

Volume 31

Number 3



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A quarterly newsletter from the

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

P.O. Box 1001  
Marinette, WI 54143

**Summer 2006**

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# *Chips and Sawdust*

Volume 31, Number 2

## Table of Contents

From the President's Chair

*Call to Conference - Sept. 22-23, 2006 at Camp 5 Museum in Laona.....pg. 2*

"WI Flying Trees: Wisconsin Plywood Industry's Contribution to WWII"

*by Sara Connor.....pg. 3-6*

31st Annual Meeting Schedule.....pg. 7-9


31st Annual Meeting Registration Form.....pg. 10

Dedication of the University of WI - School of Forestry - Kemp Station

Mead Residence Hall.....pg. 11-14

"Amazing Wood".....pg. 15

FHAW Membership Application.....pg. 16



**CHECK  
OUT**

**[www.foresthistorywi.com](http://www.foresthistorywi.com)**

**Our Website!**



# From The President's Chair

Dear Friends,

Summer is fully upon us, but the 31st Annual Meeting of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin on September 22-23, is right around the corner. Football season and planning for games is already in the breeze. The FHAW Conference is a **NON BADGER/PACKER GAME WEEKEND!!!!**

Therefore, everyone has a terrific reason to come to the northwoods!! Please check the website: [www.foresthistorywi.com](http://www.foresthistorywi.com) PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY!!!!!! Motels are at a premium that weekend!!!! We have reserved Cheney's Motel in Laona and the Courthouse B&B in Crandon.

The schedule for the conference is exciting!! We are touring the Pine River Lumber Company forests and visiting logging camp archaeology sites. We will be visiting Cleereman Industries in Newald an international maker of sawmill equipment and the original creator of sawmill carriages.

The lecturers for the two days are Charles Day, author of *Silent Ones: WWII Glider Test and Experiment*, Rob Laplander, author of *The Lost Battalion*, Mike Monte, Editor of *Pioneer Express* and author of *Cut and Run* and Brad Pagel, historian and archaeologist on "The Goodyear Lumber Company." I will be talking about "Wisconsin Flying Trees: Wisconsin Plywood Industry's Contribution to WWII."

**THE FHAW AUCTION WILL BE HELD FRIDAY NIGHT AT CAMP 5!!!!** Following the Lumberjack Dinner at Camp 5!!

FHAW has been working hard for the last four years to improve the forest history museum exhibits and presentation at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Ellsworth Brown, Director of the SHSW will be attending the FHAW conference. You can also have your input in the Online Dictionary at the SHSW of logging terminology check their website. Ellsworth Brown will be presenting the Connor Award and the Fixmer Award on Friday at Camp 5 Museum.

The Board of Directors are pleased to announce that Mrs. Laurie Davidson, Director of Human Resources at Enstrom Helicopter in Menominee, Michigan, has joined the FHAW Board. Laurie is on the Board of Curators of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. She is President of the Wisconsin Technical Colleges Board and has been active in the greater Wisconsin community for many years. She has been the President of the Marinette County Historical Society and presented at the 2001 FHAW annual meeting on the Holt Lumber Company.

**MAIL YOUR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

*See you SOON!!!!!!*  
*Sara Connor*

# “Wisconsin's Flying Trees: Wisconsin Plywood Industry's Contribution to WWII”

By Sara Witter Connor

“It was the worst of times...it was the best of times...”

Charles Dickens, *The Tale of Two Cities*

War brings technological advantages and WWII brought revolutionary changes to the forest products industry. During WWI, the soldiers in the engineering battalions were using wagons and horses in France, as we were at home. WWI aircraft were wooden bi-planes. A-frame loaders were used to load the wagons with logs.

WWII brought the advent of the two-man power saw. It would be the end of the logging camps and railroad logging. “Modern logging” would begin with big trucks and caterpillar tractors. Multiple-use sustained yield logging methods were implemented and the forests saw enormous growth.

