

Volume 34

Number 3



A quarterly newsletter from the

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

P.O. Box 424  
Two Rivers, WI 54241-0424

**Fall 2009**

## Officers and Directors 2009-2010

---

**Sara Witter Connor**

*President, Editor*

P.O. Box 366  
Laona, WI 54541

**Dr. John Kotar**

*Vice President*

Eau Claire, WI  
jkotar@wisc.edu

**Bob Walkner**

*Treasurer*

3103 Maplewood Road  
Two Rivers, WI 54241  
(920) 793-4010  
anvils@charter.net

**Ray Noffke**

1434 E. College Ave.  
Appleton, WI 54915-2749  
(920) 739-1997

**Dudley D. Pierce**

Watersmeet, MI  
dudleypierce@charter.net

**Don Schnitzler**

301 S. Cedar Ave  
Marshfield, WI 54449  
(715) 387-4044  
schnitzler.donald@charter.net

**Thomas Albrecht**

N6031 Opperrman Way  
Shawano, WI 54166  
(715) 526-6728  
albrechts@frontiernet.net

**Dan Giese**

976 Coppens Road  
Green Bay, WI 54303-3865  
(920) 497-8236  
dgiese8028@aol.com

**Beverly West**

Stevens Point, WI  
nain@charter.net

**David Peschau**

W5733 Sherwood St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
dpeschau@compuserve.com

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

This will be my last *Chips and Sawdust*, Don Schnitzler is the new editor. Please feel free to contact him and submit articles:

**Don Schnitzler**

301 S. Cedar Ave • Marshfield, WI 54449  
(715) 387-4044  
schnitzler.donald@charter.net

---

The post office will not forward bulk 3rd class mail.  
Please inform the secretary of any change in address.

# *Chips and Sawdust*

Volume 34, Number 3

Table of Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| From the President's Chair.....              | pg. 3 - 4 |
| FHAW Fall Conference Recap & Pictures.....   | pg. 5 - 8 |
| Conference Thank You List.....               | pg. 9     |
| Book Review: The Story of Tripoli.....       | pg. 9     |
| October Board Meeting Minutes.....           | pg. 10    |
| Article: Have you seen our new baby?.....    | pg. 11-12 |
| Heard From Our Members.....                  | pg. 13-14 |
| Veterans Corner.....                         | pg. 15    |
| Article: Historians gather at La Crosse..... | pg. 16    |
| Harvey Hoy Personal History.....             | pg. 17    |
| 2009 Fixmer Award.....                       | pg. 18    |
| Article: Uncovering History.....             | pg. 19-20 |
| Article: Ship masts tower on tree farm.....  | pg. 20-21 |
| There's Fire in our Blood.....               | pg. 22    |
| Where the Popple Meets the Pine.....         | pg. 23    |
| Wisconsin Central List.....                  | pg. 24    |
| Membership Application.....                  | pg. 26    |

# From The President's Chair

Dear Friends,

If you did not attend the LaCrosse 34th Annual Conference, You missed a truly fantastic event! I have "re-capped" the conference in this issue and hope you enjoy the photos! There were so many highlights!! Judy Cook's marvelous folk



singing of "Shanty Boy" songs while traveling down the Mississippi River!! Dr. Larry Severeid's tour of WDNR Hixon Forest and Ecopark was reinforcement of our managed forestry techniques surpassing Mother Nature! A picnic, tour, and Forester challenge at Norsekedalen Nature and Heritage Center was a great learning experience. Brad Pagels presentation on Historic Logging Archaeology at the Pump Art Center was wonderful! Seeing members - Frank Hitz coming from Colorado with his Historic Wisconsin Sawmill Database - and reconnecting with friends old and new from all over Wisconsin in LaCrosse equaled a wonderful fall event.

A special highlight was the unveiling of the "Historical Logging in Wisconsin" traveling exhibit! An easily portable exhibit developed by Northwoods Graphics was made possible through the Hamilton Roddis Foundation gift. The "Historical Logging in Wisconsin" is presently at the Hixon Forest and Ecopark, LaCrosse. It will be there until December. The exhibit will be moving to the Chippewa Falls Historical Society. If you would like the exhibit at a conference, library, school, meeting, please contact Miles Benson or a member of your Board!

With many thank you's and the assistance of David Peschau, our newest Board member, we were front page in the *Home* section of the *LaCrosse Tribune* (see inside). David assisted with all of the arrangements and will be doing our Publicity in the future!! Bruce and I did a RECON mission in August and David was so generous with his time!!

Thank you's go to all of the FHAW members, who brought Auction items!! Thank you to Jerry Poprawski, who drove from Lower Michigan - a Troll - because the Lake Michigan was ferocious and the ferry did not run! The "Wisconsin Memories" design in T-shirts and sweatshirts with logging memorabilia were popular items! Items old and new (I bid on Boom Rings!) are great collector items and gifts! Please begin to think of next year's auction! The "rolling" auction was popular and fun this year!!! Thank you again to all involved!!

Please congratulate Don Lambrecht. He is a former FHAW Board member and past longtime FHAW representative to the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame. Don is the 2009 FHAW Fixmer Award recipient!

Planning is already underway for Green Bay!! Please mark your calendars - September 23-25, 2010. The 35th Annual conference in 2010, is a very special meeting! Since FHAW is the ONLY Forest History Association in the United States, we are meeting in conjunction with the Forest History Society. Headquartered at Duke University and publishers of the prestigious *Forest History* magazine, the Forest History Society is holding their Board of Directors' meeting in conjunction with our conference. We welcome their participation!! We hope that many of our members from Upnorth will come to Green Bay and greet the Forest History Society!

We welcome some new FHAW Board members! David Peschau, I have already introduced! The FHAW members were emphatic in the Brainstorming session at the 2008 Cable conference about more publicity. David has years of experience with radio and television and is a well known TV personality in LaCrosse. His family was in the lumber business in St. Paul - started by his grandfather.

Dudley D. Pierce is from Watersmeet, Michigan, he is President of the Watersmeet Community Foundation and on the Commission on Water and Aquatic Invasive Species. An avid hunter, he is well acquainted with forest history and land-use issues.

