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A quarterly newsletter from the

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

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

**Fall 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 4

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## From The President's Chair

Dear Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving!! We are thankful for family and friends. Good Luck Deer Hunting?? The Badgers are in the top 7 BCS standings! The Packers are in 1<sup>st</sup> place! WOW!

I hope you have all visited the Forest History Website recently. It gives a narrative of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual FHAW Conference in Green Bay. The Board of Directors from the Forest History Society at Duke, N.C. joined us for our terrific speakers and tour of Heritage Hill and Peshtigo! Three co-founders were recognized for their presence – Karl Baumann, Jerry Theide, and Tom Albrecht. Tom also received the FHAW 2010 Fixmer Award (See the inside article).

I would like to thank the Wisconsin Historical Society's Michael Edmonds, Director of Digital Archives, for his talk on his Out of the Northwoods: The Many Lives of Bunyan. Did you know that Paul Bunyan originally looked like Sasquatch? Michael Edmonds is also to be

congratulated for being awarded the prestigious folklore literature prize – Wayland D. Hand Prize – from the American Folklore Society.

Heritage Hill State Park's hospitality was greatly appreciated ! If you have not been there do visit!! If you have not been there recently, do visit! It is a reminder of Wisconsin's trapper and fur trading history, as well as Fort Howard!

Paul DeLong, Wisconsin DNR State Forester kicked off the Friday tour with his lecture on the State of Wisconsin's Forests. We thank him for his startling observations about the future sustainability of Wisconsin's forests without sustained-yield multiple-use management in fragmented small plots individually owned in the next generation.

Michael Gaetner, WDNR, followed with trying to connect urbanization with the forests in and the potential for the WDNR Education Center.

Lunch was at a true Wisconsin Supper Club – Schussler's in Peshtigo. We could have had the polka band and room for 600 of our friends! It was amazing. FHAW thanks the Peshtigo Chamber of Commerce for the recommendation and their representation. Our own FHAW author, Bill Matthias, lectured on The Monster Fire of Minong in 1979. Bill talked about being Superintendent of Schools and having his own students fight the fire for days. He also gave a how fires are fought today versus then and the changes in fire technology.

Bob Couvillion gave FHAW and FHS a terrific tour of the Peshtigo Museum, Cemetery, and best of all Peshtigo from the river. His riveting details made the "You were there" description give you goosebumps. A reminder to everyone to read The Great Peshtigo Fire. Thank you, Bob.

Thank you to the Auction Committee – Mr. Poprawski drives all the way from central Michigan each year. The Lake Michigan ferry has been in many attempts for rough water!! Everyone please bring things in the future!!

Thank you to Bruce, my other half, for all of the extraordinary work to make the conference go smoothly. We hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Thank you to the Board and all of the members who participated in celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

*Sara Connor*

## THE COMEBACK KID!

*By Ed Forrester <edforrester@centurytel.net>*

During the last 70 years forest history has been made all across central and northern Wisconsin. A big part of this history is the return of the White Pine as a major forest species.

White pine, the most sought after of trees by the early lumbermen, received what has been described as devastating cutting in the late 1800's. Following this destructive cutting the land was often described as desolate with only the undesirable trees remaining. Subsequently, many of the less desirable White Pine which survived the first wave of logging, were then removed by the second generation of loggers who were primarily harvesting hardwoods in the early 1900's. This left a scant few of the species across the North.

And then came the widespread "settler fires" to clear the land which were often interspersed with the many massive forest fires of the era. In either of these kinds of fires the young thin barked White Pine would be killed and were replaced by early successional species such as aspen and birch. Therefore, white pine became far less numerous than it had been in Wisconsin's original forests.

However, time does not stand still in the forest and the next successional evolution was begun.

Wisconsin Forest Inventory data from the US Forest Service and DNR show that the majority of today's white pine originated within the last 70 years. Interestingly, this time period coincides very closely with the decade in which the tractor plow became operational as the prime fire suppression tool of the State of Wisconsin. The improved fire protection the tractor plow brought appears to have greatly aided the regeneration of White Pine.

This author has had the opportunity to drive the same Wisconsin roads and highways for 50 years and the change has been slow to evolve in the human eye, but after 50 years it is unmistakable.

At first there were a few sentinel white pine that towered over the forest and they stuck out so much because there were so few. The same roads driven a decade later showed a few more in the canopy, but upon really looking there were even more young trees in the undergrowth seeking the opportunity to bust out into sunlight. And now after five decades these trees and their offspring are showing up almost everywhere.



