

Volume 48

Number 2



A quarterly newsletter from the

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

P.O. Box 186
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Summer 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!

Time for another report from me and your board of directors. So, as a 'recurrent' member of your board off and on over the last 20 years, I will note that my return to the job since January has been extremely 'stimulating'!?!?

Along with my return to the board a bit over 8 months ago, we reported the addition of Nicole Filizetti from Minocqua, a member of the School Forest Leadership Team to 'our team'. She was followed to the board in late May, by Kolleen Kralick, who led the Heritage Program for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest for the last several years and now serves in a 'Virtual' position for USFS Heritage Programs at the national level. Kolleen lives just north of Rhinelander. We are planning to welcome Tony Waupoichick of Keshena, a silviculturist on staff of the Menominee Forestry Program with a rich family history of Tribal leadership. All three function in programs with which FHAW has a shared mission. We anticipate continued growth in our ability to collaborate more widely in pursuit of our mission to "Inform, Educate, Archive and Publish the legacy of Wisconsin's Forest History."

The archive committee we established in late 2020 has continued to grow in scope and scale. We found ourselves working on funding history interns at the UWSP Archives, where they are developing finding aids on members of the Forestry Hall of Fame, others working on signage projects on the Northern Highland State Forest, steering development of video recordings that can be paired with books and offered to K-12 students via the School Forest Program, and even developing Early Logging Tool Exercises for staffing by local history society volunteers. This month we have a meeting planned to begin discussion of splitting that committee into two committees, one to focus on education the other on archival issues. We've picked up several teachers as members and hope to recruit workers from this talent pool soon.

We have joined the Northern Wisconsin Heritage Council, a collaborative alliance of local historical societies largely in NE Wisconsin at present. Communication with these local societies has yielded volunteers with 'tools' for those K-12 Logging Tool exercises cited above, a few of them have archival resources on members of the Forestry Hall of Fame, others have offered resources and support for our conference planning and so on. A key focus of the group will be to function as a 501 C 3, and promote "Heritage Tourism" for all member organizations. This will be another venue for us to consider within our 'educate' mission element.

And finally, meeting planning is underway to meet with leadership of the UWSP College of Natural Resource and the College of Humanities and Global Studies to begin consideration of a Multi-Year, Comprehensive Plan, to Fund a Complete Archival Collection on the 50+ members of the Forestry Hall of Fame at that University.

We see the need for a modern approach to development of this history resource for researchers and K-12 students alike.

Oh, and that “job list” I cited as a need for our use in finding workers in my last newsletter message? The one I said we needed to allow us to “Survive Being Successful”? We will be discussing a draft of it at our first face to face Board Meeting in October. After which we will be in touch with you to invite your help for our continued growth.

Keep the faith. The future will be busy, productive, and fun!

Best Regards,

John Grosman

Consideration of Proposed FHAW Bylaw Changes

One item of business during the upcoming annual members meeting, to be held over the lunch hour on Friday, October 6, are the following revisions of the FHAW bylaws.

At the 2020 annual members meeting approval was given for expanding membership on the board of directors to twelve members. Those new positions have been filled, but to allow the board to recruit still needed skill sets (information technology, financial, education) or representation from specific communities of interests (Society of American Foresters, Wisconsin DNR, Wisconsin First Peoples, and others), the board has moved for your consideration the establishment of three additional board positions to permit recruiting specific talent and representation to the board as needed from time to time above the typical 12 members.

As with other board vacancies, the Board of Directors may fill board positions until the next annual meeting of the membership when board member elections are held.

1. ARTICLE II. BOARD OF DIRECTORS; MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a

Board of Directors consisting of ~~twelve (12)~~ between twelve (12) and fifteen (15) directors. Directors shall be chosen as set forth in Section 2 of this article.

Section 2. Selection of Directors. Directors shall be elected from the membership as recommended by the Nominating Committee at the annual meeting of the Corporation. Term of ~~offices~~ office shall be 3-years with one-third of the board being up for reelection at the annual meeting in accordance with other sections of the bylaws.

