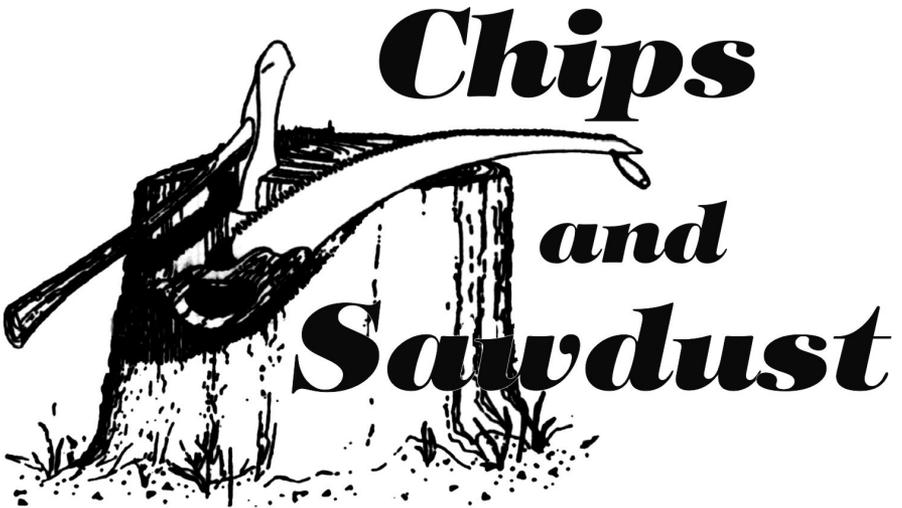


Volume 45

Number 2



A quarterly newsletter from the

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

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Summer 2020

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**Visit the
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foresthistoricalassociationwi.com

Are you willing to become more involved with the FHAW?

Looking for help with committees and special projects

Interested? Send your name and contact information to:
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Chips and Sawdust

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From The President's Chair



Greetings Folks,

Time to contribute to another newsletter, with a follow up on what was offered last time? If you're among those with an email account, you've already received the news that the Fall Forest History Conference at Eagle River is being cancelled as a traditional conference, and will now be going 'virtual'? It is truly sad in one respect, but the pressure to adapt and meet change may be good in the long term? Our organization claims a mission of "Inform, Educate, Archive and Publish". We have largely been pursuing those "Inform and Educate" goals with a limited (and declining) membership. There are currently 5.8 million people living in Wisconsin. We classically plan for less than 50 people in setting up contracts for our Fall Conference. Our newsletters and the "renewed plan" for a printed copy of the Conference Proceedings goes out to less than 100 individual members, and a total membership of 148 if you include cooperating organizations. Seems a bit short on 'impact' to inform and educate Wisconsin Citizens?

The portion of the planned conference that we'd planned for mid-day on Sept 17th, titled "Forging Sustainable Forestry – Wisconsin's First Forest Rangers" will run as planned, within a design for reduced seating to respect the need for social distancing. Our presenter, one Jim Bokern, President of the Manitowish Waters Historical Society will work with owners of the 'Anglers' restaurant (core of the building is an original 1912 WCD Ranger Station) to run one or more offerings of this program each summer. We will plan to promote these offerings in a more 'normal' world we hope for in 2021 and beyond.

The rest of the slate of speakers have agreed to offer their planned presentations as webinars that we will promote in various media to encourage participation via 'the web'. These webinars will be recorded, with plans to post links to them at our website, plus plans to promote their existence through social media and the newsletter efforts of our partners. While we may not reach that total Wisconsin population of 5.8 million, I expect we will improve on our current stats of reaching out to 50 to 100?

As a 'side bar' to this revised plan, all should be aware that our planning approach to the now cancelled 2020 Fall Conference had included a design to draw in teachers from K-12 School Districts in the surrounding area? The program we had assembled does in fact reflect "local" Forest History that should be of interest to local residents and their children. With the new move to a 'virtual' design, we have again reached out to administration in these districts with an offer to support their possible interest in a presentation by one of our speakers in a program at their school. Not all 're-contacts' have been made at this writing, but those we have reached out to are quite interested. Given that they have an offering at their school, we'd expect them to record the offering as a video that we would also post on YouTube, and then promote

its availability at our website. This represents more efforts to reach a larger portion of that Wisconsin population of 5.8 million in pursuit of that 'Inform and Educate' goal.

Our 2021 Fall conference is targeted for Manitowoc, in what hopefully will be a more 'normal' world that will allow a 'traditional' group gathering program design. You can bet that it will include a design for 'virtual' offering as well.

Even forced change can have positive dimensions. Looking forward to all of it.

