



Chips
and
Sawdust

A quarterly newsletter from the

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

P.O. Box 424
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2013

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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
anvils@charter.net***

Advantages:

- Faster delivery of Chips and Sawdust Newsletter
- Newsletter with full-color photographs
- Receive additional news items and communications



From The President's Chair

Dear Friends,

Spring has been elusive this year. The lake "icing out" did not occur until May 7th!

Your board met in Wittenberg on May 10th with a full agenda. Action was taken on issues of governance, investments, archives, and scholarships. The University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point Library is the FHAW archival repository. A college FHAW scholarship will be available in 2014. If you want to use the FHAW "History of Logging" exhibit, please contact us!

A tour of the Wittenberg Historical Society followed the board meeting. Filled with artifacts and photos, it is worth the visit, especially if you are interested in ghost towns of Whitcomb or family genealogy.

Mark your calendars! On August 16th, Mark T. Nelson in an encore performance will be returning as W.D. Connor Sr. at the Camp 5 Museum/Wisconsin Forestry Museum honoring Mr. Connor as the 2012 Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame inductee. Mark Nelson, in a dazzling performance as a re-enactor characterizes Mr. Connor as a lumberman, politician, and a strong family man. Mr. Nelson is well known in the Twin Cities and Marshfield for his many roles in Minneapolis theaters. After 69 years, W.D. Connor Sr. will "return" to the town that he founded, Laona.

You can go to www.lumberjacksteamtrain.com for more information and be a part of a special live performance on August 16th.

FHAW, as one of ten members of organizations comprising the Board of Directors of Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame, will be the host, along with Camp 5 Museum/Wisconsin Forestry in Laona. Board Members of Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame include Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, UW-Department of Forestry, UW-Stevens Point, Wisconsin Woodlot Owners Association, Wisconsin County Foresters, Wisconsin Resource Alliance, and chaired by the Society of American Foresters.

Our FHAW 38th Annual Conference is being held in Park Falls, September 12-14th. The Flambeau River Paper Company is host-

ing!! Speakers to date are Dale Heikkinen, Prentice Equipment Company, Prentice; Brad Pagel returning with more research on Harvey Huston's *The Roddis Line*; Tom Pestka of Ontonagon, Michigan presenting his new video, "The *History of Logging in Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan*", as well as Logging Camp stories from Billy Johnson of Ironwood, a "Man catcher" and Lumberjack. You can see a preview of his video on You-Tube.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - AGAIN!!! September 12-14th Auction, Thursday Evening, September 12th; Lectures and Tour of Flambeau River Paper Company, Friday, September 13th; Meeting, Saturday Morning, September 14th followed by lunch in the area. Go to www.chipsandsawdust.com for more information and Registration.

Have a great summer!!! See you at Camp 5 Museum, August 16th!

Sincerely,

Sara



FOREST FEST

August 3, 2013

9:00 - 3:00

At Trees For Tomorrow



A Celebration of All the Forest Has to Offer!

Forest Fest is a time for organizations with similar missions to unite for a day-long celebration and a chance to share their enthusiasm for this natural resource with the public.

Join us for the 3rd Annual Forest Fest on the beautiful Trees For Tomorrow campus in Eagle River, Wisconsin and share your craft, skills and experience with the materials that the forest provides.

Trees For Tomorrow is a nonprofit, natural resources specialty school, located in the 4-season paradise of Eagle River, WI, 519 Sheridan St, Eagle River, WI on property under permit from the USDA Forest Service.

All proceeds from this event support natural resources education for our youth.

Forest History Association of Wisconsin will exhibit at Forest Fest

— volunteers are needed to man the displays —

Contact Bob Walkner, (920) 793-4010 or anvils@charter.net if you would like to help out.



Flambeau River Papers Makes a Comeback With a Revised Energy Strategy

Flambeau River Papers has been a major force of economy for the city of Park Falls, Wisconsin. Originally opened in 1896, the mill has been one of the largest employers of Price County, producing a variety of paper products, such as printing, cover stock, tag, reply card, index, freesheet, envelope, and laser bond paper. Park Falls was thus hit hard when Flambeau River had to shut down its mill in 2006 due to its exorbitant energy costs and antiquated machinery. The mill's closure had left approximately 13.2% of the city's residents unemployed.



