

Volume 37

Number 1



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A quarterly newsletter from the

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

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

Winter 2012

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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 37. Number 1

Table of Contents

From the President's Chair.....	pages 2 & 3
37th Annual FHAW Meeting.....	page 3
Neighborhood Forest Photo Contest.....	page 4
US Forest Wildflower Map.....	page 5
Oshkosh Public Museum	
Forest Fest and Camp 5 Lumberjack Show.....	page 6
Prentice Hydraulics and Leo Heikkinen Story.....	pages 7—10
Urban Community Forestry Awards.....	page 11
FHAW Membership Application.....	page 12
Board and Committee Members.....	pages 13 & 14



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## From The President's Chair

Dear Friends,

*Spring is here!! What an amazing year with "Ice-out" and "Spring Break-up" coming so early!*

*This issue of "Chips and Sawdust" has a wonderful article with photos of the Heikkinen's "Prentice Loader." My father, Gordon R. Connor, in a speech at the Wisconsin Historical Society and again at the Forest History Association of Wisconsin in 1981 said:*

*A master success was the invention by Heikkinen of the Prentice Loader at Prentice, Wisconsin. The Prentice Loader, with its grapples really expedites log handling. Now the truck driver, working alone, with his long arm loader can swing logs onto his own truck. This eliminated the need for loading and unloading crews, formerly one of the most dangerous of all woods jobs.*

*The importance of this "modern technology" developed at the end of WWII is still used in logging trucks today! It is a tribute to the Heikkinen's innovation!*

*The early news on the FHAW Conference is also included. We will see you in the Wisconsin Dells this fall! The program will be full of forest history, fun, and educational. The planners are working with Dells historians and specialists in the area to create a wonderful conference!*

*New developments are the re-introduction of a student scholarship. Sadly, several FHAW longtime members have passed, Don Lambrecht and Chuck Reisch. However, the generosity of friends remembering their contributions to FHAW and the forestry community allows for future foresters to learn about Wisconsin's forest history.*

*Several important collections have been preserved at the Wisconsin Historical Society, expanding their forest history collection. The life long work by Paul Bremmer has added photos and a card index of over one thousand log marks! The Banzhaf Papers add important information about the Native American Menominee Reservation forest. The Roddis Collection has been expanded with the business papers of Hamilton Roddis. Since the Forest History Association of Wisconsin is an Affiliate of the*

*Wisconsin Historical Society, we are pleased to be able to facilitate these important additions to Wisconsin's forest history collection.*

*This summer, some wonderful forestry events are being held in northern Wisconsin. Lumberjacks are coming to Camp 5 – how appropriate! Go to [www.lumberjacksteamtrain.com](http://www.lumberjacksteamtrain.com) - July 28<sup>th</sup>! Last year, FHAW cooperated in "Forest Fest" at Trees for Tomorrow. We are again participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forest Fest on August 4<sup>th</sup>. FHAW will be at Great Lakes Timber Professionals "Logging Congress" – Will You? Oshkosh at the EAA grounds on September 6,7,8,2012. Check out the GLTPA website. The FHAW "Wisconsin Logging History" exhibit will be at all three locations!*

*I hope that you all have a wonderful summer filled with family, friends, and forest history!*

*Sincerely,  
Sara*



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## **37th Annual Meeting of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin**

The 37th Annual Meeting of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin will be held in historic Wisconsin Dells Thursday, September 27-Saturday, September 29th.

The convention hotel will be the Americinn in Wisconsin Dells just off of Highway 13 on Wisconsin Avenue. The room rate is \$79.95 per night plus tax and includes a daily continental breakfast in the rate. The hotel will begin accepting reservations for the meeting May 1st.

The kickoff of the events will be held at 1pm on Thursday the 27 with a tour of the Necedah Wildlife Center and will proceed to the Dells for registration and with the opening reception and dinner at the Paul Bunyan immediate across the highway from the Americinn at 6pm.

Friday will be a full day of touring the area in and around the Dells beginning at 8am and will include stops at many fascinating sites in the Dells, Aldo Leopold Legacy Center, Crane Foundation, Reedsburg Historical Museum and many other pertinent stops for association members. The day will conclude with a dinner at around 6:30 in Reedsburg.

Saturday will feature guest speakers and the annual meeting with adjournment set for around 11:30am.