Best regards,

John

Wisconsin Forest History Event Thursday, September 17, 2020 Angler's Restaurant, Manitowish Waters, WI



Luncheon and Program; Forging Sustainable Forestry 1911 – “Wisconsin’s First Forest Rangers” -- Starting in 1911-12, a thin line of determined forest rangers stepped-up to serve Wisconsin as environmental champions. In addition to battling fires, timber trespassers, blight, and reclaiming cut-over lands, forest rangers also over-

came political and economic obstacles. Before World War II, both active and former forest rangers persevered, with strong work in the field and in politics spheres. Ultimately, protecting Wisconsin’s great forests. From E. M. Griffith’s 20th century vision of forestry to President F.D. Roosevelt empowering our rangers with “tree armies”, Wisconsin’s forestry legacy remains a centerpiece of our state’s identity today.

The core of the restaurant structure was built in the early 1920’s next to the original “Rest Lake Ranger Station of the Wisconsin Conservation Department. Talk followed by a walking tour of “Station Grounds” followed by a visit to remnants of a near-by early Logging Camp, and finally, a stop at the site of Camp Mercer, an Administrative CCC Camp from the 1930’s.

Register to attend this conference on the FHAW website—
www.foresthistoryassociationwi.com

Choose between a Grilled Chicken BLT, Half-pound Bacon Cheeseburger,
or Deep Fried Haddock on a Sourdough Roll. Just \$13.00
Served with fries and a pickle



“September/October 2020 Webinar Series”

Please register in advance by clicking the webinar title or the url link provided below each program description

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 – 7 PM – *Seasonal Round of the Ojibwe* – Examples of species used by Great Lakes Ojibwe as they practice their seasonally nomadic lifestyle in this forested landscape. Jonathan Gilbert, Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Commission.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_C8tfue9NTnmAWAikx2Jw2Q

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 – 7 PM – *Historic Logging Practices on Ojibwe Reservations* – Nineteenth century American government policies to assimilate the Ojibwe Nation into mainstream culture included dividing up reservation land into individual tribal member allotments and clearing each one in preparation for farming. Timber sales were conducted by government contracted logging companies closely supervised by the Government Farmer of each reservation as well as the Indian Agent in Ashland. This talk provides a glimpse into the beginning of federal forest management on Ojibwe lands and the changes that have evolved over the past 100 years. By Cindi Stiles.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nMiVouq3TWSe_b4rAduclA

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 -- 7 PM -- *Thunder Lake Narrow Gauge* – This presentation is based on the book "Thunder Lake Narrow Gage". Our presenter, Mary Andrews, is the granddaughter of the author, Harvey Huston. For 48 years, from 1893-1941, the Narrow Gauge hauled logs, piling, pulpwood, potatoes and lumberjacks among the lakes and forests of the Wisconsin Northwoods between Rhinelander and the Three Lakes & Eagle Chain of Lakes area.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2fTHCSNtQ2CyytNxRblhvg

Wednesday, September 30, 2020 -- 7 PM -- *History of Trees for Tomorrow* – The history of Trees For Tomorrow’s campus and programming from early beginnings as Region Nine Training School, a US Forest Service Training Center for personnel from state and national forests and CCC Program Leaders, to becoming a Premier Environmental Education Center in the Midwest.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LPNPLOqfR6mXND6HXIVMpQ

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 -- 7 PM -- *Elk in Wisconsin: A History* — Anna Brose & Ron Eckstein, --Tracing the story of “Elk before European Settlement, to an attempt at restoration in 1913-1917 in Vilas County, to current successes in Northern and Western Wisconsin.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kCNqRouVSEmWbb3yDVcrAg

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 – 7 PM – *Wisconsin's Fire Towers – 1911 to the Present Day* – Transcending their original purpose as monumental-scale tools, Wisconsin’s fire towers inhabit a special sense of place for the state’s residents. While the function of towers has shifted over the past 20-30 years from that of key component of the fire protection system to a charismatic landscape anachronism, they remain fixed in memory. These markers recall different stories; from family history related to employment, recreation, or teen-age hijinks to monuments of architectural, environmental, and economic history. This presentation will discuss the rise and use of fire towers in the state as well as their evolving post-decommissioned function and status. By Ricky Kubicek, Cultural Resource Coordinator for the Wisconsin DNR.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NG5wrM-GTbCNDhPhVJV0Cw

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 – 7 PM -- *Hemlock Bark and Wisconsin's Tanning Industry: The World Walked on Milwaukee Leather* – Milwaukee led the world in tanning leather in the early 1900s, though tanneries were in operation throughout all of Wisconsin from the mid-1800s to the early 1920s. Most used hemlock bark for tanning the leather, thus hemlock trees were cut down by the tens of millions to supply the tanneries. The tanbark industry was an important part of early Wisconsin’s economy and thousands of people were employed around the state in the art of bark tanning. By author, John Bates.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HUKwMO6HQvaWUG8h26K4Tq