*White Pine along County trunk B in Barron, County, 2010; 30 years ago not many White Pine would have been seen.*

Of course, there were stumbles and fears for the species survival along the way. In the late 1950's and early 1960's there was White Pine Blister Rust that foresters and landowners feared would doom the species. And then along came the concern that the tip weevil would prevent the White Pine from again being a major commercial species. Each of these fears ebbed over

time as the resiliency and regeneration ability of the White Pine became clearer.

An examination of the Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Analysis for 1983, 1996 and 2007 by the US Forest Service and the Wisconsin DNR, Division of Forestry reinforces the subjective roadside observations. The data in the short table below was extracted from the *Forest Assessment of The Division of Forestry*.

**Growing Stock Volume in Million Cubic Feet — all lands**

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>2007</u>
White Pine	566	929	1344
Red Pine	763	988	1469

Two thoughts jump out from this information. First, is the fact that white pine volume has grown so much in 25 years and is so close in volume to red pine. The second is how did it get there?

For many decades red pine has been the tree of choice to plant for most landowners and white pine has been far, far behind in the numbers of trees planted annually. Therefore the growth of white pine must be from natural seeding and the growth of those seedlings into larger trees. That the White pine by natural seeding and seedling development can keep up with the massive efforts of site preparation, tree planting and re-



# Forest History Association of Wisconsin 35th Annual Meeting with the Forest History Society, N.C.

By Sara Connor

Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> arrived with the fall colors spreading across the Northwoods. FHOW members and Board of Directors of the Forest History Society of N.C. convened in Green Bay for the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and Conference!

The Celebration began with a Book Signing Reception and Dinner at St. Brendan's Inn in Green Bay. Michael Edmonds, Director of Digital Archives for the Wisconsin Historical Society signed his book, *Out of the Northwoods – The Many Lives of Paul Bunyan*. Bill Mathias, also a WHS author signed his book *Monster Fire at Minong: Wisconsin's Five Mile Tower Fire of 1977*.



*Michael Edmonds, sharing tales of Paul Bunyan*

Michael Edmonds, the Keynote, was awarded the Wayland D. Hand Prize by the American Folklore Society “as the best book of 2009 to combine history and folklore.” He gave his account of Paul Bunyan with wonderful cartoons, magazine caricatures, and photos. From his book cover flap, “*Out of the Northwoods* presents the culture of nineteenth-century lumberjacks in their own words. It includes a first-hand accounts of how the first Bunyan stories were shared on frigid winter nights..... By sifting through the unpublished manuscripts of early editors of the tales, Michael Edmonds unearths dozen of authentic, Bunyan stories told aloud by lumberjacks between 1885 and 1915.”

Paul Bunyan first looked like a “Yeti” or Neanderthal man! Edmonds entertained the audience as Paul Bunyan transformed himself in WWII and grew into the character that we all now know.



*Thomas Albrecht, 2010 Fixmer Award recipient with Forest History Association of Wisconsin president, Sara Connor.*

Co-Founders present at the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference were recognized and thanked for their many years of membership, Tom Albrecht, Karl Baumann, and Jerry Thiede (also a FHS member). In addition, Tom Albrecht was awarded the FHAW – Fixmer Award for outstanding contribution to an organization. His plaque read:

“Tom Albrecht was co-founding member of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin. As a Past-President and Treasurer, as well as long serving Board member, his advice, experience, and organizational knowledge is invaluable. He has participated in all of the FHAW projects to promote Wisconsin's Forest History

education and publications, as well as promoted the goals and mission principles of the FHAW. As a Forester for the WDNR, a FHAW Board member, and the Society of American Forester's President of the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame, Tom Albrecht has been dedicated to preserving the forest history legacy of the State of Wisconsin.”

On Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, the FHAW Conference continued at Heritage Hill State Park in Green Bay. Charles Pelke, Director of Heritage Hill welcomed the group in their new Visitors Center. Paul Delong, Wisconsin State Forester, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), discussed fragmentation and the shift of major forest blocks from Forest Products Industrial Forests to private and



*State Forester Paul Delong at Heritage Hill Visitors Center*



conservancy hands. In the last three years, over 2 million acres have been bought and sold putting enormous pressure on the forest products industry supply, as well as sustainability in Wisconsin.

Michael Gaetner, WDNR Developer for the Wisconsin Forestry Center in Milwaukee gave an update on the new complex to be built on the Milwaukee County complex in Wauwatosa. He explained the acreage available for educational forestry programs and the availability of space for forestry exhibits. He also explained the need for connecting forest sustainability to the urban population. Presently, there is a complete disconnect between why forests need to be managed and where forest products come from, i.e. "Trees should never be cut and paper comes from Office Max."