Having faced the Great Depression, industries nationwide were facing bankruptcy, liquidation, or mergers. The U.S. aircraft industry had been re-evaluated by John E. Parker's firm of Auchincloss, Parker, and Redpath in 1937, and



Sara Connor introduces Eric Loveland, a Royal Air Force Mosquito pilot.



heavy investment in companies like Cessna, Bell, Boeing, Piper, and Northwest Airlines took place. Mr. Parker was a financier and eventually Vice President of Sperry Rand, who would be instrumental in the creation, not only of Northwest Airlines, but Northwestern Aeronautical Corporation the second largest builder of WWII gliders. Steinway & Sons, Pratt-Read Company, along with Cessna Aircraft were three more of the fifteen WWII glider manufacturers supplied by Central Wisconsin plywood makers. Cessna, also made "Bobcats" with Roddis Plywood. The Lend-Lease Program with Britain slowly resurrected the industrial sector and in 1939, WWII began in Europe. Aircraft were needed and Roddis Plywood and Veneer Company, as well as Lullaby/Oshkosh Pluswood/Northern Veneer Company supplied Sir Geoffrey Dehavilland with thin veneer and plywood for the Dehavilland Mosquito. Materiel was desperately needed in Britain.

In WWII, the A-Frame Loader was the lone remnant. It would be used in the Pacific islands to unload ships. However, Henry Kaiser's Liberty Ships carrying



**Charles Day, author of Silent Ones WWII Invasion Glider Test & Experiment... shares stories at the exhibit opening.**

thousands of tons of cargo would evolve into the development of transport aircraft.

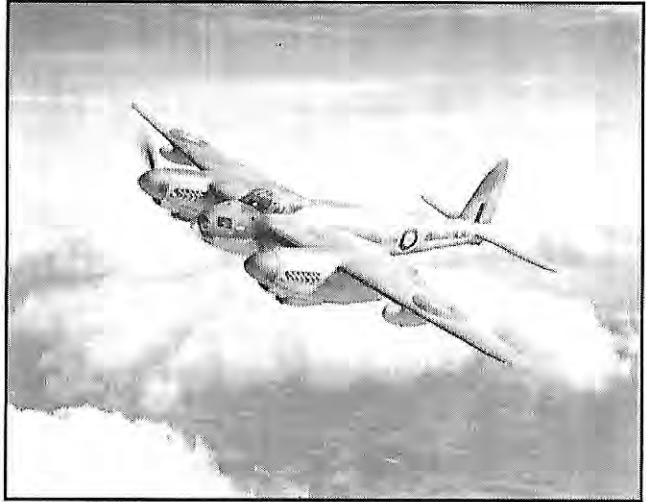
It was Wisconsin's "Northwoods" where the yellow birch was found to produce the vital ship and aircraft materiel. Vilas County and Price County played an important part in producing the logs necessary for veneers of 1/90th and 1/100th. Plywood of 3-5-7 ply, thin enough for the wings for the fastest airplane of WWII the Dehavilland Mosquito or "The Wooden Wonder."

Wisconsin plywood manufacturers not only controlled 60% of the plywood market in the U.S., but invented waterproof glues and laminates to withstand the Pacific tropical humidity and manufacture American Gliders. The U.S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, worked hand-in-hand with

industry to test aircraft plywood for stress, sheer, and glue capabilities.

Gluing techniques for plywood, particle board, and paper laminates that were the precursor for plastics and fiberglass evolved into full blown industries. Consolidated Water & Power's "paper floors," made in Wisconsin Rapids, were used in gliders made by Northwestern Aeronautical Corporation. Indispensable for the war effort, new products meant stronger, faster, and more powerful aircraft. With Sir Geoffrey DeHavilland's Mosquito, "The Wooden Wonder," the British regained air superiority. The fastest, most efficient, precise aircraft would defeat the enemy. The Allies would prevail.

Women, who worked on the veneer and plywood panels, have told their stories about being "Women on the Homefront" and being "Rosie the Riveter." Wisconsin men making the doors for Henry Kaiser's Liberty Ship parts tell about working for the war effort. Eventually 10



**Dehavilland Hornet**

Million acres of forests and 215 Billion Board Feet of Lumber were used for WWII.

