

Volume 34

Number 1



A quarterly newsletter from the

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

P.O. Box 424
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Winter / Spring 2009

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Forest History Association of Wisconsin Members are encouraged to submit items of interest for this newsletter to the editor:

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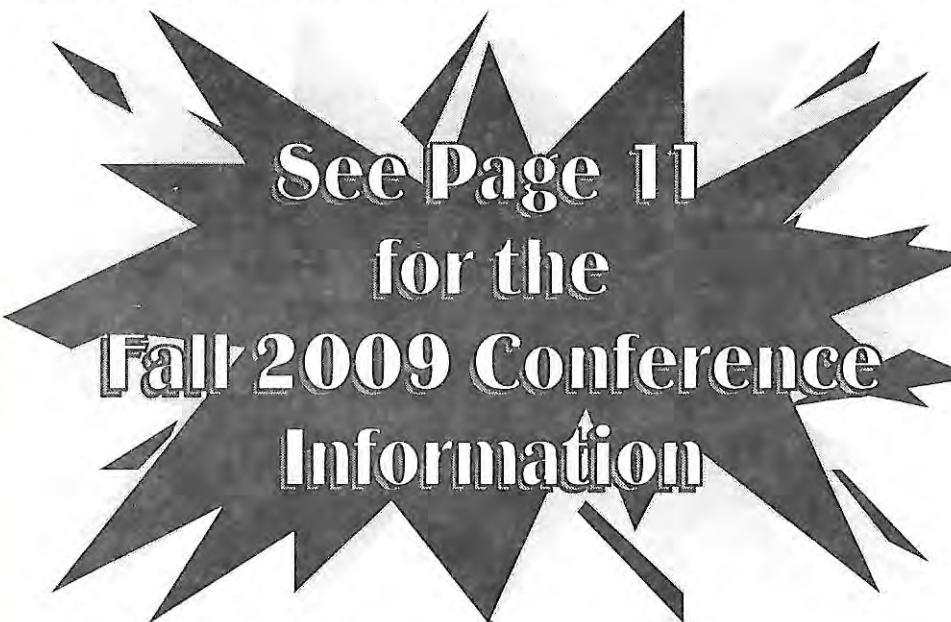
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Please inform the secretary of any change in address.

Chips and Sawdust

Volume 34, Number 1

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**See Page 11
for the
Fall 2009 Conference
Information**

From The President's Chair



Dear Friends,

Since our last Chips and Sawdust, the Board of Directors has met to plan for the New Year! Most importantly, we are working hard to complete the new exhibits so that you can all use them at your meetings and conferences.

In this issue are the panels so that you can see them! Each panel comes in a small bag. It weighs less than Two pounds! Even I can set them up!!!

In addition to the Exhibits, we are planning the 34th Annual Conference in LaCrosse. If anyone has ideas, please contact me!! We have Brad Pagel returning and lecturing this time on Railroad Archaeology. He suggested that we visit the WDNR Coulee Experimental Forest - a great suggestion! It will be Octoberfest in LaCrosse! Dates are September 30 - October 1st!

Please review the Minutes from the Board Meeting. If you have comments, and we hope that you do, please contact a Board Member!

I have been in Montana, but have traveled to Minneapolis to meet with the WWII History Roundtable. They are having a WWII Glider Symposium on May 14 -15th, 2009. Everyone is invited to come. There will be lectures, panels, and talks by authors, historians, "Glider Riders," and WWII Glider Pilots telling their amazing stories of survival! If you are interested in attending, please let me know!

My two small grandsons (ages 8 months and almost 2), are growing and so is our family as we expect another arrival in July!

Skiing at Christmas and into the New Year was tremendous with 62 inches of snow in 6 days. The cold descended and we need some more snow, but the talk of the mountain this year has been "Phanta Morgana" - an amazing phenomenon caused by cloud inversions! According to:

Tom Lyman, McMurdo Station, Ross Island, Antarctica - United States Antarctic Program, South Pole Traverse Project in "Ice Letter #3", October 31., 2005: "the 'Phanta Morgana,' a mirage caused by refraction of light on layers of extremely cold air. It is a phenomenon named for Morgan le Fey, the "shape-shifting" acolyte sorceress of the Wizard Merlin in the Arthurian Legends."

The outcome of "Phanta Morgana" was to make the mountain tops, viewed from the top of Whitefish Mountain, look like Buttes and flattop mountains.

