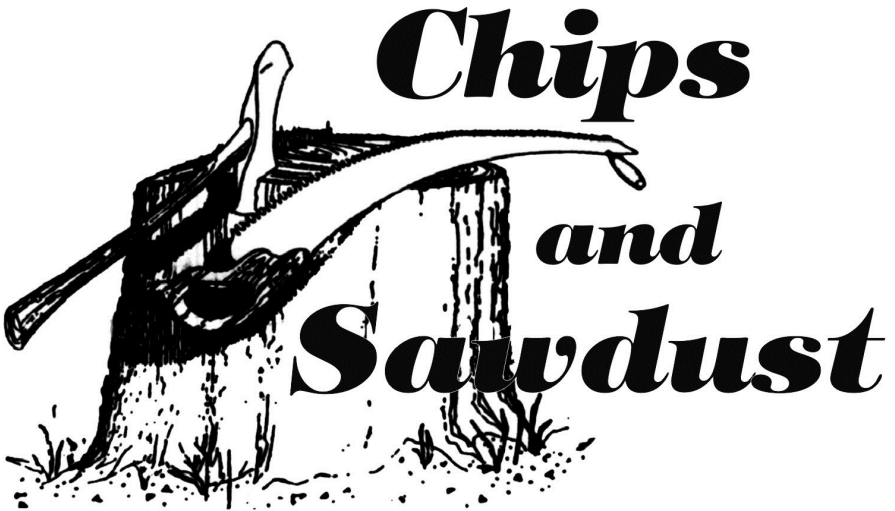


Volume 41

Number 4



A quarterly newsletter from the

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

P.O. Box 424
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2017

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Forest History Association of Wisconsin members interested in serving as a member of the FHW Board of Directors should submit their name, a brief biographical sketch, and contact information to:

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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*

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anvils@charter.net



From The President's Chair

Dear friends,

The summer seems to be rushing by so fast this year that soon fall will be here. With fall will come the 42nd FHAW Annual Meeting to be held at Menomonie, Wisconsin on September 14 – 16, 2017. Inside this newsletter you'll find full details about that meeting. Our local events coordinator, Ed Forrester, has done a phenomenal job assembling speakers, creating an interesting line-up of talks, and arranging unique meeting locations to visit and tour. Menomonie was an important logging area in its day, and the upcoming meeting will highlight many of its contributions to the forest history of Wisconsin. I hope that you can join us there this fall.

You might also consider bringing a non-FHAW-member friend to the upcoming meeting. As a membership recruitment incentive, the board recently approved giving a free individual FHAW membership (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) to any nonmember who joins us for the upcoming meeting by paying the meeting registration and costs of attendance.

Membership recruitment remains an ongoing focus of the FHAW Board. With that focus, and also as an education tool our traveling displays have made appearances in Chippewa Falls, De Pere and Merrill. In the next few weeks they will also be displayed in Marshfield. If you have a local event where they could be appropriately displayed please contact me, and we can make those arrangements.

The board will begin work on a strategic plan for the organization shortly. Reaffirming the mission and establishing goals is important to the success of any organization. Early leadership of the FHAW had a clear idea of both mission and goals, as seen in this newsletter's Newspaper Archive article (page 5). It's time to revisit both and establish benchmarks for the future success of our organization. I know I can count on many of you to help build for the FHAW future.

As for the immediate future, while we look forward to the upcoming meeting at Menomonie, work is beginning on the 2018 Annual Meeting planned for Wisconsin Rapids, and Black River Falls has been identified as the site of our 2019 gathering.

Regards,

-- Don "Schnitz" Schnitzler



From the Newspaper Archives



Logging Lore Group Preserves History that Grew Wisconsin

*(from the Wausau Daily Herald, Wausau, Wisconsin
6 Feb 1992, page 11. Written by Jim Lee
for the Wausau Daily Herald)*

Why do they call Wausau's annual spring festival the "Log Jam?"

Why do seemingly insignificant northern Wisconsin cross-roads carry names and appear on local maps when they are little more than a single home and a tavern?

