

Volume 47

Number 4



A quarterly newsletter from the

**Forest History
Association of Wisconsin, Inc.**

P.O. Box 186
Bangor, WI 54614

Winter 2023

Officers and Directors 2023—2025

John Grosman ⁽²⁰²⁴⁾
President

8857 Abbylyn CT
Woodruff, WI 54568
(715) 358-0038

James Kerkman ⁽²⁰²³⁾
Treasurer

N6726 County Road DE
Bangor, WI 54614
(608) 486-2326

Ed Forrester ⁽²⁰²⁴⁾
Past President

2484 11¼ Street
Cumberland, WI 54829
715-822-4940

Arno Helm ⁽²⁰²⁵⁾

167 Church Street
Merrimac, WI 53561
(920) 986-4044

Ricky Kubicek ⁽²⁰²⁵⁾

3336 N. Dousman St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 732-5578

Cindi Stiles ⁽²⁰²³⁾

120 S Oneida Ave.
Rhineland, WI 54501
715-499-0481

Tom Jerow ⁽²⁰²⁴⁾
Vice-president

604 Riek St.
Rhineland, WI 54501
(715) 401-1578

Joe Hermolin ⁽²⁰²⁵⁾
Secretary

119 East Towne Drive
Antigo WI 54409
(715) 216-3856

Bob Walkner ⁽²⁰²³⁾

3103 Maplewood Road
Two Rivers, WI 54241
(920) 793-4010

Don Schnitzler ⁽²⁰²³⁾

1003 George Drive
Marshfield, WI 54449
(715) 383-9775

Nicole Filizetti ⁽²⁰²⁵⁾

8583 Doctor Pink Dr.
Minocqua, WI 54548
(906) 450-3106

Please Note!

*A missing print page from our Chips and Sawdust,
Fall 2023 Newsletter (Pages 9,10,11 and 12)
Will be tucked inside this print Issue so you can
add it to the previous Newsletter.*

—Schnitz

Chips and Sawdust

Volume 47, Number 4

Table of Contents

From the President's Desk	4 - 5
Nicole Filizetti Joins FHAW Board	5
Meet FHAW Student Intern, Sophia McLean	5
School Forest Connection	6 - 7
Are You Willing to Serve	7
Establishing a Natural Resource Management Program, Part 2	8 - 9
Save the Date for 2023 FHAW Fall Conference	9
West Salem Campfire Story History of Outdoor Education Center	10 - 11
From the Newspaper Archive	12 - 14
Lumbering Days are Nearly Over	12 - 13
Old Lumbering Days End	13
Last of Lumbering on Menominee River	14
Upcoming FHAW Webinars	14
Membership Form & Committee Members	15
Board Members	2



*Dedicated to the discovery,
interpretation, and preservation
of the forest history legacy of the
State of Wisconsin*

From The President's Chair



Greetings!

FHAW got the New Year off to a running start by drawing in some friends from a number of agencies and organizations to join the first Board meeting of 2023. Leaders from the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, UW College of Forestry, and the Wisconsin County Forests Association were invited to a meeting that looked at our Work Planning and Budget Model, and then to join the discussion on future direction. If you also consider that our Board now includes representatives from the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters Exec Committee, members of the Wisconsin Archeological Society Board, the President of Wisconsin Greenfire, and staff from the Wisconsin School Forest Program, this discussion, as you might expect was far ranging!

We consider five broad categories in our planning process that include 1) Marketing and Outreach, 2) Membership Expansion/Member Engagement, 3) Operationalizing Education, 4) Partnership Formalization and Role Definition, and 5) Succession Planning. This was the first attempt to assess and adjust our planning effort in each of these areas since 2020.

The review effort produced some news of pleasant progress, to wit; 1) The slate of recordings from webinars and the Fall Conferences shows a visitation of over 40K! We're getting noticed. 2) We've been working to connect with K-12 teachers, and teachers are beginning to show up in membership. 3) Membership in 2020 was at 151, and as of this January is at 187, a 20% increase. 4) We began an active work association with the UW Stevens Point College of Humanities and Global Studies in 2022, when we hired a History intern to begin development of Finding Aids to aid researchers. Our first intern developed finding aids for three members of the Forestry Hall of Fame. We have another intern in place this year working on two more FHOFF members, and a design for two interns for the 2023-24 school year, with project materials ready to archive for more FHOFF members. 5) We have embarked on a multi-year archival project at Trees for Tomorrow, in collaboration with their leadership, plus the Wisconsin Historical Society, the US Forest Service, the Eagle River Historical Society and the Merrill Historical Society. We expect more archival records will begin arriving soon at UWSP?

