



"CHIPS AND SAWDUST"

A Newsletter from the Forest History Association of Wisconsin
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NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST HISTORY NOW AVAILABLE

The Association's first publishing venture is now an accomplished fact. "The History of the Nicolet National Forest, 1928-1976" can be purchased through Secretary Adrian DeVriend at \$3.50 per copy, including postage, handling and sales tax. (The publication was a joint cooperative enterprise of the Association and the Forest Service.)

Authored by Member Ken Elliott, retired U.S. Forest Service employee, the publication details the beginnings of Wisconsin's first federal forest and its development to the present day. The many illustrations are also guaranteed to awaken memories among readers already familiar with the locale, the people, and the events which became part of the historic record of the Nicolet National Forest.

A UNIQUE FOREST PRODUCT INDUSTRY

Among the highlights of the recent annual Lumberjack World Championship events in Hayward were the log-rolling contests. These naturally required officially approved birling logs. The supplier of these is Lyman Williamson, proprietor of the Hayward Wood Products Company, and he believes that he is the world's sole source of logs for sanctioned log-rolling competitions.

Official birling logs are red cedar from the forests of British Columbia and are delivered by rail to Hayward. At Williamson's wood processing plant, the 13-foot long logs are turned down on a giant lathe to one of five sanctioned diameters ranging from 12 to 17 inches in diameter. Revolving speed increases with decreasing diameter. To-day "Hayward Logs" float in pools and on lakes all over the U.S. and Canada. Log rolling was first organized as a sporting event in 1898; the International Log Rolling Association was organized in Washburn, Wisconsin, in 1926.

PROSPECTIVE AUTHORS NOTE

The Association's board of directors has adopted a publications policy which includes guide lines whereby manuscripts will be considered and judged for their acceptability for publication under Association sponsorship. Members contemplating a literary effort should write to the Secretary for a copy of the policy statement.

125-YEAR-OLD SURVEY MARKER FOUND

A Wausau resident, member of a survey crew that was doing a survey north of Brokaw, recently found a rotting piece of wood that proved to be a meander corner that was set on November 6, 1852. Hanque Amundsen's find was originally a four-foot cedar post. When found it was only two feet long, but with the scribe marks denoting location still plainly visible.

AN IMPORTANT DATE IN FORESTRY

The Forest Products Laboratory, a research branch of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, was established in 1910 at Madison. The Laboratory's stock of over 3000 publications and reprints, and extensive slide and photograph files, contain something for most requests. The Forest Products Laboratory Library will loan many of its materials to other libraries and will copy some material that it does not loan.

LOGGING DAMS

The Round Lake Wilderness Study Area on the Chequamegon National Forest east of Fifield includes an interesting relic of early Wisconsin logging history in the form of an old logging dam at the outlet of the lake. Apparently built in the late 1870's or early 1880's, the dam provided a "head" for the spring drives down the South Fork of the Flambeau River.

Incidentally, the Program Planning Committee of the Association has suggested that a major research project some dedicated member might pursue would be to locate, describe and map all the logging dams used in Wisconsin. Photographs of dam sites that still exist would be another worthy effort and another important contribution to the state's forest history.

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The second annual meeting of Association members is scheduled for Saturday, September 24th, at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. Members will receive the detailed program shortly and are urged to pre-register so that adequate preparations may be made for the luncheon.

In addition to the business session for the election of several new directors and reports from officers, there will be papers delivered around the theme of "Where We Are in Forestry To-day", with special reference to the development and current status of school, county, state, federal and industrial forestry.

Several awards will also be presented to members for significant contributions to Wisconsin forest history.

ON BECOMING AN ACTIVE MEMBER

Recently, a member who was remitting his dues for the new fiscal year asked: "How does one become more involved in Association activities"? His question struck us as one which may be in the minds of quite a few others, so we offer these suggestions:

A good beginning might be made by making a special effort to attend the annual meeting of members on September 24th at Stevens Point. Participation on that occasion will certainly provide a better understanding of how the Association operates and what its officers are doing--or not doing--toward the attainment of objectives. Ideas might even flow from the personal contact with other members.

The articles of incorporation of the Association state that it "shall promote the educational and historical aspects of forestry in Wisconsin. This shall be done through the development of educational material.....(such as)....mobile exhibits, displays, manuscripts, films and photographs, depicting the history of logging, forestry and the wood industry in the state....." Members with special talents and resources can help achieve that particular goal by volunteering to head up or assist with projects of that nature.

Additionally, the long-range planning committee has a long list of proposals for special undertakings. Among the more important are: Obtaining oral and written histories of loggers and logging companies, sawmills, pulp and paper mills, veneer mills and specialty product manufacturers; collecting and preserving plat books, and survey field notes; preparing bibliographies of publications on various aspects of Wisconsin's forest history; researching and identifying historic sites with both local and statewide significance!

Every association member usually has some specialized interest in specific aspects of forest history. Make that interest known to the Secretary and every effort will be made to put you in touch with others having a similar interest and who may be able to fill in the voids of your knowledge.