Donald Schnitzler from Marshfield is so active and involved in Marshfield Historic Preservation, when I told someone recently that he had joined the FHAW Board, the comment was, "Like he needs one more project!" However, having been on the Board less than one month, Don has already arranged for our new "Historical Logging in Wisconsin" traveling exhibit to be in Marshfield schools in May! In addition, working with the Marshfield Library, the FHAW exhibit will be part of their History Month exhibit in October of 2010!

Don has jumped in with both feet and will be assuming the publication of *Chips and Sawdust*. Please continue to send news items!

Beverly West from Stevens Point is looking forward to representing that area! Bev is running for National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Curator General in charge of the NSDAR Museum after years of experience on the local, state, and national level. We wish her great success!

In this issue of *Chips and Sawdust*, there are two NEW Columns! One is "Heard from Our Members" and the other is the "Veterans' Corner." Each time FHAW gathers, there are friends and story sharing. Many stories are shared in letters to me as Editor. As I pass this on to Don Schnitzler, I hope that you will continue to write, research, and share your stories.

Best Wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,  
Sara Connor  
President

# **The 34th Annual Conference in LaCrosse**

Board Emeritus members and your Board of Directors met in LaCrosse before the official opening event at the Freight House on Tuesday evening. Miles Benson and Dean Einspahr were on a duck and bird hunting trip throughout Wisconsin and on their way to South Dakota. Dudley Pierce was on his way to North Dakota for ducks and geese! Dean, it was your “camo” green pants that were the dead give away!



**The Freight House historic railroad freight house restored with a turn of the century “saloon bar” right out of the movies was a great setting for the unveiling of the “Historical Logging in Wisconsin” exhibit!**

**The Freight House was also the perfect backdrop for Judy Cook's folk singing of Lumberjack songs.**

**Ms. Cook is a nationally and internationally known folksinger!**

**She just released a “Songs of Lincoln” CD and we have implored her to do a “Shanty Boy” CD from her repertoire. For more information on Judy Cook visit her website: [www.judycook.net](http://www.judycook.net)**



**Frank Hitx from Loveland, Colorado (formerly of Wisconsin) shared his Wisconsin Historic Sawmill Database! His research is impressive and the FHAW will be working with him on his enormous contribution to the Wisconsin history of logging literature.**





*(left to right Brad Pagels, Dudley D. Pierce, Dennis and Judy Cook)*

The FHAU Auction included some great items, as usual! Thank you to ALL MEMBERS who brought treasures! Photos, crosscut saws, boom rings, scrip, tools, and a Peavey Hook

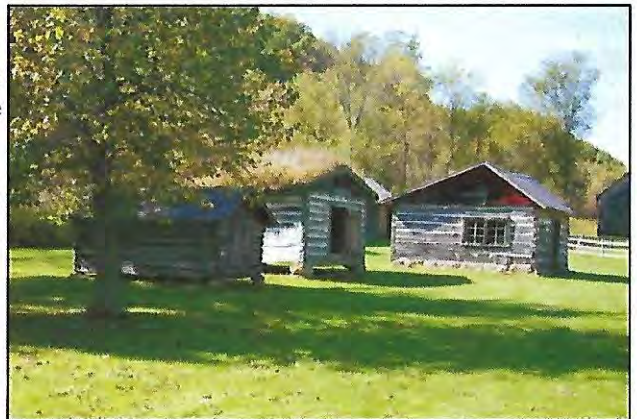
were only some of the many items! Bruce Clark and Dudley Pierce were working the audience while the Treasurer, Bob Walkner was tallying! Thank you, gentleman!

**A Stamp Hammer and Log Mark exhibit.**



**Bob Walkner, FHAU Treasurer, and Frank Hitz examine an old Steamboat whistle. Thank you Bob Walkner for collecting Conference Reservations!!**

A Norwegian village, Norsekedalen has the early log architecture with a grass sod roof house. Note that the logs are sawed off on the ends and it has log chinking. At the time of construction, three couples who had immigrated to the area, lived in the house until they each could build their own house! Our guide, Richard told us about the Gunderson family homestead. Six boys and three girls were born and lived in the house, farming the land.



All of the buildings at Norsekedalen were brought to the site and re-constructed with numbered logs and hand hewn work.



Dr. Larry Severeid, Hixon Forest and Ecopark Board member and Forester Julian “Hutch” Hutchinson, from Hutchinson Resource Management, presented a program about the reforestation projects at Hixon.

*Dr. Severeid described the seven year project within the enclosure. Exotic species of trees, wildflowers, and grasses were eradicated. Hixon planted over 1,000 trees. Different varieties were carefully observed. The Red Oak did not fare well. With the Butternut virus in the area, careful attention was paid to the re-growth. Seven varieties were growing well. A thinning will take place in the near future.*

*Dr. Severeid points out the undergrowth and tree types. Outside the enclosure, areas that had been cleared and left to Mother Nature were brambles, thickets of brush, and little evidence of trees growing. Deer evidence was rampant! Dr. Severeid’s conclusion was that man’s forest management practices need to take place.*



Patrick, a Forester for Southwestern Wisconsin Land Surveying and a Norsekedalen Board member, graduated from UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources. He asked our retired FHAW Foresters to identify some of the European species of trees as we toured the property. He also described the forest management plan that Norsekedalen has developed.





**The River Queen  
waits for the  
FHAW members.**

**All Aboard the historic  
Paddlewheel Steamboat!!**



**(left) The Swing Bridge**



**(right) A spectacular view of the  
coulees and bluffs!**



**A train crossing  
the bridge,  
industrial activity  
on the Mississippi  
River, as well as in  
the area, keeps the  
bridges busy**

The final day was at the Pump Arts Center of LaCrosse. The auction continued and lecture by Brad Pagels on Historic Logging Railroad Archaeology. His research continues as he discovers more sites and railroad grades.

Members said Goodbye at Piggy's, a historic warehouse, until next year!!

