

Volume 48

Number 1



A quarterly newsletter from the

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

P.O. Box 186
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Spring 2023

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48th Annual Forest History Conference
October 6–7, 2023
Tomah, Wisconsin

Theme — The Military's Role in Wisconsin
Forestry History

Register by Mail or Register Online
Details inside this newsletter and also the FHW Website

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

Chips and Sawdust

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*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 Executive 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 (FHOF). We have another intern in place this year working on two more FHOF members, and a design for two interns for the 2023-24 school year, with project materials ready to archive for more FHOF 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

FHAW Successful in Nominating Banzhaf and Oshkosh to the Forestry Hall of Fame

The Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame Committee met on June 2, 2023, to consider the induction of two individuals into this prestigious group of leaders in sustainable forestry. In the course of the past 12 months, FHAW recruited expert assistance to prepare documentation and craft an argument for induction into the "Hall" for Bill Banzhaf who led the Milwaukee based, nationally prominent Forestry Consulting Firm of Banzhaf and Company and Chief Oshkosh of the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin. Both men were voted into "the Hall" that is a part of the Atrium at the College of Natural Resources Building at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point.

Bill will join his father George, also in the Forestry Hall of Fame. He wrote a book on the life of his father as a forestry pioneer and will be working with FHAW to offer this story of sustainable forestry leadership to K-12 school kids in the days ahead.

The Chief Oshkosh story will become part of a FHAW plan for a future fall conference on Wisconsin Tribes and Sustainable Natural Resource Systems.

The members of the SAF Forestry Hall of Fame Committee met in a lunch meeting after the voting, to discuss plans for collaboration on development of the Forest History Archives at UWSP. The Hall of Fame now has 56 members inducted and is the target for a records collection that will focus on these lives dedicated to forestry leadership. The scope of the undertaking is demanding in terms of volume of records, some already in archives in other locations, many still in file

drawers and boxes with the interest expressed here unknown to those keeping them intact. A project to quantify and cost out the project is now in development as a goal for this new 'collaborative partnership'.



Back Row (left to right): Tom Jerow(FHAW Bd), **Tom Albrecht**(Outgoing Chair of the WSAF Forestry Hall of Fame Committee), **Jim Kerkman**(FHAW Bd/Incoming Chair of the WSAF FHOF Committee), and **Henry Schienebeck**(Ex Dir Great Lakes Timber Professionals Assn), **Front Row: John Grosman**(FHAW Bd), **Kolleen Kralick**(FHAW BD and USFS Heritage Program WO), **Rebekah Luedtke**(Ex Dir Wisconsin County Forest Assn), **Nicole Filizetti**(FHAW Bd and Wis School Forest Program/LEAF/PLT), **Melinda Voukon**(UWSP Forestry Faculty /WSAF Chair Elect/ and FHOF Committee), and **Tom Jacobs**(Wis Tree Farm Committee/FHOF Committee).

**FHAW Tests
Historic Logging Tool
Exercise with Partners at
Athens School Forest**

On May 22, 2023, FHAW partnered with the Marathon County Historical Society, the Wisconsin DNR Forestry Division and an environmental education consultant to test a series of exercise using historic logging tools at Athens Charter School. A local resident, with a collection of historic logging tools of his own joined the effort to prepare to work with the school to offer the exercises in future years.

The 4th and 5th grade classes at the school got to see and use one and two man crosscut and bow saws to get a sense of the 'teamwork' necessary in early woods work. They moved a sawlog around on the site to position it onto a 'rollway' for loading on a simulated logging sleigh. Each grade then got to fill a role as 'logging horses' using logging chain to roll a log up onto a sleigh load.

Exercise feedback is currently being processed to finalize the exercise lesson plan to be made a part of the LEAF curriculum. A new FHAW project for the year ahead will be to promote consideration of replicating this effort in other K-12's with a School Forest, by working with local historical societies to locate other volunteers with a supply of old logging tools. Stories of lives lived by Wisconsin pioneers that kids need to experience.



FHAW President John Grosman and local volunteer, Steve Riehle, pose with crosscut saws.



The Kids learned that a two man Saw Team learned to only "pull" on the saw to a point the partner pulls back. The weight of the saw is the only down pressure---or the saw will 'jam'.



A completed load by the students and their pride of accomplishment!

Pulaski Middle School Outdoor Education Day

Bob Walkner and Bob Brown represented the Forest History Association of Wisconsin during the May 15th Pulaski Middle School Outdoor Education Day. Students visited multiple educational stations, one of which was our forest history area.

The information table included a variety of historic logging tools and artifacts.

Students were given an opportunity to use a crosscut saw, cant hook and log stamp on logs brought in specifically to provide a hands-on experience for their visit. Each student could take home a stamped cookie they cut.



Above: the informational table.



Left: Bob Brown explains the purpose of cant hook to students before demonstrating its use.

