



Forest History Association  
of Wisconsin, Inc.

403 McIndoe Street  
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

## "CHIPS and SAWDUST"

A Newsletter from the Forest History Association of Wisconsin  
403 McIndoe Street - Wausau, WI 54401

VOLUME II - No. 2

December, 1977

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

The second annual meeting of the Association on September 24th was the occasion for the first presentation of awards for distinguished service toward the preservation of Wisconsin's forest heritage.

The organizational award went to the Menominee Logging Camp Museum, developed and managed by Mr. and Mrs. Jacque Vallier of Milwaukee, while the individual award was given to L. G. Sorden, professor emeritus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Vallier's museum, near Keshena, ranks among the best of its kind in the nation. Sorden is a founder and director of the Association, as well as the author of several publications related to lumbering history.

The awards consisted of wooden plaques decorated with hand-carved log mark designs and an engraved citation.

A plaque was also awarded to Tom Fulk, our first president, in appreciation for his services as a prime-mover in the organizing of our Association during its formative stages.

### LOG MARKS AND STAMPING HAMMERS

A real attention-holder was Jacque Vallier and his presentation on log marks and stamping hammers, which was a part of the program at the second annual members meeting. Aided by a display of artifacts, he gave a vivid and entertaining account of how these devices were used during the days when river drives were the major form of transportation for delivering logs to the sawmills. Supplementary comments by Dr. Brown of Chippewa Falls, another expert in this field, further heightened the interest of the audience.

### PROJECT PRIORITIES

Your board of directors is attempting to set priorities for the many programs and projects that have been suggested by the long-range planning committee. President Ned Revie urges all members to express their opinions in this regard so that the board will have an indication of where the major



"Chips and Sawdust"

VOLUME II - No. 2

emphasis might be put. Funds are still limited, so some very desirable undertakings will need to be deferred until we accumulate more capital, but priorities still need to be established for the more modest activities. Let's have your ideas.

#### FRED WILSON PLANTS BILLIONTH TREE

A most historic occasion, in several respects, took place on October 20th when Fred Wilson, former chief state forester with the old Wisconsin Conservation Department celebrated his 90th birthday by planting the one billionth tree grown in Wisconsin state nurseries since their inception. Wilson was responsible for the establishment of the Trout Lake Nursery, near Boulder Junction in 1911 and helped to build the first state forestry headquarters there. Subsequently, he developed the first system of state fire lookout towers that eventually led to the greatly expanded forest protection and management programs of today.

#### SCHOOL AND OTHER COMMUNITY FORESTS

The first school forests were established just 50 years ago, in Forest County, at Laona, Crandon and Wabeno. Today, there are 328 such forests registered in 60 counties, totalling 25,084 acres, on which over 50,000 boys and girls received instructions on conservation and environmental protection practices during 1976.

Association member William Sylvester, forestry specialist at the College of Natural Resources, University of WI-Stevens Point, has up-dated a compilation of existing school forests, community forests and forest tracts owned by such quasi-public organizations as various youth groups, churches and service clubs. His statistical summary will be sent to all association members in a special mailing in the near future.

#### THE FIRST WILD RIVER IN WISCONSIN

Long before the concept of preserving wild rivers became popular during the past decade, Wisconsin again demonstrated its leadership in the field of conservation. The following is an excerpt from the biennial report of State Forester E. M. Griffith for 1907-08:

"In 1905 the legislature enacted a law declaring it to be the policy of the state to establish a forest reserve along the Brule River



"Chips and Sawdust"

VOLUME II - No. 2

in Douglas County, and also prohibiting the building or maintaining of any dams on that river or its tributaries. The passage of this act led Mr. F. Weyerhaeuser of St. Paul, and his associates in the Nebagamon Lumber Company to present to the state in September, 1907, some 4,320 acres of land along the Brule River, to be used for all time as part of the forest reserve. It was a most gracious gift and it is to be hoped that many Wisconsin lumbermen will show an equal interest in the work".

In subsequent years, the Brule River attained a national reputation for its unexcelled trout fishing and attracted several presidents to use it as a temporary summer White House.

#### YOUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Two new members were elected to the board of directors at the annual meeting: Ramon Hernandez of Wisconsin Rapids and Robert Birkholz-Lambrecht of Black River Falls. Hernandez is a librarian with the MacMillan Memorial Library and was elected secretary to replace Adrian DeVriend. Birkholz-Lambrecht is a forester with the Hart Tie and Lumber Company and fills the vacancy on the board resulting from Tom Fulk's move to California.

Re-elected for another term is Frank Fixmer, who continues as treasurer of the Association. Continuing the second year of their two-year terms are Ned Revie, president, Roger Drayna, vice-president, L. G. Sorden and Carl Theiler.

Members are encouraged to contact any of these directors on Association activities, or proposals they may have for consideration by the board.

#### 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNTY FOREST RESERVE

"The Forest Crop Law was enacted by the 1927 Legislature, upon the recommendation of its Interim Committee on Forestry and Public Lands. The same Legislature passed the County Forest Reserve Law and substantially amended the laws governing the forest protection program. These laws, together with the 1929 rural zoning amendment to the county zoning law, constituted the key points in the Legislature's response to the critical land use problem of the cut-over region of Northern Wisconsin" (Excerpt from "County Forests in Transition", a report to the Governor, 1962.)

That was the beginning of the county forest program, which today is managing 2,271,000 acres of forest land in 28 counties, and which over 50% of the public lands in the state. Timber sale revenue in FY 1975-76 was about \$1,389,000.