Corporations, museums, and individuals throughout the Wisconsin, U.S., Canada, England, and Germany, have contributed to this fascinating story of the race for superiority over the sky during WWII. The genius of Henry Kaiser, Sir Geoffrey Dehavilland, and Howard Hughes producing the Liberty Ships, the Mosquito, and the "Spruce Goose" all have the Wisconsin connections. The technological evolution of machinery, the wood manufacturing process, and aircraft demonstrates Wisconsin's critical role during WWII.

"Wisconsin 's Flying Trees: Wisconsin Plywood Industry's Contribution to WWII" was made possible by a grant from the Hamilton Roddis Foundation through Camp 5 Museum Foundation in Laona, Wisconsin. Other exhibit items were made possible by the Mead-Witter Foundation and Plum Creek Timber Company in Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

Sara Witter Connor, grand-daughter of Hamilton Roddis, is Director of Education/Curator of Camp 5 Museum Foundation. She said, "Creating the exhibit was a natural outgrowth of my love of aviation. The story needed to be told while the people who can tell the story are still alive. I wanted to substantiate the history. My research is ongoing at the University of Wisconsin School of Forestry. Central Wisconsin was the core of aircraft plywood in WWII! I have actual aircraft pieces and have participants from throughout the country, England, Canada, Australia, and Germany. The exhibit honors those who not only fought in WWII, but contributed so much to the Allied victory at home." As a CFI and commercial pilot with a Jet



type, Ms. Connor also has a M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction. As a teacher, she created "Forests For All: The Economics of Conservation." Presently, she is President and Editor of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin.

The interpretive traveling exhibit opened at Camp 5 Museum on July 8th in Laona, Wisconsin. It will open at the University of Wisconsin Marshfield Hamilton Roddis Library on October 12th, and the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, in January before beginning its nationwide tour. The exhibit opens at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, North Carolina in April, 2007, and continues to the Oshkosh Public Museum - Summer 2007, Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Oregon, for the 60th Anniversary of the Flight of the "Spruce Goose" - November 2007, National World War II Museum in New Orleans - Winter 2008, Silent Wings Museum in Lubbock, Texas - Spring 2008.

Traveling throughout the U.S., "Wisconsin's Flying Trees: Wisconsin Plywood Industry's Contribution to WWII" reveals how Wisconsin forests covered the Allied war sky to defend our freedoms.



**Come and explore how Wisconsin's Flying Trees created the American Troop Carrier and Cargo Gliders, the DeHavilland Mosquito, and in the post-war era Howard Hughes "Spruce Goose" (Made in Wisconsin). Wisconsin DID cover the Allied Sky!**



# PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

The reserved Motel/Inn rooms will be released to the public on Labor Day.

There are events in the Forest County area that weekend.

Cheney's Motel, Laona • (715) 674-5678

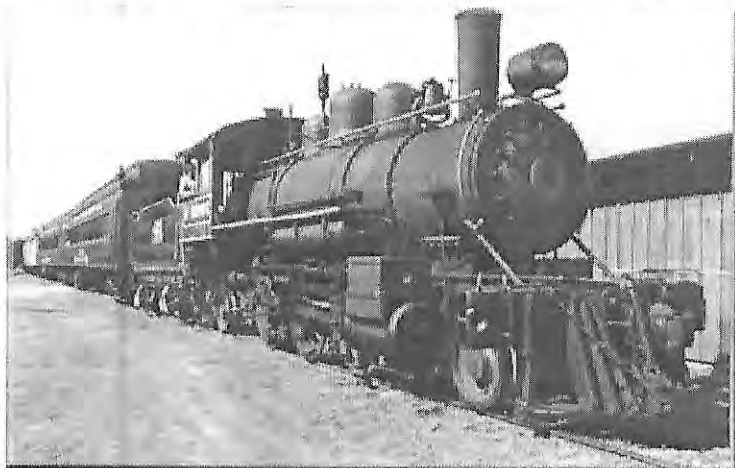
Courthouse Bed & Breakfast, Crandon (715) 478-2549

Forest History Association of Wisconsin  
**31ST ANNUAL MEETING**

# Camp 5 Museum

Laona, WI

# September 22 & 23, 2006



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE!!!

