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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 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 2

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**Do You Have an  
e-mail address?**

***Be sure to send it to  
membership chair  
Bob Walkner  
[anvils@charter.net](mailto:anvils@charter.net)***

**Advantages:**

- Faster delivery of Chips and Sawdust Newsletter
- Newsletter with full-color photographs
- Receive additional news items and communications

**Thanks to everyone who has already renewed your membership!**



## From The President's Chair

*Dear Friends,*

*Wasn't May and June gorgeous?? Summer came early and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July – "Lumberjack Christmas" is right around the corner! Have a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> with friends and family!!*

*The FHAW Conference will be in Wisconsin Dells, September 27-29 – Save the Date!! See inside!*

*Last month, your Editor, Don Schnitzler, had a terrific article about the Prentice Loader! I received a call in early June from our member, Al Ochs. He said that he worked for Northern Development in 1960. As a Design Engineer doing drawings for the mechanization, he did the physical plant layout for the Creamery Building in Prentice. He said that Mr. Heikenen's loaders stood up to the test because the strength of the loaders could "stand up to that kind of work." Al Ochs did the detail drawings for the corporation at a critical time for Mr. Heikenen. Mr. Heikenen had wonderful ideas and often drew his designs on meat packing paper or what ever was available. Al Ochs translated those designs into shop ready blueprints and schematic drawings. He praised Mr. Heikenen for changing the woods technology. Hand-loading the logs on the trucks had some of the highest accident incidence in a woods operation. What had been two crews that hand-loaded the logs on the truck and was one of the most dangerous jobs in the woods, was now safer for the Lumberjacks with the Prentice Loader.*

*Your Editor has an article on the "Phoenix" – it is not Harry Potter's Phoenix, but the "Snowsnake." There are few remaining and the G.W. Jones Lumber Company had one in our area. It still runs and it is amazing to see it go down the street!*

*I have spent a great deal of time this June with Bill Gamble in White Lake – the Yawkey-Bissell Lumber Company – now Robbins Flooring. The White Lake Historical Society is working on a new building and the history of lumber company will be preserved!*

*Just a note to all that Phil Christensen, President of C.M. Christensen Lumber Company died in December. The new Phelps Historical Society is the recipient of the extensive collection of the C.M. Christensen papers and artifacts. Fortunately, Mr. Christensen saved everything – there is a WWII*

*propeller on display at the Phelps Historical Society since C.M. Christensen provided the maple hardwood for propellers to Sensenich Brothers of Latitz/Lancaster, Pennsylvania. and to G.B. Lewis in Watertown, Wisconsin. (More to follow).*

*I look forward to seeing you all in Wisconsin Dells in September.*

*Sincerely,  
Sara*



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

The 37<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin will take place in historic Wisconsin Dells September 27-29, 2012.

The newly remodeled AmericInn will be the host hotel for this year's conference. Reservations can be made now at the FHAW rate of \$79.95 per evening which includes a hot continental type breakfast each morning. Call the AmericInn directly at 608-254-1700. Hotel registration due by September 4th.

The activities for this year's conference include a "pre-conference" tour of the Necedah Wildlife Center on Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1pm. All those interested in attending should indicate attendance on the registration sign-up sheet or online at [www.chipsandsawdust.com](http://www.chipsandsawdust.com). The opening event of the conference will be a reception, dinner and auction beginning at 5:30 at Buffalo Phil's near the Tangiers Outlet in the Dells.

Friday will include a well designed tour of the greater Dells area highlighting the logging and timber history of the area. From Upham Woods to the local historical sites and then on to the Crane and Leopold Centers with a final stop Friday afternoon in Reedsburg at Pioneer Village. Dinner Friday night will be at Marty's in the Voyageur Inn in Reedsburg.

Cost for the complete conference will be \$130.00. If you are unable to make all of the meetings the cost for Thursday evening dinner only is \$30.00 and the cost for the annual meeting on Saturday only is \$25.00. All events must be paid in advance and is payable to the FHAW via check at PO Box 424, Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

We have a very enjoyable and informational few days planned for the attendees and we look forward to seeing old and new faces alike in Wisconsin Dells September 27-29, 2012.