Who was Fred Wilson?

What industry is responsible for the early development of Wisconsin and remains one of the state's top employers today?

If it's up to the Forest History Association of Wisconsin, the answers to those questions will never be forgotten.

This small but enthusiastic organization is dedicated to preserving the timber heritage of Wisconsin, from the language of the early lumbermen to the finesse of forestry practices.

In between is a lot of fertile history, some of it well documented, others still waiting for attention.

Frank Fixmer, Mosinee, has been a key figure in the formation and continuation of the 240-member organization. A former state, federal and private industry forester for Mosinee Paper Co., he has served as secretary-treasurer of the group for the past 13 years.

"Our basic objective is to educate the general public on the contributions the forest industry has made to the social and economic development of this state." Fixmer explains.

Logging History Preserved

The association was born in 1975, an outgrowth of a bicentennial committee looking at ways to commemorate the timber history of Wisconsin during the nation's 200th anniversary. The

committee decided that forest history deserved a permanent place rather than a fleeting moment in time.

The association was formed "with the stated purpose of stimulating an interest in the discovery and preservation of the record in old journals, aging photographs, and in the fading recollections of those who took their youth into the vast and shadowy depths of the Wisconsin pinery," explains a membership statement.

Those memories include communities that thrived momentarily as logging operations surrounded their perimeter, then died just as quickly when the timber ran out... leaving little more than a name on a crossroads behind.

Some terms live on such as Wausau's LogJam, a weekend summer festival along the riverfront that pays homage to the Wisconsin River's heritage as a timber thoroughfare.

The logging industry was responsible for the development of northern Wisconsin and tens of thousands of

Continued page 7

When Logs Ruled the River...

The following is an excerpt from an article contained in the November (1991) newsletter of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin. It is a reprint of an article that appeared in the Mississippi Valley Lumberman on June 27, 1884, describing a huge log jam on the Dells of the St. Croix River in northwestern Wisconsin:

"The lumbermen of the St. Croix are in some respects the sharpest log men on the continent, but in some others they are the biggest lunkheads in the world.

"Thirty miles above the booms are the celebrated Dells of the St. Croix. The river here is narrow and its side's precipitous walls of rock, extending some half mile.

"In the middle of this, the river makes a right angle turn and, of course, creates a great whirlpool, which stops all floating matter. Into this logs will run and unless they are pushed out they continue to run around the circle until they block the river and a bad jam is formed.

"Three good men will keep the Dells clear all the time, no matter how many logs are running. And a good sheer boom 100 feet long would forever prevent jams of logs forming.

"Strange to say, time after time, they have permitted from 30 to 50 million feet of logs to jam at that point and be weeks engaged with hundreds of men, pile drivers, horses, steamboats, dynamite, etc., in breaking it loose.

"...Another of these jams was formed last Sunday and it is reported as one of the worst ever made.

"...The dark, deep gorge, the towering cliffs, from 200 to 300 feet high, the men swarming like ants on an ant hill, the rushing water and the millions of feet of logs all combine to make this one of the grandest scenes that has ever been seen in this section.

"...Anyone wishing to see a sight they will not forget in a lifetime should visit the Dells whilst the immense jam of logs is still unbroken."

Cont. from page 6 workers – from loggers to paper mill workers – still depend on forest products for employment.

As for Fred Wilson ... he was a legend in the state's lumber history's even before he died less than six months ago in Madison at the age of 103.

Wilson was named the state's first forest ranger in 1911 and initiated the reforestation of the cutover north. He established the state's first tree nursery in 1913 at Trout Lake in Vilas County. His work resulted in the establishment of county forests and forest tax laws that encouraged private landowners to practice forestry.

Membership in the Forest History Association is open to anyone with an interest in the state's forests. Joyce Bant, Hazelhurst, recently served as president of the organization. She became involved because of family ties to the logging industry.

"My grandfather was a farmer who supplemented his income by logging," she said. "My other grandfather worked in a logging camp. My father owned a logging business. My husband operates a logging business. My sons are loggers."