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 – 2 PM -- *Heritage and Success of Wisconsin's School Forest Program* – As the Wisconsin School Forest Program approaches its Centennial (2028), join us for look back at how early visionaries established the first school forests and how these forests have multiplied and evolved to become model outdoor classrooms for sustainable management and much more. The presenters are Stephen Schmidt & Gretchen Marshall.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hO19OArRQBmXrTzjHfu0OQ

For questions about registration for the 2020 Webinar Presentations

Contact:

tjerow@gmail.com

2020 Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame Inductee Named



The Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame is pleased to announce Ralph G. Swanson (Minocqua) as its 2020 inductee. Born on May 24, 1920 in Iron Mountain, Michigan, Ralph spent his career working for Consolidated Papers Inc. (CPI) after serving in the US Army during World War II. While at CPI, he supervised the Pulpwood Rafting & Loading Operations, then became the Central Wisconsin District Superintendent, later named Assistant Manager of the Timberlands Division and finally Manager in 1974. After spending 39 years with CPI, he retired in February 1985.

During his career, Ralph spent countless hours participating and leading numerous local, regional and national committees addressing and influencing policy and legislation affecting forestry and the forest industry. With a cool head, a reasoned approach and spirit of innovation from his engineering and war-time experiences, Ralph provided leadership and long-term thinking for the forestry community on such issues as preservation/conservation values, chemical usage in forestry, logging safety, and increased mechanization of forestry operations.

Ralph's commitment to tell the story of forest management continued into retirement. Harriet and Ralph retired to a home on the shores of West Birch Lake, in Winchester, Vilas County in 1985. There, they established "Swanson's Working Forest" on 45 wooded acres. This became the site of an annual operation to produce award winning maple syrup. This activity also provided many opportunities for area retirees and other residents to come together, despite the wintry weather, to participate in gathering full buckets of sap from the land's beautiful mature maple trees. Groups of area students were invited to visit the Swanson's land during this process, to learn about how maple syrup was made, the old-fashioned way.

Ralph provided a lifetime of inspirational service and leadership to advance sustainable forestry in the Lake States and to the Forestry Community at large. His ability to conceive, communicate, collaborate and implement a long-term vision of productive forestry is a model for foresters to strive for today.

Call for Nominations — 2020 Distinguished Service Award

Do you know of an individual or organization that deserves to be recognized for their meritorious service or accomplishments in the field of forestry, forest history or other related activities? If so, submit your nomination to:

John Grosman, 8857 Abbylyn CT, Woodruff, WI 54568 or
email: greenfire42@gmail.com

Nominations will be accepted until September 1, 2020

The **Fixmer Distinguished Service Award** is presented to an individual, and

The **Connor Distinguished Service Award** is presented to an organization

Development of Forestry on the Industrial Forest Lands of Consolidated Papers, Inc.

By Ralph G. Swanson

(Editor's Note: The following paper was presented at the 17th Annual Forest History Association of Wisconsin Annual Meeting, at Eagle River, October 10-11, 1992)

Consolidated Papers, Inc., formerly, Consolidated Water Power Co. was founded in 1894, not to make paper, but to generate and sell power on the Wisconsin River. The group of Central Wisconsin business men who founded the company decided to take advantage of the power themselves that they had planned to sell to others.

George W. Mead was selected to build the first paper mill at Wisconsin Rapids in 1902. The thirty-one-year-old furniture dealer was a son-in-law of one of the original shareholders who had died. He was chosen in order to represent his in-laws' interest and also because he had gained construction experience when he built his own furniture store. Mead not only assisted in locating and building the new mill, he was instrumental in the development and management of the mill, which featured the first electrically driven paper machines of that time. Mead served as president from 1916 until his retirement in 1950.

Pulpwood during the early years was purchased from logging companies cutting the virgin stands of pine, hemlock and hardwood in the Lake States. In the course of this early logging, large volumes of pulpwood species were made accessible and harvested by pulpwood loggers. Settlers clearing land for agriculture also provided pulpwood to the developing paper industry.

In 1916, Consolidated took over the Interlake Pulp Mill at Appleton, Wisconsin. Following the acquisition of this mill, new pulpwood delivery systems began emerging that served the Company through the era of sulphite pulping, which ended at Appleton in the early 1980s. The acquisition of the Interlake Mill also included valuable privately owned timberlands south of Hearst, Ontario, Canada, and the Newaygo Tug Line, Ltd. The tug line included small tugs and considerable pulpwood rafting equipment.