GREAT LAKES TIMBER PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION  
67<sup>th</sup> Annual www.timberpa.com

# LAKE STATES LOGGING CONGRESS & EQUIPMENT EXPO

SEPTEMBER 6, 7, 8, 2012 - OSHKOSH, WI EAA

Over 200 indoor and outdoor exhibitors attend each year to showcase the best of the best when it comes to Log Splitters, Portable Sawmills, Compact Tractors & Logging Equipment, Implements, Chainsaw Carving, Wood/Pellet Stove Dealers and much, much more. The first Logging Congress occurred on November 1 & 2, 1945 in Houghton, Michigan, and in 1948 the Congress began the practice of adding different locations to encourage greater exposure and participation. Now in its 66th year, the Logging Congress events have been known to attract over 300 booth set-ups, 3,500 attendees daily, and cover 875,000 square feet

For more information, visit:

<http://timberpa.com/event/2012-lake-states-logging-congress-equipment-expo>

## Location:

**EAA Grounds**  
**3000 Poberezny Rd**  
**Oshkosh, Wisconsin**

**Phone:800-564-6322**

Forest History Association of Wisconsin will exhibit at both the Logging Congress and Forest Fest — volunteers are needed to man the displays —

Contact Bob Walkner, (920) 793-4010 or [anvils@charter.net](mailto:anvils@charter.net)  
if you would like to help out.



# 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.

## The Phoenix Log Hauler

By Arley R. Engel

Early in the morning on Saturday, June 25th, I picked up Norm Ford and Roger Reese; we headed to the Main Street Café in Bloomer for breakfast and then on to the Hungry Hollow Engine and Tractor Show. The grounds are north of Barron on Highway 25. As we toured the grounds we were awed by all the small engines and old milking equipment on display, along with neatly restored old cars, tractors and many other antique items. Traveling farther, and into a “shady” display area, we came across a scale model of the famous Phoenix Log Hauler. This is a one of a kind model of a powerful steam operated machine built in Eau Claire, Wisconsin in the early in 1900s. The model is normally on display at The Chippewa Valley Museum at Carson Park in Eau Claire.

Talking later with a former member of the Chippewa County Historical Society board, Don Bichner, I learned that the model had been built by Dan Kiekhafer, a carpenter from Colfax, Wisconsin. Don remembered while working with Mr. Kiekhafer at UW—Eau Claire that he took photos and measurements of the last operating Phoenix in the state at Wabeno, Wisconsin to get the specs to build this scale model. He made the gears from wood, and then sand cast them and poured his own castings. Not a simple undertaking. It was in 1983 that Mr. Kiekhafer decided he could not afford a full-size steam engine so he built this model instead. The model was put on loan to the Chippewa Valley Museum by Keikhafer’s family after his death in 1994.

The Phoenix Log Hauler resembles a steam locomotive, but it runs on caterpillar type tracks, with skis in the front for steering. They were used to tow sleigh loads of logs out of the wood’s in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and later on the western states and Canada.

Looking for more information I found the obituary of Charles L. Tolles. It claimed that in 1861 his



*Steam log hauler made by Phoenix Manufacturing Company of Eau Claire, pulling loaded skids through snow. Rice Lake lumber camp, overland spur, ca. 1914. Wisconsin Historical Society.*

father Robert Tolles and H.P. Graham started a machinery manufacturing company which later became the Phoenix Manufacturing Company. It was in 1876 that Charles became involved in the business. It was Charles Tolles who designed at the Phoenix Manufacturing Company in Eau Claire, the first steam caterpillar type logging tractor. This revolutionized logging operations in the Big Woods. It also marked the start of caterpillar type traction. Charles was not the inventor of the caterpillar style drive train. It was originally invented in Waterville, Maine by Alvin Orland Lombard. Mr. Tolles heard of Lombard's experiments and went east to see him. Lombard's ideas were not fully developed, so Tolles came back to the plant in Eau Claire and worked out and developed Lombard's original idea. According to the obituary, one of the first machines was sold to Northwestern Lumber Company and was used successfully in the company's logging operations. Close to 200 of the log haulers were manufactured at the Phoenix plant before logging operations were finished in Wisconsin. Some were shipped to Alaska, Canada, Finland and Russia. I have a photo of one of the two units that were shipped to Finland and I was surprised to see the steering on these units was reversed, similar to cars sold to the foreign market.

When I was a younger lad and employed at Griffin Doege Auto Parts at 9 North Bridge Street in Chippewa Falls, we would take a two-week vacation sometime in July or August. June and I and our kids, Kevin and Terri, would load up our pickup camper, hook on the boat and trailer and head out for a trip around Wisconsin, sometimes sneaking into Minnesota or Illinois. One year we spent a whole week in Michigan. We usually made 70 to 120 miles per day. At this pace the kids got to see a lot of our state and each night as we set up camp they seemed to drag new friends back to our site.

