

Volume 45

Number 1



A quarterly newsletter from the

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

P.O. Box 424
Two Rivers, WI 54241-0424

Spring 2020

Officers and Directors 2020—2022

John Grosman ⁽²⁰²⁰⁾

President

8857 Abbylyn CT
Woodruff, WI 54568

(715) 358-0038

greenfire42@gmail.com

Bob Walkner ⁽²⁰²⁰⁾

Treasurer

3103 Maplewood Road
Two Rivers, WI 54241

(920) 793-4010

anvils@charter.net

Arno Helm ⁽²⁰²²⁾

167 Church Street
Merrimac, WI 53561

(920) 986-404

Richard Kubicek ⁰

3336 N. Dousman St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212

(414) 732-5578

richard.kubicek@wisconsin.gov

Ed Forrester ⁽²⁰²¹⁾

Vice-president

2484 11¼ Street
Cumberland, WI 54829

715-822-4940

ed@theforresters.net

Don Schnitzler ⁽²⁰²⁰⁾

Secretary

1003 George Drive
Marshfield, WI 54449

(715) 383-9775

Schnitzler.donald@gmail.com

Tom Jerow ⁽²⁰²¹⁾

604 Riek St.
Rhineland, WI 54501

tjerow@gmail.com

Jane Severt ⁽²⁰²²⁾

N2772 Mosser Rd.
Merrill, WI 54452

(715) 539-3092

pjanesevert75@frontier.com

Vacant ⁰

**Visit the
Forest History Association
of Wisconsin website at:**

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:
FHAW Nominating Committee Chairman, John Grosman
greenfire42@gmail.com

Chips and Sawdust

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From The President's Chair

Greetings Folks,

I've been reminded that it's time to offer another contribution to the newsletter. There has certainly been a lot of change in the world since the last one?! Beyond the Coronavirus changes to "normal" life that we didn't expect at the first of the new year, there were some "planned change" issues for FHAW that were on the calendar last year. Some are in the mix of things evolving even now to make our future a little different than it has been in the past?

So first some of the "small stuff". We did an 'organization-wide' email to invite 'involvement' by membership. (We sure do need help!) Got a couple emails back. One came from Taylor County, and talked to the importance of getting back to a 'printed' proceedings and the importance of setting high standards for 'content' in what we publish. We had actually decided to move back to doing the proceedings in print form, but still have the design for having one person do "everything" tied to this outcome!! This is an unreasonable design, and we need to move toward establishing a 'team' to take this one. Performance standards, timelines, and budget all need to be made a part of a new design. Needed change! I expect to meet with the guy who made the suggestion and see if he can join this work group? In another email from Langlade County, an individual addressed a willingness to offer help in the area of "archival" of documents. One of our key organizational goals! On this one, I have a personal interest in being part of a work group on this issue. To that end, I've now talked to a new friend from the Manitowish Waters History Society, a Prof at UWSP, a retired SHS leader and our own Newsletter Editor about joining me and the guy from Langlade County to form an "Archival Committee" for the organization. We need to look at how we take in "information" for the Archives we have at UWSP and consider who it is we serve? How do we recruit contributions to our store house of material? How do we promote utilization? How we move to become effective in the 'digital age'? Change possible? Change needed! Change planned with willing talent! Exciting prospects!

On another front, we recently completed a draft of the program for the "Fall Forest History Conference" set for Sept 17-19 in Eagle River. We have an exciting slate of presenters with stories to tell that have a lot of "wow" content! Reality is that we began planning this effort in October 2019, within the context of what was "Normal" at the time. We now have a program that will invite consideration to sign up for a kick-off luncheon at a 1912 State Forestry Ranger Station, with seating limited to 45. The rest of the program will be offered at the Trees for Tomorrow Education Hall with seating for 100+. Social distancing anyone? We're planning to wait until late Spring to decide if the "Corona Virus" planning guidance being offered at that time will allow us to proceed with what was considered a 'normal' process when

we started this effort? Seems likely that the evolving environment within which we do our work is changing , and we will need to change how we do business along with it? Both scary and exciting?

History books are filled with the stories of extinction, detailing the record of species and organizations that were unable to adapt and disappeared from the earth. That cannot become the story of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin. More exciting stories are waiting to be told, perhaps in ways we haven't had to consider before.

I look forward to working with all of you, to be a part of our new future, whatever that works out to be!

