

# ***Chips and Sawdust***

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A quarterly newsletter from the

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

P.O. Box 424  
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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

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**Keep your mailing address up to date!  
Your e-mail address too?**

***Be sure to send both to  
membership chairperson  
Bob Walkner at  
[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





## From The President's Chair

*Dear Friends,*

*Someone said that the "Easter Bunny would have to hop over snow banks!" Amazing! What happened to "March comes in like a Lion and goes out like a Lamb" ?*

*Your board will be meeting on May 10th in Birnamwood. Since the membership approved a 3-3-3 term structure, the Board has been in the process of re-structuring for the past several years for its future members. We have finally succeeded! It has been a little chaotic at times, but we all appreciate your patience! We will be welcoming two new board members this Spring. We will have a full Board of Directors of nine. Not only does the 3-3-3 term facilitate consistency, but it simplifies voting – isn't that a novel idea?*

*Please mark your calendars and check the Forest History Association website and "Chips and Sawdust" for updates and registration: Thursday, September 12-14th. We are planning the auction exclusively for Thursday night!! Just fun and fundraising, just for you! Again, we are so pleased that the Flambeau River Paper Company will be our host for the conference!! Our tour will be extra special with a tour of Flambeau!*

*Membership is our top priority! If you have friends and family that you think would be interested in joining us, please contact us! We have lots of plans for all of our committees and are working hard to preserve Wisconsin's logging history!*

*Sad news was received in February with the passing of Paul Bremmer of Woodruff. He always said, "If you want to visit, it has to be in the winter time, I am too busy with my garden the rest of the year!" He often sent photos and stories to the "Chips and Sawdust" editor and his life's work of logging stamps and log marks encompassed thousands of research hours. His collection*

of photos and surveyor books are at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

The Spring is a busy time of the year. The president is working on nominations for the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame of which we are one of ten members in the forestry community. Your Board is working on Archives, Scholarships, Proceedings, the Website, Publicity, "Chips and Sawdust," Awards, etc.

If you have a group, conference, meeting, convention or a venue for the "Wisconsin History of Logging" Exhibit, please contact us! The calendar has openings for its traveling schedule!

Have a wonderful Spring!

Sincerely,

Sara



**Millions of logs in Biggest Jam** — The biggest log jam in the history of lumbering in northern Wisconsin is the way woodsmen refer to the remarkable jam on the Chippewa River in 1869. The river was blockaded and dammed with pine logs, hemmed, jammed and wedged together, averaging from 20 to 50 tier in depth and forming a complete gorge 35 rods in width entirely obliterating the water of the river from sight for more than two miles. The amount of logs was estimated at 100,000,000 feet. The jam was finally broken after days of blasting with dynamite. (Photo had accompanied "From the Newspaper Archive" article printed on page 8 ) Image Source: Library of Congress.

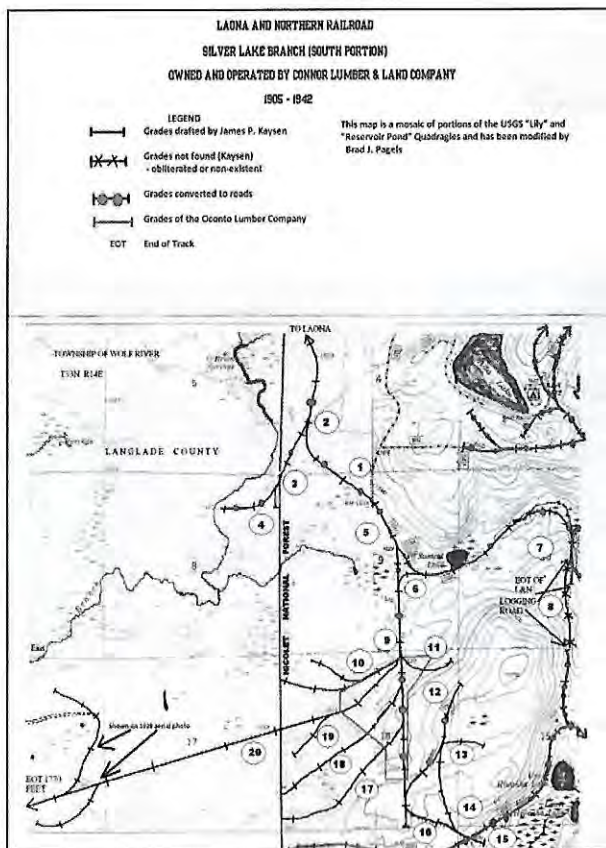
# Logging Railroad Grades Laona & Northern Railroad Silver Lake Branch Owned and Operated by Connor Lumber & Land Company (1905—1942)