A key issue that emerged in discussion with our 'guests' at the January Board meeting was to develop and market a 'Speakers Bureau' to support the Forest History interests of local non-profits and schools across the State. This is a great idea, that would likely be a great work project for a new volunteer?

These are simple examples of issues that have "come in the door" as a product of what have been successful outreach projects by our Board and Committee members over the last two years. In reading this listing, you may get a sense of the challenges we now face???. We're facing a growing demand for 'outcomes' with a very limited staff of volunteers. The question that arises is, "Do we have the capacity to grow membership engagement/recruitment to allow us to survive being successful"?

Obviously, we think so. We are planning to work on a 'jobs list' which will be

published in a separate email mailout to membership within the next few weeks. If you see an area in which you might be able to help now, offer us a note to thefhaw@gmail.com We'll welcome your ideas.

Best Regards,

John Grosman



Nicole Filizetti

Nicole Filizetti Joins FHAW Board

Nicole Filizetti was elected to fill one of two open seats on the Association's board of directors.

Nicole has a B.S. in Biology/ Ecology, a secondary science teaching certificate, and an M.S. in Science Education from Northern Michigan University. She has been with the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education since 2013, assisting with professional development for the LEAF – Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program and serving as the state coordinator for Project Learning Tree.

Welcome to the board Nicole.

Meet FHAW Student Intern Sophia McLean

Sophia is a student at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point and is graduating in May with a degree in history with a minor in museum studies. After graduation she is planning to move to Chicago to work for the Field Museum to gain experience for her career in the field of curation.

Sophia is currently working on processing, organizing, and digitizing a collection of business reports that follow the personal and business life of George Banzhaf and his forest resource consultation company, one of the first forest resource consultation firms in the United States. She says, "It's very interesting to get to see the detailed ins and outs of such an important company that has helped so many different public and private corporations make the best decisions for themselves and the environment around them. George Banzhaf and Co. really opened up a new corporate world for forestry in North America."



Sophia McLean, 2023 FHAW Student Intern at UWSP Archives

Forest History Association of Wisconsin - School Forest Connection

A recent meeting of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin Governing Board included invited leaders from the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, Great Lakes Timber Professionals, UW-School of Forestry and the Wisconsin County Forest Association. Many of these same organizations were part of a 'team' convened 5 years ago to begin a Strategic Redirection of FHAW. They joined the meeting this time, to react to progress made on past advice and to offer advice anew in an ever-changing world.

Notably, the Wisconsin School Forest Program, an element of the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, housed on the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point campus was a part of the discussion in 2018, and is now an organization represented on the FHAW Governing Board. They are present not as an invited guest, but as a member in 2023. Advice from School Forest leadership over the last several years has helped us focus our efforts within the "Educate and Archive" elements of our Mission to direct our work plan/budgetary efforts toward measurable outcomes for K-12 school children.

In simple review of actionable advice given and acted upon in the last five years; the Association now has a modern website <https://www.foresthistoryassociationwi.com/> featuring a variety of print publications and digital media

recordings. The recordings attest to a very active slate of webinars offered annually, along with recordings of the Speakers featured at the annual Fall Conferences. In a number of instances our School Forest



FHAW website's home page — Use the Navigation bar across the top to locate upcoming events, newsletters, Past Proceedings, Finding Aids, and more.

connection has us offering both digital and print media books which can enable a K-12 teacher to offer a history lesson featuring historic events in Jackson, Ashland or Oneida Counties. Potential lessons include log drives on the Black River, Pulpwood Rafting on Chequamegon Bay and The Thunder Lake Narrow Gauge Railroad System in Oneida and Forest Counties. Total visitation for all content at the new website over the time it has been up, is over 40K.

A suggestion offered in 2020 by School Forest Leadership has us working to develop an Archival Collection at UW Stevens Point on the lives of the 50+ inductees into the Forestry Hall of Fame <https://www.wisaf.org/wisconsin-forestry-hall-of-fame/> featured in the atrium of the College of Natural Resources Building on the UWSP campus. The Wisconsin Society of American Foresters organization manages this recognition program for sustainable forestry leaders whose lives were dedicated to the care of our remarkable forest resources. FHAW collaborates with WSAF in telling the story of these individuals.