The Cabinet Range is about 80-90 miles away. Normally, it looks tiny in the distance. With the inversion, the refraction increased the size to the eye of the mountains! Incredible! Bruce had only seen the phenomenon once before - six years ago !!!

I hope all of you are well and surviving this "Antarctic" winter!!!

Sincerely,

Sara



Phantom Morgana at the base of Mt. Discovery, Oct. 1, 2004 on a very cold and windy day.
<http://climate.envsci.rutgers.edu/Antarctica/FataMorgana10.1.04.JPG>

From Forest, to Farming, to Forgotten **by Robert E. Arndt**

Information about the book written by Robert E. Arndt "*From Forest, to Farming, to Forgotten*," a factual story of Tripoli, Wisconsin.

Starting from the town's development in 1900 through the saw mill years of the 1920's, through the attempt to convert forest cut-over land to farm land, and then to the disappearance of family farms from this area. The writer grew up on a small farm just outside this town and relates his life's experiences along with a physical description of Tripoli. The book is currently being published and should be ready for reading by March, 2009.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

November 19, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM by President Connor at the Firehouse on Grand Avenue in Wausau. Directors present: Connor, Benson, Kotar, Walkner, Giese, Lambrecht and Neffke. Absent: Davidson, Albrecht, Strathe.

Secretary's report: Secretary Kotar presented the minutes of the September 25, 2008 meeting of the board of directors - minutes accepted, without corrections.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Walkner presented a written report. Cash assets as of 6/30/08 were \$65,889. Operating expenses to date are \$5,385 (budget \$10,800). Report accepted.

Election of Officers: The following were elected by unanimous acclaim: President, Sara Witter Connor; Vice President, John Kotar; Secretary, Laurie Davidson; Treasurer, Bob Walkner.

President Connor reported that the web site has been updated and next issue of Chips and Sawdust is ready for publication, awaiting only today's election of officers.

Committee Reports: Membership: Chairman Walkner presented membership report by following membership categories: individual 185; life 24; family 11; non profit 7; corporate 6; exchange 4; student 1. Total 238.

Forestry Hall of Fame is looking for nominations. Currently no nominee has been identified by the FHAW.

Old Business: The results of the "brainstorming" session conducted at the annual meeting at Telemark will be summarized and presented for discussion by L. Davidson at the Spring meeting of the Board of Directors.

- The Board discussed the merits of contracting the development of computer “banner display” to replace the current product. President Connor reported that the Hamilton Roddis Foundation has donated \$3,800 for the effort. The Board voted to pursue the project.
- Discussion ensued on how various current assets should be handled. For example, should there be a special category of “endowments” and how should these funds be handled in the accounting process? Walkner moved and Connor seconded the motion to table the subject for the next meeting. Motion carried.
- 2009 Annual Conference: La Crosse was chosen for the site, but the date has not yet been set. Suggested dates are last part of September or early part of October. President Connor named several individuals who are prepared to make presentations. Brad Pagel will present his new work on logging railroads. David Peschau will speak about logging history. In addition, Steven Anderson, Executive Director of Forest History Society at Duke University, may also be able to participate. Additional presenters will be recruited.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11 AM. Next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at Schmeekle Reserve, Stevens Point.

Respectfully submitted by John Kotar, Secretary



In Cooperation with the La Crosse Historical Society, the Forest History Association of Wisconsin is proud to present:

A Performance by Judy Cook

*Continued on page 10 is a Biography of Judy Cook from the website:
<http://judycook.net/bio.htm>*

FIRE DESTROYS RAY'S MARKET

By Jake Miller - Marshfield News-Herald

UNITY -- A startling phone call wrestled Alan Gurtner out of bed in the sleepy cold of a dark Tuesday morning. The small, family sausage-making business that he took over from his dad after nearly 30 years, was wrapped in a quilt of flames.

He quickly drove from his Colby home to Ray's Market, 120 S. Front St., a 31-year-old business, arriving just minutes after firefighters. He watched as fire shredded through his livelihood -- and childhood home -- only two years after his dad, Ray, died. Colby and Spencer firefighters responded to a report at 3:45 a.m., after flames were observed coming from the building, said Colby Fire Chief Ross Rannow.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, he said, and there is no reason to suspect foul play. No one was injured.

Rannow said Tuesday afternoon there wasn't significant damage to the front portion of the building, which included an upper-level apartment. Flames, though, gutted the middle portion, and the back section that contained the meat smokers was a total loss.

