

Volume 35

Number 2



# ***Chips and Sawdust***

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A quarterly newsletter from the

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

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

**Spring 2010**

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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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# Chips and Sawdust

Volume 35. Number 2

Table of Contents

From the President's Chair.....	pages 2 - 3
Heard from our Members .....	pages 4 - 5
Book Reviews.....	pages 6
2010 FHAW Annual Conference.....	pages 7 - 11
Hotel Accommodations .....	page 9
Schedule-at-a-glance.....	page 10
FHAW Annual Meeting Registration Form .....	page 11
FHAW Membership Application.....	page 12

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## *And the Answers Are ...*

In the Winter issue of *Chips and Sawdust*, on page 9 under the heading "Do You Know the Answers" were two questions, taken from the Proceedings available on line at: <http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/u/?/tp,33993> here are the answers to those questions.

1. A Wisconsin logging railroad built to standard gauge was how wide?

*Wisconsin logging railroads were built to either standard gauge, 4 feet 8 1/2 inches between railheads or, narrow gauge, 3 feet between rails. Standard gauge was more popular because it permitted interchange of trunk line rolling stock and was better suited to handling bulky loads such as saw logs. On the other hand, narrow gauge construction costs were lower and equipment somewhat cheaper. (See page 4 for additional information shared by fellow FHAW members)*

2. The most common geared locomotive used in early Wisconsin logging was nicknamed, "Limey." How did it get that name?

*Three or four different types of geared locomotives were on the market, but by far the most common in Wisconsin was the Shay, mostly referred to as a "Limey" after the manufacturer. The Lima Locomotive Works of Lima, Ohio.*



## From The President's Chair

Dear Friends,

“Spring has sprung...” and summer is ahead! Wishing you all warm weather, sunshine, and fun!

Several exciting events have passed with the FHAW right in the thick of things! Thank you, Arley Engel for having the FHAW ‘History of Wisconsin Logging’ exhibit at the Chipewewa Falls Historical Society!!

Don Schnitzler had the FHAW’s “History of Wisconsin Logging” exhibit traveling to different Marshfield Schools during the Marshfield Historic Preservation Month. May is a nationwide celebration of Historic Preservation!

In addition, the FHAW exhibit was on display at the “6<sup>th</sup> Annual Historic Preservation Month Dinner – “Taste of History” – Featuring Re-enactments of Visitors from Marshfield’s Past.” The re-enactments of a Journalist; Lloyd Kenyon Jones, a Norwegian Immigrant; Jacobina Hatteberg, Susan McLaughlin; a school teacher, and William Duncan Connor; a visionary lumberman, were of great interest to all attending! Don Schnitzler organized the community event!

I have heard from several members: hnkbaumann@gmail is Helen and Karl Baumann’s new email address!! Helen wrote that she opted for high speed internet! We hope they come in September to Green Bay! Fred and Gretchen Brechler are coming from Jacksonville, Florida to Green Bay and he will be speaking about the Marathon Fire Tower!

The Registration and Schedule for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual FHAW Conference, September 23-25<sup>th</sup> in Green Bay is in this issue! Please sign up!!! It is going to be terrific!! You can Register online and pay online!!! Amazing!! Snail mail works, too....

Your Board has been hard at work! For example, Dan Giese has been updating the Website – [www.foresthistorywi.com](http://www.foresthistorywi.com). Bob Walkner has been perpetually working on Membership and Treasure, David Peschau is gearing up for the

*Continued on page 3*



Public Relations for Green Bay, John Kotar is working on Proceedings, Tom Albrecht is working on a committee assignment with past-president Miles Benson (thank you!!)

The FHAW exhibit is opening at Camp 5 Museum in late June!! If you would like the FHAW “History of Wisconsin Logging” exhibit for your schools, special events, please contact us!

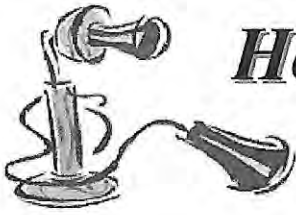
See you all in Green Bay!