Photos by Bruce Clark

# Thank You!! Thank You!! Thank You!!

**Toni Asher** - Executive Director  
Pump House Regional Arts Center

**Chris, Patrick, Richard, and Tour Guide**  
Norsekedalen

**Stephanie Hanna** - Conservation Education Manager  
Myrick Hixon EcoPark

**Dragan Miljkovic** - General Manager  
Econolodge

**Michelle Nelson** - Business Manager  
Myrick Hixon EcoPark

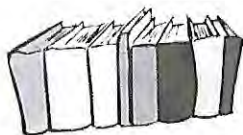
**Sharon Nerison** - Director of Convention Sales  
LaCrosse Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

**David Peschau** - Broadcasting, Inc.

**Chris Roderique** - Owner  
Piggy's Restaurant

**Dr. Larry Severeid** - Myrick Hixon EcoPark

**Phil Wanke** - Café and Catering  
Culina Mairiana, Shrine of Our lady Guadalupe



## Book Review



**The Story of Tripoli. From Forest, to Farming to Forgotten**  
by Bob Arndt

Bob is a FHAW member and has written this book about his area in Wisconsin. The book was shown at the FHAW La Crosse Conference. If you are interested in getting a copy, contact him at 1945 Mills St. #558, Green Bay, WI 54302 or email [arndtrc@hotmail.com](mailto:arndtrc@hotmail.com).

Bob wrote: ".....a book about a small, sawmill town in northern Wisconsin, Tripoli. It is not a ghost town yet, but is mighty close...a book about the founding of this town and its heyday as a sawmill town. I also included insights about my younger years of growing up on a farm in this area."

# ***Minutes of the October 1, 2009 Board Meeting***

Meeting was called to order at 10:20AM at the Pump Art Center, LaCrosse by President, Sara Connor

**Secretary's Report:** Given at previous meeting on September 29th, 2009, and approved

**Treasurer's Report:** (Bob Walkner) Several issues were corrected. Motion to Accept Report by Dan Giese, Second Ray Noffke. Approved. The Books have been Audited.

**Board Nominations:** Miles Benson nominated David Peschau. 2nd Dean Einspahr. Approved.

Approval of the Boards' Action, Miles Benson moved that the actions of the Board for 2008-2009 be approved. 2nd Dean Einspahr. Approved.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Auction Report:** The Auction was ongoing at the time of the meeting. However, thank you-s were given to Jerry Poprawski, especially for bringing his "Wisconsin Memories" T-Shirts and Sweatshirts, which were popular items. Thank you to Randy Rohe, and all members who brought items and bid!

**Membership:** 236 members

**Exhibits:** The FHAW "History of Wisconsin Logging" exhibit unveiled at the LaCrosse 34th Annual Conference will continue its travel. After its opening at Camp 5 Museum/Wisconsin Forestry Museum in Laona, it will be installed at the Hixon Forest and EcoPark in lacrosse.

The additional "hands-on" exhibit being prepared was discussed.

**35th Annual Conference:** Green Bay 24-25, 2010 • HQ Hotel: St. Brennan's Inn - Pub and Grill. In cooperation with the Forest History Society Duke University.

**Archives:** Discussion of Frank Hitz's newly announced gift of his computerized Database of Historic Logging in Wisconsin. It is a database of over 2600 sites which the user can access by queries. Appreciation was extended to Frank Hitz.

**Old Business:** Thank you and appreciation was given to [www.Wispolitics.com](http://www.Wispolitics.com) Development and Marketing Director, Jim Greer, for his donation and initial development and maintenance of the FHAW website.

The software, Dreamweaver, has been purchased by FHAW to facilitate the Website development. Dan Giese is working on the FHAW website.

**New Business:** Dan Giese moved the meeting be Adjourned. 2nd Miles Benson. Adjourned 10:58AM.



# ***Have You Seen Our New Baby?***

***She was Rescued from the Chippewa River at the Xcel Energy dam site***

A very special thank you to Steve Bowe a now retired employee of the Chippewa Falls Street Department. Steve informed my friend Norm Ford of this "Historic Log," that was rescued from the gates of NSP dam at Chippewa Falls. Norm informed me of it's presence at the dam site on Monday, September 29. On Tuesday, September 30 as I was driving past the entrance to the dam site on my way to volunteer at the History Center, I noticed the entrance gate was open. I made an appearance at the center and informed them I was on a mission, to rescue a log that had floated into the gates at the NSP dam. Actually it belongs to Xcel Energy now but it still says NSP on the top of the building. After checking in at my volunteer position, I went back to the dam site and got the attention of the operator Duane Elstran. After a short introduction as a member of the Chippewa County Historical Society, Duane took me on a quick tour of the dam. It was on this tour that I explained our interest in this huge log sitting on the dike next to the powerhouse.

This log is 40 feet long and it is 30 inches across at the butt end. The butt end is also cut into a wedge shape. It was used as a boom log probably by the Chippewa Lumber and Boom Co. That would make it over 100 years since it was cut down. Comparing it's size to one from the "HA" Hiram Allen Lumber Company that had 169 years of growth, I would say this long is at least 170 years old or more, and has been under water for more than 100 years. If this log could talk think of all this "History" it could tell us.

After talking with Mr. Elstran he informed me that Xcel would be interested in donating the log to our history center. I jumped at the chance of saving this magnificent piece of history. It would be our problem to move it and find a suitable spot to display it. At that time my thoughts turned to Allen Park and the area where we put our display for "The Past Passed Here." My next stop was over to the City of Chippewa Falls Street Department where I consulted with Glen Zwiefelhofer and told him of our plight. I was there to ask about the use of Allen Park not knowing at the time who controlled the use of the park area. Glen informed me that Bill Faherty had control of that area and as I was leaving he said "Uncle Buck" (an old nickname of mine) we will move the log for you if a spot is found. With this offer to help I was off to see Bill Faherty of the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Faherty was on the phone when I arrived and when he finished, another lady had come in for an appointment with him, but she let me make a quick explanation as to what I was after. Bill told me to hang around so we could go look for a site in Allen Park, after a short meeting with the young lady, Bill and I were off to find a suitable spot in Allen Park. We agreed on a site north of the "Railroad Bridge Abutment." All of this happened before noon, then I went back to the history center to eat lunch with the ladies.