In 1920, Consolidated bought the Newaygo Timber Co., Ltd., which included extensive timber limits or licenses to cut timber on Crown Lands (Government Land) in the Thunder Bay area. Spruce from Canada was determined to be of very good quality and could be mixed with local wood to improve pulp quality, and the Newaygo Timber Co., Ltd. began preparations to move pulpwood by raft to Ashland, Wisconsin. In 1922, the Company purchased the big tug Butterfield from the U. S. Shipping Board.

In 1922, the Company, in an effort to provide more wood pulp for its growing mill needs, acquired the Kamnistiqa Pulp Company in Port Arthur which is now Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. By 1923, the Company had substantially increased the manufacturing facilities of its paper mills in Wisconsin Rapids. Large quantities of spruce pulpwood were required by those mills. Spruce historically had been in short supply in Wisconsin, requiring purchases from Canada, Upper Michigan and Minnesota sources.

About this time logging was started on the privately owned timber land

south of Hearst, Ontario. Newaygo operated company pulpwood camps with company crews. The camps were show places in their day and attracted a good stable labor force in this remote area throughout their years of operation. The camps shipped 70,000 to 80,000 cords of spruce pulpwood each year on the Algoma Central Railroad to the Interlake Mill at Appleton.

In 1923, Newaygo began an era of rafting with the tug Butterfield that would last for fifty years. The tug Butterfield was scheduled to raft pulpwood only eight weeks during the favorable weather period in midsummer on Lake Superior. The season for the tug could be extended both early and late by towing barges.

It was in this period that Stanton Mead, (George Mead's son) became involved in the operation. The groundwood pulp from the "Kam" Pulp Company was towed to Ashland and loaded in rail box cars from the barges for shipment to the mills in central Wisconsin. Barging of pulp laps ceased in the fall of 1927 when the tug Butterfield lost a barge in a bad storm off Outer Island. The "Kam" Pulp Co. was sold sometime later in 1928.

Rafting of pulpwood was continued during the favorable weather in the summer. The Company grew steadily during this period and pulpwood requirements for the mills continued to increase. However, Wisconsin's forest land was in a deplorable condition by the 1920s. Huge tracts had been cut-over and burned-over. Fire was the acceptable way to prepare land for agriculture.

As a result, in the spring of 1923, George Mead, President of Consolidated, and Lyman Beeman, a company technician, planted a box full of tree seedlings (spruce and pine) on an abandoned farm, to see if they would grow. No one they talked to at that time was sure seedlings would grow in an open field. Fires burned, unchecked, in those days. While there was much virgin timber in Wisconsin at that time, Mead felt it was a good idea to try to plant trees as he knew someday the virgin timber would be gone.

Seven years later, with the pulpwood supplies getting farther from the mills, Stanton Mead started looking into planting trees. Land ownership was slightly less of a gamble with the beginning of state-wide forest fire protection. A recognition of the need for long investment in forestry was aided by the enactment of the Forest Crop Law in 1927.

Therefore, in the spring of 1930, Stanton Mead went to Minneapolis, Minnesota to an American Forestry Association meeting to get information about forestry. He met Emmett Hurst, one of the first industrial foresters in the Lake States region. Hurst had graduated from Syracuse University in 1923, with a forestry degree. He was in charge of buying pulpwood for an Upper Michigan paper mill and had worked for the U.S. Forest Service for several years.

On August 15-17, 1930, a forestry conference was called at the newly constructed Mead fishing camp, near Markton, WI in a clear-cut, burned over area. Stanton Mead called together the best-informed people available in the field of forestry to tackle the question of future wood supplies for the company's mills. Those in attendance were from the regional offices of the U. S. Forest Service, from the Forest Products Laboratory, Dr. Raphael Zon from the U. S. Forest Experiment Station, together with Stanton Mead, Bert Williams and George Peltier from Consolidated.

During the conference, much discussion took place and many ideas were explored. Dr. Zon was a great help in formulating a sound and conservative policy for reforestation by private firms. His ideas seemed to be based on facts

and sound judgement and were given much support. In essence, the direction was to invest wisely in good stands of second growth spruce and other good forestry lands. Planting in open areas was considered risky for private companies and was not recommended, but planting in openings and sparsely stock stands was encouraged.

Following the conference, George Peltier immediately made a quick survey of the possibility of acquiring suitable land for growing spruce pulpwood. The first stop was in Langlade County to look over 2320 acres then owned by the company. He noted, on the trip through Forest County, that 560 acres were also owned by the company. The survey included visits to Michigan lands in the vicinity of Crystal Falls, Michigan. The trip took them back through Florence, Vilas, Oneida, Price, Sawyer, Ashland, Bayfield and Douglas counties. Some time was spent in Minnesota around and south of Duluth. The survey concluded that during this period the forest cover in the heavy red clay soils of Michigan were favorable for planting spruce. Most areas in Wisconsin and Minnesota were reported as not being as favorable.