John Grosman

FHAW Strategic Planning Session

March 9, 2020



Forest History Association of Wisconsin Board met at UWSP Campus to continue discussions on the FHAW Strategic Plan March 9, 2020. Upper photo, L to R: George Shinner, Henry Schienebeck, Executive Director Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, Jane Severt, Retired Wisconsin County Forests Association Executive Director, Tom Jerow, John Grosman, Don Schnitzler, and Nicole Filizetti, Field Representative, Wisconsin School Forest System- Manages LEAF/PLT. Lower photo, seated L to R: Nicole Filizetti, Ed Forrester, and Bob Walker; standing - Nancy Turyk, UWEX, meeting facilitator.

Richard Kubicek Joins FHAW Board of Directors

Rick Kubicek of Milwaukee recently joined the FHAW Board of Directors.

Kubicek is a 2002 graduate of UW—Stevens Point majoring in History and German Language with a mi-

nor in Anthropology. In 2008 he graduated with a masters degree in Anthropology from the UW—Milwaukee.

He is the Wisconsin DNR Historic Preservation Officers and a Senior Projects Manager for UW Milwaukee Cultural Resource Management.

Welcome to the FHAW Board.

Former FHAW Board Member Celebrates 100th Birthday

Ralph G. Swanson recently celebrated his 100th birthday at Avanti Health and Rehabilitation Center in Minocqua with his family.

Swanson was born in Iron Mountain, Michigan, on May 24, 1920. He was the older of two boys born to Gotfred and Esther Swanson. Swanson grew up in the forests of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Northern Wisconsin. He graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1938 and started forestry classes that fall in Houghton, Michigan.

During the summer of 1940 he cruised timber and scaled wood for Michigan State University at Dunbar. The summer of 1941 found him working on a forest preserve near Witch Lake, Michigan, as a forest ranger for Walter A. Benzie, Consulting Forester, Iron Mountain. Swanson graduated with a bachelor of science degree in forestry from Michigan Technological University, Houghton in 1942. On the same day, he received his ROTC commission in the Army Corps of Engineers and entered the U.S. Army at the age of 22.

“I was at my graduation from Michigan Tech., got my diploma and in the next line I was told I had three days to get my affairs in order and report to Fort Sheridan for duty,” Swanson said.

During this time he was an officer in the U.S. Army fighting in North Africa and Italy. Swanson participated in some of the epic tank battles between American General George Patton and German Field Marshall Eric Rommel. These were among the first battlefield contacts between Allied soldiers and Nazi troops.

Following the war, Swanson was discharged in 1946 with the rank of captain, having served as a company commander and battalion commander in the European Theatre of Operations. When he arrived home, Swanson was hired almost immediately by Consolidated Papers, Inc. (CPI) as a camp clerk at Loretta. Three months later he was running logging camps in Drummond and Manitowish Waters in northern Wisconsin.

“They still had horses moving the lumber and small trucks and graders making ice roads,” Swanson said. “My degree was in forestry, so I always gravitated toward logging and the removal of trees.”

About that same time, Swanson met Harriet Nelson, who had also served in Europe during World War II as a captain in the U.S. Army Nursing Corps. They were married in Nashua, Iowa in September of 1946. Over the next six years, they had four children: Pamela, Ralph Jr. (Skip), Ronald, and James.



Ralph Swanson, "Pulpwood Dreamer"
July 1955,

Starting in 1947, Swanson supervised the Pulpwood Rafting & Loading Operations in Ashland for 21 years, during which CPI rafted roughly 1,000,000 cords of primarily spruce pulpwood from bays and harbors in Canada and Minnesota across Lake Superior to Ashland. In 1968, Swanson went to Wisconsin Rapids as Central Wisconsin district superintendent.

"Eventually, I went to Wisconsin Rapids because they (CPI) had a new pulp mill and were expanding their land base," Swanson said.

In 1973 he was named assistant manager of CPI's Timberlands Division and in 1974 was named manager, the position he held until his retirement. In February of 1985, Swanson retired after 39 years with Consolidated Papers, Inc.

Swanson was on the Forest History Association of Wisconsin Board of Directors; was the treasurer and ex-committee member of the Timber Producers Association, Michigan-Wisconsin; a member of the Michigan Tech Institute of Wood Research Advisory Committee; and a fellow of the Society of American Foresters.

Representatives of these organizations came to Avanti to visit with Swanson via a "zoo visit," communicating through the patio doors in observance of the social distancing guidelines. While the original intention, because of the nice weather Ralph got to come outside—he thought it was Great!