Sincerely,  
Sara Connor

*The Forest History Association of Wisconsin traveling logging display attracted curious spectators before and after the recent “Taste of History” dinner held at Marshfield, Wisconsin. (submitted by Don Schnitzler)*



*Arley Engel holding a log end, with log mark stamps, explaining to 4th grad children the reason the logs were stamped in three different places. Children gather inside the Forest History Association of Wisconsin display tent at the “Past Passed Here” in Chippewa Falls, May 6, 2010. (submitted by Arley Engel)*



# *Heard from Our Members*

*From Bob and John Curran — Three Lakes and Brookfield*

## **Modern Technology Still Relying on the Horse**

The U.S. standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is exactly 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. So why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they build them in England, and English expatriates built the U.S. railroads.

Why did the English people build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used. Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that spacing.

Okay, Why did the wagons use that odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing the wagons would break on some of the old, long distance roads, because that was the spacing of the old wheel ruts. So who built these old rutted roads? The first long distance roads in Europe were built by Imperial Rome for the benefit of their legions. The roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts? The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagons, were first made by Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were made for or by Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

Thus, we have the answer to the original question. The United States standard railroad gauge is 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman army war chariot.

Specs and bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's rear end came up with it, you might be exactly right. Because the Imperial Roman chariots were made to be just wide enough to accommodate the back end of two

war horses.

Now the twist to the story... There's an interesting extension of the story about railroad gauge and horses behinds. When we see a space shuttle sitting on the launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are the solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at a factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line to the factory runs through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than a railroad track, and the railroad track is about as wide as two horse's behinds. So a major design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined by the width of horse's rear end! --Author unknown  
(source, *The Officer/December 1999.*)

*From the Leaf — Stevens Point, Wisconsin*

### **Updated brochure offers “A Look at Wisconsin’s Forests”**

An updated version of the brochure “A Look at Wisconsin’s Forests” is now available from the Forestry Division. The publication (FR-122) provides a concise and colorful portrait of forests and forestry in Wisconsin, including basic forest statistics (area of forest by type, proportion of forested land in the state, growth versus removal numbers), information on who owns Wisconsin’s forests, wildfire data, threats to the state’s forests as well as information on threatened and endangered species, the state’s Nursery Program, wood products and biomass, urban forests, and the future of Wisconsin forests. To view a copy of the brochure, visit Forestry’s Publications webpage at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Publications/pdf/FR-122.pdf>.

#### **Mark Your Calendar**

Second World War II Glider Symposium  
Marriott Madison West  
1313 John Q Hammons Drive  
Middleton, WI 53562  
September 9-11, 2010

For more information visit—<http://www.2ndwwiiglidersymposium.org/>





# *Book Review*



## **Out of the Northwoods: The Many Lives of Paul Bunyan**

By Michael Edmonds

Every American has heard of the lumberjack hero Paul Bunyan and his big blue ox. Until now, no one knew where he came from—and the extent to which this mythical hero is rooted in Wisconsin. *Out of the Northwoods* presents the culture of nineteenth-century lumberjacks in their own words. It includes eyewitness accounts of how the first Bunyan stories were shared on frigid winter nights, around logging camp stoves, in the Wisconsin pinery

Author, **Michael Edmonds**, joined the staff of the Wisconsin Historical Society in 1982 and helped lead its effort to mount rare books and manuscripts on the Web, stumbling on the mystery of Paul Bunyan's origin while looking for lumberjack memoirs to share online. He holds degrees from Harvard University and Simmons College. He received a 2007 American Local and State Historical Society Award for his pioneering work on the "Turning Points in Wisconsin History" portion of the Wisconsin Historical Society website.

The book is available through the Wisconsin Historical Society Press.  
ISBN: 978-0-87020-437-1; Cost \$24.95

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## **Monster Fire at Minong**

### **Wisconsin's Five Mile Tower Fire of 1977**

By Bill Matthias

Based on his own experiences during the long battle, plus one hundred thirty five interviews and other eyewitness accounts, Bill Matthias presents an in-depth look at the Five Mile Tower Fire, the 1600 brave citizens who helped fight it, and the important changes made to firefighting laws and procedures in its aftermath.

Author, Bill Matthias was superintendent of Northwood School District in northwest Wisconsin at the time of the Five Mile Tower Fire in 1977, with schools in Minong and Gordon. There he launched teenage firefighting crews at Northwood High School and battled the Five Mile Tower Fire for fifty hours. At the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Five Mile Tower Fire, Bill decided to start research, conduct interviews, and write this book.