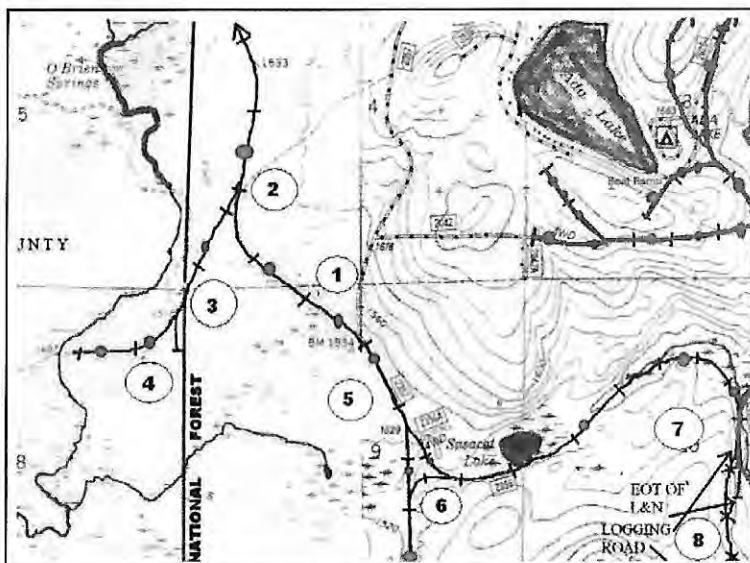
Township of Wolf River, Langlade County  
T33N R14 E Sections, 4, 8, 9,10, 15 and 16

Prepared by: Brad Pagels  
2257 HWY 45 N  
Eagle River, WI 54521  
E-mail: pagreb13056@yahoo.com

This field journal covers the southern portion of the Silver Lake Branch along with some grades of the Oconto Lumber Company. Railroad grade information obtained from the James P. Kaysen Collection at Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin. Field exploration conducted on April 24, 2008