Kolleen Kralick Elected to FHAW Board of Directors

At the recent meeting of the meeting of the FHAW Board of Directors, Dr. Kolleen Kralick was elected to fill the final vacancy on the board of directors.

Kolleen is a graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology and Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration, and received her MA and PhD in Anthropology/ Archeology from the University at Buffalo, New York.

Kolleen has been with the USDA Forest Service for 33 years and is the Heritage Program Manager, for the FS Enterprise Program.

Kolleen lives in Rhinelander.

Marinette County Logging & Heritage Fest



July 8th—9th, 2023
Stephenson Island

For more information

<https://www.marinette.wi.us/310/Event-Schedule>

Establishing a Natural Resources Management Program for An Army Installation Part 3 – Erosion Control

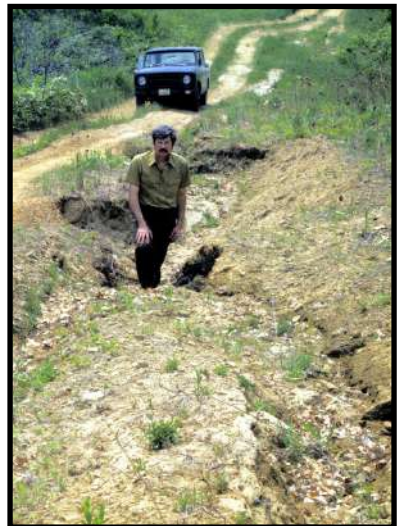
The third in a series of articles describing how a natural resources program was created through the memories of Julian S. Hutchinson, the first natural resource professional hired at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, previously named Camp McCoy until 1975. Gathered from an oral history interview by the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters that was done on January 16, 2008, and the book, "Life of a Woodster, An Autobiography," self-published, 2015.

There are approximately 100 miles of installation boundary that require some form of maintenance to provide an obvious break between Army land and private land. When the installation was significantly enlarged immediately prior to World War II, there was some confusion on where the boundary was located. This problem was addressed by the Army during WWII. In Hutch's words: "They actually used German surveyors! They're the world's best in many cases and they were then too! There were German prisoners of war at Camp McCoy and the Army put them to work surveying, so a lot of the boundaries on Camp McCoy were the work of German surveyors. Well, you have a survey down through the woods and they clip off a branch here and there so they can see through with the transit but how does that mark the boundary so civilians from the outside know where the Post starts? Besides, what if a big fire breaks out on Camp McCoy, we don't want it to spread to the outside, so they used that rationale and made 60 ft wide firebreaks all around Camp McCoy!"

In a January 1944 article of the Camp McCoy newspaper, "The Real McCoy", it mentioned "jack pine being cleared for a forest fire lane on the Post by prisoners of war interned here." The wood was sold through the salvage program with the government receiving a ceiling price of \$11.50 per cord and shipped via rail to a paper mill in "Ft. Edwards, Wis" (probably Port Edwards).

"When engineer groups came in for training during the summer, they would operate bulldozers to take out trees on boundary lines. So, you are looking at almost 100 miles of 60 ft firebreaks and it didn't matter if it was up and down hills or not, you can imagine the horrendous erosion that started."

"About the time I got there, the Post Command was literally swamped with letters from farmers on the outside about all this silt that was running off Camp McCoy onto private land. They come to Mr. Schantz (Post forester at the time) and



Julian Hutchinson inspecting soil erosion in 1976.

say, "Okay, we've got to do something about this. What are we going to do? How are we going to stop the erosion?" I did a study of it and brought to their attention that a firebreak seldom stops a fire. These firebreaks actually were Post identification lines. They were a break in the forest to identify the boundary, not to stop fires. Using that idea, we stopped doing yearly scarification and we did some work creating check dams and other erosion control structures where the problem areas were located after doing an inventory. It got the military into a new way to think about the boundary and they liked it because it actually meant less work for them. The engineer groups could be used to accomplish something else that needed to be done."



Line of four-wheel drive vehicles participating in the 1970's Off-Road Rally.

The main soil type at Fort McCoy is sand, and once the vegetation layer is removed water and wind erosion can become severe. There was enough damage from the military vehicles training on the land and off-road use by civilians was prohibited, mainly stemming from the results of a four-wheel drive rally that Fort McCoy hosted in 1976.

In Hutch's words: "In the early 1970's four-wheel drives and jeeps started being available and there were clubs around. The clubs organized a big "four-wheel" drive rally near Tomah, Wisconsin involving three or four farms. I think there were around 6,000 people involved and the farmers said they are not coming back next year. They wanted to go to Fort McCoy, and the installation allowed them to hold their rally. We had an intense monitoring program because we really didn't know how much damage they were going to do. We would monitor it and then if it's not too bad they could come back. We had the "four-wheel" drive rally, and it was a big success. We used helicopters and had military police stationed in the critical area at stream crossings and steep hill sides. We took before and after pictures and the damage was bad, they didn't come back. The next year the Conservation and Beautification Committee prohibited future four-wheel drive rallies."

