on the unofficial trail I walked through Germain Hemlocks State Natural Area in Oneida County. Soon the maples gave way to the giants I had come to see: towering hemlocks and white pines, old-growth trees that have stood since before Wisconsin was a state. The trees are among a rare group that escaped the lumberjack's saw that felled most of Wisconsin's forests in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. [Read More](#)

A Fire Tower Site in Northern Wisconsin Could Soon be Available to Rent for Overnight Stays

Like many good Wisconsin stories, this one starts at a bar. Brian Finstad was at the Buckhorn Bar in Gordon when he started talking to a local Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources employee who said the town's fire tower might not be standing for much longer. Finstad, who now lives in Superior, was part of the fifth generation of his family to grow up in Gordon, a town of under 700 in Douglas County. His childhood home was next to the tower and for him and others in Gordon, it was a landmark. [Read More](#)

These Wisconsin Fire Towers are Still Standing on Public Land, and You Can Climb at Least One

Fire towers were once vital for spotting fires and saving lives in northern Wisconsin. But as technology has replaced the need for manual monitoring, towers have fallen out of use. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources once had more than 100 towers for spotting fires across the state, and the U.S. Forest Service had its own network of 38 towers in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Today the national forest has just nine towers left, with two listed on the National Register of Historic Places. [Read More](#)

Gordon Lookout, US 1260, WI 46

Gordon tower is a 100-foot Aermotor, likely an MC-39 model. Originally built in August 1935 in the SWSE, Section 36, T.44N.-R.12W. at an elevation of 736' it was moved to its current location at an unknown date. [Read More](#)

State Forest Named for Former Governor

A Wisconsin state forest in Peshtigo has been renamed after former Gov. Tony Earl. The state Department of Natural Resources voted Wednesday to make the name change recognizing the former Democratic governor. The Peshtigo River State Forest will now be known as Governor Earl Peshtigo State Forest. [Read More](#)

Foresters Analyze the Future of Wisconsin Forests at Annual State Meeting

Foresters from across the state are analyzing current and future market trends expected to impact the industry during the annual Wisconsin Society of American Foresters (WISAF) state meeting. Decisions made at the meeting are expected to have far reaching consequences that could last as long as 100 years. Program Chair Paul DeLong with WISAF said it's the nature of the business. [Read More](#)

The Founding of the Lumber Industry in Wisconsin

The development of the lumber industry in Wisconsin resulted from the fortuitous combination of an abundant supply of usable timber and excellent water transportation connecting it with a region almost wholly devoid of suitable construction materials. When the vanguard of the agricultural frontier about 1830 reached the treeless prairies of northern Indiana and Illinois and looked across the Mississippi River to the plains beyond, the American pioneer faced a problem he had never met during the process of occupying the region between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi. Pioneering up to that time had been abetted even to the point of embarrassment by a plentiful wood supply. To move into a region where the local arboraceous growth was limited, if not entirely absent, required some readjustment in outlook and method. [Read More](#)



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Visiting Woodchips Embedded Links to Webpages

Hyperlinks embedded into Woodchips allow readers to enjoy featured video or audio presentations as well full news articles or papers of interest with just a simple click of their mouse. The links appear at the end of an article (a news headline with one or two introductory sentences) typically as [Watch Video](#), [Read More](#), or [For More Information](#).

To open the link, place your cursor over [Watch Video](#) or [Read More](#) and so on, and then left click on your mouse. That should open the link in a new window providing access to the specifically linked webpage.

With this issue of Woodchips, we will start listing the full URL to each hyperlink on a second page. If needed, the URL can be copied and pasted into your web browser address bar (also known as location bar or URL bar).

Past issues of Woodchips are found on the Forest History Association of Wisconsin webpage at <https://www.foresthistoryassociationwi.com/woodchips/>

To keep issues of Woodchips arriving in your e-mail's inbox, keep your e-mail address up-to-date in FHAW membership records by contacting our membership chairman, Robert Walkner at anvils@charter.net or the editor, Don Schnitzler, at thefhaw@gmail.com.

Links shared in this issue of Woodchips

Will To Live: The Gary Edinger Story

<https://www.adventure-journal.com/2019/10/gary-edinger-lost-a-leg-in-wood-cutting-accident-his-survival-story-is-epic/>

Hike Through Some of Wisconsin's Oldest and Biggest Trees in These Old-growth Forests

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/travel/wisconsin/day-out/2019/10/24/hike-cathedral-pines-old-growth-forests-wisconsin/4021155002/>

A Fire Tower Site in Northern Wisconsin Could Soon be Available to Rent for Overnight Stays

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/travel/wisconsin/2019/08/29/gordon-fire-tower-wisconsin-cabin-vacation-rental/2066096001/>

These Wisconsin Fire Towers are Still Standing on Public Land, and You Can Climb at Least One

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/travel/wisconsin/day-out/2019/08/29/wisconsin-fire-towers-mountain-fire-lookout/2083791001/>

Gordon Lookout, US 1260, WI 46

<http://nhlr.org/lookouts/us/wi/gordon-lookout/>

State Forest Named for Former Governor

https://journaltimes.com/wisconsin-in-brief/article_00a3c42c-bbc0-5d2b-89c2-e54606e3913f.html

Foresters Analyze the Future of Wisconsin Forests at Annual State Meeting

<https://www.wsaw.com/content/news/Foresters-predict-market-shifts-and-trends-at-state-Wisconsin-Society-of-American-Foresters-meeting-in-Stevens-Point--562065821.html>

The Founding of the Lumber Industry in Wisconsin

<http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm/fullbrowser/collection/wmh/id/14367/rv/compoundobject/cpd/14479>