In September of 1930, Stanton Mead wrote to Emmett Hurst and offered him the job of starting a new forestry program. Industrial foresters at that time did very little forest management. Their work consisted of cruising, mapping, scaling, timber surveys, and timber inventories. Therefore, the thought of starting a forestry program must have been very exciting to him.

The company's first forester arrived in Wisconsin in October of 1930. One of Hurst's first duties was starting a tree nursery. History tells that it was begun on the same abandoned farm north of Biron that George W. Mead had experimented on seven years earlier. Stanton Mead recalled that he did not have the heart to tell his father that the seedlings he had planted had been mistakenly cut as a scrubby fire hazard.

Dr. Zon provided spruce seedlings to plant in 1931 on the 360 acres of cut-over land around the Mead fishing camp. Hurst planted the seedlings because it had been agreed at the earlier conference that this would be as good a place to start as any. This attempt at reforestation did not get off to a flying start. Stanton and George drove up to the camp the next spring to see how the spruce seedlings were faring. There weren't any to be found. The rabbits and deer had eaten all of them during the winter. "Looks pretty hopeless to plant little trees." George remarked to Stanton as they drove home.

The budding forestry program and the company's land buying was halted when the Great Depression began. The company's first forester took a cut in salary and was put in charge of company owned farmland south of Wisconsin Rapids. But as he said in later years, "At least I had a job."

The nursery which was started at Biron in 1931 began producing seedlings about 1934-1935 for planting in Forest County. Some were sold to the Civilian Conservation Corps for planting on the national forests of Wisconsin.

During the 1940s, 120,000 acres of forest land were acquired. Three forestry districts were organized in Wisconsin and called the Loretta, Oneida and Forest County Forestry Blocks. A timberlands field office was established in Rhinelander. It was first located above the drug store and later in a new office building along Highway #8 on the then east edge of town. The forestry, land purchases and camp cost records were processed there.

Stanton Mead and Emmett Hurst were active with other industry leaders in the State of Wisconsin promoting planting trees and especially with the "Trees

for Tomorrow" organization.

John Macon joined Consolidated as a research forester in 1945 after spending eleven years with the U. S. Forest Service and the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison. At that time much of the basic technical work had been explored in pulpwood forestry. In 1947, Macon wrote to Hurst, "Little investigation has been done on the application of the basic knowledge to the problems of large-scale pulpwood forestry. I recommend establishment of an experimental areas where this knowledge can be put to use."

In 1948, the Gagen Management Unit was established. It covered 2,000 acres in Oneida County and was representative of the 90,000 acres of company land located within twenty-five miles of the Unit. Gagen was unusual at this time. It was an experimental forest and operated solely by one industrial concern. The experimental forest was not for primary research but to find ways to use the research in practical ways to manage the forest. Many systems were developed at Gagen under John Macon that assisted company foresters in procedures for thinning hardwood stands, renewing aspen stands, regulating cutting, standardizing procedures for timber inventories and timber surveys.

In 1951, after twenty years of operation, the nursery at Biron was moved to Monico. The new location proved to be better for transporting stock and more closely matched weather conditions at the planting sites. Monico is also the starting point for a self-conducted auto tour of Consolidated's forestry operations in that area. The tour was established in the 1960s to provide the general public with an opportunity to visit and observe the management of industrial forest lands.

In October 1967, the Silver Anniversary of industrial forestry operations was celebrated by Consolidated Papers, Inc. in Oneida County. George W. Mead II, President, observed that the 60,000-acre Oneida Block represented 10 percent of the company's forestry lands. The Monico nursery had been the source of some 10 million tree seedlings which had been used to plant and regenerate company forest throughout Northern Wisconsin. Mead also noted that "We've produced and harvested over 172,000 cords of pulpwood from the block and over 60,000 Christmas trees, and we have done this without denuding the landscape. In fact, we have maintained a balance between annual growth and harvest, leaving a healthy vigorous stand for the future."

Stanton Mead, President of the Company from 1950 to 1966, noted that, "In as much as forest values take many years to accumulate, one can never anticipate with clarity or firmness the markets they will serve or in what ways they will be most appreciated in the future. You can see that these potentials are beyond the control or jurisdiction of individual personalities."

In 1968, the formerly thin, open areas of burned-over and cut-over land had reforested to an amazing degree. It was judged that planting the thin areas in the company's maturing forests that Raphael Zon had advocated in that meeting in 1930 was complete. The Monico nursery was closed in 1969.