"It's just mind-blowing," Gurtner said. "You're at work one day. And you come the next day and all your stuff is gone."

Gurtner's mom, Janet, who lived in an upstairs apartment for 38 years, safely escaped the fire when she heard the smoke alarm.

Her phone didn't work, most likely damaged from the fire, so Janet went next door to call 911.

Rannow said the primary blaze was extinguished in about 45 minutes, but hot spots flared up until about noon. The fire managed to creep into parts of the building that had been added on through the years, and came to life between false ceilings and the roof.

Firefighters used a bulldozer to demolish the rear portion of

the building and snuff out the remaining flames, Gurtner said.

One thing that didn't get smoked or charred in the fire was a large load of venison inside a freezer. It belongs to about 400 people who were awaiting its transition into sausage.



*A Colby firefighter sprays water on the smoldering remains of Ray's Market in Unity after an early morning fire.
(Laura Schmitt/Marshfield News-Herald)*

Firefighters, along with Gurtner and neighbors, formed an assembly line to remove the meat. It's being stored on a refrigerated semi-truck, Gurtner said. Only a small portion of venison stored in a cooler was lost.

After walking through the charred and smoke-damaged remains Tuesday afternoon with an insurance adjuster, Gurtner said the building couldn't be rebuilt. He lost all his equipment, ranging from mixers and grinders to sausage-stuffing machines.

Despite the fire, Gurtner was in relatively good spirits, cracking jokes about having time to go fishing, grateful that no one was injured.

Soon, though, he'll hopefully be back in business, he said.

Every year, Gurtner makes sausage for about 1,000 people. To let them down and not re-open isn't a great option, he said. But for now it's deciding when -- and where -- he'll rebuild and continue to make Ray's Homemade Sausage.

"I have every belief that's what I'll do," Gurtner said, "I just don't know when that will be."



Exploring La Crosse

Hixon House

429 North 7th St., La Crosse • 608-782-1980

Wander into the life and times of the eccentric lumber baron who built this Italianate, Victorian style home in 1860. View the original furnishings, unique Turkish Nook and eclectic decorative elements from around the world acquired in his travels by the builder, Gideon Hixon. Open daily, Memorial Day through Labor Day, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Upper Mississippi Environmental Science Center

2630 Fanta Reed Rd., La Crosse • 608-781-9570

Enjoy an interactive look at the wildlife and fish of the Upper Mississippi River. The center's hands-on displays include fur and feathers of creatures that make their homes in the river valley along with the shells of native mussels. Live fish common to the river, such as walleye, crappie, bluegill and perch, along with not-so-common shovelnose and lake sturgeon are also on display. Songbirds nesting in the Mississippi River Valley also can be seen, along with an inter-active CD-ROM program to help visitors identify songbirds and hear their calls.

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Mississippi River, Onalaska • 608-783-8405

With more than three million people annually who come to fish, boat, hike, birdwatch, hunt, sightsee or just relax, the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is one of the country's largest and most visited refuges! Established in 1924, the 200,000-acre, 260-mile-long Upper Mississippi refuge features more than 265 bird species, 57 species of mammals, 35 species of reptiles and amphibians, and over 100 species of fish. No wonder this refuge is a nature-lovers wonderland! Special attractions along the La Crosse county shore of the river include boat and

canoe rentals, the Long Lake and Goose Island canoe trails, with observation points at major pull-offs denoted by interpretive refuge signs. Displays of refuge wildlife are found at the US Fish and Wildlife Service visitors center, located at 555 Lester Ave. in Onalaska.
Open Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Hixon Forest Nature Center

2707 Quarry Rd., La Crosse • 608-784-0303

Enjoy meandering the trails through this 720-acre forest preserve and view the interpretive exhibits at the Nature Center.