(Article by Emily Koester, associate editor, the Lakeland Times, The Northwoods River News)



Above L to R: Jim Carlson, a retired consultant forester, Tony Rynish-State Chairman of the Society of American Foresters, Henry Schienebeck-Executive Director of Great Lakes Timbers Producers Association, John Grosman-President Forest History Association of Wisconsin, and Jim and Deb Swanson (Ralph's son and daughter-in-law) plus Ralph. Left: Special Cake for Ralph from GLTPA, Wisconsin SAF, Michigan Tech and the FHAW.





From the Newspaper Archive



ASSEMBLYMAN T. W. BARTINGALE TELLS OF INTERESTING THINGS OF THE PAST

*(From the Chippewa Herald-Telegram, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin
Wednesday, 21 Apr 1920, Page 4)*

In my recollections of the year 1859, Chippewa Valley was far different from today, "Just below Irvine, where I lived, was a solid forest of tall, graceful pine tossing their plumes to the breeze, or bending and bowing before the storm, and the first loggers I saw start out were going up Duncan creek. The patient ox was the principal factor both for the small farmer and the logger, and poor old abused Bossie never got any praise, but simply done his bit, and at last was killed and eaten to save funeral expenses.

The camps were built of pine logs cut long, but the walls were low, and basswood scoops were made trough-like and a tier placed side by side, trough up and another was laid trough down over the edge and then packed, with moss. No nails were used, the door was hewn, the benches and tables the same. The floor was mother earth, except where the cook worked, and they laid a floor of poles for him to walk on. A fireplace in the center furnished light and heat.

The lantern was of tin punched full of holes and a piece of tallow candle in it, casting fantastic shapes on the snow as it was carried back and forth. We had a better light by rolling birch bark after heating it over the fire and set in a split stick. They were good out of doors but risky around the hay stack or in the ox hovel.

Our bed was one for the whole crew though the crew drove stakes in the ground to mark off their claims. Evergreen boughs were the feathers, and we could lie in the bed and see the twinkle stars through the four foot chimney of sticks and mud. Oho! Listen to the serenade of the wolf bunch as it rank out on the frosty air, or the sharp report of Jack Frost in some dough bread, bean-hole beans, dried apples, and black molasses and tea with salt and pepper was the bill of fare with fat pork added. Also we had venison. We could kill a deer in a few minutes in the choppings, and the Indians would pitch a teepee near us and trade buckskin moccasins and venison for flour and pork.

Poor Lo! One of the children that God forgot. Little did he think the lumber hog of a white man would down that forest and drive him in a corner with only a- pittance for the vast wealth that was his.

But our evenings were pleasant in spite of the smoke, and song and jest passed. Others passed their time patching, others scratching, as that forerunner of civilization, the greyback, was in evidence in every camp. Have heard lots of stories about how big they were, but honestly I never saw one four inches long but thought they were when they bit me.

Our tools were primitive. The irons of a cant hook were composed of a staple and a hook, and the men put a stick in to suit themselves. They were

weighty problems with the hook swinging in all directions. The saw and axe were good. The old Lippencott axe equaled any made today, and the saw tho' it lacked the drag teeth and patent handle done good work. The go-devil and ox-yoke and sleigh that would hold three or four logs was; the: logging kit by adding a few chains. We peeled the bark from the log to go-devil in where it rested on the ground, and the short haul was all right in that way. Hauling timber over a mile was not thought of then. The sleigh had a load with five logs which men rolled up on spiked skids first. Then came the loading rope, after that the crotch rope and then the chain.

We chopped the tree down, a chopper going ahead falling, measuring and topping. He was usually a splendid axe man, proud of his work and getting the big pay in the camp. Two sawyers followed him and then the swampers, who also loaded sleighs or travois, each teamster unloading his own load, rolling the logs down into the river with no tool excepting a hand-spike cut in the nearby woods. Then came the spring drive that took the logs rolling, and bumping over water rough and smooth, active men running over them, breaking jams, keeping them going, while at the rear men waded waist deep among the ice cakes and rolled in the scattering ones that had lodged back in the low lands, starting them on their way. Wet night and day, clothing often froze on the men while they were sleeping on the wet ground; working early and late and then coming down and getting on a big drunk end spending a few days all they made in winter and spring, they again went back to the forest to endure the same hardship year after year. The good old true lumberjack soon will be seen no more—tough, hardy and able to stand hardship without a murmur.

THE "GO-DEVIL" A THING OF THE PAST IN LOGGING

*(from the Chippewa Herald-Telegram, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin,
03 Dec 1918, Page 2)*

Forty years ago all that was necessary to have to secure a logging job was a pair of oxen and a "go-devil." Today the lumbermen prefer to use steam log haulers on long roads. The average load hauled by two horses is generally less than 3,000 feet board measure. Under fair conditions the log hauler will haul about 7,000 feet on a set of sleds. A train of six sleds which can be taken along handily by the hauler would contain about 40, 000 feet.