Under Emmett Hurst's leadership land ownership grew to 230,000 acres in the Lake States. Timberlands offices had been established in the various forestry blocks; 13,000,000 trees had been planted through 1968. That year the first commercial harvest of trees planted by Consolidated took place. That same year Stanton Mead and Emmett Hurst, the two men most responsible for the forestry program, retired. Both men continued to watch with great interest

the programs they had started, until their deaths. Hurst in 1980 and Mead in 1988.

In 1968, when John Macon took over as Timberlands Manager, he reported to Larry W. Murtfeldt, Vice President. Larry's brother Harold Murtfeldt was president then. At that time sulphate pulping was started in Wisconsin Rapids. Kraft pulping required a complete change in the pulpwood needs and systems of pulpwood delivery. The company was now able to utilize hardwood and pine pulpwood found nearby. This was going to have a big impact on company forest lands. The regenerating hardwood stands could now be managed.

In 1968, I was transferred to Wisconsin Rapids, after having spent twenty-two years involved in rafting on Lake Superior and in the northern timber lands. The primary responsibility of the new job was to help organize deliveries of local pulpwood to the new kraft mill.

While he was Timberlands Manager, John Macon was faced with many changes in the turbulent period from 1968 to 1974. The traditional supply of woods labor, skilled in the production of pulpwood by hand, was rapidly disappearing. New technology was making outstanding breakthroughs in high tech logging equipment. There was a serious shortage of skilled operators to operate this new logging equipment. The period was filled with announcements of rail line closings, actual and proposed. The traditional pulpwood transportation system was breaking down in the face of the need for more pulpwood.

Rapidly changing conditions forced Macon to close the company farm near Argonne. The large hemlock operation that began at Donken, Michigan during the early 1940s to furnish the sulphite mill was closed. These and many other changes were painful and difficult. Macon also announced in 1972 that the closing of long-distance rafting was based largely on the need for fresher spruce. The quality requirements for lightweight enamel printing papers produced by the company had become more and more demanding. Some of the rafted wood was six to twelve months old and then not converted to pulp for some months longer. Fresher wood was needed. As a result, the company turned to rail transportation to more rapidly deliver spruce from Minnesota concentration yards.

Rafting had come to a close in Canada in 1958. During the years of rafting from Canada, the tug Butterfield had towed as much as 78,000 cords each year to Ashland in addition to towing pulpwood rafts for other American paper companies. The Canadian rafts changed in size from 8,000 to 12,000 cords. Larger rafts had been towed but were not as easy to manage in storms.

In 1957, the big steam tug Butterfield was traded to the Roen Steamship Company of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin for the John Roen III, a smaller diesel tug. The smaller shallower draft tug was better able to maneuver on the rocky shore line of the north shore of Minnesota.

During the last years of rafting, all rafted wood was floated out of Sugar Loaf Cove and Grand Marais, Minnesota. The pulpwood was rafted to Ashland, Wisconsin, 60 miles from Sugar Loaf and 80 miles from Grand Marais. Between nine and twelve rafts were made up each season, during the period from the end of June to the last of August. This was generally the best weather period for rafting on Lake Superior. Each raft contained 3,400 to 4,000 cords of pulpwood (primarily spruce), the maximum amount that could be contained safely in the small harbors. By 1972 Consolidated had rafted 2,000,000 cords of pulp-

wood from bays and harbors in Canada and Minnesota to Ashland, Wisconsin. This truly was the end of a very colorful era on Lake Superior.

Now with all of these sources of pulpwood virtually eliminated and the ongoing conditions of a rapidly disappearing woods labor force, plus a breakdown in rail transportation, 1973 ushered in a full-blown pulpwood shortage.

I was appointed Assistant Manager of Timberlands in September of 1973 in preparation for John Macon's planned retirement in March of 1974. Pulpwood supply conditions were not the only conditions that were considerably different than when he was appointed head of Timberlands. John Macon was named Forest Conservationist of the year 1968. New preservation groups had suddenly become very active, requesting large "set asides" of land for "Wilderness" purposes or for other single use. Now, anyone who was involved in managing forests and cutting trees was suddenly under suspicion.

One of my first tasks as Assistant Manager was to help find enough pulpwood to keep the pulp mills running. At one time during this period the Kraft mill was down to two-day supply of wood fiber. It was a miracle that the mills did not run out of pulpwood with the collapse of the rail delivery system.

During this period of declining rail service, John Macon, working with timberlands and traffic personnel, organized a company truck delivery system that helped usher in the period of moving pulpwood by truck from rail landings and logging jobs in the area.

At this time, it was unheard of to truck pulpwood 150 miles or more. The company developed some hauling cost records to help private trucking firms that were interested in the work. While long distance trucking was slow at first, the trucking of pulpwood soon avalanched and rapidly replaced the railroads.