Further, FHAW now supports History Student Undergraduate Internships at

the UWSP Archives. These interns work to develop “Finding Aids” that will support K-12 students in the development of National History Day projects that focus on Sustainable Forestry/Natural Resource Leadership issues.

The 2022 intern developed “Finding Aids” on E M Griffith, Fred Wilson and Cal Stott, along with a fourth aid on the Peshtigo Fire. These “Finding Aids” are offered at <https://www.foresthistoryassociationwi.com/collections/finding-aids/> The book that Wilson authored on his mentor Griffith is also available under ‘publications’ at the same website.

The resources we have taken in for archival have come from individuals whose interest in history called them to be inspired by the people in their organization’s “significant past,” of which they were a part. The records on Griffith, the First State Forester hired in 1904, and Wilson, a member of the first group of Forest Rangers that Wisconsin hired in 1911 respectively, were set aside by a member of WDNR Forestry Division of Staff in the 1980’s and 90’s. The materials taken in on Cal Stott, a USFS Region 9 Forest Staffer (who created the Continuous Forest Inventory Process employed across the US a statistically grounded method of measuring total growth on a forested tract) were saved by a colleague of his in the USFS Region 9 office after Stott retired. That person then took these records home when he retired. They languished in his basement and became a curiosity to his family after he passed away, but seemed too interesting to simply discard? They eventually traveled to storage in Nebraska, before a grandchild of that staffer contacted a past member of the FHAW Governing Board to offer them to him, and then to us. Stott’s work record is connected to the Wisconsin story of termination/restoration of the Menominee Indian Tribe, an incredibly unique story, that we can now help to tell.

Perhaps your file cabinet, storage room, bookcase has a piece of the story we need to tell before it too is lost? Our website offers an email address (thefhaw@gmail.com) that invites your communication. Please use it to join the discussion needed to help us tell how we got here and where we’re going.

If you have interest in joining the conversation on how Wisconsin came to be a leader in Sustainable Forestry and wonder how FHAW is now offering “history” advice and support to K-12 kids and others, you might consider membership? Advice on how to connect with us and the dialogue enabled within ‘the team’ is offered at our website.

The effort to capture the records of those 50+ members of the Forestry Hall of Fame and tell their story will take time, talent and monetary support. It just might require an idea you have and need to share?? There will always be room for new members, ideas and willing workers, on the FHAW team.

Are You Willing to Serve

Seeing a need for an expanded board of directors during the 2020 annual membership meeting the size of the board was increased to 12 members.

One of the additional board positions is still open. Are you willing to serve the association as a board member? Reach out to any board member to discuss the opportunity.

If you’d prefer to get involved on a committee, again, just reach out to a board member for more details. Contact information of current board members is found on page 2 of this newsletter.

Establishing a Natural Resources Management Program
on an Army Installation — Part 2 — Permit Sales

Submitted by Jim Kerkman

(The second in a series of articles describing how a natural resources program was created through the memories of Julian S. Hutchinson, the first natural resources professional hired at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin 1975.)

In 1968 the installation established a Conservation and Beautification Committee (CBC) as required by Army Regulation (AR) 420-74. This regulation was established during President Kennedy's administration and required the Commander of each installation having forests, fish, wildlife and other substantial natural resources to appoint a CBC to oversee the proper management of the natural resources.

In the oral history from 2008 Hutch said, "AR 420-74 stated who should be on the committee. It was the Executive Commander, the Post Engineers and seven or eight of the top administrative offices on Camp McCoy. The intent was the natural resources are so important that you actually get the head guys involved and educate them so they know how important it is so they can do the right thing. When I presented the requirement they had a Post Auditor and everyone scuffed about the CBC because that isn't going to fly. The Executive Commander doesn't want to waste his time on deciding where to plant trees. The Post Auditor wrote it up and pointed out that this was a military regulation so this is something the Post Commander had better activate."

Prior to the CBC, deer hunting and other natural resource management was directed by the Hunting and Fishing Society (HFS), a private committee made up of Camp McCoy volunteers, mostly hunters, fishermen, loggers and others. "The CBC was criticized by members of the HFS who had now lost their sportsman's monopoly and power to dictate conservation authority".