Monday, October 6 - I had gone to the Wheaton Town shop and picked up some broken off sign posts for decking to lay this massive log on. This was on Monday morning. In the afternoon I cut these posts to the correct size needed for the cradle structure. (Thanks to Dave and Pat for their help.) On Tuesday at 11 a.m. I met with Glen and Mike from the street department Allen Park to show them where the log would be placed - everything looked great.

I called Duane Elstran Tuesday evening to let him know we would be at the dam site a little after 7 a.m. Wednesday morning, as this was a little earlier than his normal hours called for. After a little running around between the dam site and the street department, arrangements were made to move the log on Wednesday, October 8. I went to bed early Tuesday evening about the time the presidential debate came on TV - it was more interesting than I thought it would be, so I watched it till the end falling asleep before the news came on. I was hoping to catch the weather forecast. This must have made me nervous as I woke up at 1:30 a.m. with a stomach ache. This lasted into the morning so I got up at 5:30 a.m. and had some breakfast. I wanted to be at Allen Park by 6:40 a.m. to place more cribbing on the site. It had rained close to ½ inch in the last 24 hours but the ground seemed stable, at least with the weight of my van. I headed south on Bridge Street past the dam site and Oh! The gate was still locked. This added to the tension, but I crossed the bridge heading to the Street Department. Upon going in I met with Glen and Mike for a short time until they met with their crew for their daily dispersal of jobs. At this time I headed over to the dam site and as I pulled in to the park alongside of the locked gate, in pulled Mr. Elstran with the key. Oh boy, things were going good now. About 5 minutes later here comes the street department crew. What a relief, I was feeling better already. It only took a few minutes to put a chain around the log and pull it forward enough to get under it with the huge fork lift. Now comes the test, we had no idea how much this water soaked log would weigh! It was no match for this loader, Mike Bohl had no problem getting it balanced, then headed for the lowboy trailer. After it was loaded and secured, we stopped traffic on Bridge Street and headed north to Allen Park. Mike had gone first with the loader so he was ready to unload the log quickly as the lowboy arrived. It is close to 250 feet from the street to the log's final resting place. With the skill of the operator there was no problem getting the log into it's cradle, then rotating it a little to get its wedge end in the correction position. The log has a new home for all to see and enjoy a historical part of our past lumber industry in the Chippewa Valley. That's all for now from Engel's Little House on the Wheaton Prairie.

By: Arley Engel

This article was taken from "The Eagle Speaks" November 2008, a newsletter by the Chippewa County Historical Society.



# Heard From Our Members

## **Dorothy Baer - Wisconsin Rapids**

We missed you at LaCrosse!! Dorothy sent the Daily Tribune: Ship Masts Tower on the Tree Farm. July 24, 2009, written by Don Krohn. It is really amazing to think about the ship masts!

## **Arley Engel - Chippewa Falls**

Chippewa Falls is steeped in history! I just attended the Wisconsin Historical Society and Wisconsin Council on State and Local History. Everywhere I turned, I met someone from the Chippewa Falls area active in the Chippewa Falls Historical Society or the Chippewa Valley Museum. Their "New Baby" is an enormous Boom Log from the "Chippewa River at the Xcel Energy dam site." READ the article in this issue!

## **Cyril Ernest - 409 Lakeview Ct., Lexington, KY. 40515**

Cyril wrote: "I grew up just north of Sells Spur at Summit Lake and in 1947, when operations were winding down, I somehow at the tender age of 18, sensed that this was the end of an era. I took as many photos as I could with my dad's 122 postcard-sized camera. With six exposures per roll and each roll 50 cents, one had to be judicious in deciding what to record. Some of those photos would have made it into Harvey Huston's book, The Roddis Line.

Two things happened during those years that I would not trade for anything. One fall Sunday, two friends and I took a handcar from the shed on the hill, just north of Sells Spur and went out about five miles or so. Strictly 'manpower,' no speeder. But with lack of cuts and fills, it took very little pushing to get it up each hill.

And the other adventure was when I walked out on the Roddis Line to just into Iron County. There I met the train coming back in towards Sells Spur. John Burgmeier was the Engineer and Ed Semanko, my brother-in-law, was the Fireman. So I got a ride in the cab back to Sells Spur. Every time I get back up north, I wander over those old grades and think back about those earlier days."

## **Al Ochs - Marinette**

Wished us well for the Conference in LaCrosse, but had surgery. We all send him a GET WELL!!! If you want to send a card: 3008 Taylor St. 54143 !!

## **Theresa Mayer - Fond du Lac**

Theresa joined FHAW at Logging Congress in Green Bay in 2008. She wrote: "I introduced myself as the only 'Female Forwarder' operator south of Green Bay!" She was camping in the Northwoods this summer with her family!

### **Frank Hitz - Colorado**

Frank and his niece attended the conference in LaCrosse - all the way from Loveland, CO!! He shared his vast database in a presentation at the Thursday night dinner - SEE The Conference Recap!

"Dear Sara - and all the FHAW attendees,

I want to thank you all, for the gracious and kind acceptance of me at the conference. And, I really appreciated the opportunity to exhibit my historical sawmill database, to such a distinguished group of folks.

I also want to thank all, for the many complimentary remarks and comments. I look forward to working, to further the goals of forest history association of Wisconsin. I hope to see you all again next year."

### **Tom Becher - Wausau**

Tom sent a Wausau Daily Record Herald, September 19, 1917, Notice of Sale description of a bankruptcy of R.D. Hogan administered by the Wisconsin Valley Trust Company. A vast list of items for sale, including ½ Keg Horse Shoes, 30 Packages of Snuff, and 1200 ft. Hemlock Lumber. Many more items familiar to all of us!!!

### **Harvey Hoy - Grafton**

Harvey and his family were at Camp 5 Museum/Wisconsin Forestry Museum in Laona in late August. He is still active at MSOE and came with his family to ride the Lumberjack Steam Train. He sends his regards to everyone. He submitted an article about his personal history of Presque Isle, where his family has a cottage. SEE this issue.

