



**A Newsletter**

From

**Forest History**

**Association of Wisconsin**

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# Officers & Directors

## 1979-80

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**Professor Emeritus, U.W.-Madison**  
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# **800 Copies of 1979 Proceedings Distributed**

Early in January, nearly 800 copies of the 1979 PROCEEDINGS were mailed to Association members, libraries and local historical societies throughout the state.

Additional copies are available upon request at the publishing cost of \$2.00 per copy, plus 75c for mail orders. New members enrolling during the balance of this fiscal year will receive a copy free of charge, as one of the benefits of membership.

For those interested in acquiring previous editions of the PROCEEDINGS, copies of the 1977 and 1978 publications are still available at \$1.00 each, plus 75c for handling costs. No PROCEEDINGS were published for the Association's first annual meeting in 1976.

## **F.H.A.W. Membership Continues to Grow, Up 37**

Since our current fiscal year began last July 1st, our membership roster has been increased by 64 new individual members and 1 new corporate member.

The bad news is that during this same period, 28 members indicated their loss of interest by failing to renew their membership. The net gain therefore has been only 37, but this is still a relatively good percentage increase in comparison with like periods in previous years.

We continue to emphasize that the cooperation of the general membership is needed — not just that of the Board of Directors or the appropriate committee — to spread the word regarding our Association's program and its objectives. The continuation of our educational efforts in the preservation of forest history depends on developing an expanding interest in this field. Industry support is always needed, but action programs and their implementation will be the responsibility of a concerned membership.

Our solicitation brochure is included with this issue of "C & S"; please pass it on to someone you know will benefit from the Association's informational services and educational program.

# **Plans For 1980 F.H.A.W. Annual Meeting Underway**

Dr. RICHARD C. BROWN, Eau Claire, chairman of the committee charged with planning for the 1980 annual meeting of members, has reported to the Board of Directors that most details of the program have been finalized. The one-day conclave will be held on Saturday, September 27, 1980, at the Chippewa Valley Museum in Carson Park, Eau Claire. In addition to the customary business session, arrangements include a movie of an historic logging operation, six speakers, and a tour of the Paul Bunyan Camp. Full details will be sent to all members later this summer.

## **"Firsts" In Forest History Still Needed From Members**

The May, 1979 issue of "C & S" requested that members send us significant "firsts" in Wisconsin forest history of which they had knowledge and documentation. The objective was to compile a chronology, and eventually publish an educational leaflet, of the more important events that had occurred for the first time in any aspect of our logging, lumbering, forestry and conservation history. Such a compilation would be a "first" in itself and a significant contribution to forest history literature. Regrettably, we have had practically no response to that appeal.

We again are requesting greater input from our members. This is an opportunity for all to participate more actively in an Association project.

The items submitted don't necessarily have to be related to 19th century events only. A good example of contemporary history was provided recently with the announcement that the Lake Superior District Power Company will become (in February, 1980) the first utility in Wisconsin (and the second in the nation) to generate electricity by burning wood. Another example would be the fact that the 1979 Christmas tree for the lawn of the nation's capitol in Washington, D.C. was the first to come from Wisconsin; the first Wisconsin Christmas tree to adorn the interior of the White House was provided by Ken Guenther of Black River Falls in 1976.

# Revival of Interest In C.C.C.'s, State Group Forms

Many F.H.A.W. members will recall the Depression Era, which produced a galaxy of alphabetized agencies to deal with the many social and economic problems of those days. It has been generally agreed that among the most successful of those efforts was the Civilian Conservation Corps. The contributions of that organization during the nine years of its existence to the protection, improvement and management of the nation's forests were monumental. Visible evidence of those accomplishments are still apparent in Wisconsin forty years later in the many thousands of acres of forest plantations, miles of forest roads and numerous recreational sites in our federal, state and county forests.

Recently a reunion of C.C.C. alumni was held at Eagle River and plans were made to organize a Wisconsin chapter of the national association which was formed several years ago. Its principal objective is "to revive and preserve the comradeship, nostalgia and history of the original C.C.C. . . . and to participate nationally and locally . . . in programs related to the conservation of our nation's natural resources."

## Edward C. Henricksen

Friends and former associates of Ed Henrickson were saddened to learn of his death from a heart attack last November 29th at Au Train, Michigan.

Henricksen was a district forester for Nekoosa Papers at its Minocqua, WI office from 1948 until his retirement in 1972. He had previously served with the U. S. Forest Service in Munising, MI for eight years following graduation from the School of Forestry at the University of Michigan in 1934, and had also served in the Army Corps of Engineers in Alaska from 1942 to 1944.