During the HFS years nobody could hunt deer on Camp McCoy unless they got permission from the Post Commander. "On a big year they might have 100 guys hunting on Camp McCoy and so the deer herd just mushroomed. It was just fantastic. I mean the numbers were so high and so the military said we're going to allow some sportsman on Camp McCoy. We're going to start selling hunting permits because we've got to control this, so they started a sportsman's group of about 10 guys to decide how to manage the deer population. Don Hall, the DNR game manager at Black River Falls talked to the group and convinced them to have a nine-day either sex season. Well of course the sportsmen were irate about that because you are going to kill all the deer. We did have a nine-day season and that's almost a story in itself. Up until that time they'd been taking 50 to 60 deer a year, and that year we took off 1,400 deer in nine days!"

"The DNR became involved because they aged the deer. The hunters would be bringing in these little 40-pound animals in and they'd say, "Oh, look at that, someone is shooting those little fawns." When the DNR aged it, the deer might be six years old, small because there was no food out there. I mean Camp McCoy was black from the ground up four feet high in the winter because the deer herd was literally eating itself out of house and home. We did the same the next year and didn't get quite so many but still got over 1,000

deer. I remember the publicity was such that hunters would say, "you'll never see another deer on Camp McCoy, They're gone, The creeks ran red with blood."

In 1968 Mr. Harold Needham, the civilian Post Engineer created the Land Management Branch (LMB) to manage all natural resources. "This action transferred the work of about 32


employees from the Roads & Railroads Shop and the Carpenter Shop into the LMB. The hunting and fishing permit sales were then transferred to LMB. Fish and Wildlife income collected at Camp McCoy would stay at Camp McCoy. "We came up with a small game permit, a deer archery permit, a gun season permit, trapping permit, a seasonal fishing permit, a yearly fishing permit and a no-fee permit for those under 16 years old. The Army was all for this. The Army had no idea who was on the Post or where they were. The military mission was picking up with more soldiers and training activities, that got to be a real hazard."

"This all changed one Sunday afternoon when two married couples came on the Post with permits to hunt small game with .22 rifles. They were given a map but the maps were on an 8x11 sheet of paper with a few roads and not many more details. They ended up in the artillery impact area where they found a shell lying on the ground. They picked it up, put it in the fork of a tree, backed off 50-60 feet and shot at it. A bullet hit the primer causing the shell to go off and fly back to hit one of the woman who was pregnant. She lost her child, and the Army had a lawsuit on their hands."

"So, when we instituted our permit sales program we gave each person a copy of regulations, a good map and told them exactly what area they could hunt in and so on." *To be continued...*



Hunters lining up at the Permit Sales office to buy deer hunting permits at Fort McCoy in 1974.



Mark Your Calendar
48th Annual Forest History Conference
October 5 –7, 2023
Tomah, Wisconsin

Theme — The Military's Role in Wisconsin Forestry History

Lodging will be at Cranberry Country Lodge
319 Wittig Road, Tomah Wisconsin
855-516-1090

West Salem Middle School



Principal: Ben Wopat
Guidance Counselor: Mike Lang
Secretary: Janel Lochen
Secretary: Anita Jagodzinski



Campfire Story: History of OEC (School Forest)

Fifty-nine years ago, the School District of West Salem acquired what we now call the Outdoor Education Center or OEC, thanks to the foresight of individuals such as Norm Rowe and Robert Tremain. The following information was collected from research compiled by the OEC steering committee including Barb Thompson and Mike Zwonitzer along with contributions from Barb Primo and family, relatives of Norm Rowe, and Jim Zanter, long time Physical Education/Health teacher. Most are facts and some are assumptions.

Following WWII and the Korean War, Fort McCoy was deactivated in 1953 and was used primarily for training Reserves and the National Guard. In 1955, the Wisconsin State Patrol also began to train their recruits at Ft. McCoy. The government decided to reduce surplus lands and in 1957-58 offered land to school districts for use as school forests. School Districts were to complete an application for the surplus land and the government would then select from among the applicants the districts that would assume the land offered. In our case, the West Salem School District was offered 160 acres for school forest land.