*Butch Johnson, owner
Flambeau River Paper.*

Flambeau River, however, received a fresh lease on life under a new ownership led by Butch Johnson. All its previous employees were offered their jobs back at the same salary and benefits prior to the mill's closing, an offer which was accepted by approximately 92.0% of them. The reopening of the mill had also provided a unique opportunity to revise the company's business model and identify what needed to be in place in order for the company to thrive.

The Mill's Energy Challenges

Pulp and paper mills have traditionally been large consumers of energy in the United States and thus bound to be hit by the rising energy costs if their processes are not utilizing modern standards of efficiency and are heavily dependent on fossil fuels.

The New Energy Management Approach

Once the plant reopened and stabilized, Flambeau River Papers established energy efficiency and fossil-fuel-independence

goals for the company and devised an energy management plan to ensure that these goals are met. In shaping its plan, the company management had sought advice from employees for what could be done to improve the company's energy situation and profitability.

The company aims to achieve its goals through energy trending, fuel switch, and continual process improvements. Most importantly, the company management decided to take a bottom-up approach, encouraging recommendations from plant-level staff for improved operations. The company believes that its goals will only be met if every employee commits to making energy efficiency a priority and through education. Based on the input received and other factors, the company's Energy Committee updates a project prioritization spreadsheet each month – a tool that the plant uses to determine which energy efficiency improvements to implement next. As an Energy Committee rule, there are a minimum of 10 projects on the prioritization list at all times, and committee members must identify funding sources for 6 projects while trying to have at least 3 projects going at any given time.

Further, in an effort to be energy-independent, the company also plans for a biorefinery to come online by 2013. The company estimates the plant will consume 660 billion Btu from fossil fuels in 2009. The planned biorefinery is expected to produce 8.0 million gallons of Fischer-Tropsch mid-distillate, "green diesel" and 8.0 million gallons of paraffinic wax each year that can be sold for candles and box lining among other uses. The green diesel will be sold for blending or "as is" use during warmer months.

Flambeau River's energy management approach has been paying off in expanding the mill's operations ever since. It has enabled the company to maintain a steady annual energy cost while increasing its production 11.9% from 135,000 to 151,000 tons of paper each year. These measures have also led to reduced labor costs.

Additionally, the company estimates to grow from its current 315 employees to 355 when its planned biorefinery comes online in 2013. The biorefinery will also serve an emissions goal set by the company – to make the mill carbon neutral by 2013.

Conclusion

Flambeau River Papers' energy management approach has resulted in \$2.6 million in annual energy savings and increased the production by 11.9% since 2006, when the mill was shut-

down as a losing business. Its goals for improved energy efficiency and reduced dependence on fossil fuel, and a bottom-up approach to implement them have not only revived the business but its hometown, Park Falls, Wisconsin.

Tasking the plant-level staff with the responsibility of making energy improvements may be an effective strategy and a natural approach, given that the workers on the floor are the most familiar with the plant processes – both their strengths and their failures. Flambeau River has applied this approach to their advantage. Its energy management approach underlies a successful business model for manufacturers looking to improve their profitability and competitiveness. (From the US Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Information Center. For full text, charts and illustrations see: http://www1.eere.energy.gov/manufacturing/tech_assistance/pdfs/case_study_flambeau.pdf)

Journal Sentinel Project on Paper Industry Named Finalist In Two Loeb Awards Categories

MILWAUKEE— During May, a Journal Sentinel project on the decline of Wisconsin's paper industry in the face of unexpected competition from China was named a finalist in two categories in a contest that recognizes the nation's best business journalism.

The Gerald Loeb Awards for Distinguished Business and Financial Journalism named the Paper Cuts project a finalist in both the explanatory journalism category and the online journalism category.

The project was completed by business reporter John Schmid, photojournalist Mike De Sisti, interactive designer Emily Yount, graphic artist Lou Saldivar and designer Nick Lujero.

Through stories, photos, videos and interactive graphics, the project examined how the state's paper industry is struggling in the face of the rise of digital devices and competition from China, which has come to dominate the world's paper market.