The FHAW thanks our Heritage Hill tour guides for telling the story of Wisconsin's fur traders and the story of Fort Howard.

At a traditional Northwoods supper club in Peshtigo called Schussler's, visitors from Canada and throughout the U.S. saw a wedding hall where clearly the entire town of Peshtigo could celebrate. The Peshtigo Chamber of Commerce brought greetings. We later celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by singing Happy Anniversary.

With a theme of "Fire" for the conference, Bill Matthias, a WHS author, spoke on his experience with the *Monster Fire at Minong*. Bill was Superintendent of Schools in Minong and gathered his students to fight the fire! Bill also told of the outpouring of community support. The development of the fire, its path, and timetable tell an incredible story.

A tour of Peshtigo Fire Museum and Cemetery by Bob Couvillion was a highlight of the trip. The artifacts in the museum and the riveting story told by Father Perrin in his *The Peshtigo Fire* is well worth the trip. The FHAW thanks Bob for the depth of his knowledge and patience answering all of our questions!!



*Forest History members viewing memorial at Peshtigo Fire Cemetery*

Returning to Green Bay, the FHAW held its Auction and Dinner at the Black and Tan. A wonderful dinner and less of an ideal auction venue, the auction will, nonetheless, be continued next year. As we said good-bye to our new friends of the Forest History Society, we all had enjoyed and had new stories to tell.

The FHAW meeting was continued on Saturday at the Hotel Sierra in Green Bay. With Fires still being the theme, Fred Brechler, a Wisconsinite living in Jacksonville, Florida, gave his account of the "Marathon Fire Tower." Long an icon, the tower was eventually taken down piece by piece. We thank Fred for his story of how the tower influenced his and the impact it had on the community. Thank you, Fred!

Frank Hitz, FHAW member from Loveland, Colorado gave an update of his 50 years of research on "Wisconsin Historic Sawmills – Database. With over 2,600 entries in the database, it is an extraordinary vast compilation and contribution to the literature. A Korean Veteran and graduate of Baylor University, Frank was an Aerospace Engineer with family ties to Wisconsin's forest history. Thank you, Frank!

Fred Bessler of LaCrosse concluded the Speakers with a wonderful talk about the DeHavilland "Mosquito." The fastest aircraft of WWII at 450 MPH, the "Timber Terror" has a proud history as a Pathfinder, Nightfighter, and Bomber. Amazing photos of its development, construction, and the raids that the "Mossie" participated in in Europe, the British reconquered the skies! The Mossie is made of Wisconsin yellow birch! Thank you, Fred!

The annual meeting was held and Officers and Directors were elected; Sara Connor, President, was re-elected. Mike Sohasky is a returning Board member. Also re-elected was Ray Noffke and Dan Giese. Changes in By-laws were approved to rotate the Board in three segments. Also, By-laws were changed to reduce the Board to nine members for voting purposes in case of a tie.

The Conference concluded knowing that we will be in Central Wisconsin next September. See everyone there!



*Frank Hitz shares details of the Wisconsin Historic Sawmills database.*

lease activities given to red pine by private landowners, government and industry is a testimony to this great tree.

Given the abuse that white pine has received at the hand of the saw and the flame along with insects and diseases, its return as a significant component of Wisconsin's forests, is an historic event in our lifetime!

It is hoped that this short and incomplete story of the *Come Back Kid* will encourage the members of the Forest History Association to watch the roadsides for the history lessons available right out our windows. The coming winter months will provide you a good opportunity to inspect 70 years of white pine history in your neighborhood.



## *Heard from Our Members*

Larry Easton — Soo Line Historical and Technical Society

As the timberlands close to Oshkosh were cleared, logging was done at greater distances. The upper waters of the Wolf River were being exploited with dams controlling the water flow for the log drives in the spring. When the Wisconsin Central built through the middle of the state, this opened up new timber lands and a reliable means of getting it to the manufacturers in the Fox Valley.

In the Stevens Point Journal, January 3, 1873, an article on Lumbering appeared giving some statistics and interesting information on the Wisconsin Central's roll in this industry. Below are excerpts from the article, raising some questions which need to be answered:

"And now some of those engaged in lumber manufacturing at Oshkosh have turned their faces towards the north west, and aided by the Central Railroad, are getting their next summers supplies from away northwest of Stevens Point. The pioneers in this enterprise have a large gang of men in the woods near the track and it is their intention to put in 4,000,000 feet of logs. They will be taken down on the cars and dumped off at Gill's Landing, from which

point they will reach the city via the Wolf River."  
WHAT FACILITIES WERE THERE AT GILL'S LANDING FOR UNLOADING LOGS?