## Friday, September 22, 2006

- 8:00 a.m.** Meet & Register at Camp 5
- 8:30 a.m.** Leave from Camp 5 for Tours
- Tour of Cleereman Industries (Maker of Sawmill Equipment & Sawmill Carriages)
  - Tour of Pine River Lumber Company: Forest Management & Logging Camp Archaeology

### Lunch

- 1-1:30 p.m.** Charles Day, reknowned expert on WWII Gliders  
Author of *"Silent Ones: Glider Invasion - Test & Experiment"*
- 1:45-2:15** Mike Monte, Editor "Pioneer Express" and author of "Cut & Run"  
*"Logging and Tales of the Northwoods"*

- 2:30-3:00** *The Connor Award*  
*The Fixmer Award*

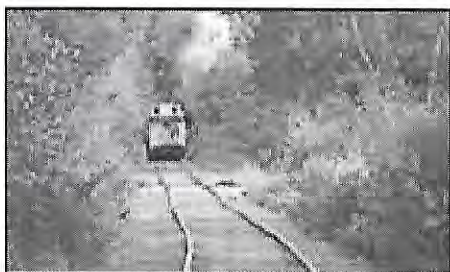


- 3:00-3:30** FHAW Annual Meeting

- 3:45**
- Director's Meeting
  - Heritage Hunt Club (Optional & Sign-Up Required!!!)  
Sporting Clays or Pheasant Hunting

- 5:00** Social Hour at Camp 5

- 6:00** Dinner & Auction at Camp 5





## Saturday, September 23, 2006

**8-8:30 a.m.** Coffee

**8:45-9:15** Sara Connor, Director of Education/Curator Camp 5  
Museum Foundation; Editor - *FHAW Chips  
& Sawdust*

*"Wisconsin's Flying Trees: Wisconsin Plywood  
Industry's Contribution to WWII"*

**9:15-10** Brad Pagel, Historian

*"Goodyear Lumber Company" in Vilas County*

**10-10:10** Break

**10:15-10:50** Robert Laplander, author of *Finding the Lost  
Battalion: Beyond the Rumors, Myths And  
Legends of America's Famous WW1 Epic*

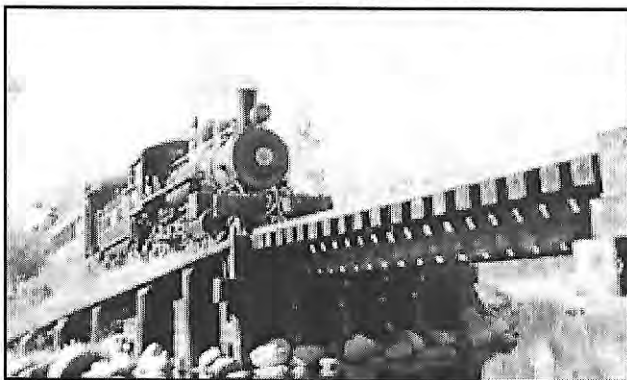
*"Northern Wisconsin's Lumberjacks of WWI"*

**11 a.m.**

- Fall Activities and Fun at Camp 5
- Tour of Camp 5 Museum
- Award Winning Green Treasure Forest Tour

**Noon** Lunch on your own.

- Tour of Award Winning Camp 5 Logging Museum
- Heritage Hunt Club - Sporting Clays or Pheasant Hunting  
(Optional & Sign-Up Required!!!)



**FHAW 31st Annual Meeting**  
**Registration Form**

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday Tour: #** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$45.00 =** \_\_\_\_\_

Includes: bus tour, coffee & rolls, lunch, dinner & auction (cash bar) at Camp 5

**Sat. Registration:** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$37.00 =** \_\_\_\_\_

Includes: coffee & rolls, meeting & Lumberjack Special Steam Train  
Ticket & Camp 5 Museum Fall Tour

**Sat. Lumberjack Special & Camp 5 Admission**

**Ticket Only:** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$17.00 (adults) =** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$6.00 (children) =** \_\_\_\_\_