*Close-up views of the map along with Map Guide follows on the next page.*

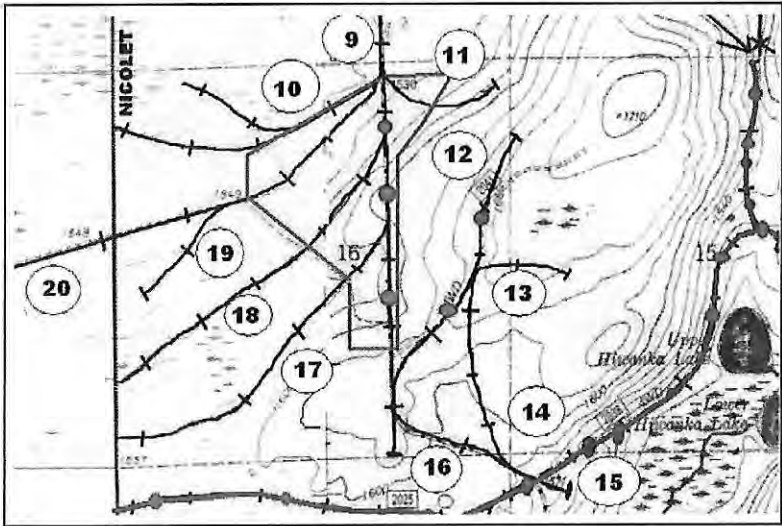




### MAP GUIDE

1. The grade meets and follows south on Ada Lake Road (FR 2357). It is now a snowmobile trail and it runs through conifer lowlands. The grade runs through a deep cut on the way to the junction.
2. The junction is somewhat obliterated and the spur is on a low fill with many tie ruts. Toward the creek the grade is now a road.
3. National Forest Boundary.
4. This short spur runs up a hill on low fill.
5. Junction. This spur is drivable up to the marsh and continues along Sasacat Lake through a large cut and then through a tag alder swamp, thence through an island. South from the island the track runs southeast in a cattail marsh. A piece of coal was found at the creek crossing. This spur has been used in recent logging work.
6. Evidence of the "Y" track consists of tie ruts, evenly spaced trees and pocket holes. The junction at Ada Lake Road is completely gone.
7. This part of the grade was used by both Connor and Oconto Companies but not at the same time.
8. The 1938 aerial photo shows this grade but no evidence of it is found today. A trail ending east of an Oconto Company grade may be part of this spur but no evidence is found. An additional 700 foot spur on a high fill was found and it abruptly ends.





9. The grade carries the snowmobile trail to Lily and it is rather rolling. Junctions are found.
10. Junction is on flat ground and further west both spurs are flooded.
11. Spur runs in a deep cut on a 4% grade to the end.
12. Untouched spur runs on flat ground until trees across it mark the end.
13. Spur is not found.
14. Grade runs on small hills and junctions have been destroyed by road work.
15. Boulders piled to the sides mark this spur.
16. End of Track is found today.
17. Spur runs through a pine plantation the EOT is flooded.
18. Grade is found at the south edge of a plantation, northern section is gone.
19. No evidence has been found.
20. Snowmobile trail to Lily.

### **SUMMARY**

The pine plantation is indicated by a red line on the map that is in Section 16. What is outstanding about this area that it has bulldozed mounds of earth running east and west, and spaced about 100 feet apart. There are few areas similar to this in Oconto County.

### **REFERENCES CITED**

Wisconsin Logging Railroads, Timothy Sasse, Internet or World Wide Web





## *From the Newspaper Archives*



### **Passing Of The Pines In The Chippewa Valley**

EAU CLAIRE—One need not be very old to be able to recall the familiar phrase, "the inexhaustible pine forests of northern Wisconsin."

The pine timber area of Wisconsin has been divided as follows: The basins of the St. Croix, Chippewa, Black, Wisconsin, Wolf, Oconto, Peshtigo and Menominee rivers with their tributaries; and the basin of the south shore of Lake Superior. Of these nine basins the largest in area and with the greatest amount of pine timber was the Chippewa.

Although in those earlier years the operators were few and their individual output small, lumbering operations on the Chippewa may be said to have gotten fairly underway during the forties. During the fifties, sixties, and seventies, the industry increased tremendously, and reached its height in the eighties. From early spring until ice closed down the river in the late fall there was an almost constant stream of logs floating down river to the sawmills.

Many of these mills were on the Chippewa but in addition to supplying the Chippewa river mills, millions of feet of logs passed on down to be manufactured into lumber at different points on the Mississippi. The logs for Frederick Weyerhaeuser's mill at Rock Island, where he made his first venture in the lumber business, were largely bought on the Chippewa, and it was on this river that he, in the late-sixties, made his first purchase of timber lands.

#### **Loggers Capital Small**

Nearly all the sawmill men on the Chippewa carried on logging operations themselves although they also bought and sold large quantities of logs. In addition to the sawmill men there was that much more numerous and interesting class known as "jobbers" or just plain "loggers." As a rule, these would put in logs at an agreed-on price per 1,000 feet for sawmill men or other timber land owners.