"In 1988 we came up with the Training Area Recovery Program (TARP). By this time there was an immense amount of military training on Fort McCoy, and not just in the summer. It was summer, fall, winter, spring, the whole year around. Troops were training all the time and naturally, when you drive tanks and other mechanized equipment, dig fox holes (fighting positions) and all of

this, there's wear and tear on the ground. Some of the training areas were getting impossible to use because the vegetation was gone, and trails were eroding. The first approach of the Army was to buy more land, but by 1988 land prices were going up. So, then we came up with the TARP idea with military trainers. Lieutenant Colonel Pete Taylor, Director of Training was instrumental in coming up with helping to devise the plan. Fort McCoy is divided into training areas and many areas were specialized for a particular type of training. Under TARP, a training area may be closed to training for up to two years, and on the third year they could only do foot training, nothing mechanized. Signs were put around the area and the military made sure the soldiers training knew the limitations. It was a success, and the Army Corps of Engineers sent a researcher, Ms. Unis Vachta here to write (co-authored by Hutch) a technical report about the program. It became adopted by many Army installations". It might have been the inspiration for the current program in the Army called LRAM (Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance).

"As part of TARP we would go in and hand-plant trees. If there was erosion on a steep slope, we'd tape it off with wide yellow tape that had "TARP Area Off Limits" printed on the tape."

Eventually TARP became LRAM on Fort McCoy, and it is still an active program to date.

Upcoming 2023 FHAW Webinars

— Watch website for full details!

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

Wednesday, August 16, 2023 6:30 pm	Title: Adventures of a Young Entrepreneur: George Banzhaf 1921 to 1928 Presenter: William Banzhaf, retired, former president of the Geo. Banzhaf Company, Vice –president
Wednesday, September 20, 2023 6:30 pm	Title: A History: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Forestry Presenter: Eric Reinert , Curator, Office of History, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wednesday, October 18, 2023 6:30 pm	Title: Land Restoration at Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve Presenter: Sue Crowley, Land Management Coordinator, Woodland Dunes
Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:30 pm	Subject: Forestry Hall of Fame member, George Banzhaf Presenter: William Banzhaf

Looking for a Previous Webinar — Visit the FHAW Youtube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQqc-pjhL9WkbCluEabLOiw>



The Military's Role in Wisconsin's Forest History

Forest History Association of Wisconsin Annual Conference

October 6 & 7, 2023

The 48th Annual Conference of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin is set for October 6 & 7 at Tomah. The theme for this two day event is "*The Military's Role in Wisconsin's Forest History,*" and includes special lectures, musical entertainment, poster sessions and unique tours of archeological sites at Fort McCoy. Make plans to attend, and of course, bring a friend. Registration is limited to the first 100 for the conference, and the first 45 for the field trip tour, so register early!

The conference starts Friday morning, but for anyone in or near Tomah on Thursday evening, please consider joining fellow conference attendees and FHW members for an informal gathering at 5 pm at Pizones, 210 Superior Avenue. We'll sit around, visit, and order off the menu for a Dutch Treat and good start to what promises to be an excellent conference!

Friday's lectures, poster displays and meals all take place at the Cranberry Country Lodge, 319 Wittig Road. The line-up of presentations include the *History of Fort McCoy*, *History of Army Forestry Operations*, and *Fort McCoy Natural Resource Program History*, before lunch. Then over the lunch hour we'll hold the annual meeting for members. The afternoon line-up of presentations include the *History of World War II German Prisoners of War and the Civilian Conservation Corps at Camp McCoy*, *US Forest Service Radiation Research at Rhinelander*, and lastly, *Forest Products Laboratory – Supporting the Nation's Armed Forces with valuable Wood Research for Over a Century*.

After a late afternoon break, we'll gather for the social hour, banquet dinner, and a performance of the Ho-Chunk Iron Mound Singers.

Saturday morning the bus will begin loading at 8:45 am from Cranberry Country Lodge to take attendees to Fort McCoy. There archeologist Ryan Howell will take attendees to the CCC excavation site and a World War II prisoner of war camp site. Our lunch will include a tour of the Commemorative Area, consisting of WWII era buildings and equipment set aside to help tell Fort McCoy's unique history. The tour also includes a visit to a WWII era POW plantation.