John Macon retired in March of 1974 after six years as manager. During this period, company forest lands had grown to 290,000 acres in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. With Macon's retirement, I was appointed Timberlands Manager. There was a realization at this time, that while our forests were fairly well reforested, they were acquired for species used in sulphite pulping. Pine is desirable for Kraft pulping and some plans should be made to improve our inventory of pine lands. Pine land inventory was only at 3 percent of the total inventory at that time.



Pulpwood raft under tow in Ashland Harbor, July 1959. (Courtesy John Walters)



Assembling a pulpwood raft at Grand Marias, MN. The logs are encircled by a necklace of giant Sitka spruce logs, July 1971.

Some very ambitious long-range goals were established during the middle 1970s. As these goals were developed, Timberlands was fortunate to have the approval of Chairman George Mead II and support of the other company officers. Consolidated Tree Farm Family Program was started in 1974 to provide forest management services to provide landowners at no cost to the landowner. Lawrence Boling had joined Consolidated in 1972, coming from the S. D. Warren Division of Scott Paper Company, where he had served as president. He was instrumental in providing the direction of our program necessary for its ready acceptance and rapid growth. A warm relationship developed very quickly with the private tree farmers. The agreement did not specify that we would get any pulpwood from the tree farms, but we knew the idea was a good one.

About 1978, ever-rising rail freight rates had all but eliminated our ability to compete and deliver 55,000 tons of bone dry Western soft wood chips from sawmills in western Montana and Wyoming. These wood chips provided a strong desirable fiber so something had to be done to replace this supply. In September of 1982, William Orcutt, Vice President of Consolidated, announced that a program had been successfully completed to contract for and deliver up to 100,000 tons of bone-dry soft wood chips annually from Whitewood, South Dakota, in the Black Hills. In order to obtain a long-term desirable freight rate, it was necessary to provide company-owned rail box cars for the chip movement. It was also necessary to acquire a rail siding and a chip loading facility to assemble chips from local saw mills and load them into the box cars.

Timberlands also recognized the need to relocate the forest land base as close to the mills as possible to reduce long term freight costs. In the late 1970s American Can Company agreed to exchange 8,000 acres of their land in Clark County, Wisconsin for 8,000 acres of Consolidated land in Upper Michigan near their wood chip mills.

For intensive management of the forestry lands, Timberlands was faced with the need to build all weather roads into the forestry blocks. Without a good road system, harvesting could not be completed before site preparation

and planting could be accomplished. Therefore, a long-term capital road building program was approved at this time. Also, in the late 1970s, Timberlands proposed harvesting and site preparing for planting 50,000 acres of low productive or understocked forest land with soft wood species. With this goal in mind Timberlands began looking at what appeared to be an almost impossible task. Decisions had to be made on the size and type of equipment needed for site preparation, planting and for the release of the young plantations from competing brush.

The availability of planting stock was explored. Supplies of planting stock in the Wisconsin DNR nurseries were at a low ebb. It would take three years before the first trees that were contracted for would be available from the State. A long-term agreement was made to produce 1,000,000 trees per year in DNR nurseries. This is about the amount that could be planted, with current programs, in the five-week period in late April and early May.

In the mid-seventies, Consolidated began an experimental program to grow tree seedlings in greenhouses. This was a relatively new concept for the area, but it would permit planting during the summer months when the twenty-week old seedlings became available at the green houses.

Site preparation for planting began by logging the merchantable wood. Early in the program all of the necessary equipment to prepare land for planting was not available, so prescribed burns were carried out in the areas. Huge clouds of smoke indicated that site preparation was under way. It was quite effective in the balsam stands that were killed by the spruce bud worm, but less effective in the hardwood sites. As site preparation equipment became more available the risky burning was phased out. Timberlands during 1980 to 1984 had managed to exceed conversion and planting goals of 2,000 acres per year.

The number of greenhouses had grown to ten totaling 41,400 square feet on a five-acre site. The eleventh building, the head house, is used for an office, an area for filling and seeding Styrofoam containers and for greenhouse equipment maintenance work.

I retired in February of 1985, after having served as Timberlands Manager for eleven years. Donald O. Ingram was appointed Timberlands Manager. Ingram began his employment with the company in 1951 as a forester in the Minnesota Timberlands. He was transferred to Wisconsin Timberlands at Ashland in 1968, as area supervisor. Ingram supervised the last five years of the pulpwood rafting operation from Minnesota's Northshore to Ashland. In 1973, he was appointed District Superintendent at Wisconsin Rapids and in 1977 was promoted to Timberlands as Operations Manager.

Ingram continued the goals established earlier. By 1986 the greenhouses produced 2,250,000 tubelings, 68 percent were red pine, and 23 percent spruce. Jackpine and European larch made up the remaining 9 percent.