### **Carl Krog - Marinette**

Generously submitted two essays to the FHAW. Agricultural Settlement II: Farms in the Cutover 1890-1929, as well as, III the Retreat of Fields, The Return of Forests. These essays are extensive and will be printed!!

### **Jim Simon - Fond du Lac**

Sent the article in this issue from Wisconsin Outdoor News - Uncovering History, April 2009.

### **D. Stewart - Madison**

Thank you for the Neenah Gazette, Life in the Pineries - A Letter from X-Eye, Saturday, April 2, 1881. An insightful glimpse into a camp!

### **Rollie Thums - Rib Lake**

SEE PHOTO in this issue. Rollie wrote: an item of interest about the Ed Thums family. "My father also worked at the Rib Lake Lumber Company as a train driver (Engineer) until it burned in 1948. If you would like more info on the Rib Lake Mill, my good friend (also a Lifetime member), Robert Rusch is the expert 715-427-3444. [He has] movies, interviews... tons more."

Rollie is "The Plot Meister." If you need a food plot, call him at 715-427-5809. The photo of his family as part of the Rib Lake Fire Department is a fantastic contribution to their community!!

# Veteran's Corner

*Please contribute your stories  
Thank You for your service!*



I was just a bit young to get into the war until the very end. No more pilots needed. I was very fortunate to get into the Air Force and became an aircraft mechanic. I was sent on a C-54

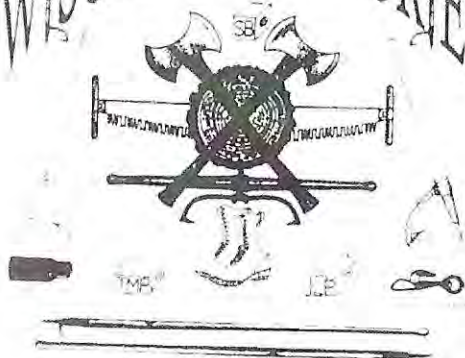
with a crew of mechanics and specialists to operate on temporary duty out of Orly Field, Paris. We repaired C-54s in Europe, North Africa and India. Our basic job was to provide maintenance necessary to get the C-54s out of India, Cairo and anywhere else that we were needed in the process of closing down American bases. What an eye opener for a nineteen year old kid. From the air, we saw the destruction of much of France, Greece and Italy. It was an all expense paid tour with all the K rations we could eat.

One of my high school chums a few years older than I was a glider pilot lost in Burma. Some of our fellow students were drafted before they finished high school, boys and girls were expected to work half days somewhere in town if it didn't interfere with getting enough credits to graduate. We attended our classes in the morning leaving our afternoons and evenings free to help out in the local labor market. It wasn't mandatory, but it was expected.

Of course, I was compulsively interested in aviation and the DeHavilland Mosquito Bomber was my favorite airplane. I was happy to read your article and the role that the lumber industry of Wisconsin and Michigan played in its manufacture.

*Submitted by Norm Langer, Retired American Airlines Pilot*

## WISCONSIN MEMORIES



TOOLS OF THE LUMBERACK

**"Wisconsin  
Memories"**  
by Jerry  
Poprawski,  
Artist

**Available in:**

- Postcards
- T-shirts
- Shirts for Christmas

**Contacts Us!**



# ***Wisconsin forestry historians gather in La Crosse to see Hixon project***

*La Crosse Tribune • October 1, 2009 By Chris Hubbuch*

A group of people interested in preserving Wisconsin's foresting history got a glimpse of a future forest Wednesday.

About 30 members of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin are having their annual meeting this year in La Crosse, a city that once boomed with more than 30 sawmills to cut the pine logs that floated down river each spring.

Sara Connor is president of the FHAW, a nonprofit dedicated to discovering and preserving the legacy of the timber industry in Wisconsin. She spent the past five years researching Wisconsin's role in providing wood for World War II gliders and airplanes.

"It's an amazing story, and people have no idea," she said.

Connor grew up in a timber family, and her parents started the Wisconsin Forestry Museum in Laona, which she now runs.

She is as passionate about contemporary forestry as she is about the logging camps that dotted northern Wisconsin in the late 19th century.

"There is a huge gap in knowledge," she said. "(People) think that logging ended after railroad logging." It didn't.

Connor is quick to point out that forestry remains a \$28 billion industry in the state.

The group - mainly forest industry professionals - gathered at Myrick Hixon EcoPark to hear about a project to restore about 3 acres of Hixon Forest to its native state.

Former park board member and volunteer Dr. Larry Severeid showed off the project.

Severeid, a retired ear, nose and throat specialist, is a self-taught forester. He got his start when he moved to La Crosse in 1971 and began planting trees on 70 acres near Rockland and another 70 that his father bought near West Salem. He jokes that his hobby keeps him out of the bars.

In 2003, Severeid and Dr. Fred Skemp spearheaded the restoration project on a 1.5-acre patch next to a clearing in the park. They cut down box elders, elm and cherry trees, and cleared lots of buckthorn. They then planted more than 1,000 red and white oak, black walnut, butternut and hickory.

Without intervention, Severeid said, oak trees will vanish from the forest, done in by shade and an overpopulation of deer.

Seven years later, they're still fighting off deer and trying to decide which of the 20-foot trees to cull so others can flourish. In another 60 years, if their plan is followed, there will only be about 25 to 30 mature trees.

"This is quite an experiment," Severeid said. "We've created a mixed forest."

# *Harvey Hoy Personal History*

## *Presque Isle - Summer 1950 to Spring 2009*

(Start Presque Isle Summer 1950) My Aunt Bonnie Jean and Uncle Bill Heinke had a saw mill on the west shore of Presque Isle Lake in Vilas County. I don't know when he moved there from his logging operations in Pelican Lake, Wisconsin.

They had a large 12 man lumber mill as well as a smaller 5 man box bolt mill. They would run one or the other depending upon log availability and market conditions. Their property was bound by the lake on the east side and the town road on the west side. At this time the Presque Isle Road was gravel when traveling even slowly would kick up a large cloud of dust. The road had no blacktop nor any identification as it has now. I guess it probably was a town road which eventually became County Road "P" that ran south of the village of Winegar to the east-west blacktopped County Road "K" that went to Boulder Junction.

