



FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION of WISCONSIN

Woodchips

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The Roots of the Real Christmas Tree

Neil Prendergast, Assistant Professor in the Department of History and International Studies at UW-Stevens Point, chronicles the use of live Christmas trees as Christmas decorations in the United States. Prendergast highlights environmental concerns in the late 19th century which stemmed from the cutting of the trees. [Watch Video](#)

In the News

Evers: No Holiday Tree in State Capitol This Year

MADISON, WIS. (AP) — Gov. Tony Evers' administration will not place a holiday tree in the state Capitol rotunda this year since the building remains closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, disappointing thousands of people who flocked to see the annual decoration but potentially avoiding a fight with Republicans over what to call it. [Read More](#)

The Twelve Pests of Christmas (Trees)

For many, December means celebrating Christmas and a central part of that is a Christmas tree. Evergreen trees have been used in celebration for centuries. The ancient Egyptians, Chinese, and Hebrews used evergreen trees, wreaths, and garlands to symbolize eternal life. Pagans worshiped trees, and Romans used evergreen wreaths during the festival of Saturnalia. [Read More](#)

A Conservationist's Christmas List

For many of us, conservation is our way of life. Finding ways to connect with and improve the land, the soil, the water, and wildlife consumes our thoughts and free time. If you have someone in your life that shares that same passion, here's a few ideas for brightening their Holiday Season. [Read More](#)

Alice in Dairyland Cuts Down Wisconsin's First Christmas Tree over Livestream Event

79th Alice in Dairyland Julia Nunes jumpstarted the holiday season Wednesday, Nov. 18 with cutting down the state's first official Christmas tree. The event is usually held live with an audience, but this year the event was presented on Facebook with most of the content pre-recorded due to COVID-19 concerns. Nunes presented various video clips taken of activities at Evergreen Acres in Walworth County, where the tree was cut down. Nunes made sure to wear a holiday-red sash and a black mink coat from the Kettle Moraine Mink Breeders Association. [Read More](#)

Wisconsin Christmas Trees by the Numbers (Christmas Tree Fact Sheet)

Annual Wisconsin Christmas tree sales: \$16.2 million. Christmas trees harvested in Wisconsin annually: 1.8 million. Number of wreaths & garland made each year in Wisconsin more than: 600,000. [Read More](#)

Reshaping Great Lakes Pine Forests: Adapting to Drought and Climate Change

The red pine forests of the western Great Lakes region aren't what they used to be. For a century, scientists and foresters have viewed these forests as structurally simple, single-cohort stands of red pine (*pinus resinosa*) originating after stand-replacement fires. Forest managers emulated this perceived model in their management and have long grown even-aged red pine plantations.

[Read More](#)

Northwoods Forest History

The history of the northwoods forest can, from the perspective of current residents, be divided into three periods: Everything that went before the logging around the turn of the century, the logging era, and the development of new forest following the logging. Logging began in northern Wisconsin at about the middle of the nineteenth century, but started in the area around Star Lake with the arrival of the railroad and logging company in 1894. By 1910 it was, for all practical purposes, over. From the point of view of European Americans, that was the major event in Star Lake history. [Read More](#)



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Visiting Woodchips Embedded Links to Webpages

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

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

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

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

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

Links shared in this issue of Woodchips

The Roots of the Real Christmas Tree

<https://www.pbs.org/video/university-place-roots-real-christmas-tree/>

Evers: No Holiday Tree in State Capitol This Year

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/wisconsin/articles/2020-11-13/evers-no-holiday-tree-in-state-capitol-this-year>

The Twelve Pests of Christmas (Trees)

<https://blog.invasive-species.org/2018/12/20/the-twelve-pests-of-christmas-trees/>

A Conservationist's Christmas List

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/smallfarms/conservationists-christmas-list>

Alice in Dairyland Cuts Down Wisconsin's First Christmas Tree over Livestream Event

<https://www.wisfarmer.com/story/news/2020/11/23/alice-dairyland-cuts-down-first-state-christmas-tree-livestream/6360645002/>

Wisconsin Christmas Trees by the Numbers

<https://wisagclassroom.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Christmas-Trees-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

Reshaping Great Lakes Pine Forests: Adapting to Drought and Climate Change

<https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/rooted/docs/rooted-vol02.pdf>

Northwoods Forest History

<https://www.starlake.org/topic/foresthist>