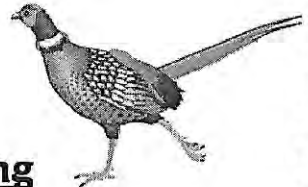


**Heritage Hunt Club**  
**(Optional) Registration**

**Sporting Clay 10 Stand**

**Friday: \$15.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday: \$15.00** \_\_\_\_\_



**Pheasant Hunting**

**Friday: \$54 for 3 birds** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$18 @ for extra birds #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday \$54 for 3 birds** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$18 @ for extra birds #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_



*Make checks payable to FHAW & send to:*

Sara Connor  
Camp 5 Museum Foundation  
5480 Connor Farm Rd.  
Laona, WI 54541



# DOROTHY AND STANTON MEAD RESIDENCE HALL

*The Kemp Natural Resources Station and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences held the dedication of the Dorothy and Stanton Mead Residence Hall on Thursday, July 27, 2006*

*The dedication included; an open house, followed by the ceremony and ended with tours of the Kemp Station.*



*Mead Residence Hall donors and dedication.*

*The Dorothy and Stanton Mead Residence Hall is an outstanding facility that promotes natural resources research and education in Wisconsin's northwoods. Completed in 2006, this 7,000 square-foot building provides year-round accommodations for 24 scientists and students living and working in northern Wisconsin. Included are comfortable sleeping quarters, spacious kitchen, dining room, meeting facilities, deck, patio, library and lounge. The Mead Residence Hall not only advances the instructional mission of Kemp Station, it also recognizes the station's unique setting and history. The building makes ample use of stone, wood and windows to bring in the outdoors. It was designed to fit the landscape in a way that is inviting, functional and environmentally friendly.*

*Mead residents have convenient access to Kemp Station's modern laboratory facilities, computing resources and diverse forest and lake ecosystems. The station's 235 acres support some of the last remnants of old-growth forest in the Great Lakes region. Other ecosystems include second-*

growth forests of birch, aspen, maple, oak and pine; numerous coves, bogs and bog lakes; and more than one mile of shoreline along Tomahawk Lake. This varied environment also is home to a varied population of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish and insects.

*The Mead Residence Hall is the result of a public-private partnership*



*George Mead with Marcy Hime, formerly of the University of Wisconsin Foundation. She was the driving force in fundraising for the project*

that included a grant from the National Science Foundation and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. In addition, Kemp Station received a major gift from the Mead Family for who the facility is named. This support, together with the combined wonderful generosity of the northwoods community, has made this building a reality. A select few donor opportunities remain in the Mead Residence Hall. Additionally, investments into enhanced programming at Kemp Station are always needed and appreciated.

The combination of exceptional on-site features and ready access to diverse ecosystems make Kemp Station and the Mead Residence Hall uniquely suited as a center for natural resources research and education.

## *A word from Mary C. Pierce at the Dedication*

Mary C. Pierce said, "It is my pleasure to represent the Hamilton Roddis Foundation trustees for the dedication of the Hamilton Roddis Dining Room at Kemp Station.

We are indebted to Karen Baumgartner of the Price County Historical Society who devoted hundreds of hours to the search for Roddis photographs. Thanks to you, Karen, we have a large collection, some of which surround us. Greta and Don Janssen produced all pictures which you see, framed them, and made all the labels. Thank you for your very professional work, and your guidance.

Furniture for this room was provided to the Roddis Foundation from Mary Roddis Connor, to honor her father, Hamilton Roddis. Catherine Connor Dellin made it possible for us to furnish the room within our budget. Many thanks, Cate. Cate is



*President of Camp 5 Museum Foundation in Laona.*

*It is fitting that this room is dedicated in Vilas County, the site of many Roddis lumber camps. Early in WWII, Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company bought the Trostel Estate in Vilas County which had many mature yellow birch trees that were made into plywood for the British DeHavilland Mosquito bomber, gliders, and interior wood for the Liberty Ships. Hamilton Roddis and his wife were presented to Queen Elizabeth on her first tour of Canada, as Queen, in acknowledgement of the contribution to WWII from Roddis plywood for the Mosquito bomber.*



