



**FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION**  
of WISCONSIN

# Woodchips

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## **Branching Out: Local Filmmakers Score Big by Making Stars Out of Local Trees**

If one were to create a list of topics that would make for exciting video projects, “trees” would probably land towards the bottom. Yet local duo Micah Davis and Steve Betchkal produced just such a video, *Champion Trees*, and not only is it an engaging and insightful look at local forestry, the six-minute short recently won a Midwest Emmy. [Read More](#) [Watch Video](#)

## In the News

### **When to Take Your Christmas Tree Down: Twelfth Night Tradition Explained**

When should you take your Christmas tree down? Once Christmas Day and Twixmas passes, attention often turns to tidying the house and packing up the tree, including decorations (such as wreaths, lights and garlands) and cards. There's often confusion – and debate – about the right time to do this. But you shouldn't be tempted to take your Christmas decorations down too quickly because tradition stipulates that it should stay up for a little longer than you might think. [Read More](#)

### **Frederick Law Olmsted Created Four Emerald Gems in Milwaukee—It's Up to Us to Protect Them**

What do New York's Central Park and Boston's Emerald Necklace have in common? First of all, these great parks are the work of Frederick Law Olmsted, visionary social reformer and founder of American landscape architecture. They are also beloved parks, located within communities proud of their Olmsted heritage. Residents realize — as Olmsted did — the critical economic, cultural, and civic benefits of thriving Olmsted parks. Olmsted's vision was to create democratic spaces, to be used by millions of diverse visitors on an annual basis, in a variety of ways. It's lesser known that Milwaukee has four public Olmsted landscapes — Washington Park, Lake Park, Riverside Park, and Newberry Boulevard. [Read More](#)

### **Where and How the Tall Tales of Paul Bunyan and His Ax Began**

Paul Bunyan stories are plentiful. He cleared forests with one swing of his ax. He and his trusty bovine, Babe the Blue Ox, dug the Great Lakes to quench the thirst of his fellow loggers. He created the Mississippi River by simply dragging his ax behind him. He's a Wisconsin folk hero. But why? That's what Ryan Urban of Rice Lake wanted to know, so he reached out to Wisconsin Public Radio's WHYconsin. [Read More](#)

### **As Deforestation Threatens the Songbird, Wisconsin Works With Partners to Stave Off Further Decline**

Tucked in the sand barrens south of Brule, volunteers and wildlife managers detected signs of nests for the Connecticut warbler last year. The sparrow-sized bird with a gray head and yellow belly has returned year after year to the jack pine stands of northwestern Wisconsin to nest in the moss on the forest floor and under blueberry bushes. Finding the bird is no easy task. Connecticut warblers prefer remote habitats where they can remain hidden among the brush. Despite that, staff with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources spotted six to eight singing males in a small area where the birds had previously been found. But when biologists returned this summer, they discovered only three singing males. [Read More](#)

### **Trees Can do the Dirty Work of Waste Cleanup**

When it comes to ridding the earth of pollution leaking from dumps, closed landfills, and other waste sites, specific types of trees are quietly and efficiently absorbing the toxins. Through a process known as phytoremediation, green plants are used to remove, degrade, or stabilize pollutants and contaminants, such as toxic metals, from soil or groundwater. The practice of using trees as waste cleanup tools has been around for many decades and its early promise as a low-cost alternative to other cleanup methods has borne out. [Read More](#)

### **Proposal to Transform Escanaba Mill, Retain 1,200+ Jobs Gets First Green Light**

The Michigan Strategic Fund board approved a request for a Forest Products Processing Renaissance Zone (FPPRZ) for 15 years. The request is estimated to be worth \$29.4 million. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation says the approval is an important first step to enable an approximately \$1 billion investment by Billerud in Michigan to serve the advanced paper product industry, which would retain a minimum of 1,240 jobs at the Escanaba Mill, which is on a 2,000-acre site in Wells and Escanaba townships.

[Read More](#)



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## Visiting Woodchips Embedded Links to Webpages

Hyperlinks embedded into Woodchips allow readers to enjoy featured video or audio presentations as well full news articles or papers of interest with just a simple click of their mouse. The links appear at the end of an article (a news headline with one or two introductory sentences) typically as **Watch Video**, **Read More**, or **For More Information**.

To open the link, place your cursor over **Watch Video** or **Read More** and so on, and then left click on your mouse. That should open the link in a new window providing access to the specifically linked webpage.

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).

Past issues of Woodchips are found on the Forest History Association of Wisconsin webpage at <https://www.foresthistoryassociationwi.com/woodchips/>

To keep issues of Woodchips arriving in your e-mail's inbox, keep your e-mail address up-to-date in FHW membership records by contacting our membership chairman, Jim Kerkman at [highknollroad@centurylink.net](mailto:highknollroad@centurylink.net) or the editor, Don Schnitzler, at [thefhaw@gmail.com](mailto:thefhaw@gmail.com).

## Links shared in this issue of Woodchips

### **Branching Out: Local Filmmakers Score Big by Making Stars Out of Local Trees**

<https://volumeone.org/articles/2022/11/04/306969-branching-out-local-filmmakers-score-big-by> <sup>(story)</sup>  
<https://www.facebook.com/StoryTimeCV/videos/351945239747305/> <sup>(video)</sup>

### **When to Take Your Christmas Tree Down: Twelfth Night Tradition Explained**

<https://www.housebeautiful.com/uk/lifestyle/a25690686/when-to-take-christmas-tree-down/>

### **Frederick Law Olmsted Created Four Emerald Gems in Milwaukee—It's Up to Us to Protect Them**

<https://www.htrnews.com/story/opinion/2022/12/20/frederick-law-olmsted-created-four-gems-in-milwaukee-protect-them/69722757007/>

### **Where and How the Tall Tales of Paul Bunyan and His Ax Began**

[https://www.wpr.org/how-and-where-tales-myth-paul-bunyan-ax-began#new\\_tab](https://www.wpr.org/how-and-where-tales-myth-paul-bunyan-ax-began#new_tab)

### **As Deforestation Threatens the Songbird, Wisconsin Works With Partners to Stave Off Further Decline**

<https://www.wpr.org/connecticut-warbler-deforestation-threatens-wisconsin-songbird-decline>

### **Trees Can do the Dirty Work of Waste Cleanup**

<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2019/08/30/trees-can-do-dirty-work-waste-cleanup>

### **Proposal to Transform Escanaba Mill, Retain 1,200+ Jobs Gets First Green Light**

<https://www.wipaper.org/paper-news/2022/12/13/proposal-to-transform-escanaba-mill-retain-1200-jobs-gets-first-green-light>