Wisconsin's Reforestation is Beginning to Pay Off Program in Big Way

BY DION HENDERSON (Associated Press Outdoor Editor)

*(from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin
Wednesday, 21 Jun 1950, Page 16)*

The forests are creeping up again all over the country. This growth isn't a thing to surprise you while you're looking the other way, but it's there all the same. And it isn't accidental. It isn't all government or private commercial reforestation work either.

Take Wisconsin, for instance. In 1910, Wisconsin led the Nation in lumber production. It was the peak and the finish of the lumber baronies in the State. By 1913, the first state forester was able to read the future to an extent that enabled him to lay down a program for future land use.

After the policies dictated by simple economics had changed the State from an area with too many trees to one with too few, the principle of resource management had an opportunity to evolve and set a national pattern.

In 45 per cent of the State's total land area, the plow didn't follow the ax, but fire did. The result was wasteland. In 1926 the first Industrial forest was established. In 1927 the State Legislature passed the Forest Crop Law to give tax relief to land used for free growth. The first fire protection system, a national pattern, was set up that same session. In 1929, the first enabling zoning law in the Nation was passed. It gave counties authority to keep settlers off and fit only to grow trees. (Today as much as 85 per cent of some counties is zoned for recreational use.)

And today, Wisconsin has 13,000,000 acres in the forest protection district. Of this, 8,500, 000 acres are under some form of small ownership. These were the acres that had to be reached if a successful reforestation program were reached. The need gave birth to a non-profit co-operative organization



Aerial view of the Trees for Tomorrow Conservation Camp, 1950.

that has grown to be another in the long series of models set up for American foresters in Wisconsin.

Trees for Tomorrow, Inc., was founded in 1944 by 11 paper mills and one power company interested in watershed protection. It

set up an in-the-field program in six counties at first to develop a pattern by which a semi-public organization could function effectively.

Its "small owner" program distributes free trees to landowners, surveys the trees the first year, tests soil and makes a survival count. The plan now is spreading through Wisconsin into Upper Michigan and doubtless will be picked up elsewhere.

But perhaps as important as the millions of seedlings growing where scrub stood a few years ago is the educational program working simultaneously on many levels.

The "Trees for Tomorrow Conservation Camp" operates at Eagle River from April 1 to November 1 each year. Co-operating agencies include the University of Wisconsin, the State Department of Public Instruction, the State Teachers Colleges and the U. S. Forest Service.

Field institutes and conservation seminars are conducted for educators in the winter. Workshops in the camp are held each summer for students and teachers alike. Forestry scholarships worth \$1,200 each are awarded annually. Thirty school and 10 memorial forests have been established in and for as many communities. Movies and books schools and interested adult groups.

As Melvin Taylor, executive director of Trees for Tomorrow, said recently:

"Without setting out to determine policies or effecting legislation, Trees for Tomorrow has proved that there is a vital role" that industry can plan in the field of cooperative forestry and conservation education."

And S. L. Frost, executive director of the American Forestry Association at Washington, recently summed up for the profession: "Progress being made in forestry in Wisconsin is outstanding in the Nation from the stand point of coordinated effort by your organization."



Foresters W.A. Sylvester and William Bjorge posing with Executive Director M.N. Taylor next to a sign at the Trees for Tomorrow Conservation Camp, 1948.

Credit: Wisconsin Historical Society.



Wisconsin Forest History Conference Sept 17-19, 2020 Eagle River, Wisconsin

Sponsored by the
Forest History Association of Wisconsin

Thursday, September 17th

11:30 am — *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 overcame 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 FD. Roosevelt empowering our rangers with "tree armies", Wisconsin's forestry legacy remains a centerpiece of our state's identity today.

Core of the Restaurant structure was built in 1912 as the "Rest Lake Ranger Station of the Wisconsin Conservation Dept. 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.

3 – 3:30 pm — Roadside Stop; Landmark Pines Kiosk

*Vilas County Hwy M in Northern Highland State Forest
(Map w/be offered to all ‘interested at the luncheon)*

A “Photo Point” along the County Road leading to the Northern Highlands American Legion State Forest Headquarters. This photo point features series of black and white photos that detail ‘change’ in the landscape over the past 109 years. The series was begun by the newly appointed “State Forest Rangers” on their appointment in 1911. Natural evolution of the forest, along with some planting, and sanitation cuts have been made over time since the effort began. Other locations in the State had similar “photo points” established that monitored progress of change, the impacts of fire, browsing, etc. WDNR staff will offer brief presentation and take questions.