This excellent series, the "Paper Cuts Project" can be seen in its entirety at <http://www.jsonline.com/business/paper-industry-digital-china-wisconsin-181832171.html>

Editor's Note—*the lead to the Paper Cuts project was provided by a FHAW member, unfortunately the original e-mail and name was lost when I mistakenly deleted some files. Please accept my Thanks now for the tip! The stories, photos and videos in this collection are informative. I encourage everyone to view these at the Journal Sentinel website.*



From the Newspaper Archives



Passing Of The Pines In The Chippewa Valley

(continued from Chips and Sawdust, Volume 37, No. 4)

Trespasses Small

Each log owner had his own log mark, or marks, which were registered with the district inspector. To the uninitiated they were as intelligible as Chinese laundry marks which they much resembled. Although when lumbering was at its height there were many hundreds of these marks in use, the river men who sorted these logs as they came down river knew which logs to turn into the booms of the rightful owners and even a had distinct name for a great proportion of them. The Daniel Shaw & Company bark mark was a chain-girdle extending half way around the log with a blaze at each end and was known to river men as the "boot pad." Another mark was known as the "turtle," another as the "bug," etc.

Incorporated in contracts for sale of logs was the declaration of the seller that he had good title to the logs to be sold. This was to protect the buyer, as in the case of trespass the actual owner could seize the logs wherever found. Speaking of trespass, according to a certain class of writers and speakers practically all of the early lumbermen made their money by stealing the pine timber from government land or that of nonresident landholders. Certainly nothing the writer has come across would substantiate such claims. Trespassers were not uncommon. It would be absurd to expect crews in an unbroken wilderness with swamps, lakes and rivers with surveyor lines often poorly marked and not cut over the lines.

Doubtless there were cases of deliberate intentional trespass, but in the opinion of the writer, these cases were comparatively few, and when they did occur more likely to be the work of some of the small irresponsible loggers or settlers than of the real lumbermen who had reputations to sustain.

A few of the most farsighted of the lumbermen had foreseen the future and taken steps to provide for it, but it was the United

States census of 1880 which brought to the average lumberman and the public a realization of the fact that the pine timber supply of the Chippewa Valley was being rapidly exhausted. The amount of standing pine in each of the nine basins in the state as given in this census is as follows: Chippewa, 15,000,000,000 board feet; Wisconsin, 10,000,000,000; Black River, 8,000,000,000; Menomonie, 6,500,000,000; south slope of Lake Superior, 3,500,000,000; Oconto, 2,500,000,000; Peshtigo, 1,500,000,000 and Wolf about two-thirds billion, a total for the state of 41,000,000,000. This was being cut at the rate of several billion feet a year—in fact, the cut in the Chippewa basin alone in the early eighties exceeded 1,250,000,000 feet in a single year.

In comparing this amount of standing timber at two different dates, after making allowances for timber cut in the meantime there is likely to be a fine discrepancy in figures and in favor of the later date. The late H. C. Putman of Eau Claire prepared the estimate of standing pine for the census of 1880. In 1893, in an address before the Wisconsin legislature, Putman referred to his own census figures of 1880, when he had set the total in the state at 41,000,000,000 feet. He said that probably from 30,000,000,000 to 35,000,000,000 feet had been cut in the 13 years since 1880 and that probably 25,000,000,000 to 30,000,000,000 still remained. He explained this apparent discrepancy by stating that something had been added by growth, but that the principal difference lay in the fact that considerably smaller and poorer timber was accepted as "merchantable" in 1893 than was the case in 1880. In all estimates of standing timber it is customary to take into consideration only such timber as is "merchantable" at the time the estimate is made.

Gradually the requirements of merchantable timber became less and less exacting. From 16 inches in diameter, the minimum fell to 14 inches, 12, 10, 9, 8 and still later seven inches and even less. The percentage of allowable defects was increased accordingly. It is a fact that present-day loggers going over this same ground, after a lapse of 30, 40, or 50 years, are picking up the old windfalls, hollow butts and otherwise defective timber which these early loggers regarded as of no value.