In 1986, the Company planted 3,840 acres of forest land using 2,000,000 seedlings produced in containers in the greenhouses and 1,900,000 bare root stock from DNR nurseries. It was reported that by July of 1989, Timberlands had built 386 miles of capital roads in Wisconsin since 1976. Permanent roads in the forestry blocks then totaled 836 miles with another 865 miles of temporary roads. In 1980, 84,585 cords were harvested from company lands. By 1989 the harvest rose to 148,875 cords.

Donald Ingram reported in June of 1989 that land transactions proved to

be very good for Timberland's long-range goal of bringing land holdings 15 percent closer to the mills from a radius of about 172 miles to 145 miles. Forest management is more efficient and transportation costs of hauling pulpwood to the mills are reduced. The company disposed of 35,459 acres of Minnesota timber land and acquired 32,844 acres of Wisconsin forest land.

Ingram retired at the end of January 1990 after serving five years as Director of Timberlands. He was succeeded by Miles K. Benson who was named Director of Timberlands on February 1, 1990. The program continues to grow under Miles Benson. The ambitious, all-out effort, started in 1980 to convert 50,000 acres of low productive or poorly stocked land to high yield softwood plantation had exceeded expectation. Over the past eleven years 41,000 acres have been harvested, site prepared and planted with 40,000,000 softwood seedlings. Timberlands had increased pine land inventory from 3 percent to 16 percent of total inventory.

By May 1992, Consolidated Tree Farm Family had grown to 901 private tree farms. The members as a whole own more than 167,000 acres of very productive forest land near company mills.

During the past twenty years, Timberland managers and their staffs have found it necessary to spend more and more time in public forum or hearings to explain the need for the wise use of resources. It was often difficult to discern whether some of the hearings are a true concern for the environment or more political in nature.

None of the programs outlined would have happened had it not been for all the dedicated employees throughout the years and for all of the company officers, past and present, who provided good direction and financial support to the many programs.

In October of 1967 at the Silver Anniversary of industrial forestry operations in Oneida County, Stanton Mead said, "If continuity of purpose or stewardship is to be accomplished on forest land ownership, it requires a built-in form of succession to provide its supervision."

Today Consolidated remains committed to good forest management with twenty- seven full time professional foresters and all the skilled supporting technical people working to make successful program a little better each year.

Fall planting in the snow east of Argonne, Wisconsin on Consolidated Papers, Inc. land, November 7, 1933.





45th Annual Membership Meeting Friday, September 18, 2020 At 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID - 832 9656 5507

The Annual Membership Meeting to elect board members and discuss the Association's recent and planned activities. Open to all members who wish to learn more and/or volunteer in a leadership roles in the Association.

An agenda and other documents will be provided a few days before the meeting. To add your email address to the FHAW mailing list, contact the FHAW at thefhaw@gmail.com.

Topic: Forest History Association of Wisconsin Annual Meeting
Time: September 18, 2020 at 07:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?meeting=register/tZcvfu-tqD4vGtOc-0LPatLs651w6DDjHGtn>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Timber Talk, 1887

The logging season virtually closed on the Black river. The cut is estimated at from 160,000,000 to 175,000,000 feet. Last year the cut was 150,000,000 feet, all of which was got out and sawed in to lumber except 15,000,000 feet. In former years the cut reached the high water mark of 200,000,000 feet. The palmy days are not likely to be again experienced, as the pine is growing .scarcer and further back from the river, making it more costly to get to the landing. *(From the Montreal River Miner and Iron County Republican, Hurley, Wisconsin, 31 Mar 1887, Page 4)*

Summary of the Season's Work in the Saginaw Valley

East Saginaw, Mich., Oct. 31 The log-rafting business on the Tittabawassee and its tributaries for the season of 1887 it completed. The output will approximate 365,000,000 feet, against 403,988,740 feet last year. With the exception of 1885, the output this season is the smallest since 1878. Logging operations will be conducted on a smaller scale than usual owing to the decreasing supply of timber, the high price of stumpage which makes it more valuable for speculation than for cutting, and the tightness of the market. Wages for men in the pineries range from \$18 to \$26 per month. High lake freights have greatly stimulated the car trade in lumber and the shipments for the year will reach nearly if not quite 250,000,000 feet against 1,765,000,000 feet in 1886. *(from the The Oshkosh Northwestern, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 31 Oct 1887, Page 1)*

45th Annual Conference

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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)	Other Contributions:
_____ Individual Membership (\$20.00)	
_____ Family Membership (\$30.00)	\$ _____ Student Awards
_____ Non Profit Membership (\$30.00)	\$ _____ Capital Fund
_____ Corporate Membership (\$55.00)	\$ _____ Operations
_____ Individual Life Membership (\$250.00)	

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**





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