



FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION
of WISCONSIN

Woodchips

[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Leadership](#)

[Membership](#)

If You Find A Bent Tree In The Forest, You May Have Just Stumbled Upon A Centuries Old Secret

Trees come in all sorts of shapes, sizes and colors – but one of their few unifying characteristics is that they stand tall, reaching up toward the sky. If you look for long enough, though, you'll eventually come across trees with crooked trunks and weird kinks. And if you find one of these, then you may have chanced upon a long-forgotten secret. Dennis Downes grew up close to Lake Michigan, on the border of Illinois and Wisconsin. With a growing love of nature, he spent his childhood playing in the forests near his home. And here there were trees quite unlike any of the flora surrounding them. [Watch Video](#)

In the News

Looking Back at the History of Wisconsin's Forests

"The history of Wisconsin's forests includes what happened yesterday and 10,000 years ago. It's all part of a continuum — both the natural and human aspects of our forests. They can't be separated," says Ed Forrester, president of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin (FHAW). FHAW is dedicated to the discovery, interpretation, and preservation of Wisconsin's forest history. [Read More](#)

New Study Based in Wisconsin Finds Deer Browsing Just One of Many Factors Shaping North American Forests

In a new study, a Penn State-led research team discovered evidence that browsing by white-tailed deer had relatively little long-term impact on two tree species in a northern forest. The research took place in both fenced and unfenced plots in a one-square-mile area in the Flambeau River State Forest, Wisconsin, which had an estimated deer density of about 18-31 deer per square mile at the beginning of the study. With seven years of data, researchers examined survival and growth of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) and ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) seedlings and saplings with differing light conditions and levels of deer access. [Read More](#)

A Look Back on the Big Woods of Wisconsin: 90 Years and Counting

For centuries, wilderness has been at the center of storytelling. From pictographs to oral histories to the written word, nature has provided a common thread connecting people across all times and places. Now for some 90 years, millions of children around the globe have envisioned one such natural place in their young minds—the Big Woods of Wisconsin. "The great, dark trees of the Big Woods stood all around the house, and beyond them were other trees and beyond them were more trees." Published in 1932, *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder was the first installment of an eight-piece autobiographical book series, which would later be followed by various spinoff series, picture books, cookbooks, and a hit TV show. [Read More](#)

The Internet Can't Get Enough of These Pictures of Wild Wisconsin Animals. Here's Why You Can Feel Good about Browsing Them

Thousands of trail cameras sit in Wisconsin's forests, plains and pastures, silently waiting to capture an image of a passing elk, a curious bobcat or a pack of galloping otters. And millions of those images have been compiled for all to see thanks to the Snapshot Wisconsin program set up by the state Department of Natural Resources. Many are blurry or show only an ear or tail at the edge of the frame. But others reveal playful, anxious and heartwarming scenes — moments that humans rarely see. [Read More](#)

Forest Products Laboratory Scientist Makes Historical Black College / Science Connection

Roderquita Moore, a research chemist with the Fiber & Composites Research department of the Forest Products Laboratory, has two strong outside interests. As a young woman growing up in a family who was devoted to their church in rural Georgia, she loves music and helping others. "Being involved in church activities formed the foundation of who I am today," she said. Having graduated from Tuskegee University with her BS and MS degrees, then going on to Clark Atlanta University to obtain her PhD – all Historical Black Colleges and Universities – Roderquita joined the Forest Products Laboratory in 2004 as a research scientist intern through the Student Career Experience Program – now known as "Pathways." [Read More](#)

PHOTOS: Wood You Like to Tour the Forest Products Laboratory?

At the west end of the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus, just east of University Hospital, sits the home base for a 112-year-old federal effort to use the nation's forests more efficiently. Founded in 1910, the Forest Products Lab first occupied two buildings closer to the center of campus. Today, it has a campus of its own, filling several buildings built in the 1930s and 1960s. [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 FHAW membership records by contacting our membership chairman, Jim Kerkman at highknollroad@centurylink.net or the editor, Don Schnitzler, at thefhaw@gmail.com.

Links shared in this issue of Woodchips

If You Find A Bent Tree In The Forest, You May Have Just Stumbled Upon A Centuries Old Secret

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_qyg7fMvuU

Looking Back at the History of Wisconsin's Forests

<https://mywisconsinwoods.org/2022/09/30/looking-back-at-the-history-of-wisconsin-forests/>

New Study Based in Wisconsin Finds Deer Browsing Just One of Many Factors Shaping North American Forests

<https://www.outdoornews.com/2023/01/30/new-study-based-in-wisconsin-finds-deer-browsing-just-one-of-many-factors-shaping-north-american-forests/>

A Look Back on the Big Woods of Wisconsin: 90 Years and Counting

<https://mywisconsinwoods.org/2022/01/04/a-look-back-on-the-big-woods-of-wisconsin-90-years-and-counting/>

The Internet Can't Get Enough of These Pictures of Wild Wisconsin Animals. Here's Why You Can Feel Good about Browsing Them

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/local/wisconsin/2023/01/20/wisconsin-wildlife-pictures-captured-on-trail-cameras-by-dnr-program/69823896007/>

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<https://www.fpl.fs.usda.gov/labnotes/?p=28188>

PHOTOS: Wood You Like to Tour the Forest Products Laboratory?

https://captimes.com/news/photos-wood-you-like-to-tour-the-forest-products-laboratory/article_58073912-451d-51c3-9eb7-2521da46b1f3.html