Henricksen was a staunch supporter of F.H.A.W. objectives. Only last October he had offered to loan some photos of historic interest that had been taken by Nekoosa Papers' first forester, F. G. Kilp, who was also the first forester to be employed by industry in Wisconsin.

A perpetual Forester Scholarship Fund has been started by the family and memorials may be sent to the Fund at Route 3, Au Train, MI 49806.

# Affiliation With State Historical Society Stymied

By appropriate resolution at the annual meeting last September, the general membership of F.H.A.W. approved affiliation with the State Historical Society. However, a technicality regarding a change in our constitution has caused a temporary halt to the affiliation process.

It appears that the problem lies with the article that states that our existence is "perpetual". The State Historical Society wants this temporarily amended, in accordance with its long-standing policy, to provide for a four-year probationary period, before we are officially accepted as an affiliate.

This proposed change will require formal adoption by the general membership at the next annual meeting in September, 1980. In the meantime, we are assured by the state society's officials that they have no doubts about the continued viability of F.H.A.W. and that they look forward to our active participation in their cooperative projects.

We have been assured by a spokesman for the Internal Revenue Service who was consulted by our legal counsel that the proposed temporary change will not jeopardize the tax-exempt status of the Association.

## Members In the News . . .

### **GORDON E. CUNNINGHAM**

*Extension forester, University of Wisconsin-Madison, was cited for his outstanding contributions to forestry education at a National 4-H Congress in Chicago.*

### **KEN ELLIOTT**

*Rhineland, author of "History of the Nicolet National Forest", and*

### **WILLIAM WOLFF, JR.**

*Lakewood, also a retiree of the U.S. Forest Service, were organizers of a reunion of former Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees at Eagle River, which will result in the formation of a Wisconsin chapter of the National Association of C.C.C. Alumni.*

**HERBERT O. FLEISCHER**

*Co-author of "Wood in American Life, 1776-2076", and retired director of the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory appeared in a segment of a 30-minute documentary titled "Wood Is Too Good To Burn" aired on PBS television stations statewide.*

**RAMON R. HERNANDEZ**

*Director of the McMillan Memorial Library at Wisconsin Rapids, was elected president of the Wisconsin Library Association.*

**MARY LAGERBLOOM**

*Librarian at Merrill's T. B. Scott Free Library, was elected to a three-year term as a director of the Merrill Historical Society.*

**GEORGE W. RUTH**

*Neenah, has become vice-president of operations for Gilbert Paper Company, Menasha.*

**WILLIAM SYLVESTER**

*Professor at the College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will head up a workshop in forest management decision-making using computer technology.*

**M. N. (Mully) TAYLOR**

*Retired executive director of Trees-for-Tomorrow, was elected president of the Merrill Historical Society.*

**DANIEL O. TRAINER**

*Dean of the College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, has been appointed to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board by Governor Lee Dreyfus.*

## **Wisconsin's Oldest Forest Plantation?**

The following story is reprinted from the State Historical Society's quarterly WISCONSIN MAGAZINE OF HISTORY, issue of June, 1944. It was written by William W. Morris, then a forester for the Land Economic Inventory and Land Use Section of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, who believed that the reforestation project he described was the first attempted in Wisconsin:

Away back in the late fifties (1850's) there came to Wisconsin a man whose name should go down in the annals of our state's history, Walter Ware — probably the first man to practice forestry in this region. Although his name was unknown to me until a few years ago, he has left the present generation an admirable and lasting memorial in the form of a living wall of tall white pine trees, standing out like a green oasis in a level, sand desert.

Walter Ware was one of that energetic group of sturdy New Englanders who in the 1850's was working westward to a distant and comparatively unknown country. Coming from Hancock, New Hampshire, where he was born on October 19, 1835, he settled in 1856 a few miles west of what is now the village of Hancock, Waushara County, Wisconsin.

He was only twenty-one when he made his home in this lonely region, with its poor, sandy soil, and he depended for his livelihood on wheat and potato crops — never abundant, for rainfall was an important factor in his farming operations. A man of great energy and not easily discouraged, he remained, and on December 16, 1857, was married to the seventeen-year-old daughter of the A. J. Frenches of Hancock (formerly of Eau Claire). On the Ware farm nine children were born.

Short of stature, active, and wiry, Walter Ware possessed the attributes necessary to endure the hardships of the frontier. It is known that with his oxen he hauled huge stones a distance of ten miles for the foundation of his barn, stones so large that they could not be moved with four horses, yet he handled them alone with one yoke of oxen. After the barn was swept away by a tornado, these great stones and the hand-hewn, massive white pine beams, which remained, testified to his tremendous energy.