Registration and the complete agenda will be forthcoming but would ask that you mark your calendars now for September 27-29th for the FHAW annual meeting

## **Forest Service Kicks Off My Neighborhood Forest Photo Contest**

The U.S. Forest Service announced its My Neighborhood Forest photo contest, celebrating America's urban and community forests. The Grand Prize winner will receive \$200 in outdoor gear courtesy of the National Forest Foundation.

The contest, which runs from April 11 – July 22, seeks to highlight the natural beauty that spring and summer bring to U.S. neighborhoods, communities and cities, as well as the crucial role of trees in the places we call home.

Interested in competing? Then visit <http://urbanforest.challenge.gov/> for more details on the prizes and contest rules.

Urban forests broadly include urban parks, street trees, landscaped boulevards, public gardens, river and coastal promenades, greenways, river corridors, wetlands, nature preserves, natural areas, shelter belts of trees and working trees at industrial brownfield sites.

“Urban forests are different from the forests you might normally think of, but they are functioning, hard-working ecosystems just the same,” said Tidwell. “As our neighborhoods warm up, trees add a crucial element of beauty to the places where we live, learn and work. We hope this photo contest will encourage people to go outside this season, and maybe they’ll learn a little more about their own neighborhood forests in the process.”

With 80 percent of the nation's population in urban areas, there are strong environmental, social, and economic cases to be made for the conservation of green spaces to guide growth and revitalize city centers and older suburbs.

Urban forests, through planned connections of green spaces, form the green infrastructure system on which communities depend. This natural life support system sustains clean air and water, biodiversity, habitat, nesting and travel corridors for wildlife, and connects people to nature.

The Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry office is actively engaged in more than 7,000 communities across the United States, providing technical, financial, research and educational services to local government, non-profit organizations, community groups, educational institutions and tribal governments.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Recreational activities on our lands contribute \$14.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.

## US Forest Service Releases Updated Wildflower Map

The U.S. Forest Service has released an updated online wildflower map with hundreds of locations on national forests for prime wildflower viewing, making it easier than ever to enjoy America's great outdoors. The wildflower map includes 317 wildflower viewing areas on National Forest System lands and can be referenced by specific states, individual national forests and geographic regions.

"This updated map provides visitors a quick guide to find locations and best viewing times for the spectacular natural beauty of wildflowers on national forests," said Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. "This is one more way folks can experience the bounty of natural surroundings."

A narrative for each location describes the viewing area's botanical habitat, the types of wildflowers that can be found by season, and recommendations for the best time of year to visit. Information on safety advisories such as animal habitats, clothing recommendations, insect or plant cautions, and traffic and parking tips are included. Directions to the site, the closest town and contacts for more information are also offered.

The map is part of the agency's Celebrating Wildflowers web site which includes more than 10,000 plant images and information about the aesthetic, recreational, biological, medicinal, and economic values of native plants. Feature sections focus on the role of pollinators, overviews of flower types, and spotlights on rare and interesting plant communities. An ethnobotany page highlights how people of particular cultures and regions make use of indigenous plants. Educational activities for kids and resources for teachers also are available.

There are nine locations identified in Wisconsin, all in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/viewing/index.php>

**Consider a visit to the  
Oshkosh Public Museum  
1331 Algoma Boulevard  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin**



In a special exhibit gallery on the second floor you can travel back to the days when the Paine Lumber Company was the "world's largest door and sash manufacturer." Enjoy the scale model of the Paine Lumber Company commissioned by the Company in 1926 and created by Barber & Ross Studios of Washington, D.C. This monument in miniature includes 65 buildings and is now displayed in a room of its own.

On the walls surrounding the model you will find artifacts and memories from the great logging days of northern Wisconsin Visit:

<http://www.oshkoshmuseum.org/exhibits/exhibits.htm>





# Forest Fest

August 4, 2012 ♦ 9:00-3:00  
At Trees For Tomorrow



## A Celebration of All the Forest Has to Offer!

Forest Fest is a time for organizations with similar missions to unite for a day-long celebration and a chance to share their enthusiasm for this natural resource with the public.

Join us for the 2nd Annual Forest Fest on the beautiful Trees For Tomorrow campus in Eagle River, Wisconsin and share your craft, skills and experience with the materials that the forest provides.

