

A Newsletter

From

Forest History

Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

403 McIndoe Street

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1986-1987

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President's Message

As I write my last "President's Message", I reflect with pride on our Association and its first twelve years. We have accomplished much to be proud of, and will continue to accomplish more.

Hundreds of publications have been placed in our library at UW Stevens Point, and they will remain there as a source of information, and a historical perspective of our present and past forest history. Countless forest pioneers and historians have reported to our association on their knowledge and research of early forest life in Wisconsin. All of these papers are published in our own "FHAW Proceedings".

In addition, the brochures "Firsts in Wisconsin Forest History" and "Bibliography of Forest History Publications" have been published and thousands of copies distributed.

The Forestry Hall of Fame in Stevens Point was helped along in development by the FHAW. We should be proud of where we have been, and also proud of where we are going.

I've enjoyed serving the past two and a half years in this office, and will continue to serve on the board as my term dictates. I've gained a lot of pride serving an association of concerned forest oriented individuals, who give of themselves to preserve forest history.

Tom Albrecht
President

Distinguished Service Awards



The presentation of awards for distinguished service in the preservation of Wisconsin's forest heritage highlighted the dinner meeting of FHAW's annual members' convention on September 11th.

Recipients were **Randall Rohe**, Pewaukee, a director of the Association, and the **Marinette County Historical Society**.

Rohe was cited for his authorship of numerous articles on Wisconsin logging and lumbering history which have been published in various regional and national periodicals. He is currently in the process of completing a book on the many ghost towns in northern Wisconsin that had their beginnings as thriving sawmill communities. Rohe is currently a professor of geography at the University of Wisconsin Waukesha Center.

The Marinette County Historical Society is the sponsor of Marinette's Logging Museum which features a unique small-scale, wood carving replica of a typical early logging camp and its surrounding woods operations. The award was accepted by Barbara Neverman, President of the Marinette County Historical Society.

Ice Age Trail

Bob Rusch's interest in local forest history is not confined to the details of the operations of the Rib Lake Lumber Company during the early 1900's. He is also an ardent developer and promoter of the Ice Age Trail in Taylor County. As such, his interest in history goes back to the era of the glacier in Wisconsin 10,000 years ago.

A recent article in the Wausau Daily Herald reported on the current status of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in Wisconsin. Of the 1,000 miles of trail, a little over 400 are now built, most of which are on publicly-owned lands. Taylor County has more completed miles than any other county, largely due to the efforts of dedicated individuals like Bob Rusch. He is an attorney and member of FHW since 1979, and now a life member. Rusch and other local businessmen have printed brochures to promote wider use of the trail. The Ice Age Trail uses portions of logging railroad beds of the long-defunct Rib Lake Lumber Company as well as other forest roads made by loggers near the turn of the century.

National Scenic Trails



Members in the News

William H. Banzhaf, forestry consultant in Milwaukee, was general chairman of a recent conference sponsored by the Forest Products Research Society on timberland investments and the options open to potential investors as well as current owners.

Frederic Braum, CPA in Antigo, and **Jack Densmore**, retired soil conservationist in Madison, were recipients of distinguished service awards from the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association at its last annual members meeting.

LaMont Engle, retired federal forester in Milwaukee, is currently serving as president of the Eastern Area Forest Service Retirees Association.

John N. McGovern, emeritus professor of the department of forestry, UW Madison, authored an article in the spring issue of the Wisconsin Academy Review titled "History of Amate, Mexican Bark Paper".

Jack Rusch, sawmill and logging equipment dealer in Antigo, is a director on the board of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association.

Charles H. Stoddard, Minong, former director of the Bureau of Land Management, has announced the publishing of a revised edition of "Essentials of Forestry Practice". The new text provides up-to-date information on basic forestry techniques for use in forest management planning operations, timber production, timber harvest, forest protection, forest products processing and marketing.

Members in the News

Harold Berndt, Rhinelander, has retired after a 37 year career with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He had served as assistant district director for resource management at the Rhinelander office since 1973.

W. S. Bromely of New Rochelle, New York, is the featured author of an article on sustained yield forestry in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan during the 1930's. The article appeared in The Cruiser, newsletter of the national Forest History Society.

J. "Walt" Goldsworthy, Three Lakes, was a principal speaker at the rededication of the Franklin Lake Campground on the Nicolet National Forest on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. He was a naturalist and custodian there for five years during the 1960's.

James R. Miller, forestry specialist for the DNR at Rhinelander, has won the prestigious "Golden Smokey Award" of the National association of State Foresters and the US Forest Service. The award honors Miller for developing ways to control forest fires started by railroad equipment.

Roger C. McLain, Florence, died last spring following a long illness. Before his retirement in 1986 he had been a reforestation technician for the US Forest Service on the Nicolet National Forest and had previously been employed by the Wisconsin DNR.