Norm Rowe was an Agriculture teacher in the West Salem School District. Back in those days agriculture was a big deal and most students took Agriculture classes. Norm Rowe, a Bering Wall Recipient, was very excited when he came across the information about the army surplus land offer. He immediately contacted Ft. McCoy to inquire about applying for the surplus land offer. Norm and Robert Tremain filled out the application and submitted it to Fort McCoy officials. As it turns out, West Salem was the only school district to apply. The district was then awarded the 160 acres with the contingency that improvements to the land be made over the next 20 years at which time the deed to the land would be turned over to the School District of West Salem.

Norm began taking high school Agriculture students to what was then called our school forest, to do "work". This entailed making trails as one of the first projects to improve the land. Each year the school district had to submit the improvements made to the land as part of the application agreement. The next improvement was to build a lodge. A portable mill was brought in and the work changed to cutting white pines and milling the timber into rough cut boards to be used in the construction of our lodge. Many grade levels were involved in the completion of the lodge. Middle school through high school students (boys) delimbed trees, hauled boards, and pounded nails.

The improvements continued over the years; the phone company wanted to lay lines underground through the forest, so Norm negotiated phone connections to the lodge. In 1962, I-90 was being constructed and needed 30 acres of our school forest as part of the Interstate system. Again, Norm and his colleagues negotiated the 30 acres in exchange for fire lanes to be cut along the

north and south boundaries. Another improvement was the construction of a pavilion which is now the 2-room classroom building where students build bluebird houses.

All the while things sort of shifted and the main work done at the school forest was done by the 7th grade classes. A tradition of a 7th grade camp out began, first, with just boys, and then because of the persistence of an elementary teacher, Mrs. Eleanor Zurn, (we think this was the woman) the girls joined in a coed camp out much like we have now.

More trails were made and thousands of trees planted. When you look around at the rows of red pines you are looking at the results of student's efforts to continue the improvement of the school forest. The trail system included the boardwalk that crosses the sedge meadow and parts of the white pine/red pine/maple swamp on the east side of the forest. And every year these improvements were submitted to the government agency supporting the surplus land program.

Finally, 20 years later in 1978, the West Salem School District was awarded the deed to the land. I've heard 2 stories, one that the deed was handed over for \$1.00 and the other was that it cost \$0.00. We became the sole owners of 132 acres of school forest. Since that time we have remodeled both buildings, upgraded the trail system and boardwalk, built an elevated platform in a white pine for student observations, and have a forest management plan for sustaining the forest for generations to come.

The school forest, or as we call it now, the Outdoor Education Center, is one of our school district's greatest assets. Many students in our district have parents and even grandparents who've also gone to the school forest and have been part of the 7th grade campout. Because of Norm Rowe's vision of what could be done with 160 acres given as surplus to our school district, students since 1958 have been given the privilege of enjoying outdoor experiences that most students in Wisconsin will never have.

Norm Rowe is no longer with us. His vision of students learning in an outdoor environment still lives on as does his spirit. Each one of us will take home a little part of Norm Rowe at the end of the camp out. As we leave the school forest, pause a moment, think about your experiences over the last couple of days, think about all of your school forest visits, and then give a wave to Norm as the bus heads out, and thank Norm for the wonderful opportunity he was so generous in providing to you

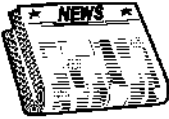
About Norman N. Rowe 1900—1981

Rowe was born in Portland, Ore., on Feb. 8, 1900. He moved to Minnesota 10 years later. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Minnesota, and received his master's from Colorado University in 1943.

When Rowe came to West Salem in 1925, farm education was not a readily accepted profession. Most people believed anyone could farm.

But Rowe began teaching vocational agriculture at the combined West Salem High School and Grade School despite the skeptics.

Rowe retired from fulltime teaching in 1966. He continued to teach a rural appreciation class at the junior high school. He also managed the school's 160-acre outdoor recreation center near Sparta and continued to make visitations to former students' farms.



From the Newspaper Archive



LUMBERING DAYS ARE NEARLY OVER

DAY OF THE MISSISSIPPI RAFT BOAT IS ENDED

ONLY THREE BIG MILLS LEFT

More Lumber Was Cut Each Week Twenty Years Ago
Than the Annual Output at Present Time

The days of the old Mississippi "rafters" are about over. These picturesque stern wheel steamboats, which puffed gaily up the river like a picnic excursion, and pushing and pulling at a great "tow" of logs or lumber, have disappeared one by one with the decadence of the lumber industry on the river, and those who know say that soon there will be no more of them.