"This is practically the first winter that these forests have been accessible, and yet we are told that 13,000,000 feet will be cut and shipped out on the cars. This work will be divided between nine camps, which are now in full operation. Three of these are on section 23, (Auburndale) two on section 32, (Marshfield), one at section 35, two at Waltham, one at section 54, and one at section 75. The latter camp is engaged in getting out spars. Four million feet of these logs go to Oshkosh, one million to Rounds at Menasha, some to Weyauwega, and many to this place."

WHAT IS MEANT BY "ROUNDS AT MENASHA"?

"To show the amount of business that the above mentioned logging operations will give the railroad company, we will state that 4,000 feet of logs are considered a car load. Therefore to transport 13,000,000 it would require 3,250 cars; or it would take a train of fifty cars, making one trip a day, sixty five days to carry off 13,000,000 feet."

DID THE RAILROAD HAVE ENOUGH CARS TO HANDLE THIS AMOUNT OF BUSINESS? (THE 1873 ROSTER SHOWS 200 FLAT CARS.)

If you can provide additional information regarding the above ques-

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## FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN — Board Meeting Minutes MAY 7, 2010

Directors present: Dan Giese, Dave Peschau, Bob Walkner, Ray Noffke, Don Schnitzler, Sara Connor, John Kotar, Tom Albrecht, and Beverly West

Meeting called to order by President Sara Connor at 9:25 AM at the Manson Insurance Building, Wausau WI. Appreciation expressed by President Connor to Manson Insurance for the use of the conference room for the meeting.

### Secretary's report discussion:

- Question about awards that were not presented
- Need to filter discussion from approved minutes
- Minutes be published after approved
- Email copy of minutes before published

Motion/seconded/approved as corrected:  
Motion by Giese, seconded by Kotar

### Treasurer Report

- Some dues not paid
- No restricted donations received
- \$757 from auction
- \$60 Chips and Sawdust
- \$5000 to money market account
- \$2000 back to checking account
- Suggested to list receipts/expenses in report to reflect grant fund
- Correction to show transfer (Northwood Graphics -- \$4000 -- Roddis Grant

Motion/seconded/approved as corrected:  
Motion by Peschau, seconded by Kotar

### Conference Committee report by President Connor

- Forest History Society from Duke, NC ---- pay bus
- Round up costs
- Auction on buses – successful in the past
- Need to allow adequate bus space
- Speaker Saturday morning
- Note to be in newsletter requesting donations for silent auction

### Website – Dan Giese

- Registration form to be on website
- Will be able to register online using PayPal
- Problems occurred with address changes

- Now up and running!
- Planning to set up and use Tech-Soup program

### Membership • Copy on file

Archives – nothing to report

Publications – John Kotar

- Papers submitted to be printed
- Will be mailed with summer edition of Chips and Sawdust
- Electronic copy to Wisconsin Historical Society

Chips and Sawdust – Don Schnitzler

- Good price from Pioneer Press
- Will add Michael Edmonds -- Wisconsin Historical Society -- book

Public Relations – Dave Peschau

- Notices will be sent to area newspapers
- Sponsorship for 2<sup>nd</sup> National WWII Glider Symposium
- Data base primary publications, TV routine TV press release
- Seeking quote for Public Service information

Tom Albrecht reported WI Forestry Hall of Fame June 4 – 2 candidates nominated  
Discussion of the Connor award -- promotes Forestry History – Albrecht and Kotar to check on candidates Policy needs to be established for guidelines for Fixmer award -- Tabled until the summer meeting.

WHS planning a second printing of *Wisconsin Our State Our Story, Learning from the Land – lumbering info needs to be corrected* – Connor working on this with author.

### New Business

Connor presented idea for a banner to be used for Forest History Display 2<sup>nd</sup> WWII National Glider Symposium in Madison  
Motion/seconded/approved - to pay to FHAW to have booth at Logging Congress September 9-11, 2010 –motion by Albrecht, seconded by Schnitzler.

Nominating committee – Miles Benson, David Peschau and Tom Albrecht– motion by Walkner, seconded by Kotar  
Motion/seconded/passed -- Executive officers to determine awards –  
Motion by Peschau, seconded by Albrecht  
Meeting adjourned 11:30. Beverly D. West  
Secretary pro tem

# 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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### Forestry Hall of Fame

#### Representative

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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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