Carl H. Rhody, Ogema farmer and logger turned author, was featured in a recent article in the Wausau Sunday Herald. He has written four books about pioneer days in the Spirit Valley area of Price County. He has donated copies which are available at the FHAW reference library.

Merrill Logging History Research

Mike Weckwerth of Merrill is one of the younger and more energetic members of FHAW. His special interest is researching the forest history of Merrill and the surrounding areas as reported in local newspapers and other periodicals during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Toward that end, he has spent endless hours viewing microfilms of thousands of pages of the Northern Wisconsin News, Merrill Advocate, Merrill City Directory, Merrill Daily Herald, Lincoln County Advocate and Merrill Star-Advocate.

The hundreds of news items, with their thousands of column-inches, that have been gleaned in this process have been typed and a copy donated to the FHAW reference library.

Weckwerth's research will eventually result in a chronological history spanning the period from 1870 to the 1930's and will include not only logging and sawmilling activities of that era but also accounts of river drives, forest fires, fatal and near-fatal accidents, railroad expansions, labor problems and other aspects of local forest history.

In an unusual action at its August meeting, the FHAW board of directors approved a resolution complimenting Weckwerth's zeal, thanked him for his donation of the results of his research to date, and encouraged him to continue toward the possible goal of publication.

Reading Resources

"Timber and the Forest Service", by David a Clary. A 1986 publication of the University of Kansas Press with 252 pages. The book presents the history of the US Forest Service mission and ideology up to 1979.

"US Forest Service Grazing and Rangelands: A History", by William D. Rowley. A 288 page book published by Texas A & M University Press. From the formation of the national forests in 1891 through the Wilderness Act of 1980.

"Breaking New Ground", by Gifford Pinchot. Originally published in 1947, this 522 page classic is now being reprinted. Pinchot's personal view of the development of the Forest Service and the forest industry. Island Press.

"Wisconsin's Famous and Historic Trees", by Bruce Allison and Elizabeth Durbin. Stories of individual trees, groves, and types of unusual trees such as Indian Trail Marker trees. Published by Wisconsin Books, 119 pages, 1982.



Aldo Leopold — Commemorative Year 1987

Aldo Leopold — 1887-1948

History Lesson

By HENRY CLEPPER

1. One of the first exports of forest products in the early 1600s from America was:
 - a) *Sassafras bark, believed by Europeans to have curative powers*
 - b) *White-pine masts for English naval vessels*
 - c) *Maple syrup and sugar for sweetening*
2. William Penn, proprietor of Pennsylvania, in 1682 made a compact with the Indians under a spreading tree that was thereafter depicted as the Penn Treaty:
 - a) *Pine*
 - b) *Oak*
 - c) *Elm*
3. To assure continuing and adequate supplies of suitable timber for the Navy, President John Quincy Adams in 1828 set aside, in Florida, the Santa Rosa Reservation of:
 - a) *Longleaf pine*
 - b) *Live oak*
 - c) *Black gum*
4. In 1872 a resolution was adopted at a Nebraska State Horticultural Society meeting to set aside an annual tree-planting date, to be known as Arbor Day. The spokesman who made the proposal was:
 - a) *Julius Sterling Morton*
 - b) *John Aston Warder*
 - c) *John Muir*
5. The first forest agent employed by the U.S. government in 1876 was:
 - a) *Bernhard E. Fernow*
 - b) *Franklin B. Hough*
 - c) *Robert Douglas*
6. The famous woods tool for rolling logs, with a stout wooden handle four feet long, a spike point, and a free-swinging hook, was invented by:
 - a) *Paul Bunyan*
 - b) *Stewart Holbrook*
 - c) *J.H. Peavey*
7. The first private forest to be put under technical management was the Pisgah Forest in North Carolina. The forest manager was:
 - a) *Carl A. Schenck*
 - b) *Gifford Pinchot*
 - c) *George W. Vanderbilt*
8. The first degree-granting forestry school of collegiate rank was at:
 - a) *Yale University*
 - b) *University of Michigan*
 - c) *Cornell University*
9. The General Sherman Tree, depicted on a bronze medal of The American Forestry Association as the most massive living thing, is a:
 - a) *Sugar pine*
 - b) *Redwood*
 - c) *Bigtree*
10. The number of native and naturalized trees of the United States, exclusive of Hawaii, is approximately:
 - a) *250*
 - b) *500*
 - c) *750*

ANSWERS

1. a) *Sassafras bark* 2. c) *Elm*
3. b) *Live oak* 4. a) *Julius Sterling Morton* 5. b) *Franklin B. Hough*
6. c) *J.H. Peavey* 7. a) *Carl A. Schenck* 8. c) *Cornell University*
9. c) *A bigtree, also known as giant sequoia* 10. c) *750*

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1986-1987

1987 ANNUAL MEETING

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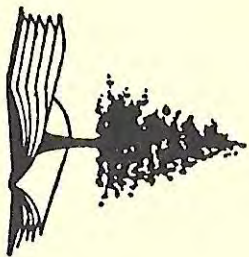
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