

Volume 39

Number 3



A quarterly newsletter from the

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

P.O. Box 424
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Fall 2014

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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:

FHAW Nominating Committee Chairman, David Peschau
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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
- Monthly electronic FHAW news brief, *Woodchips*



From The President's Chair

Dear friends,

I must begin this first message by acknowledging that I consider myself privileged to serve as the president of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin. Following in the footsteps of past-president, Sara Connor, will be a challenge, but I pledge to put forth my best effort to serve your interests and in accomplishing the goals of the association.

Establishing those goals is a priority for the current board of directors, but they should not and cannot determine them without your input. To gather that input a brief survey is being drafted that will circulate to all members during January 2015. We hope that you will take time to answer those few questions about the association and share your thoughts about the group's future undertakings. Please be candid with your compliments, criticisms and suggestions. It is only with your honest feedback that we can build on what has worked well in the past, and improve on that which hasn't worked as well too.

Planning of one 2015 FHAW activity that hinges on your feedback is the 40th Anniversary Annual FHAW Conference. The date is set for October 22 - 24, 2015 at Antigo (so please mark your calendar) and a planning committee, made up of Sara Connor, Mike Sohasky and Bridget O'Brien is in place, but nothing else is finalized. The committee has some tentative ideas, but they wait for your feedback on the survey mentioned previously before moving forward with any final arrangements.

The recent 2014 FHAW Conference at Goodman was both an informative and enjoyable experience for nearly 30 FHAW members and their guests. Special thanks go out the planning committee, Al Ochs, Karl Baumann, Carl Krog, Bob Brisson and Bob Walkner and to all the planned presenters, and those who pitched in as needed to fill a couple of event hiccups! All-in-all, the conference was a good time with good friends and a chance to view some great scenery and water falls.

Since the fall conference our webmaster, Dan Giese, has been busy updating the FHAW website. Because of his effort, you can now find and access archived copies of past FHAW newsletters, Chips and Sawdust (2012 – present) and WoodChips (2013 – present) on our webpage. Earlier issues of Chips and Sawdust will be brought on-line as they become available too. Thanks Dan for your work.

As most of you are already aware, the association lost a good friend and fellow member with the passing of Miles Benson this past October. For many years, Miles was the sage and compass for our organization; always someone who mentored, steered in the right direction, gave advice when asked with a vision looking to the future. He will be missed.

The FHAW Board of Directors and I wish you all health and happiness during the upcoming holiday season. We thank you for past support of the organization and look forward to some great things happening during 2015.

-- Don "Schnitz" Schnitzler

Highlights of the 39th Annual FHAW Conference September 11–13, 2014 Goodman, Wisconsin

This year, cool fall weather greeted FHAW members during our 39th annual conference at Goodman, Wisconsin. While the weather didn't necessarily cooperate with a bright sunny day, the overcast sky held its moisture most of Friday, or at least times when it really mattered.

The conference opened on Thursday evening at the beautiful Four Seasons Island Resort on Miscoano Island near Pembine. During the first of two presentations there, Al Ochs



The Four Seasons Island Resort first opened its elegant doors in 1905. Originally known as the Miscoano Inn, it was built by the Wisconsin-Michigan Railroad on what was then known as Holmes island.

shared the history of Menominee lumberman William Holmes. Highlighting the life story of this remarkable man even included the building of the original Miscoano Inn on Homes island where we were dining. Richard McDougal then shared stories about his

father-in-law, Peter Webber and the Webber Steam Mill which operated on salvaged logs, deadheads, from the Menominee and Peshtigo Rivers.

The next morning began with breakfast at the Northland International University and a short bus ride to Goodman where the group toured the Goodman Veneer & Lumber Company. Most likely the highlight of everyone's day was this opportunity to experience the veneer-making process.

Following the mill tour, Marinette County Supervisor and local historian, Mike Cassidy, provided a bus tour of the town of Goodman. The town started in 1908 as a logging community, and owes its entire existence to the vision and knowledge of the Robert B. Goodman family.

The group then gathered at the Goodman Club House for lunch, and presentations by Brad Pagels on the Goodman Railroads, Mike Cassidy on the history of Goodman and Goodman Lumber, and John Moritz, on the history of Goodman Club House. The annual general membership meeting was also held here.

Then a couple of short bus rides took the group to the Goodman and McClintock Parks. At Goodman members viewed Strong Falls and rested on the porch of a day cabin built during the Great Depression by the Dunbar CCC.