4 – 5:30 pm — Check into Lodging in Eagle River, WI

(see lodging registration below)

6:00 pm No-Host Social — Kickback Grill-1980 Hwy 45N Eagle River, WI

(Located next door to Hiawatha Lodge and Resort)

No Reservations taken, sign up for a table with old friends or new acquaintances, socialize at the bar, FHAW members present will offer info/answer questions about current programs/initiatives/take input-ideas on future needs.

Friday September 18th

9:00 am — Trees for Tomorrow Campus – Education Building

Opening Remarks

“Seasonal Round of the Ojibwe” – Jon Gilbert, Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Commission – Life Cycle of Wisconsin’s Native People, tied to Annual Cycle of Life on the Land in this forested landscape.

“Historic Logging Practices on Ojibwe Reservations” – Cindi Stiles – 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.

“Thunder Lake Narrow Gauge” – Mary Andrews ... talk based on the book of that title, by her grandfather, 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 Rhineland and the Three Lakes & Eagle Chain of Lakes area.

Lunch

“History of “Trees for Tomorrow” – Cheryl Todea, Operations Manager at “Trees”, --from early beginnings as a USFS Training Center for CCC Program Leaders to becoming a Premier Natural Resource Education Center in the Midwest.

“Heritage and Success of Wisconsin’s School Forest Program” – Stephen Schmidt & Gretchen Marshall. 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.

4:30 pm Day program ends

5:00 pm Cash Bar “Social”/POSTER SESSION – Education Hall –

“Posters” featuring Author’s and Historic Publications/Promotion of Historic Sites in the Region/Research Activities of Historic Importance- Beverages and light snacks available for purchase

6:00 pm - Banquet- Dining Hall

Saturday, September 19th

8:30 – 9:00 am Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Business meeting

9:00 am

“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.

“Wisconsin’s Fire Towers – 1911 to the Present Day” -- Ricky Kubicek, 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.

“The Hemlock Resource and the Tanning Industry in Early Wisconsin” – John Bates, author 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.

12:00 Noon — Conference Ends

Conference Lodging



Super 8 Eagle River
200 Pine Street
Eagle River, WI 54121

715-477-0888



Days Inn Eagle River
844 N Railroad Street
Eagle River, WI 54121

715-479-1600

Both motels are under same ownership and both offer FHAW guaranteed rates for Thursday of \$104.96 and a Friday of \$116.01, tax included.
(call motels to reserve rooms)

Dormitory Rooms at Trees for Tomorrow

Reserve via PayPal at the Forest History Association of Wisconsin website:
<https://www.foresthistoryassociationwi.com/>

A Dorm with 12 rooms on the “Trees for Tomorrow” Campus has also been reserved for lodging.
1 person per room - \$120 for the 2 nights;
2 people per room - \$152 for the 2 nights

Additional Motel Lodging (no rooms blocked)

Best Western Derby Inn, 1800 Hwy 45 N, Eagle River, WI 54121
715-479-1600

Eagle River Inn & Resort, 5260 Hwy 70 W, Eagle River, WI 54121
715-479-2000

Hiawatha Lodge & Resort, 1982 Hwy 45 N, Eagle River, WI 54121
715-479-4442

The Wisconsin Forest History Conference is still on schedule for September 17—19, 2020, but we are all facing many uncertainties. The safety and well-being of our presenters, partners and members come first, so we are closely following local and state health agencies. We will make an informed decision about whether or not to hold the conference as scheduled based on what's in the best interest of the public health on or before July 7, 2020. Watch your email or the FHAW website for that final decision.

**Wisconsin Forest History Conference
Trees for Tomorrow, Eagle River**

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

E-mail _____

Conference Registration fee (\$45/person*) \$ _____

** Conference Fees, "Trees for Tomorrow" Campus
– Friday Sept 18th /Saturday Sept 19th includes
Lunch/Dinner/Breaks on Friday/Breaks on Saturday*

Thursday Lunch "Anglers, Manitowish Waters"

Luncheon choices (with fries and pickle)

Choose One: (\$13/person) \$ _____

Grilled Chicken BLT, _____

Deep Fried Haddock w/lettuce
& tartar on Sourdough Roll, _____

Half pound Bacon Cheeseburger _____

Total: \$ _____

Any Special Dietary Considerations: _____

Please Register by September 10, 2020



Make Checks Payable to FHAW and send to:
FHAW
PO Box 424
Two Rivers, WI 54241-0424



Forest History
Association of Wisconsin, Inc.
P.O. Box 424
Two Rivers, WI 54241-0424