Trees For Tomorrow is a nonprofit, natural resources specialty school, located in the 4-season paradise of Eagle River, WI, 519 Sheridan St, Eagle River, WI on property under permit from the USDA Forest Service.

All proceeds from this event support natural resources education for our youth.



## Camp 5 Museum Lumberjack Show July 28

Faster than a speeding bullet. More powerful than a locomotive. No it's not Superman - these "men of steel" are LUMBERJACKS!

Captivating audiences for the past 25 years, Timberworks Lumberjack Show Powered by STIHL provides images of man against the impossible along with the sport derived out of a nation's heritage.

The Show includes such events as axe throwing, chopping, log rolling, cross cut sawing, hot sawing and chainsaw carving. These century old skills were used in the logging camps of North America. To pass idle time, lumberjacks would challenge each other in a head-to-head competition. Although technology and machinery have replaced manual labor, the skills are still used today by the Lumberjacks in the STIHL Timberworks Lumberjack Show.

For additional information, visit this webpage:  
<http://www.camp5museum.org/Pages/events.html>



## Short History of Prentice Hydraulics, Inc.

Prentice Hydraulics had its beginning in 1945 in the Heikkinen Machine Shop located on Highway 13 a short distance southwest of the village. In August of that year, with a strong desire to go into business for himself and encouragement from his brothers, Leo Heikkinen opened a one-man repair shop. His wife, Norma, took care of the bookkeeping duties.

For several years the shop operated in the repair and welding of heavy equipment, in steel fabrication, in the sale and repair of chain saws, and in the manufacture of mechanical jammers. The small-town location helped to eliminate certain "red tape," and by working for himself, Leo had the opportunity to carry through on his own ideas with a minimum of interference.

The time came when individuals wanted special innovations on their jammers, and during the first year of operations, an idea for a "custom job" was put into construction. This new type of jammer attracted the attention of a number of forest product handlers and there were many requests for custom built machines. Through improvement and modification of the mechanical jammer, evolution took place, and resulted in the Prentice Hydraulic Loader.

In 1955 new vistas had opened and the shop had a payroll of three to six men to meet at any given time. In the next year the forest industry was



*This building, originally the Palace Dairy on Highway 13 south of Prentice was the birthplace of Heikkinen Machine Company. The new owner, Leo Heikkinen, and founder of the Prentice Hydraulics Loader opened this repair shop in 1945.*



*A Prentice Loader in the Prentice Progress Days Parade, June 17, 1961.*

ance under which Blount manufactures and sells certain forestry equipment using Caterpillar brand names and provides marketing and product support for Caterpillar forestry dealers worldwide.

On Nov. 5, 2007, Caterpillar Forest Products closed its purchase of Blount International's timber harvesting equipment plant in Prentice, Wisconsin. The acquired division manufactures and distributes timber harvesting equipment, industrial tractors and loaders under the Prentice, Caterpillar and CTR brands through a network of equipment dealers.

Since its founding in 1945, Prentice's company history along with its partners have helped redefine the meaning of quality, durability and reliability. For additional information on the Prentice Company visit:

<http://www.prenticeforestry.com/about-the-company/company-history>

### The Leo Heikkinen Story

Leo Heikkinen was born and raised on a dairy farm in Brantwood, Wisconsin. He graduated from Tripoli, WI high school, married his wife Norma, and moved to Milwaukee to work in a machine shop prior to 1945.

In 1945, he returned to northern Wisconsin and started the "Heikkinen Machine Shop" just south of Prentice.



*Leo and Norma (Pokela) Heikkinen*

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Following the slogan "Build it better than it needs to be," the Prentice loader rapidly gained acceptance by the logging industry. As demand continued for more machines, more men were employed.

In July of 1959 -- Prentice Hydraulics Incorporated's employment had reached 35. By 1963, employment was at 100 and a broad and versatile line of hydraulic loading and unloading equipment had been added to make Prentice one of the leaders in the materials handling field. Growth was rapid and in 1966, 295 employees were on the payroll.

rapid and in 1966, 295 employees were on the payroll.