*Mary Connor Pierce, trustee of the Hamilton Roddis Foundation responsible for facilitating the Hamilton Roddis Dining Hall at Kemp Station. Shown with Dean Eberle and Marcy Hime. Also pictured to the left: Tom Steele, director of Kemp Station and Paul DeLong, Chief Forester WDNR.*

*This will be the site of future Hamilton Roddis Lectures. The next lecture will be given by Sara Witter Connor on the Mosquito bomber, the American gliders, and the "Spruce Goose" - all made from Wisconsin trees, much of it Roddis plywood.*

*Hamilton Roddis was President of Roddis Veneer, later Roddis Plywood Corporation for forty years. An industrial leader, he lived by the highest standards and demanded the same from family and employees. He had high expectations for all of us. He was a strict disciplinarian. He believed in physical fitness, he walked to work every day and had a rowing machine in the attic, which he frequently used - and so did his grand-children.*

*Mr. Roddis was an avid student of history. He had a tremendous knowledge of English and American literature, of the Bible and Christian hymns. His extraordinary memory enabled him to recite poetry and passages from the Bible, which he had learned years before in school.*

*Grandfather quoted Shakespeare and Daniel Webster frequently. He enjoyed Harry Lauder and attended his American concerts. He enjoyed Gilbert & Sullivan for their whimsical rhymes and catchy tunes.*

*Travel was important. The Roddises traveled to Europe and also to Egypt, Turkey, South America, and Africa. The Episcopal Church was of utmost importance to Hamilton Roddis. He served locally on the vestry as senior warden for 26 years, and 6 times as a delegate to national convention. Another area of interest was politics and local government.*

*Hamilton Roddis graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in*

1899. He want to Spokane, Washington to practice law, but was called home to help with Roddis Plywood Corporation.

Roddis Plywood Corporation spearheaded innovations in forest products, such as the potential of the solid core flush core and manufactured them on a large scale. Roddis Plywood made many beautiful matched veneer panels, for which they were well known in home and office design.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Roddis had 6 children, 3 grandchildren are here today, 1 great-grandchild, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Tom Steele, it has been a pleasure to work with you on this project. Your Kemp Station dream has come true!"



*Ribbon Cutting*

# *Kemp Natural Resources Station*

8031  
Kemp Woods Rd.

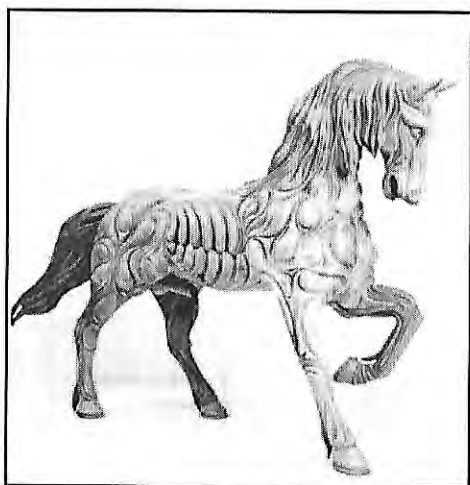
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54568



*Thank you to all of the wonderful donors!*



Can you believe what this man  
has done with wood?



# Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

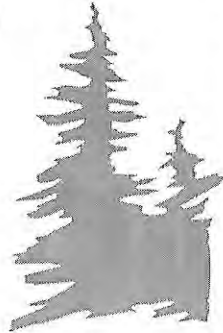
## - Membership Application -

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 (\$5.00)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership (\$15.00)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership (\$25.00)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Non Profit Organization Membership (\$25.00)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate Membership (\$50.00)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Life Membership (\$250.00)

### Other Contributions:

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Student Awards
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Capital Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Operations



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Detach and mail this application with payment to:

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

**P.O. Box 1001**

**Marinette, WI 54143-1001**

Detach along line

Detach along line

## Committee Chairs

### 31st Annual Meeting

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Laona, WI 54541  
SWCN6488SC@aol.com

### 32nd Annual Meeting

Sara Connor & Miles Benson (Madison)

### 33rd Annual Meeting

(Western Wisconsin)

### 34th Annual Meeting

Open

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Don Lambrecht

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Sara Connor

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Dean Einspahr

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Email: SWCN6488SC@aol.com

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