



## FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION of WISCONSIN

# Woodchips

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### **Peshtigo: America's Deadliest Fire**

The news of the Great Chicago Fire overshadowed the news of another fire in a little town in Wisconsin called Peshtigo, just 250 miles away, that occurred on the exact same day, October 8th 1871. One of The History Guy's first episodes was on the Peshtigo Fire of 1871. This updated episode on the 150th anniversary of the fire corrects THG's pronunciation of "Peshtigo," and adds more details from period newspapers. [Watch Video](#)

### In the News

### **Recognizing Forest Industry During Forest Products Week**

Wisconsin is celebrating the state's working forests Sunday through Saturday during Forest Products Week. Gov. Tony Evers and President Joe Biden have proclaimed the third week in October as Forest Products Week to recognize forests' essential role in the environment and economy. [Read More](#)

### **Conservation Fund to Preserve 70,000 Acres of Northern Wisconsin Forest**

A land conservancy organization has purchased about 70,000 acres of northern Wisconsin forestland in hopes of preserving it for public use and logging. The nonprofit Conservation Fund said the land, located east of Rhinelander between blocks of national and county forests, was the largest unprotected block of privately owned forest in the state. [Read More](#)

### **Paper Mill Closures Drove a Bust for Northwoods Loggers, and Some Are Leaving the Industry**

A massive wall of hardwood is stacked just off the road at a logging site near Elcho, where Dennis Schoeneck is working. The area was once a farm — he found a line of stones that decades ago delineated its boundaries. Now Schoeneck is harvesting aspen, white birch and other trees here. The landowner uses these acres for hunting, and Schoeneck's work will make it easier to navigate for him and for the deer. Schoeneck, who founded Rhinelander's Enterprise Forest Products in 1978, will sell the timber to area paper mills. That's the way the business has worked for more than a century. But today, paper mill closures in Wisconsin have removed some of the key buyers of pulp wood. That's created a glut of supply in timber markets, and in turn has sent prices plummeting. [Read More](#)

### **Loggers Face Challenges as Paper Mills Close**

Loggers in northern Wisconsin say their profits are declining because of the ripple effect from the Verso paper mill closure in 2020. We learn how timber professionals are keeping their businesses alive and their efforts to branch out. [Listen to Broadcast](#)

### **The Peshtigo Fire—as it Entered Manitowoc County on October 8, 1871**

"From Two Creeks to Two Rivers, the woods are burning. Heavy rain is our only salvation. All the roads are impassable and the worst is not yet known" So wrote Henry Marshall of Milwaukee on October 5, 1871. He concludes his report: "Very fortunately I reached Two Rivers in safety and pen this account on my experiences in the section of the Steamer, Sheboygan." [Read More](#)

### **New York City's Hidden Old-Growth Forests**

In the popular imagination, New York City is a mass of soaring steel-frame skyscrapers. But many of the city's 1 million buildings are not that modern. Behind their brick-and-mortar facades, its numerous 19th- and early 20th-century warehouses, commercial buildings and row homes are framed with massive wooden joists and beams. These structures probably harbor at least 14 million cubic meters of timber, the volume equivalent of about 74,000 subway cars. Their main sources: old-growth forests that long predated New York, and were erased to create it. [Read More](#)

### **Three 19th-Century Shipwrecks Discovered in Lake Superior**

A remotely operated vehicle (ROV) captured chilling footage in the depths of Lake Superior this summer. As researchers used the robot to explore a newly discovered 19th-century shipwreck 600 feet below the surface off the coast of Grand Marais, Michigan, they happened upon the vessel's main cabin, which had been eerily frozen in time. Photos captured at the scene show overturned stools, an old-fashioned stove and other waterlogged remnants of someone's living quarters. [Read More](#)

# Woodchips

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With this issue of Woodchips, we will start listing the full URL to each hyperlink on a second page. If needed, the URL can be copied and pasted into your web browser address bar (also known as location bar or URL bar).

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[https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/three-19th-century-shipwrecks-discovered-in-lake-superior-180978961/?utm\\_source=smithsoniandaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20211029-daily-responsive&spMailingID=45861171&spUserID=MjY1MjE5NDI5MTYyS0&spJobID=2103219954&spReportId=MjEwMzIxOTk1NAS2](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/three-19th-century-shipwrecks-discovered-in-lake-superior-180978961/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20211029-daily-responsive&spMailingID=45861171&spUserID=MjY1MjE5NDI5MTYyS0&spJobID=2103219954&spReportId=MjEwMzIxOTk1NAS2)