Open Monday - Friday 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.,
Weekends, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Mississippi River Cruises

Riverside Docks, La Crosse

Mississippi Explorer Cruises (877) 647-7397

Great River Steamboat Company 608-784-4882

La Crosse Queen Paddlewheeler 608-784-8523

Island Girl Cruiseline 608-784-0556

Cruise the Mississippi on one of the excursion vessels docked at the historic port of La Crosse. Join **Mississippi Explorer Cruises**, La Crosse's only specially designed "backwater" passenger vessel, for a country-road like riverboat cruise into the scenic and wild backwaters of the Mississippi River. Their 2-hour expeditions offer adventurers of all ages an in-depth exploration of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge's ecosystem, navigation, and history. Float back in time on the **Julia Belle Swain**, one of only six steam-powered paddlewheelers still operating on the Mississippi. A faithful replica of the riverboats that traveled these waters one hundred years ago, with a bright red paddlewheel, brassy calliope and three-tiered "wedding cake" structure, the Julia Belle Swain offers lunch and dinner tours, one and two-day excursions with on-board entertainment, sightseeing and shore-lodging overnights. Take one of the daily three-hour sightseeing cruises, a Sunday Brunch or weekend dinner cruise on the **La Crosse Queen**; an authentic replica of a 19th century stern-wheeler. Enjoy a sightseeing, lunch, cocktail and dinner, or moonlight cruise in the air-conditioned luxury of the **Island Girl**, a modern 150-passenger luxury yacht. The river is waiting.

Born in Virginia, the third of four children, Judy grew up with singing from both parents and a love for music. "We sang at the table, we sang washing dishes, we sang riding in the car, they sang lullabies to us." Informal singing went beyond the immediate family: Judy's father called singing squares for neighborhood dances and played songs on the piano by ear; Judy's mother made sure singing was a big part of the scout troops she led; extended family gatherings often featured evening sings. Judy's sense of whimsy and joy of singing surely date from her earliest years.

A solid appreciation for music and singing goes back further yet. Generations of Judy's family have attended Oberlin College where proximity to the conservatory of music ensured plenty of personal experience with good music and musicians. Though she never really knew them, Judy's ancestors included preachers, teachers, and elocutionists; if there is a gene that predisposes one to love delivering a good story, Judy has it.

As she took her place in the folk community, Judy began researching the songs she loved and discovered the wealth of written, recorded, and personal sources for traditional songs and ballads. "I sang with friends at Scout camp, and Oberlin College, but lacked a communal setting for sharing the songs until I joined the Folklore Society of Greater Washington." Through FSGW Judy met other folks who love the old songs. They could get excited talking about variants and sources. Her respect for traditional music was already strong, but continued to deepen as she started visiting old bookstores and the Library of Congress to learn from the many rich collections of traditional songs and ballads. Judy's idea of a good time is to spend a Saturday night, or better yet a whole weekend with friends singing songs and ballads that have been memorized and polished. "The folk community is wide; we've enjoyed swaps and sing-arounds both at home and wherever we travel."

Judy began performing professionally in the early 1990's when people she met at song swaps began asking her to sing at their festivals and coffeehouses. "My self confidence grew as I realized that there are a lot of people who love the songs I sing, and that I get such joy from sharing them with those people." In England, Sara Grey introduced Judy to the British folk community at the Whitby Festival in '97 and David Jones at The National in '96. When Judy decided to start touring in 1998, she did so in the UK as well as in the USA right from the start. She has quickly come to be well respected on both sides of the Atlantic as a singer and propagator of the old songs. Her joy in singing, deep respect for the tradition, and sense of humor delight her listeners.

Judy's first full length recording of unaccompanied traditional songs and ballads, "If You Sing Songs..." was released in 1998, followed two years later by "Far From the Lowlands."

Mark Your Calendar

**FALL 2009
34th Annual FHAW
Conference
in La Crosse, WI
Sept. 30 - Oct. 1**

**Have
you
visited
LaCrosse
Lately?**

**Join the fun, tour, and
enjoy great speakers!!**

***Fun:**

Music, Entertainment, and "Lumberjack Songs"

***Tour:**

3 Sites of the LaCrosse Historical Society!!

- **WDNR Coulee Experimental Forest**
- **US Fish and Wildlife Preserve**
- **Lacrosse Environmental Center**
- **With More To Come -**

***Speakers:**

- **Fred Bessler - Aviation Historian**
"The Mosquito~WWII "Timber Terror"
- **Brad Pagel - Historian - Eagle River**
"Historical Railroad Archaeology"
- **David Peschau - LaCrosse Radio -**
"The History of Logging in Wisconsin~1880's-1900"

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: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Detach and mail this application with payment to:

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P.O. Box 424

Two Rivers, WI 54241-0424

Detach along line

Detach along line

Committee Chairs

34th Annual Meeting

Econolodge
Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2009
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Archives

Forestry Hall of Fame Representative

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10914 Kingston Pike - Apt 203
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Sara Connor

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