I had heard about a Phoenix Log Hauler at Wabeno from Lloyd Hainstock of Colfax, so I made sure we would travel through Wabeno as we toured in the eastern part of the state. The log hauler was on display mode only and would not be running for at least three weeks; too late for our schedule on this trip. The next time I saw the Phoenix was at Pioneer Park at Eau Claire. Brother Bert and I were attending the local tractor show, sitting at a picnic table enjoying lunch while watching the tractor parade of the day. When here comes The Phoenix Log Hauler, all the way from Wabeno. It was a mysterious site with hardly any sound other than the hiss of steam, of course running empty on flat ground it was requiring very little power to move along the graded path. What a fabulous site to see something from the early 1900s still in operating condition.

If you haven't seen the Phoenix, it reminds one of a railroad steam locomotive only with skis under the front and driven by caterpillar style



tracks under the rear. For anyone with mechanical interest, the boiler on the Phoenix develops 100 horse power from 200 pounds of steam pressure. It has 4 engines 2 on each side. The cylinders are 6 ½ inches with an 8 inch stroke. The water tank holds 315 gallons of water which is only enough for a 5 mile run while pulling a load of logs, with speeds of 6 to 8 miles per hour. The weight of the Phoenix when filled with water and the fire box filled with wood or coal (if available, wood made more sense in the forest) was close to 18 ton. It was no wonder they had enough traction to pull 25 sleighs loaded with logs. The boiler on the Wabeno Phoenix has been cold water tested to 240 pounds of pressure and the safety valve set at 125 pounds. In 1901 Alvin Lombard was granted a patent on the track; Phoenix paid a \$1000 royalty on each machine for the patent rights.

These units have faded from the logging scene now along with steam locomotives and steam tractors. The main drive unit is still used in modern timber harvesters, and of course the caterpillar type tractors. One of Lombard's steam haulers was sent to England at the beginning of World War 1, and from the design of the tracks, the British developed the tanks that were used in that war. The average load of logs pulled by horses was from five to seven thousand board feet. These log haulers pulled one hundred and twenty five thousand board feet, yes by only one hauler. This was more than most locomotives could handle by rail.

If you are interested in more information on these rigs come and see us at the history center at 123 Allen Street or stop by the library at the Chippewa Valley Museum at Carson Park in Eau Claire, after all The Phoenix Log Hauler was built in the Phoenix Park area of Eau Claire.

**Chippewa Valley Historical Museum and  
Paul Bunyan Logging Museum  
Both in beautiful Carson Park, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.**

**Regular Hours:**

School Year

1-5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday (closed Monday)

plus:

Tuesday evenings open late (until 8 p.m.)

Saturday Mornings open early (at 10 a.m.)

Memorial Day-Labor Day:

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday

1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

plus:

Tuesday evenings open late (until 8 p.m.)

**Admission**

Adults: \$5

Ages 5-17: \$2

UWEC Students with I.D.: \$2  
(free to specific galleries, if on class assignment)

Free admission on Tuesday evenings

Under age 5: Free

Museum Members: Free

For more information visit: <http://www.enjoyeauclaire.com/chippewa-valley-museum.html>  
And/or <http://www.cvmuseum.com/index.html>

## Wabeno Steam Up Days July 13—15

Wabeno, Wisconsin boasts a Logging Museum containing relics and records preserved in a replica of an old logging camp, presenting a nostalgic picture of the most colorful era in Forest County history. The Wabeno Lions Club built the Logging Museum in 1941. The museum is housed in a genuine notched log structure, created to replicate a logging camp. There are many items of interest in this museum, containing almost everything needed for



*Steam log hauler made by Phoenix Manufacturing Company of Eau Claire, last known operational Phoenix in the state..*

hardwood logging. The only thing missing is the complete harness for the horses.

Anyone interested in antique machinery would find something of interest at “Steam Up Days”. Everything from steam-powered engines to old gasoline engines of the past are displayed at the festival. Visitors can watch a Case steam engine sawing lumber and many other attractions from bean shucking to quilting.

They will also see the Phoenix Log Hauler in action, one of the few remaining steam-powered log haulers in the nation still operational. This steam hauler was one of 200 such machines built in the early 1900s by the Phoenix Manufacturing Company, property of the Jones Lumber Company for use at their mill in Wabeno from 1909 until 1935, and was purchased by the town in 1944. The hauler was brought back to life and demonstrated at the first logging show in Wabeno in 1965

The museum is located on Highway 32. It is open seasonally, Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### Finding Fun In Wisconsin

MADISON – Finding fun in Wisconsin just got a whole lot easier with the launch today of a new activities locator that can be found on the Department of Natural Resources website by searching for “Explore Outdoors.”