Lumbermen who know predict an early termination of the rafting business. Capt. Van Sant, a veteran lumberman and raft boat owner, recently stated that only five saw mills were in operation "north" of Keokuk. Only a few raft boats are in operation on the great stretch of upper river, and these may be counted on the fingers of one hand.

To the present generation the flush days of the rafting business on the Mississippi are only known through stories of old timers. Before the advent of the raft boats, the old picturesque floating rafts, manned by the red shirted steersmen and roustabouts were familiar sights on the upper river. These figures have long since passed away, but in their day the raftsmen held the center of the stage in river affairs. Their arrival in the river town was the signal for bedlam to break loose, and the stories of the wild orgies these rough characters of the early river days cause a shiver to pass over the present day listener.

There were days when from St. Paul to Keokuk thousands of seven foot rotary slabbing saws screamed, other thousands of "gangs" heaved their blades through the big pine logs. Every river town had its saw mill, and the largest towns had more than one. Down the river, floating with the current, dropped the monstrous rafts, their vast acreage chained and pinned together. Long sweeps were used to steer the rafts, with muscular red shirted figures presiding at the sweeps. Those were the palmy days of the lumber trade, when the vast forests of the north, Wisconsin and Minnesota, were practically untouched. The rafts arrived from the north in endless number. Armies of men tramped to work at the mills in the river cities. Improvements came in the mill machinery. Huge band saws replaced the clumsy gangs. An immense trade with the inland territory followed the completion of the railroad west from the river.

A writer relates graphically the collapse of this prosperous period on the upper river as follows:

"Then almost at once came the end. The pine, woods that had seemed interminable had gone. We had come out on the other side of the clearing. The raft boats found their occupation gone and turned to the slavery of excursion barges. The band saws were still. The armies found their employment vanished. No more out of the pine woods in the spring came the hordes of Mackinacs flush with their winter's wage and mad to spend it. The goose of the golden eggs

had been slaughtered. Hard times came to the river and river towns,. How hard only those who struggled through the interim between the collapse of the lumber industry and the commercial revival that is making the river great in a new prosperity, will ever know. (from *The La Crosse Tribune, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 06 Aug 1908, Thursday, Page 5*)

OLD LUMBERING DAYS END TODAY WHEN LAST RAFT PASSES CITY THREE MILLION FEET OF TIMBER IN LAST BUNCH

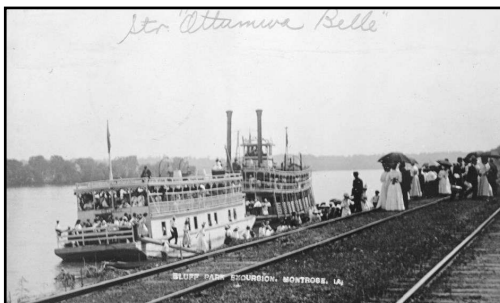
Captain John G. Moore of La Crosse Boards Craft Here for the Last Trip

With the passage of three million board feet of lumber in a gigantic raft that went through the Mississippi river wagon bridge here at 2 o'clock this afternoon, went the last reminder the upper river is to see of the bustling old lumbering days when "running the river" was the height of every boy's ambition, and brawny lumberjacks were the kings of the levee at every river town from St. Anthony Falls to New Orleans. The raft that went down today was the second and last section of a great island of timber which has been building at Stillwater, Minn., for three years. The first section passed La Crosse two weeks ago.

The Ottumwa Belle, famous old rafter, shoved the last raft through the drawbridge today. It was more than a block long so long that two bow boats were needed and it filled the draw of the La Crosse bridge from side to side. There was scarcely six feet of water between the edge of the raft and the stone piers on either side of the span, and it was a nice feat of river-craft which took the creaking, unwieldy wooden island through without a mishap.

Just above the bridge Captain John G. Moore of La Crosse, a product of the early days, was rowed out from the levee to the big raft. He was invited to accompany the last raft on its trip, as a guest of the owner. He will travel with the raft to its destination, Fort Madison, Iowa.