Then at McClintock Park they viewed the McClintock Falls. Both Goodman and McClintock Parks are on the Peshtigo River.

Our bus served as a moving classroom that day with Carl Krog and Bob Brisson sharing impromptu talks on Marinette County logging and forestry operations.

Everyone who participated made the event an enjoyable experience. Thanks again for your participation!



Top: FHAW members waiting for tour of Goodman Veneer & Lumber Company; Middle: FHAW auction at the Goodman Club House; Bottom: Carl Krog, Bob Walkner and Bruce Clark along the Peshtigo River .

Miles K. Benson

The FHAW lost a wonderful friend and steward of forestry and forest history with the recent passing of former FHAW president, Miles Benson, on October 9th at Wisconsin Rapids.

Miles was born on October 21, 1937, in St. Paul Minnesota to Myrtle and Irven Benson. He was the eldest son of four children.

Miles graduated with a B.S. in forestry from the University of Minnesota in 1959.

On August 27th, 1960, he married the love of his life, Judith Ferree Dale in Madison, Wisconsin. They first settled in Appleton, WI where he worked at the Institute of Paper Chemistry. There he did genetic research on improving production of the Quaking Aspen for our paper industry.

While in Appleton, three children were born to the Bensons: Andy (Liz) and Catherine both of Madison, and Kristin of Greeneville, Tennessee.

Later he took a job with Owens Illinois in Tomahawk, WI. Soon after he was transferred to Lynchburg, Va. where he managed the woodlands. In 1978, he accepted a job for Consolidated Paper company in Rhinelander, WI so he could return to the area he loved the most.

In 1988, he accepted a promotion as the Director of Timberlands for Consolidated Paper Company and moved to Wisconsin Rapids. There he retired in 2000.

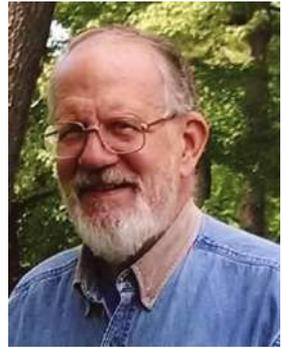
He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He particularly enjoyed goose and duck hunting in the Horicon area with his previous boss and friend for over 50 years, Dean Einspahr, of Appleton. He shot his final goose last fall and took pride in his recipe for goose jerky.

Miles received numerous awards throughout his life for the variety of organizations he gave his time to. He served as president and active member of the local chapter of the Society of American Foresters, American Pulpwood Association, and The Forest History Association of Wisconsin.

Miles loved the trees and forests of which he planted many. He found solace in his garden along with the outdoors.

"I have planted three trees for every one one cut down," Miles would proudly say, "Who wouldn't care more for the trees and environment than a forester?"

When you look at a tall, strong pine ...think of Miles.



A Review of *WoodChips*

The recent distribution of the December 2014 *Woodchips* marked the close of the first full publication year for our electronic FHAW monthly newsletter. Included within these 12 issues were stories and hyperlinks to 92 newspaper articles, reports, websites and video or radio broadcasts on a variety of forest or forest history related topics.

Quickly reviewing the focus of these stories shows that the greatest emphasis was on forest history (as it should be) or on events related to forest history. Then additional content on general forestry concerns such as forest health, forest products, forest industries, general science, and so on were included to provide the variety necessary to keep this electronic newsletter interesting.

Association members have suggested stories, additional suggestions are always welcome, and others were selected by the editor as simply being of potential interest to the FHAW membership. These suggested and selected stories should in no way be construed as an endorsement, or a recommendation, of the content or accompanying advertisements by the association.

In the future, a disclaimer will accompany each newsletter, both *WoodChips* and *Chips and Sawdust* as follows, "Materials included in this FHAW Newsletter come from a variety of sources. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in these materials are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or an endorsement of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin."

The ability to share *WoodChips* as an electronic only newsletter is an additional benefit of membership in the FHAW. The association hopes that you enjoyed the content variety this past year, and that you look forward to receiving and enjoying future *WoodChips* as they are published during 2015.

2014 <i>WoodChips</i> Content by Topic		
Topic	Number	Percent
Forest History	27	29%
Forest Events & Festivals	17	18%
Forest Health, Fires, Invasive Species	15	16%
Forest Products & Industries	13	14%
Science, including climate change	8	9%
Public Land—Parks	6	7%
Forest Politics	4	4%
Miscellaneous	2	2%



From the Newspaper Archives



Christmas at a Lumber Camp In Northern Wisconsin

By James B. Carter

Usually Christmas in a Wisconsin or Minnesota Lumber camp is looked forward to by a large percentage of the camp crew as going to the nearest town and filling up on booze, or going home for a week's vacation. This usually, practically stops all work for at least one or more weeks and is a heavy loss to the logging operator. In such instances nearly the whole crew is out of service for several days.