This new interactive tool allows users to search millions of acres of public lands by county, by proximity to a city, by type of property or by one of 22 listed outdoor activities. For example, search terms can be combined to find dog training areas where you can also ride horseback within a specific county

or near a listed city.

“Wisconsin has so much to offer in the way of outdoor recreation opportunities,” said Kurt Thiede, DNR Lands Division administrator. “There are countless possibilities, and to make it easy for residents we’ve created this Web page to help them find the kind of place and activity they’re looking for.”

By clicking the property link from the search results, people can get more detail on the property, including maps. Thiede notes that one search covers opportunities on all of the following DNR properties: state parks and trails, state forests, natural areas, wildlife areas, fisheries areas and wild rivers. Searches can be done statewide, by county or by proximity to a city.

“Most, if not all, of these properties offer multiple recreational opportunities, and that’s what we’re trying to do here, to make all the opportunities to engage in an outdoor recreation open and available to folks,” explains Thiede.

Visit the Explore Outdoors website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/OutdoorRecreation/>

**An Excerpt from  
Forest History Association of Wisconsin Proceedings,  
September 30 - October 1, 1988  
Shawano, Wisconsin**



*Tigerton Lumber Company's Steam Hauler, circa, 1915.*

The Tigerton Lumber Company, 1887—1987, The First 100 years, by Robert Hendricks.

“In 1911, the Tigerton Lumber Company started a new method of hauling logs, that to me was probably the most glamorous and exciting of them all. This was the advent of the steam hauler. The

sawmill crew would still go into the

woods to cut the logs in the wintertime, but they were not now as dependent on the rivers. When the first cold weather came, a “water crew” would go out with large tank wagons or sprinklers and spread water on cleared right of ways. The ice froze many layers thick to create an “ice road” strong enough to hold a railroad-sized steam locomotive and its “train. The road had to go out for miles from the mills over fields, through swamps, and into the woods where the logs were located—an amazing feat for the time.

“The steam hauler was a steam locomotive that used crawler tracks to grip the ice, and pull the huge sleigh loads of logs hooked on behind. Of course, the engine had to have on board a supply of firewood, and periodically it had

to stop and take on a supply of water for the boiler. Can't you just imagine the loud steam whistle of the steam hauler letting the whole area know that they were coming into town with a huge load of logs. Can't you picture everyone in town running down to see their husband or father helping this slow but powerful steam monster bringing in the logs?"

**And Another Excerpt from  
Forest History Association of Wisconsin Proceedings,  
September 16 - 17, 1983  
Appleton, Wisconsin**

The History of Log Transportation  
By William G. Rector

“The search for a steam powered traction machine to replace ox and horse was not particularly successful. An unsuccessful steam crawler was built in Erie, Pennsylvania in 1868 and eight years later Martin Mower introduced his unsuccessful steam powered iceboat and George Christian his walking beam sled. By 1888 the firm of Grover and Chandler thought they had a successful steam crawler tractor, but they went bankrupt the following year. Finally, by 1907 the Phoenix Manufacturing Company of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, was producing a steam log hauler that had some success.”



*Steam Hauler and log sleigh, along side ice rutter and foreman's sled, 1918. Connor Forest Industries Photo.*

Looking for Logging and Forest Product information, be sure to check out the resources at the Wisconsin Historical Society's Turning Points. Here you'll find the Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Annual Proceedings. For more information, visit:

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/tp-027/>



# FHAW 37th Annual Meeting Registration Form



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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2012**

**- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29,**

**ALL INCLUSIVE CONFERENCE PACKAGE (\$130.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**(INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION, MEALS,  
LECTURES AND ADMISSION COSTS)**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2012**

**NECEDAH WILDLIFE AREA PRE CONFERENCE TOUR**

\_\_\_\_\_ **YES, WILL ATTEND**

\_\_\_\_\_ **NO, WILL NOT ATTEND**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2012 (\$30) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**RECEPTION (CASH BAR) DINNER & AUCTION  
AT BUFFALO PHILS**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2012 (\$25) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND LECTURES**

**\* ALL PRICES INCLUDE TAX AND GRATUITY TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**ANY SPECIAL DIETARY CONSIDERATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_**

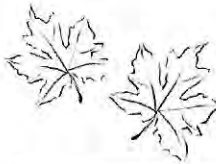
**PLEASE REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 17, 2012**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FHAW AND SEND TO:**

**ROBERT 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 (\$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



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**

## Committee Chairs

---

### 37th Annual Conference

2012

*Arrangements Pending*

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**Awards Committee**

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**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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