The property was located north of Jack Simons's resort, which also was north of the little grocery store that had been built recently. There were no developments on the very serene and beautiful Katinka Lake which is located just south of Presque Isle Lake. There was only a small boat landing. It was fun fishing the quiet serene lake. A little to the south also was Carlin Lake. I remember the two story log sided lodge was mostly built. Some natural stonework was still in progress. As I best remember the most of the timber was a stand of popple cut-over that was growing up. I believe that this is where the Carlin Lodge Restaurant is located today.

I don't know how many acres this mill site consisted of but it was probably in excess of 20. Located on that property there was a large cook shanty/living quarters, and probably 5 or 6 skid mounted bunkhouses close by. There was a dinner bell to summon the saw mill workers for their next meal. In those days the workers usually went home during the weekends.

Also located on the property there was a covered planer mill, an older 2 story horizontal log house, and of course some outhouses. For the most part there were a few trees but it was mostly high grass. To the east of these buildings was a fence for the horses that were used to haul the skid mounted lumber drays from the mill to be stacked and air dried, then eventually back to the planer mill.

East of the fence there was a summer cottage and a one holer outhouse. This land gradually sloped down to the lake. There was a pier and a small fishing boat. Somewhat hidden due to the tree and brush growth there was a cistern which had a heavy circular steel plate that covered up the top. The water in the cistern was cold, pure, refreshing and safe to drink.

# Photos From Camp 5

Photo Credit: Jan & Harvey Hoy



Over the Summer Jan and Harvey Hoy visited the Camp 5 museum in Laona, WI. Here is a couple of pictures from their visit.



## 2009 FIXMER AWARD

was presented to Don Lambrecht of Green Bay for his outstanding contribution to the FHW.



# Uncovering History

Draw down of Wisconsin River near Stevens Point reveals remnants of logging history

By Bert Lehman  
for Wisconsin  
Outdoors



"Logging cribs previously hidden beneath the water's surface suddenly stood tall as a ghostly guide of log traffic in the river.

These pads were used as part of a water top corral system, trapping and holding timber."

This is just one of the brief descriptions from the DVD, "Nine Feet Under," a documentary about the draw down of the Wisconsin River in the Stevens Point area in August 2008. The documentary was created by Kent Jakusz of Stevens Point, and can be purchased at Club 10 Bar in Stevens Point for \$15.

Because Consolidated Power and Water Company had to repair cracks in the New Page Dam seawall, a section of the Wisconsin River in that area was drawn down about nine feet. According to the documentary, the draw down began on Thursday, Aug. 14 and the target depth was reached in two days. When the repairs were completed, the flowage depth was returned to normal within 10 days.

The documentary states water has been dammed in Stevens Point since 1848. The current dam was built in 1918, and was raised three and a half feet in 1932. Kent Jakusz says since the river hadn't been this low since the 1930's, he and his brother, Bob, decided to rent a helicopter and get some video footage of the river. They also walked the riverbank and went boating during this time to shoot video and take photos.

"My brother thought it would be very interesting to get some good footage of exactly where all the fish structure is," Kent Jakusz says. "We knew that there were a lot of logging cribs associated with the logging industry prior to the dam."

Kent Jaksuz says he figured there were a few dozen of the logging cribs under the water's surface, but when the water level went down, he was surprised to find more than 170 logging cribs were revealed. At normal water level, none of the cribs rise above the surface of the water.

In addition to the many logging cribs, the draw down also revealed roadways that were used before being submerged after the construction of the dam. A plethora of tree stumps were also revealed.

"It was all timber right up to the river bank and these are just remnants of what is left," Kent Jakusz says. "All this stuff had been submerged. There used to be four to five times more stumps out there than there is now."

With such a drastic change in the water level, even if just for a short period of time, there was plenty of interest from locals and out-of-towners. "It was probably the biggest tourist attraction, if you want to call it that, I've ever seen in town," Bob Jakusz says, "...There were people walking up and down the bank everyday taking pictures and looking for whatever they thought they might find."

Some of the interest was generated by people wondering what they might find of the bottom of the river, but scavenging for items was discouraged. Kent Jakusz says prior to the draw down there were articles in the local newspaper in which the DNR warned people that they would be arrested if they trespassed. He says the Stevens Point Fire Department also warned that anyone who got stuck in the mud would have to pay for an Apache helicopter to rescue them.

Despite the warnings, people still ventured out to the river. Bob Jakusz, who owns Club 10 and is also on the board of directors for the local fishing club, Prime Water Anglers (PWA), says other fishing clubs jointed together with PWA and went out on boats to save any fish that might have been left behind during the draw down.

"We had around 80 volunteers show up on Saturday morning, the first day it was fully drawn down. They had equipment lined up and all kinds of plans in effect to rescue any fish that they found," Bob Jakusz says. "In a serious situation, they had several ideas that they were going to try. They did find some and save some, but there wasn't nearly as much evidence of stranded fish or dying fish that some people thought there might be."

Submitted by Jim Simon

## ***Ship masts tower on the tree farm***

***Don Krohn - July 24, 2009, Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune***

On a recent walk through our little tree farm, I couldn't help but notice that many of our white pines are now towering into the sky. They were just getting a start when I purchased the first piece of land, seven acres, 55 years ago.

Our long-range plan for the tree farm, which was recommended by a forester, is for natural regeneration of the white pine. We have been accomplishing this by removing black and scrub oak and jack pine, and the white pine has been filling in.

When looking at some of the older white pine trees, it is not hard to imagine how the virgin white pine trees must have towered into the sky before the Wisconsin pines were cut over in the 1800's. I would guess that our oldest trees are about 75 or 85 years old with the last major cut taking place in the 1920's or 1930's.

A daughter recently gave me a copy of the book "A Natural History of North American Trees" by Donald Culross Peattie (1895-1964). The recently revised book not only describes the discovery of many of the various species but also how the trees related to American history. The majestic white pine has played an important and interesting part in our country's development.