Mate of the Ottumwa Belle is Charles Brown, 64, for years a well known figure on the upper river. As on the last raft, Brown was in charge of the first raft towed down the river by steam. Forty-nine years ago he was first officer under Captain Abe Luney on the Minnie Will, first steam rafter on the upper river. (from *The La Crosse Tribune, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 07 Aug 1915, Saturday, Page 1*)



The Ottumwa Belle is on the right, an excursion barge is on the left. People are on the boats and lining the shore, some taking part in the Bluff Park Excursion from the UW-La Crosse Historic Steamboat Photographs ; [Ottumwa Belle \(Rafter, 1895-1920\) - UWDC - UW-Madison Libraries \(wisc.edu\)](#)

MARINETTE WATCHES LOGGING DAY PASS

Last of Lumbering on Menominee River With This Years Drive

MARINETTE, Wis. The logging and lumbering days of the Menominee river, one of the most famous streams of its kind in the country, virtually are over, after more than a half century of driving and manufacturing.

The last of the annual log drives, comprising approximately 12,000,000 feet which is only about one-third of the cut of the largest Menominee river sawmills when this industry was at its height has just reached here. There will be a few logs coming down the river in the future, but they will be driven by local lumber companies and will consist principally of pulpwood. This years drive is the smallest in the history of the Menominee River Boom Company.

The five remaining sawmills in Marinette and Menominee will, in the future, have all their timber brought in by rail, the last of the logs tributary to the local stream having been put in.

The first logs on the Menominee river were driven by the Menominee River Boom Company in 1868. In that year 62,809,804 feet were piloted from the upper waters to the local booms. Last year the total was approximately 15,991,850 feet.

During the period from 1868 to 1916 inclusive, the total number of logs driven down the Menominee river totaled approximately 10,810,341,028 feet - The exact total for this year is not yet known.

The difference in the size of the logs is as notable as the difference in the total sorted. In 1889, the busiest year that the boom company ever had, the number of logs sorted was 642,137,850 feet. These logs averaged about 150 feet or seven to the thousand. Last year they averaged 38 feet, or about twenty-seven to the thousand.

The Menominee river in its hey day was the greatest lumbering stream in the world. (from *The La Crosse Tribune, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 29 Jul 1917, Sunday, Page 2*)

Upcoming FHAW Webinars — Watch website for full details!

<https://www.foresthistoryassociationwi.com/>

Wednesday, March 15, 2023
6:30 pm

Title: 1200-year-old dugout Canoe from Lake Mendota

Presenter: Jim Skibo, Wisconsin State Archeologist

Wednesday, April 18, 2023
6:30 pm

Title: Logging Operations of Southwestern Marathon and Northeastern Clark Counties

Presenter: Al Gurtner, Local Historian

Wednesday, May 17, 2023
6:30 pm

Title: Hickory, Dickory, Dock: The Ghost Lumber Ports of Lake Michigan

Presenter: Amy L. Rosebrough, Archeologist for the Wisconsin Historical Society

Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member and participant in the Association's program of developing the educational and historical aspects of Wisconsin's forestry and logging industry. Attached is payment for:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| _____ Student Membership (\$10.00) | Other Contributions: |
| _____ Individual Membership (\$20.00) | |
| _____ Family Membership (\$30.00) | \$ _____ Student Awards |
| _____ Non Profit Membership (\$30.00) | \$ _____ Capital Fund |
| _____ Corporate Membership (\$55.00) | \$ _____ Operations |
| _____ Individual Life Membership (\$250.00) | |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Detach and mail this application with payment to:

**Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Inc.
P.O. Box 186, Bangor, WI 54614**



48th Fall Conference Committee

(Fort McCoy, Wisconsin)

- Jim Kerkman
- John Grosman
- Arno Helm
- Don Schnitzler

Membership Committee

- Bob Walkner
- Tom Jerow
- Jim Kerman

Finance Committee

- Jim Kerkman
- Bob Walkner
- Arno Helm
- Ed Forrester
- Don Schnitzler

Nominations Committee

- John Grosman

FHAW Website Committee

- Scott Bertz
- Don Schnitzler

Archives Committee

- Joe Hermolin
- John Grosman
- Jim Bokern
- Matt Blessing
- Neil Prendergast
- Ricky Kubicek
- Don Schnitzler
- Brad Casselberry
- Neil Prendergast
- Jake Bonack
- John Kotar
- Melissa Cook
- Steve Schmidt

Exhibits & Annual Proceedings

- Don Schnitzler



Forest History
Association of Wisconsin, Inc.
P.O. Box 186
Bangor, WI 54614