Saturday Tour Agenda

- 8:45 am – Load bus at Cranberry Lodge
- 9:00 am – Depart from Cranberry Lodge
- 9:20 am – First stop at Fort McCoy
- 11:30 am – Lunch at Commemorative Area
- 1:10 pm – Depart from Fort McCoy
- 1:30 pm – Arrive back at Cranberry Lodge

Tour Highlights

- CCC camp excavation
- WWII prisoner of war camp
- WWII POW plantation
- Commemorative Area
- Lunch and tour the Commemorative Area.
- The Commemorative Area consists of WWII-era buildings set aside to help tell Fort McCoy's unique story.



Did you know . . .

- In 1909, what is today Fort McCoy was the Sparta Maneuver Tract, mainly intended for field artillery training.
- The Sparta Maneuver Tract was divided by railroad tracks — land north of the tracks was known as Camp Emory, and that south of the tracks was known as Camp Robinson.
- In 1910, the Camp was renamed Camp Bruce Elisha McCoy, a Civil War Union Captain, and the father of retired Major General Robert Bruce McCoy, who owned a large portion of the land that is now Fort McCoy.
- In 1926, the name of the post was officially renamed "Camp McCoy" in honor of Robert Bruce McCoy, who had died in January of that year.
- The post was used as a prisoner-of-war (POW) camp during World War II, holding 4,000 Japanese and German POWs.
- In 1973, the Army reactivated Camp McCoy as a permanent training center, and on September 30, 1974, it was officially re-designated as Fort McCoy.

Conference Lodging

Cranberry Country Lodge

319 Wittig Road
Tomah, WI 54660

Whitetail Suite, single queen \$91.80
Mallard Suite, two queens \$100.80
Cost listed for Thursday only, Friday is slightly higher. Two other room options available, ask the hotel for details.

Complimentary Hot Breakfast
(608) 374-2801

To Make Your Reservation:

Call the hotel directly

Room Group Rates

Expire September 5, 2023

Other Options

Hampton Inn

219 Baun Street, Tomah

(608) 374-3800

Best Western

1017 E. McCoy Blvd, Tomah

(608) 372-3211

Econo Lodge

2005 N. Superior Ave, Tomah

(608) 567-4491

AmericInn

750 Vandervort St, Tomah

(608) 372-4100

FHAW 48th Annual Conference – *Schedule at a Glance*

Tomah, Wisconsin

Thursday, October 5, 2023 – *Tomah Area Historical Center, 321 Superior Ave, Tomah*

Board Meeting – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Pizones, 210 Superior Ave, Tomah

Dinner -5:00 pm. Informal get-together (ordering off menu, Dutch treat)

Friday, October 6, 2023 – *Cranberry Country Lodge, 319 Wittig Road, Tomah*

8:15 am – Registration Opens

Welcome: - Member of the Fort McCoy Command Group

History of Fort McCoy – Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office

Break – Refreshments

History of Army Forestry Operations – Troy Morgan, Historian, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri

Fort McCoy Natural Resources Program History – Tim Wilder, Chief, Natural Resources Branch, Fort McCoy

12:30 pm – Catered Lunch and FHAW Business Meeting

WWII POWs and CCC at Camp McCoy – Ryan Howell, Archaeologist, Fort McCoy

Break – Refreshments

US Forest Service Radiation Research at Rhinelander – Ed Bauer/Tom Rudolph
Forest Products Laboratory - Supporting the Nation's Armed Forces with Valuable Wood Research for Over A Century– Robert Ross, Forest Products Laboratory

4:45 pm – End of Presentations

5:30 pm – Cash bar/Poster Session/Social Hour

6:30 pm – Dinner

7:30 pm – Ho-Chunk Iron Mound Singers

Saturday, October 7, 2023, - *Main entrance to Cranberry Country Lodge*

8:45 am – Fort McCoy Tour and Lunch

FHAW 48th Fall Conference Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

Email _____

Conference Registration *(amount)*

FHAW Members \$ 50/person () \$ _____

Non-Members \$ 65/person () \$ _____

Thursday Evening, "Pizones"

Informal dinner (Dutch Treat)

Attending [Yes] { No }

Friday Lunch, "Cranberry Country Lodge"

Catered Deli Buffet

\$18/person, () \$ _____

Friday Evening, "Cranberry Country Lodge"

Dinner (Roasted Chicken)

\$30/person, () \$ _____

Any special dietary consideration?

Note: All prices include tax and gratuity

Saturday Field Tour, "Fort McCoy"

FHAW Members \$ 35 /person () \$ _____

Non-Members \$ 40 /person () \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please Register by September 22, 2023

Make the checks payable to FHAW

Send to: Jim Kerkman c/o FHAW

PO Box 186, Bangor, WI 45614

Note: Complimentary one-year membership to non-members with payment of non-member conference registration fee.

Check here to become a member _____

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

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- Don Schnitzler

Archives Committee

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- John Grosman
- Jim Bokern
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- Ricky Kubicek
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- Jake Bonack
- John Kotar
- Melissa Cook
- Steve Schmidt

Exhibits & Annual Proceedings

- Don Schnitzler



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