The author describes the virgin white pine forests as stretching from Newfoundland to Manitoba and south to Iowa, northern Illinois, central Indiana, eastern Ohio and south on the Appalachians. The trees were measured with heights of more than 150 feet, with one tree more than 200 feet in height. Pioneers described the white pine as covering much of New York State and all of Pennsylvania, and that a squirrel could spend a lifetime in the large forests without ever coming out of the trees.

With the white pine's propensity to grow straight and tall, the wood being quite strong but fairly light weight, early New England settlers soon discovered that the wood made great lumber. Sawmills soon sprang up, one as early as 1623, and white pine lumber became an early export. It was shipped to England, Spain, Africa and other countries, according to the author.

The English saw another use for the giant, straight white pines - ship masts. They were the major sea power but had no homegrown wood suitable for ship masts and were forced to import the wood from not always friendly northern European countries. They soon discovered the large white pine made ideal sailing ship masts. New England settlers were opening up some of the pinelands for farming, so to protect their valuable mast trees, the King of England sent agents to blaze the trees with a royal mark. This infuriated the New Englanders and was one of the sparks that ignited the Revolutionary War.

The harvesting of the virgin white pine forests continued through the years, moving across Pennsylvania, through Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Thousands of lumberjacks worked in the pine forests cutting the huge pines, sending the logs to saw mills to become shingles to structural timbers, to siding and flooring, and creating lumbering communities, many of which continue today. Huge lumber rafts floated down the major waterways to Southern states. Virgin white pine forests were probably all cut over in Wisconsin by the early 1900's.

Today we can only imagine what these huge pine forests must have looked like with the ground completely shaded by these giant pines. Will we ever see this again? Not very likely, with the forests of Wisconsin covered with a variety of hardwoods and pines and the clear cut harvesting done by many of the major forest land owners today.

This makes me appreciate all the more our 80-year-old pine trees - the wonderful soft sound they make when the wind blows through their branches, the nesting material the shed pine needles provide for a variety of birds and the animal food the pine cones provide. They are indeed a blessing, one of God's better gifts to us.

*Don Krohn is a tree farmer in the town of Big Flats. His columns appear monthly in the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune.*

# THERE'S FIRE IN OUR BLOOD



*L-R: Ethan Budimlija, Randy Budimlija, Brandon Budimlija, Bryan Thums, Rollie Thums, Jay Thums*

The year was 1935 and the Rib Lake Fire Department (RLFD) was battling a fire in the village. My father, Edwin Thums, and his brother Dan were in town and went to the fire to see what all the commotion was about. The fire chief noticed these husky young men and immediately put them to work. After the smoke had cleared and the chief realized the value of

these two newest firefighters, chief made both of them sign on with the department. (There wasn't anything voluntary about their signing!) That was the beginning of my father's 43 year career on the RLFD and 14 years as an EMP until he honored the state's mandatory retirement in 1978. My uncle Dan died in Europe serving our country in WWII.

In 1975, while my father was still very active with the RLFD, I voluntarily joined the Department. In 1991, my son-in-law, Randy Budimlija, joined the Department, and in 1992, my youngest son Bryan joined as well. 2002 brought my oldest son, Jay Thums, back to Rib Lake, and because being on the fire department is a family affair for us, he also joined. It has been an honor for me to watch my family serve our community as firefighters. My two grandsons, Brandon and Ethan Budimlija, have both served on the department in our cadet program since they turned 16. Both were allowed to leave school whenever there was a fire. I recently asked them why they joined, and they replied that, "It is just what you do in this family." Both Ethan and Brandon are now in college, but they serve on the Department whenever they are home.

I have other relatives on the RLFD as well. My uncle George Thums and his sons Gary and Jeff have all been on the department at some point in time. Jeff currently serves as 2nd Assistant Chief.

It is with great pride and honor that I can claim 74 years of continuous service to the RLFD by the Thums family. I'm certain that the fire chief who forced my father to become part of the department had no idea what kind of family tradition he would start.

Submitted by Rollie Thums

# Where the Popple meets the Pine

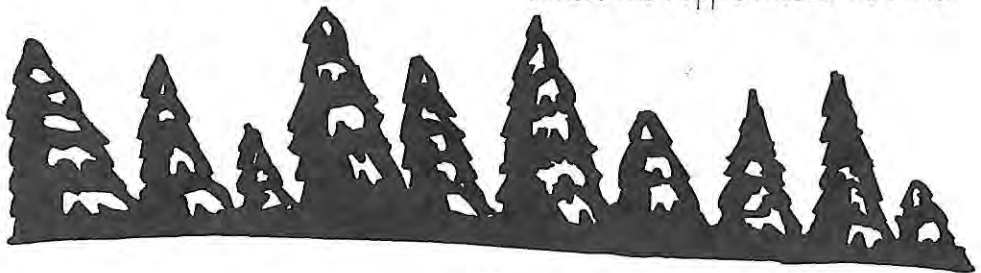
by: Jas. M Woodman

Far away from all the glitter  
of the busy city's life  
Where calm contentment drives  
away  
all worldly grief and strife  
Where the melodies of song birds  
Lull a fellows soul to rest  
Where the slanting shadows greet  
him  
as the sun sinks in the West  
There's a spot that nature molded  
in a manner most divine  
A place of matchless beauty  
Where the Popple meets the Pine

There is music as the water ripples  
o'er the polished stones  
There is sadness as the Balsam  
bows before the winds and groans  
But it fills my heart with rapture  
as I am along that stream  
and live again my boyhood  
in a mass of daylight dreams.  
So I curl up close to nature  
and claim all her charms for mine  
in that place of tranquil splendor  
Where the Popple meets the Pine

There I gaze upon the glory  
of the rivers mirrored sky  
There is magic in the boulders  
where the speckled beauties lie  
I can hear the partridge drumming  
to his faithful feathered mate  
Oh, it fills my heart with gladness  
and drives away all hate.  
So, I loiter in the shadows with my  
rod and reel and line  
counting nature in her homeland  
Where the Popple meets the Pine

When my brow by time it  
furrowed  
and my hair grown silver white  
and my eyes are dimmed though  
eager  
For that never failing light  
Where the Lord who in his wisdom  
sends  
a summons unto me  
When I leave this earthly turmoil  
For a land that is to be  
Would I lie forever sleeping where  
the sun and stars may shine  
Through the branches of the  
Hemlocks  
Where the Popple meets the Pine.