During all the earlier years of logging operations trees were felled with the ax, and the height of the stump was regulated by the convenience of the chopper. The writer has diligently inquired from old woodsmen as to when the practice of sawing down the trees was introduced. The dates, given from memory have differed widely. The earliest documentary evidence found is

contained in a logging contract dated December 30, 1876 which contain the following paragraph. "The logs to be cut according to our usual methods except that instead of chopping timber down it shall be sawed down." As compared with present-day methods the waste in the sawing of timber corresponded with the waste in cutting.

Blame for Waste Misplaced

It has been universally and for so long a time customary to lay all the blame for timber waste to the big lumbermen that to express a contrary opinion must come as a distinct shock; nevertheless, that is what the writer wishes to do. In those early days when timber was abundant and cheap, and anybody could get it, for any lumberman to attempt to put in the small and defective logs, or to try to sell scant thickness, low-grade lumber would have made him an eligible candidate for the poor-house or insane asylum. It is an easy matter for those unacquainted with the lumbering business to talk about timber waste, but it is quite another thing to demonstrate practical methods for avoiding such waste.

As compared with cutting done by the actual settlers, the small loggers and the lumber manufactured by the hundreds of small "portable mills" throughout the country, it is safe to state that the public derived at least 25 percent more in quantity and a much better grade of lumber from timber lands cut over by the large lumbering concerns. To fill a real vast areas of timber land, but all things considered their methods could not fairly be regarded as wasteful. Reforestation is an entirely different matter, which the writer is not competent to discuss.

The writer has never seen any estimate of the total amount of pine timber in the Chippewa Valley, but what is to be said of the following calculations? In the 40 years from 1840 to 1880 the timber cut increased in fairly regular ratio, from practically nothing in 1840 to about 1,000,000,000 feet in 1880. Taking 500,000,000 as a fair average for the 40 years we have a total cut of 20 billion feet. To this could safely be added 25 percent for waste in those years making 25,000,000,000.

(Editor's note: The above is another portion of the first installment of an article from the pen of W. W. Bartlett, early historian from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The full story appeared in both the Milwaukee Journal and the Eau Claire Leader Telegram during February 1923, the remainder of the first installment will be completed in your next issue of Chips and Sawdust)



38th Annual Meeting of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin September 12—14, 2013 Park Falls, Wisconsin

The 38th annual meeting of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin will take place in Park Falls on September 12-14, 2013.

The American Value Best Inn at Park Falls will be the host hotel for this year's conference. Reservations can be made now at the FHAW rate of just \$55.00 per night by calling the Inn directly at 715-762-3383. A block of rooms are reserved on both the ground floor and the walk-up second floor. Make your reservation early to make sure you have suitable accommodations.

Activities for this year's conference begin with dinner on Thursday evening at Northwood Supper Club, N14066 Flambeau Avenue in Fifield. In addition to a fine Northwood's dining experience and the camaraderie of friends, this will be the one opportunity for our annual FHAW auction. Be sure to come prepared for good food, good friends and good bidding!

Friday attendees will tour the Old School Museum and the revitalized Flambeau River Paper Company mentioned in earlier pages of this newsletter. The company has accomplished much since it reopened in 2006 and their staff and employees will tell us more about those accomplishments as we tour the facilities.

Attendees will also hear several presentations of interest to the forest history enthusiast during the day. This year our presenters include, Brad Pagel of Eagle River, sharing information on the "Roddis Line" by Harvey Huston; Tom Pestka of Ontonagon, Michigan, introducing his video, "History of Logging in Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan;" and Dale Heikinen of Prentice, providing "The History of the Prentice Loader." There may be other presentations arranged yet too.

Our day will then end with time to visit with friends over a Wisconsin Friday night fish fry.

Then Saturday morning, following breakfast at the Moose Jaw Resort in Park Falls, and a general membership meeting the 38th FHAW Annual Conference will close. For those interested, on your return home you might visit the Round Lake Logging Dam, one of the last remaining structures of its kind in Wisconsin.

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 _____

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Detach and mail this application with payment to:

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39th Annual Conference

2013

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2011—Don Schnitzler

2012—David Peschau

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Archives

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Please inform the membership chair of any change in address.

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