In 1967, with annual sales of \$9 million and 340 employees, Leo entered into an agreement with Omark Industries of Portland, Oregon (manufacturer of Oregon Saw Chain), to sell the entire operation in order to maintain the rapid growth structure that is so necessary to remain a leader in the competitive hydraulic loader field. Omark Industries is still the leader in employment in the Prentice area today with expanded loader and cylinder manufacturing plants in Zebulon, North Carolina and Spencer, Wisconsin.

But, another end of the wood business, firewood production, presented a challenge to Leo's inventive mind. Cutting and splitting wood for fuel, largely a manual process, seemed ripe for mechanization.

So in 1970, Leo started a small repair and research shop (today known as La Font Corporation). Leo believed that burning wood would become more popular as a supplemental form of heating and create a fertile market among commercial firewood suppliers for his splitters.

His first commercial wood splitting machine, "The Saw-Matic," received a patent in 1974. By 1977, a complete line of wood splitters had been developed and the slower production Saw-Matic gave way to the high production "Firewood Processing System" of today. The Firewood Processing system is currently setting the standards for the nations demand of firewood.

Besides its line of firewood splitters, La Font also manufactured fire-place heating units that used to increase efficiency of wood-burning fireplaces, core splitters for the mining industry and wheel crushers for the automobile recycling industry.

Not content with founding companies that became Prentice's two largest employers, Leo also served ten years as Village President, built the town's golf course, planted 700 trees in the village, helped finance tennis courts and a football field and paid for and put in a recreational pond in the village.

Leo L. Heikkinen, died Friday, September 10, 1999, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield at the age of 82. Those who knew Leo remember his ambition, integrity, vigor and vision. They recall his mottos "build it better than it needs to be" and "the harder you work, the luckier you get." His truths are testament to the work he did and the life he lived.

Perhaps even more appropriate, however, to the legacy Leo Heikkinen left to the citizens of Prentice is one which should be shared by people everywhere. It is the motto of the Village of Prentice, "Ask not what your community can do for you, but what you can do for your community."

*Submitted by Dale Heikkinen*



## Awards Recognize Urban and Community Forest Friends

GREEN BAY – The efforts of individuals and organizations to preserve, protect, expand and improve Wisconsin’s urban community forests have been recognized by the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council with a series of awards announced at the council’s annual conference that was held in Green Bay at the end of January.

The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council advises the Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry on the best ways to manage urban and community forest resources. The awards are a way to recognize and thank individuals and organizations for their work and dedication and to help focus attention on a valuable community resource: the trees, plantings and habitat that are an integral part of Wisconsin’s forest resource, according to Kelli Tuttle, president of Bluestem Forestry Consulting and council chair.

Recipients of the 2011 Urban Forestry Awards for their support of the state’s urban and community forest resources are:

- Dr. R. Chris Williamson, University of Wisconsin-Madison associate professor and state entomology specialist, received the *Distinguished Service Award* for his leadership in serving the urban forestry community through entomology research, education and outreach, with emphasis on invasive insects including emerald ash borer.
- Oconomowoc Junior Women’s Club and the City of Oconomowoc Parks & Forestry Department, received the *Project Partnership Award* for their sustained partnership to plant trees in Oconomowoc parks on Arbor Day in celebration of the birth of babies born to club members. More than 100 trees have been planted since 1982.
- The Green Bay Packers, received the *Innovations in Urban Forestry Award* for “First Downs for Trees,” an innovative approach to offset carbon produced during away game travel by planting trees in Brown County for each first down achieved during the regular season.
- Arthur J. Bushue, Village of Clinton Trustee, received the *Distinguished Service of an Elected Official Award* in recognition of his leadership and support in guiding the development of a comprehensive urban forestry program for the Village of Clinton, which serves as a model for other Wisconsin communities.
- Harry Libby received the *Lifetime Achievement Award* in recognition of sustained leadership while serving as Middleton City Forester for 19 years and guiding the development of a comprehensive and proactive municipal urban forestry program resulting in increased tree canopy.

More information about Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council and how to nominate a worthy individual and/or project for recognition is available on the [“Urban Forestry Council”](#) pages of the DNR website.

# 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 (\$10.00)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership (\$20.00)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership (\$30.00)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Non Profit Organization Membership (\$30.00)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate Membership (\$55.00)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Life Membership (\$250.00)

Other Contributions:

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



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Detach and mail this application with payment to:

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### 37th Annual Conference

2012

*Arrangements Pending*

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