The book is available through the Wisconsin Historical Society Press.  
ISBN: 978-0870204470; Cost \$14.95





# 35th Annual Conference and Meeting

Forest History Association of Wisconsin

**September 23 - 25, 2010  
Green Bay, Wisconsin**

The Forest History Association of Wisconsin (FHAW) presents an Annual Conference and Meeting consisting of tours, special lectures, luncheon presentations, exhibits and silent and live auctions. The meeting is available to and attended by forest history enthusiasts from across the state and others interested in preserving and sharing Wisconsin history.

The FHAW is pleased to welcome to this year's annual conference members of the Forest History Society headquartered in Durham, North Carolina. The mission of the Forest History Society is to improve natural resource management and human welfare by bringing a historical context to environmental decision-making. Be sure to give our guests a warm Wisconsin welcome at the conference this year.

The Conference's opening reception, book signing, dinner and keynote address will be held at the beautiful St. Brendan's Inn. During the reception (cash bar), beginning at 5:30 p.m., Michael Edmonds, author of "Out of the Northwoods, The Many Lives of Paul Bunyan" and Bill Mathias, author of "The Monster Minong Fire" will be available to sign copies of their books. After dinner, Edmonds will share stories of lumberjack hero, Paul Bunyan, explaining the extent to which this mythical hero is rooted in Wisconsin lore. Whether you are a fan of American folklore or simply have childhood memories of reading tales of Paul Bunyan, you will enjoy Edmonds' address.

Friday morning, just a brief bus ride from the Hotel Sierra and St. Brendan's Inn is Heritage Hill State Historical Park, a 50 acre living history museum. Beautifully nestled on the banks of the Fox River, Heritage Hill has over 25 historic buildings or structures that were saved over the years by people of foresight and perseverance. At Heritage Hill visitors are invited to explore the historic buildings representing various periods of Northeastern Wisconsin's

*Continued on page 8*

rich heritage and interact with interpreters who bring their bygone era to life. Through the unique experiences provided for visitors throughout the year, Heritage Hill has earned a reputation as a jewel of the Midwest for guests from within the area, and those visiting the community.

While at Heritage Hill, conference attendees will meet, Paul DeLong, Wisconsin State Forester and Kirsten Held, Forestry Outreach Specialist at Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. DeLong will tell about "The State of Wisconsin Forests," and Held will provide an update on the Wisconsin Forestry Education Center.

Just after noon, the bus will depart Heritage Hill for Peshtigo, a community about 45 miles north of Green Bay. You have probably heard of The Great Chicago Fire, but that very same night, October 8, 1871, more than 1,000 people died in the Peshtigo fire. The community was essentially wiped away in what is recognized today as America's most disastrous forest fire. Peshtigo historian, Bob Covillion, will provide a guided tour of the Peshtigo Fire Museum, Cemetery and Harbor while sharing accounts of that tragic night.

While at Peshtigo, Bill Mathias, author of "The Monster Minong Fire" will tell of another large, but more recent, fire, the Five Mile Tower Fire of 1977. Based on his own experiences during the long battle, plus one hundred thirty five interviews and other eyewitness accounts, Matthias will present an in-depth look at this fire.

Then that evening back in Green Bay, members of the two organizations will gather for cocktails (cash bar) and dinner at the Black and Tan Restaurant.

On Saturday, the FHAW will meet at the Hotel Sierra for our last two lectures, the membership meeting, and noon luncheon. Fred Brechler will chronicle the main events in the history of the Marathon Fire Tower, including a surprise ending to its 30-year history and then Fred Beseler will speak on the De Havilland "Mosquito."

Throughout the meeting, forestry-related artifacts and other items, will be available for purchase to the highest bidder. The silent and live auctions are an enjoyable tradition of the FHAW meetings. While some items provide a learning opportunity, all the items provide you an opportunity to support the FHAW with your bid. Donations of silent auction items are always greatly appreciated.