The region of the Ware farm was timbered with scattered stands of jack pine and scrub oak, with large white pine growing to the north not many miles away. Parties of Winnebago Indians often passed by the home, coming or going to the settlement at Hancock. There they exchanged various commodities for tobacco and a particularly low grade of fire water. Attracted to the wheat fields, myriads of wild pigeons darkened the sky by day and roosted in the trees by night, a veritable "manna in the wilderness" sent by a kind Providence to feed the hungry settlers.

I have often wondered what special urge prompted Walter Ware to reforest about seven acres with white pine; for in that remote area conservation was an unheard-of project. The plantation is somewhat in the form of a hollow rectangle; the trees planted in rows, rather closely together, are 75 to 100 feet deep on all four sides. I believe that possibly they were planted as a windbreak with the idea of placing a future house in the center.

These trees were first transplanted in 1869. This data was verified by Ware's neighbor who was born in that vicinity about



eighty-six years ago. He had helped in the planting and had recorded the date. The work was completed in 1876, the year of the Philadelphia Centennial, and for this reason old residents say that Ware planted 1,876 trees to commemorate that event. The area covered in making measurements of the diameter of about 300 of these trees, leads me to believe that probably 1,876 trees were planted.

Ware was regarded by some in the community as an "old fool" because of his reforestation idea. I was told that he did the work very carefully, bringing the trees from the swamplands to the north of his home, a considerable distance. A ball of earth was retained around the roots of each tree, and great pains were taken to plant them correctly. Slow-moving oxen were his only means of transportation, and the work consumed no little amount of time.

Skeptics who doubt the ability of white pine trees to grow on sandy soil should see this plantation as it is today. On the west side of this area, the side needing the greatest protection from the prevailing winds, the trees of the outer row were planted only about two and one half to three feet apart. They averaged over 11 inches in diameter at breast height, and the largest ones are about 65 feet in height and 17 inches in diameter.

Ware did not confine his efforts entirely to the planting of white pine. Today a large grove of butternut trees also attracts the visitor to his old home. These trees, now of large size, have borne abundant crops. This is remarkable for a tree as fastidious of soil as the butternut, but Ware accomplished the feat by meticulous planting and care of the young trees.

In 1888 Ware moved to Arkansas where his earlier reforestation interests had an outlet in the planting of fruit trees. His death occurred at Fayetteville, July 15, 1900. He was eulogized as "a most industrious and painstaking farmer — pushing his work from early morning until late at night . . . In his convictions of the right he was as firm as the enduring granite of his native New Hampshire hills."

Would that more of the pioneers of Wisconsin had had the vision and foresight of Walter Ware, so that some of our present desolate wastes might have been clothed with a living green to invite rather than to repel the tourist and general public! Because of Ware's vision there still stands this plantation of magnificent white pine presenting a solid wall of green, sixty feet in height, which has defied the elements through all these years. What finer monument to any man could there be than this living forest, or what finer gift to bequeath to posterity?

I think a suitable epitaph for such a man might well be Van Dyke's lines "He that planteth a tree is the servant of God. He provideth a kindness for many generations. And faces that he hath not seen shall bless him."

## Standing Committees for 1979-80

Like most formal organizations, F.H.A.W. affairs are managed jointly by the board of directors, the officers and a number of standing committees. The work of those standing committees is particularly important in that they help to determine association policies and programs, and in some cases, actually implement the action on their recommendations.

President John Saemann has appointed the following committees for the current fiscal year. Association members are encouraged to contact the chairmen of these committees if they have any suggestions to make that are pertinent to the functions of a specific committee.

### **ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Dr. Richard Brown, *Chairman*

William Brener

Dr. Richard Norris

Mrs. Diane Schmidt

Frank Fixmer

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Roger Drayna, *Chairman*

Ned Revie

James Sparke

William Kauth

### **PROJECT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Howard Lovestead, *Chairman*

John Saemann

Jay Cravens

L. G. Sorden

Jacque Vallier

### **AUDITING COMMITTEE**

Fred Ziemann, *Chairman*

Edward Steigerwaldt

Carl Theiler

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Frank Fixmer, *Chairman*

Stanley Staples

William Yost

John Saemann

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

George Corrigan, *Chairman*

Floyd Hovarter

William Sylvester

Robert Cook

Walter Youngquist

Frank Fixmer

### **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Paul Loduha, *Chairperson*

Ramon Hernandez

Frank Fixmer

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Dan Trainer, *Chairman*

Stephen C. Smith

Dr. Richard Brown

### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE**

John Saemann, *Chairman*

L. G. Sorden

George Corrigan

Jacque Vallier

Mrs. Gordon R. Connor