Her only regret, she says, is that there aren't more loggers in the Forest History Association.

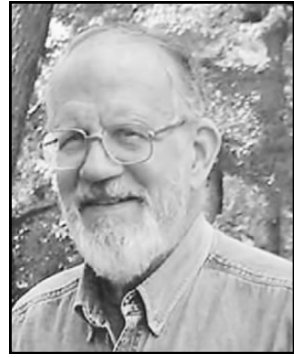
Forest History Association

Today (2017) the Forest History Association of Wisconsin has approximately 150 members. Many of them have ties to the timber industry but a surprising number are just private individuals interested in preserving the state's logging history.

Among the organization's accomplishments are:

- Assisted with publication of "History of the Nicolet National Forest" and "Ghosts of the Forest."
- Published "Firsts in Wisconsin Forest History" an educational leaflet describing historic sites and events related to the state's forest heritage.
- Collected historical forestry and logging publications that are now stored at the UW-Stevens Point Archives and Area Research Center.
- Publish a monthly electronic newsletter, *Woodchips*, a quarterly print newsletter, *Chips and Sawdust*, and annual meeting *Proceedings* of featured speakers and issues.
- Annually present a distinguished service award to an individual and organization.
- Established the John Seaman College Scholarship.

**Miles K Benson
to be Inducted Into
Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame**



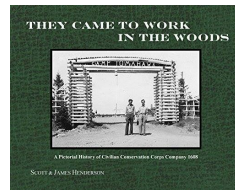
The late Miles K. Benson, past president of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin, will be inducted into Wisconsin's Forestry Hall of Fame September 14, 2017 at Hayward, Wisconsin. Benson was nominated for the Hall of Fame by the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters, which previously named him as a recipient of the John Macon Award recognizing his outstanding contributions to forestry in Wisconsin.

Benson received his B.S. Degree in Forestry from the University of Minnesota in 1959. He first worked at the Institute of Paper Chemistry at Appleton where he did genetic research on improving production of Quaking Aspen for the paper industry. Later he took a job with Owen Illinois in Tomahawk, but soon after was transferred to Lynchburg, Virginia. In 1978, he accepted a job for Consolidated Paper Company in Rhinelander so he could return to the area he loved the most. Then in 1988, he accepted a promotion as Director of Timberlands for Consolidated Paper Company and moved to Wisconsin Rapids. There he retired in 2000.

The Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame was founded in 1984 by ten public and private forestry organizations to honor those who have made exceptional contributions to the field of forestry in Wisconsin. The Ten organizations are: The Forest History Association of Wisconsin, The Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee, The Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, The Wisconsin Society of American Foresters, The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Division of Forestry, The Wisconsin County Forest Association, The U.S. Forest Service, The Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, The University of Wisconsin - Madison, and the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. The Hall of Fame exhibit is located in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point.

**Book tells story of Tomahawk
Civilian Conservation Corps Camp**

They Came to Work In The Woods-A Pictorial History Of The Civilian Conservation Corps Company 1608 by Scott and James Henderson provides a detailed description of a state forest service CCC camp near Tomahawk, Wisconsin. Built in 1933, the camp could house up to 200 enrollees and staff. Through interviews with camp members and their descendants, CCC camp newspapers, and historical documents from government files and county historical societies, the authors recreate what life was like at Camp Tomahawk.



Available from:
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Forest History Association 42nd Annual Meeting Menomonie, Wisconsin



The Knapp, Stout & Co. Company, headquartered in Menomonie, was the largest producer of white pine lumber in the world. The company owned 11 lumber mills and contracted with 3 others to produce the lumber.

The Forest History Association of Wisconsin (FHAW) will hold its 42nd Annual Meeting at Menomonie, Wisconsin, September 14 – 16, 2017. Named for the historic Native American tribe, the Menominee, the city center is located at the south end of Lake Menominee, a reservoir on the Red Cedar River. The lumber industry brought Menomonie permanent settlement and economic prosperity. Through an interesting line-up of presentations and tours, meeting attendees will learn about the natural history, events, individuals and businesses that contributed to the history of the Red Cedar River valley.