# Wisconsin Central List

*American Lumberman - January 13, 1900*  
*27th Annual Statement of the Lumber & Shingle*  
*Product of the Northwest 1899*

|  | Lumber     | <u>Cut 1899</u><br>Shingles | Lath      |
|--|------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Hans Johnson Lbr. Co., Alban, Wis....  | 800,000    | 600,000                     | .....     |
| W.S. Bigler, Amherst.....              | 200,000    | .....                       | .....     |
| Athens Mfg. Co., Athens.....           | 300,000    | .....                       | .....     |
| M. Braun & Sons, Athens.....           | 100,000    | .....                       | .....     |
| Rietbrock & Halsey, Athens.....        | 1,000,000  | 500,000                     | 400,000   |
| Boyd Mfg. Co., Boyd.....               | 500,000    | 800,000                     | .....     |
| South Side Lbr. Co., Butternut.....    | 2,400,00   | 15,000,000                  | 1,000,000 |
| Hartman & Goelner Bros., Butternut     | .....      | 2,000,000                   | .....     |
| J. H. Young, Cadott.....               | .....      | 7,000,000                   | .....     |
| Rosseau & Shepard Co., Chelsea.....    | 350,000    | .....                       | .....     |
| Colby Lbr. Co., Colby.....             | 200,000    | .....                       | 100,000   |
| R. B. Salter, Colby.....               | 400,000    | 200,000                     | .....     |
| A. Pribbernow, Curtiss.....            | 64,000     | .....                       | .....     |
| Geo. P. Green & Sons, Ralph.....       | 153,000    | 221,000                     | 15,000    |
| A. Ellingson & Son, Dorchester.....    | 27,000     | .....                       | .....     |
| Moore & Galloway L. Co., Fon du Lac... | 2,502,000  | .....                       | 853,000   |
| J. J. Steiger, Fremont.....            | 1,200,000  | .....                       | .....     |
| Glenwood Mfg. Co., Glenwood.....       | 300,000    | 2,000,000                   | .....     |
| Rogers & Emmons Lbr. Co., Glidden      | 1,400,000  | 700,000                     | .....     |
| B. L. Bailey, Greenwood.....           | 100,000    | .....                       | .....     |
| Liberty Bros., Halway.....             | 60,000     | 1,000,000                   | .....     |
| J. & C. Wipf, Iola.....                | 500,000    | 100,000                     | 50,000    |
| A. A. Graves, Loyal.....               | 800,000    | .....                       | 100,000   |
| B. F. McMillan & Bro., McMillen.....   | 100,000    | .....                       | .....     |
| R. Connor Company, Marshfield.....     | 1,100,000  | .....                       | .....     |
| Connor & Kraus, Marshfield.....        | 500,000    | 400,000                     | .....     |
| Ebbe & Ebbe, Marshfield.....           | 180,000    | 250,000                     | .....     |
| Hafer & Kalsched, Marshfield.....      | 300,000    | 800,000                     | 240,000   |
| Medford Mfg. Co., Medford.....         | 300,000    | .....                       | .....     |
| S. A. Cook Mfg. Co., Menasha.....      | .....      | 27,000,000                  | .....     |
| Chas. E. Smith, Milladore.....         | 150,000    | 500,000                     | 100,000   |
| Ogema Lbr. Co., Ogema.....             | 300,000    | 1,175,000                   | .....     |
| Campbell & Cameron Co., Oshkosh        | 3,000,000  | 6,000,000                   | 500,000   |
| Conlee Lbr. Co., Oshkosh.....          | 5,600,000  | .....                       | .....     |
| Hollister, Amos & Co., Oshkosh.....    | 6,294,000  | 9,000,000                   | 1,400,000 |
| R. McMillen & Co., Oshkosh.....        | 7,500,000  | .....                       | 700,000   |
| Paine Lbr. Co., Oshkosh.....           | 14,500,000 | .....                       | 1,000,000 |

*This is only a partial list! It goes on to list more companies and also the stock they had on hand as of Dec. 1st. Submitted by Frank Hitz.*

# Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

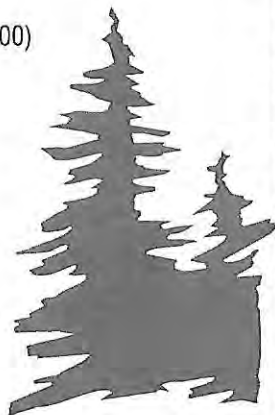
## - Membership Application -

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:

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

**P.O. Box 424**

**Two Rivers, WI 54241-0424**

Detach along line

Detach along line

## Committee Chairs

### 35th Annual Conference

Sept. 23-25, 2010  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

### Archives

### Auction Committee

### Forestry Hall of Fame

#### Representative

Sara Connor  
P.O. Box 366  
Laona, WI 54541

### Scholarship & Distinguished

#### Service Awards

Michael Sohasky  
1435 Neva Road  
Antigo, WI 54409  
(715) 627-1025  
sohasky@verizon.net

### Publicity Committee

#### David Peschau

W5733 Sherwood St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
dpeschau@compuserve.com

### Annual Proceedings Editor

Dr. John Kotar  
Eau Claire, WI  
jkotar@wisc.edu

### Exhibits

Miles Benson  
2511 Lovewood Drive  
WI Rapids, WI 54494  
(715) 423-4203  
mkjdbens@charter.net

### Chips & Sawdust Editor

Don Schnitzler

### FHAW Website

Dan Giese

### Awards Committee

### Membership

Bob Walkner  
3103 Maplewood Road  
Two Rivers, WI 54241  
(920) 793-4010  
anvils@charter.net

**CHECK  
OUT**

**Our Website!**

**<http://chipsandsawdust.com/>**



Forest History  
Association of Wisconsin, Inc.  
P.O. Box 424  
Two Rivers, WI 54241-0424

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Wisc Rapids, WI  
PERMIT 31