An exception to this custom is the outcome of recent experience at Hammond's Camp No. One near, Winter, Sawyer County. It is the custom of Mr. Hammond to supply something extra for Christmas in the shape of an extra dish for the boys. This season there was 100 pounds of chicken, ducks and geese for Thanksgiving and for Christmas there were oysters, chicken, pot pie, baked duck, baked goose and such dressing, mashed potatoes, hot biscuits, sweet breads with raisins as well as white, four kinds of cake, two kinds of pudding, two kinds of pie, minced and apple, two kinds of sauce, peach and pineapple, cranberry jelly condensed cream, tea and coffee, and numerous other things I have not room here to mention.

In the center of the two long tables were small spruce Christmas trees decorated with pink, white and green paper. The base and body of each tree being neatly covered with this paper. The branches were decorated with numerous other ornaments making very attractive and pretty effect.

Christmas this year came on Sunday and as the crew of 50 men filed in the cook-camp for dinner they were orderly and sober. The dinner was eaten in si-



lence as talking at the table was strictly prohibited, but the way of the lumberjack did consume the present rich food set before him, well I will not undertake you to tell.

Presiding over this cook-camp is Mr. Louis Boudry and his good wife, Mrs. Victoria Boudry of French decent. The boys say Louis a horse to work and crackerjack of cook; but he can't hold a candle when it comes to his wife, Mrs. Vic. The boys say she is a four-horse team, load of logs all put together, although she only weighs 105 lbs. She rules Louis and the whole cook camp and her word is law. Louie is not much larger than his wife, seeing them both together would put you in mind of Tom Thumb and his wife.

While the cookees were waiting on the table Mrs. Boudry was attending the dishing-up process. Louie was perched on a large box in one end of the cook camp playing on the flute, *The Mocking Bird or Fisher's Horn Pipe*, changing occasionally to whistling and making peculiar noises from the instruments which nature gave him, "with his tongue and throat." This man Boudry is a peculiar freak of nature, in fact, a curiosity shop. Talk about your Waldorf Hotel is not in it with the Christmas Dinner and music that the lumberjack had at Hammond's Camp No. 1.

Mr. Boudry says he never was furnished as well in camp during his 25 years' experience as he is here and it gives him courage to cook and make things nice; but he says the old man is strict and things have to be right or the devil is to pay.

Mr. Hammond says himself this man Boudry and his wife stands at the head of the list in filling the positions of an A-1 lumber camp cook and you know that Hammond does not praise a man unless he deserves it.

This camp expects to land 1 million feet of hardwood logs, 100 cords of hemlock bark, and 25 thousand railroad ties this winter. We now have on the landing one million feet of logs, 1500 thousand more on skids, bark is nearly all loaded on cars and shipped, 9 thousand ties are made and piled on the Omaha right of way so you see we are going some.

Andrew Fornace is our foreman, has worked for Mr. Hammond almost 15 winters, first as teamster, then foreman and assisted by H.C. Hansen of Eau Claire, now deceased, and Cap Garrison of Cable built a large steamboat for towing logs on Lost and Tea Lakes. After the boat was built Fornace ran the engine and had general charge of the work on the boat. The boat towed across Lost and Tea Lakes in one Spring drive 40 million feet of pine longs. These logs were all hauled in one winter on logging sleighs. Seven large camps, two of these

camps were hauling on 7 mile road. Mr. Hammond owned himself at that time 172 head of horses and 168 head of oxen which were all employed in this winter's operation besides numerous hired teams and about 400 men. This being one of the largest, if not the largest, amount of logs ever hauled on logging sleighs in Wisconsin or Minnesota in one winter's operation by one logger.

Supplies were all toted from Hayward, 21 to 30 miles. Well do some of the Hayward old time residents remember this big winter's logging operations? You go to Hayward now and commence to talk with Harry Shue about driving teams and he will at once say the best driving teams that ever drove out of Hayward was the driving team I sold Hammond named Bud and Ole. He claims Hammond used to drive down from camp, 21 miles in two hours. Perhaps you don't think this this going some over a woods tote road.