**35th Annual**  
**Conference and Meeting**  
Forest History Association of Wisconsin

**Hotel Accommodations**

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**Hotel Sierra**

333 Main Street  
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301

(920) 432-4555

Double Queen Suite \$99.00

King Suite \$109.00

*Mention rooms being held for the FHAW and ask about  
this special room rate when calling to reserve your room.*

Rooms blocked for the FHAW until September 3, 2010

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**St. Brendan's Inn**

234 South Washington Street  
Green Bay, WI 54301

(866) 604-7474

Standard Room \$89.50

Snug \$79.50                      Suite \$99.50

Each room has a Queen-sized bed and whirlpool bath

*Mention rooms being held for the FHAW and ask about  
this special room rate, when calling to reserve your room.*

Rooms blocked for the FHAW until August 23, 2010

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***Reserve Your Rooms Early!***

# *Schedule-at-a-Glance*

## **35th Annual Conference and Meeting**

Forest History Association of Wisconsin — Green Bay, Wisconsin

### **Thursday, September 23, 2010 (at St. Brendan's Inn)**

- 4:00 p.m. Board Meeting at St. Brendan's Inn
- 5:30 p.m. Reception (cash bar) and book signing
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner and Keynote Address by Michael Edmonds

### **Friday, September 24, 2010**

- 8:20 a.m. Bus departs St. Brendan's Inn
- 8:30 a.m. Bus departs Hotel Sierra to Heritage Hill State Park Museum
- 9:00 a.m. Lecture: Paul DeLong, "The State of Wisconsin Forests"
- 9:35 a.m. Lecture: Kirsten Held, "The Wisconsin Forestry Education Center — an Update"
- 10:00 a.m. Tour Heritage Hill
- 12:10 p.m. Bus departs Heritage Hill for Peshtigo (rolling auction)
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Lecture: Bill Mathias, "Monster Fire at Minong"
- 2:10 p.m. Tour Peshtigo Fire Museum, Cemetery, and Harbor
- 4:15 p.m. Bus departs Peshtigo for Green Bay (rolling auction)
- 5:30 p.m. Cash Bar and auction preview, Black and Tan Restaurant
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner and auction, Black and Tan Restaurant

### **Saturday, September 25, 2010 (at Hotel Sierra)**

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee and rolls
- 9:00 a.m. Lecture: Fred Brechler, "Marathon Fire Tower"
- 9:40 a.m. Lecture: Fred Beseler, "The De Havilland Mosquito"
- 10:10 a.m. Break
- 10:20 a.m. FHAW membership meeting
- 11:30 a.m. FHAW lunch, Hotel Sierra

*(Note: Forest History Society Board of Directors will meet be at St. Brendan's Inn Saturday)*



# FHAW 35th Annual Meeting Registration Form



Detach along line

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

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration - \$20** \$20

**Thursday, September 23, 2010**

Reception (Cash Bar) and Book Signing

Dinner & Keynote, Michael Edmonds, WI Historical Society

• St. Brendan's Pub and Inn \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

*Choose one Entrée:*

Pecan Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ • Pan Seared Orange Roughy \_\_\_\_\_

Seared Roasted Strip Steak \_\_\_\_\_ • Dessert - Chocolate Mousse \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday, September 24, 2010**

Bus Tour to Heritage Hill State Historical Park & Peshtigo Tour

• Admission to Heritage Hill \$6 \_\_\_\_\_

• Admission to the Peshtigo Fire Museum - *Donation Suggested*

• Bus \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

• Lunch & Lecture by Bill Mathias - Monster Fire at Minong \$14 \_\_\_\_\_

• Cocktails - Cash Bar

• Dinner and Auction at Black and Tan

*Choose One Entrée:*

Ribeye - \$34 \_\_\_\_\_ • Salmon - \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Pork Tenderloin - \$24 \_\_\_\_\_ • Vegetarian - \$18 \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday, September 25, 2010**

Coffee and Rolls \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch \$12 \_\_\_\_\_

*\*All meal prices include tax and gratuity.*

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Detach along line

**Make checks payable to FHAW & send to:**

**Bob Walkner**  
**3103 Maplewood Road**  
**Two Rivers, WI 54241**



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and mail this application with payment to:

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

**P.O. Box 424**

**Two Rivers, WI 54241-0424**

Detach along line



## Committee Chairs

---

### 35th Annual Conference

*September 23-25, 2010*

Green Bay, Wisconsin

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#### Representative

Sara Connor

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### Scholarship & Distinguished

#### Service Awards

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### Awards Committee

### Auction Committee

### Archives

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

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