A pre-meeting gathering Thursday evening at Stout Ale House, Menomonie's premier sports bar and entertainment facility, will kick off the event. Intended as an opportunity to visit and socialize no formal program has been planned. Instead good food (buffet style dinner of Tender Beef Tips and Roasted Turkey, accompanied by baked potatoes, green beans, and salad with house dressing) and good company kicks off the 2017 meeting.

Menomonie's Russell J. Rassbach Heritage Museum is the site for both Friday and Saturday activities. The museum serves as the headquarters of our hosts, the Dunn County Historical Society, and interprets the history of Dunn County through its extensive collection of artifacts and exhibit areas. FHAW members will likely enjoy the museum's Logging and Lumbering Displays, but other exhibits, like the Golden Age of Auto Design or Rivers, Routes, Rails & Roads, just to mention two, will be equally as interesting and enjoyed. FHAW members attending the meeting at Menomonie receive FREE admission to the Rassbach Museum both Friday and Saturday, a \$10 value.

Mid-afternoon attendees will travel



Top: Entrance to the Russell J Rassbach Heritage Museum. Bottom: A glimpse of a few classic autos on display as part of the Golden Age of Auto Design display.



the short distance by car to tour the Mabel Tainter Theater. The theater was constructed in 1889 as a tribute to Mabel Tainter, the daughter of Captain and Mrs. Andrew Tainter, who died at age nineteen. Captain Tainter was a lumber baron and silent partner with Knapp, Stout, & Co. The beautifully restored building is listed on the National Register of Historical Places, is a charter member of the League of Historic American Theatres, and is a designated Wisconsin historical marker site. No visit to Menomonie would be complete without touring this magnificent old theater.

With another short car ride, the afternoon tour continues at the Historic Wilson Place Museum, once the home of Captain William Wilson, founder of Menomonie and of Knapp, Stout & Co. Company. When Wilson died in 1892, it became the home of his daughter Angelina and son-in-law James Huff Stout, another principal in the lumber company, and civic leader. In the early 1920s, Wilson's grandson, George Wilson LaPointe, Jr. and his wife Irene took possession of the home. John and Jaqueline Dotseth purchased the home in 1974 fol-

lowing the death of Irene LaPointe and worked to turn the estate into a museum which opened in 1976.

Our Friday evening dinner is set for, "Old Towne," also owned by the Dotseth family. Stepping inside the building one recognizes their dedication to preserving all aspects of regional history. On the menu at Old Towne is a relaxed gathering for cocktails, a plated meal of either fish or pork cutlet, served with potatoes, vegetable and dessert. After dinner, a short presentation on the "Tainter Gate," presentation of this year's Fixmer and Connor Awards will be given, and annual auction held.

Saturday morning back at the Rassbach Museum the meeting will conclude with two final presentations.

A "Schedule at a Glance" is found in this newsletter. Please join us at Menomonie as we learn about the forest history of the Red Cedar River Valley.



Left, Mabel Tainter Theater, exterior and interior, and Wilson Place Museum. Above, Old Towne, exterior and interior views.

Lodging Super 8 Menomonie

1622 North Broadway
Menomonie, WI 54751



Rooms are:

King ~\$79.49/night plus tax

Queen ~ \$69.29/night plus tax

Double Full-size ~ \$69.29 - \$72.89*
/night plus tax

- * room charge with a refrigerator and microwave
- all rooms include free wireless Internet and breakfast

To make your reservation:
call the hotel directly at
715-235-8889

*mention the FHW Block
for these special rates.*

Rooms blocked until August 14th

Other area Motels (no blocked rooms)

Motel 6 Menomonie

2100 Stout Street

Menomonie

Room Rates ~ \$65

(715) 235-6901

Quality Inn & Suites

1721 Plaza Drive NE

Menomonie

Room rates~\$89

(715) 233-1500

AmericInn Lodge & Suites

1915 N Broadway Street

Menomonie

Room rates ~ \$127 - \$140

(715) 235-4800

About our Presenters

Frank Smoot is the executive director of the Russell J. Rassbach Heritage Museum. His past museum history includes experience at Eau Claire, Wisconsin and Coos Bay, Oregon museums.