Mr. Hammond has just spent a week with us at camp. I have gleaned this information by hearing Mr. Hammond and Mr. Fornace talk over old times while sitting around the heater in the office during the evening.

Wishing you all a happy New Year and hoping we may meet again, I remain,

Yours very truly,
James B. Carter, Sealer.

(editor's note: The preceding article is taken from the Eau Claire Leader, January 8, 1911, page 3)

Cure Cabin Fever:

Saturday, 10 am—2 pm

Learn about the hard work of cutting trees and the lasting impacts logging had on our state through a variety of fun, family-friendly activities. Examine different varieties of wood and create your own Paul Bunyan beard out of felt

- Jan 10**—Lumberjacks Hard at Work
- Jan 17**—Food of the Lumber Camps
- Jan 24**—Lumberjacks at Play
- Jan 31**—Legend and Lore of the Northwoods



**Wisconsin Historical
MUSEUM**

30 N Carroll St
Madison, WI 53703

Kretz Lumber Company Recipient of Connor Award

Kretz Lumber Company received the Connor Award from the Forest History Association of Wisconsin. Recognizing the outstanding contributions to forestry and forest history, the award was presented at the organization's 39th annual meeting September 12th in Goodman.

The presentation was made by Sara

Connor, president of the association, to Kretz President Troy Brown and forester Al Koeppel.

The Kretz Lumber Co., Inc. started in 1929 by Joseph Kretz, who moved from Du Quoin, Ill. to farm the land the sawmill occupies today. His beginning in the sawmill industry occurred when the family farm needed some repairs. Hemlock growing on the farm was logged and sawed into lumber with a mill bought from "a farmer up the road."

In no time at all, the Kretz family started sawing other farmers' logs into lumber for them. As farming became less profitable, the Kretz family turned their attention to their sawmill. Three sons, Raymond, Charlie, and Leon joined their parents, Joseph and Myrtle, in developing the business. Myrtle was the initial bookkeeper and president of Kretz Lumber Co., Inc. Raymond bought timber and logs, Charlie ran the mill operations, and Leon took care of trucking for both logs and lumber. At that time they dealt with mostly hemlock.

When World War II began, the company started sawing a greater variety of species and cut for the civilian market. Soon after the war ended, the Kretz sawmill burned to the ground. A



Sara Connor, president of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin with Troy Brown, left, and Al Koeppel, right, of Kretz Lumber Company.

new mill was built on the same site. The business was incorporated in 1955 and business continued on a steady pace into the 1960s.

In 1965 the sawmill burned again. Soon afterward, Charlie died. Raymond took over operation of both the sawmill and the timberlands. The market for lumber was very good so it was not a good time to shut down operations to build a new mill. Consequently, they moved the sawmill equipment into the dairy barn. Thus, we have come to be known as "the sawmill in the barn." Myrtle remained president of the company for several more years. This changed in the late 1960s when Raymond became president. The trucking company had split off in the 1940s.

Raymond and his wife, Marie, had a son, Dan, in graduate school at this time. For his classes, Dan did a study that showed it would be profitable for the company to run a second shift. To add the necessary labor, Raymond went knocking on neighborhood doors for employees.

Dan initially graduated from Michigan Technical University with an undergraduate degree in forestry and then earned a graduate degree in business. He became president of the company in 1972. Ray remained close to the business by buying logs and timber.

Under Dan's guidance, the company slowly built a timber base of over 11,000 acres. Select harvesting techniques allowed the company to acquire at least 10 percent of the annual sawlog volume required by its mill, from its company owned timberland. Many of these properties are the most productive timber harvested for the mill and along with the best quality.

Today Kretz Lumber Co., Inc. is a vertically integrated northern hardwood operation owned 100 percent by its employees. Six foresters manage 7,000 acres of corporate woodlands and manage many privately owned acres. The sawmill, kilns, and dimension plant produce products of northern ash, basswood, birch, cherry, hard maple, oak, and soft maple. In striving to be good stewards of the forest, the goal is to make productive use of all resources.

The Kretz forest family also maintains the Ray Kretz Industrial Forest, a working woodland that provides many educational opportunities for the public, including a landowners' forestry field day and family management plan.

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.
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Two Rivers, WI 54241-0424

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Mike Sohasky
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2013 — Sara Connor
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Tom Jacobs

Awards Committee
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Exhibits

Don Schnitzler



Watch For Additional Details
As They Become Available

2015 FHAW Annual Conference
Antigo, Wisconsin
October 22-24, 2015



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