The lumbermen of the Chippewa valley were largely New Englanders from the lumbering regions of northern New York and Maine, also French, Irish, and Scotch from Canada—a capable lot, none better to be found anywhere. Although Frederick Weyerhaeuser, already mentioned, and the most capable lumberman this country had produced, was a German, that nationality as a class did not take strongly to the business and it was not until the late sixties and especially during the seventies that the Scandinavians arrived in any considerable numbers.

The Canadians took especially to the logging end of the lumbering industry. From hired woodsmen many of them developed in to capable "timber cruisers" or pine timber estimators; also as loggers and a considerable number of them became wealthy. It did not take any great capital to become a logger. If a man had two or three yoke of oxen, or horse teams, and a simple "logging kit," and was known to be capable and reliable there were timber land owners who would give him a contract to put in logs, giving him supplies during the winter and charging them on contract account. As to wages, neither the logger nor their woodsmen received any considerable part of their pay until the following fall after the mill men had realized on the manufactured lumber.

### **Keep Accounts in Head**

If a logger thought he could make more money purchasing the standing timber and sell the logs that was not a serious matter. Good pine timber land was to be obtained as low as \$1.25 an acre, and two or three "forties" would provide winter's work for a small crew. Buyers could often be found in advance for the logs, who would advance payments as the logs were delivered to the landings on lake or river. There were many French Canadians some still living and unable to read or write, but who were nevertheless capable loggers and made good. The writer has one of those in mind now who in later years employed hundreds of men and had his clerks and bookkeepers, who said that in his earliest logging on his own book he kept the "wannigan" or supply account with his men in his head all winter and made settlement with them in the spring.

It would be a great mistake to assume because timber was abundant and prices low that those early days were profitable ones for persons engaged in any branch of the lumbering industry. A few years ago a prominent journalist in writing of Frederick Weyerhaeuser stated that the lumber king got his start in the day when timber could be had for almost nothing and when any



*Frederick Weyerhaeuser  
(1834-1914)*

Source: HistoryLink.org  
Online Encyclopedia of Wash-  
ington State History,  
"Weyerhaeuser makes one of  
the largest land purchases in  
United States history on Jan-  
uary 3, 1900." (by Greg  
Lange), [http://  
www.historylink.org/](http://www.historylink.org/)  
(accessed March 25, 2013).

man of ordinary ability could not help making money. In such a statement, the aforesaid journalist revealed his ignorance of lumbering conditions in those early days. The business path- way was strewn with bankruptcies and failures. Score and hundreds of loggers were putting logs on the mar- ket at little above the labor cost and manufactured lumber was sold corre- spondingly low.

The writer has had turned over to him without reserve all the early busi- ness records of three of the largest lumbering concerns on the Chippewa. Those records date from the late fift- ies to comparatively recent years. In addition to books of account, con- tracts, and other miscellaneous pa- pers there were included many hun- dreds of letters written by members of these early firms to business part- ners. As a general rule one member of the firm would spend much of his time down on the Mississippi, dispos-

ing of lumber and raising funds to send to his partner, or part- ners, above. During the fifties and sixties and into the seven- ties these letters, almost without exception, revealed a most strenuous struggle to find the funds to meet pressing obliga- tions.

In these later days, we hear much of "lumber kings" and "timber barons," and one must admit that in some cases these terms are not inappropriately applied. No such term would fit the early lumbermen of the Chippewa valley. Almost without exception they were young, sturdy men, hard workers, but with limited capital. They built up their business from the smallest beginnings, and none of them attained any considerable wealth until after many years of struggle and discouragement.