Arlyn Colby has authored three books on Wisconsin Railroads. He is a retired teacher, and active in the Pioneer Museum of Barron County.

David Mickelson is an emeritus professor of geology and geophysics, UW-Madison. An author of numerous papers on glacier geology he is actively involved with the Ice Age Trail Association.

Ed Forrester retired from the Wisconsin Division of Forestry after 40 years and is a board member for the Forest History Association of Wisconsin. He is currently researching a book on the Knapp, Stout Lumber Company.

Heather Stecklein is the archivist at UW-Stout where she opens doors of opportunity to learning more about forest history through the use of Wisconsin Area Research Center Network.

Tim Dotseth is a local historian who is heavily involved in preservation of regional history. He is the manager of the Wilson Place Museum.

Bob Walkner is a long time member of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin serving as both a board member and treasurer. He is active in presenting local history of Eastern Wisconsin.

Chris Cold is a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Specialist and Public Educator. Look forward to a fascinating presentation of forest ecology and wildlife with live examples of birds of prey.

FHAW 42nd Annual Meeting — Schedule at a Glance

Menomonie, Wisconsin September 14 –16, 2017

Thursday, September 14, 2017

- 2:00 pm Board of Directors meeting **Russell J Rassbach Heritage Museum**
1820 Wakanda St., Menomonie
- 6:00 Reception (Cash Bar) at **Stout Ale House**
1501 N. Broadway St., Menomonie
- 6:30 Dinner

Friday, September 15, 2017 at **Russell J Rassbach Heritage Museum**

1820 Wakanda St., Menomonie

- 8:00 am Registration, Beverages & Quick Breads
- 8:30 Housekeeping items and general plan for the day
- 8:40 Welcome, Forest History Association of Wisconsin - Don Schnitzler
- 8:45 Welcome, Dunn County Historical Society -
- 8:50 **Lecture:** *The Treaties and the Trees: Ojibwe, Dakota and Ho Chunk and the lumbermen* - Frank Smoot
- 9:50 Break
- 10:00 **Lecture:** *A White Pine Railroad – the Chippewa Valley Line*
- Arlyn Colby
- 10:50 Break
- 11:00 **Lecture:** *How the Glaciers Shaped the Wisconsin Forest of the Past and the Present;*
Part 1- *How Glaciers shaped our Landscape* - David Mickelson
Part 2- *From Glaciers to Trees* - Ed Forrester
- Noon Lunch (annual membership meeting)
- 1:00 pm **Lecture:** *Knapp-Stout & Co. Company* - Ed Forrester
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 **Lecture:** *Delights in the Archives-* Heather Stecklein
- 2:45 Break (Drive/car pool to tour locations)
- 3:05 **Tour** the Mabel Tainter Theater
- 4:20 **Tour** the Wilson Place Museum
- 6:00 pm Reception (cash bar) at “**Old Towne**”
903 Cedar Falls Road, Menomonie
- 6:30 pm Dinner
- 7:30 pm **Lecture:** *The Tainter Gate for Logging Dams* - Tim Dotseth
- 8:00 pm Social time and auction

Saturday, September 16, 2017 at **Russell J Rassbach Heritage Museum**

1820 Wakanda St., Menomonie

- 8:30 am Coffee and snacks
- 9:00 **Lecture:** *The Hemlock and Leather Tanning Industry* - Bob Walkner
- 9:45 Break
- 10:00 **Lecture:** *Wildlife of the Forest-with live examples!* Chris Cold
- 11:00 Closing ceremony - Don Schnitzler

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.

P.O. Box 424

Two Rivers, WI 54241-0424

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Committee**

Ed Forrester

**43rd Annual Conference
Committee**

Arno Helm

John Berg

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Archives

Exhibits

Don Schnitzler



42nd FHAW Annual Meeting

Menomonie, Wisconsin

September 14—16, 2017

Please Plan On Attending



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