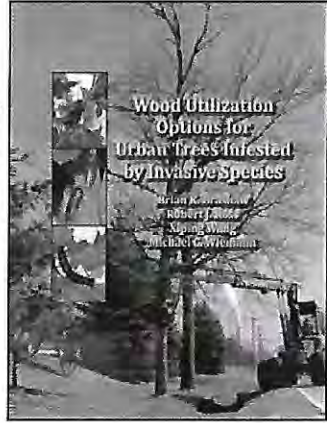
**(Editor's note:** *The above is a portion of the first installment of an article from the pen of W. W. Bartlett, early historian from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The full story appeared in both the Milwaukee Journal and the Eau Claire Leader Telegram during February 1923, the remainder of the first installment will be included in your next issue of Chips and Sawdust*)



## Practical Advice for Using Insect-Killed Trees

MADISON, Wis. - Millions of dead and dying trees in the United States must be properly used or disposed of as a result of the devastating effects of invasive insects. A new publication released by the University of Minnesota Duluth and the U.S. Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) provides urban forestry professionals guidance for managing this monumental task.

"Wood Utilization Options for Urban Trees Infested by Invasive Species" is a reference for land managers, arborists, utilization specialists, and other natural resources professionals. It provides comprehensive information on wood technology, markets, and technical information for hardwoods affected by invasive species.



Cover: *Wood Utilization Options for Urban Trees Infested by Invasive Species.*



*Emerald Ash Borer*

"This manual provides a one-stop shop for understanding how the emerald ash borer, Asian long horned beetle, gypsy moth, and thousand cankers disease are affecting hardwoods," explains Brian Brashaw, program director of the Wood Materials and Manufacturing program at the University of Minnesota Duluth's

Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI). "It also offers valuable insight into the wide variety of products and markets that are available, and practical advice for considering the many options."

The publication was designed to be a primary reference for natural resource professionals who are on the front lines in dealing with invasive species, according to Bob Ross, project leader of the Engineering Properties of Wood, Wood-based Materials and Structures research unit at FPL.

"This document is based, in large part, on FPL's longstanding work on the basic properties of wood and wood products, and includes the most up-to-date developments on ways to mitigate the spread of invasive species in firewood," says Ross.



Non-native invasive species are causing significant ecological and economic damage in the eastern United States. Since its discovery in 2002, the emerald ash borer alone has killed tens of millions of ash trees in 13 states, and cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators, and forest products industries tens of millions of dollars.

The reference guide, made possible by a grant to NRRI from the U.S. Forest Service's Wood Education and Resource Center, focuses mainly on uses for ash trees removed from urban settings. It is organized into four sections:

- An overview of the magnitude of the invasive species problem and use options for infested hardwoods. This includes information on agencies that are addressing the issue as well as a list of trade associations that specialize in manufacturing products from wood affected by invasive species.
- Information on the basic properties of hardwood species that grow in urban areas and may be affected by invasive species. Scientific and common names, physical and mechanical properties, machining characteristics, and other data are summarized.
- Market and use options for U.S. ash species, including detailed information on production considerations, quality specifications, market opportunities, and key trade associations. Uses include lumber, furniture, cabinetry, flooring, biomass, and more.
- Detailed, practical heat sterilization options for treating firewood and solid wood packaging materials made from infested wood. Heat sterilization is currently the most practical and environmentally friendly way to kill pests in solid wood and prevent their transfer to other regions.

The loss of trees due to invasive species in urban areas has been significant, bringing to light the value of often overlooked urban forest landscapes. Urban forests are dynamic ecosystems that provide clean air and water, cool cities and save energy, strengthen quality of place and local economies, improve social connections, and many other benefits.

For over 100 years, the Forest Products Laboratory's work with academia, industry, and other government agencies has led to ground-breaking discoveries with great benefit to the public. Additional information on FPL's research is available at [www.fpl.fs.fed.us](http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us)

*Wood Utilization Options for Urban Trees Infested by Invasive Species is available at the following url: [http://www.fs.fed.us/research/publications/fpl/fpl\\_2012\\_brashaw001.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/research/publications/fpl/fpl_2012_brashaw001.pdf)*

# 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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Sara Connor  
September 12 - 14, 2013  
Park Falls, Wisconsin

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**Please** inform the membership chair of any change in address.

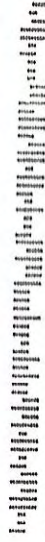
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