2. ARTICLE II. BOARD OF DIRECTORS; MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 8. Quorum. A majority of the members eligible to vote for any meeting of the Board of Directors present in person, via telephone, video or web-conferencing shall constitute a quorum, but less than a quorum meeting at any time pursuant to notice shall have power to adjourn from time to time until a quorum shall be present.

Text to be deleted or replaced — ~~strike through~~

Text to be added or inserted — red or underlined

Agenda—Annual Business Meeting of FHAW Members

October 6, 2023 12:30 pm

Tomah, Wisconsin

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting, Two Rivers, Wisconsin (previously published in the Chips and Sawdust, Vol 47, No. 3, Fall 2022, pages 18-19)
3. President’s Report
4. Membership Committee Report
7. Treasurer’s Report—Audit Report
8. Scholarship-Internship Report
9. Exhibits Report
11. Awards Presentation
 - Fixmer Award
 - Connor Award
12. Old Business
 - Past Proceeding—in the works
13. New Business
 - Amendment to the FHAW Bylaws
 - Article II, Section 1. *Board membership to a range of 12 to 15 members replacing 12 members*
 - Article II, Section 2. Housekeeping – *grammatical error correction*
 - Article II, Section 8. Housekeeping -- *better define quorum for board of directors meetings*
 - Board of Director’s Elections—Nomination Committee Report
 - For three-year term ending 2026
 - Jim Kerkman
 - Bob Walkner
 - Don Schnitzler
 - Cindy Stiles
 - Tony Waupochick
 - Filling Unexpired terms ^(term ending)
 - John Grosman ⁽²⁰²⁴⁾
 - Nicole Filizetti ⁽²⁰²⁵⁾
 - Kolleen Kralick ⁽²⁰²⁴⁾
14. Other Business
15. Adjournment

Upcoming 2023 FHAW Webinars

— Watch website for full details! <https://www.foresthistoryassociationwi.com/>

<p>Wednesday, September 20, 2023 6:30 pm</p> <p>Register in advance for this webinar:</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/join/98216707610?pwd=ZlR1YUJlc0p3R0J3aW50aDZkdz09</p> <p><i>Please note: The webinar is Free, but pre-registration is required.</i></p>	<p>Title: A History: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Forestry</p> <p>Description: The presentation will discuss the work that Army Engineers have done over the past two centuries in developing the infrastructure of Wisconsin. The focus will be on the Civil Works history rather than military history.</p> <p>Presenter: Eric Reinert, Curator, Office of History, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</p>
<p>Wednesday, November 8, 2023 6:30 pm</p> <p>Register in advance for this webinar:</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/join/98216707610?pwd=ZlR1YUJlc0p3R0J3aW50aDZkdz09</p> <p><i>Please note: The webinar is Free, but pre-registration is required.</i></p>	<p>Title: Land Restoration at Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve</p> <p>Description: This presentation will cover the grass roots history of our nature center and our current efforts to restore and maintain quality habitats for all the creatures in or passing through the land. Yes, that includes humans and how we relate to the land. We have several great projects to highlight.</p> <p>Presenter: Sue Crowley, Land Management Coordinator, Woodland Dunes</p>

Wisconsin to be Featured in USDA Forest Service Fall Colors Reports

RHINELANDER, September 1, 2023 – Fall leaves are nature’s confetti, painting the world in hues of warmth and nostalgia. Do you know where to go in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, the only National Forest in Wisconsin, to soak up the best fall colors each week? The USDA Forest Service will feature Wisconsin each week in its Fall Colors Report. The report will include photos, locations, names of species and more to help you plan your fall colors experiences.

You can check the report each week online at www.fs.usda.gov/cnnf

The weekly USDA FS Fall Colors Report includes updates and photos from all over the Eastern Region Forests and the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. It’s a great resource for planning your trip here in Wisconsin and also to other destinations in the region.

Popular fall colors destinations in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest like Morgan Falls, the Mountain Fire Lookout Tower, Juniper Rock on the North Country Trail, and more, may be busier than usual this time of year, particularly on weekends.

Please, do your part and follow “Leave No Trace” outdoor ethics to help make the experience as enjoyable as possible for all.

Establishing a Natural Resources Management Program on an Army Installation Part 4 – Outdoor Recreation

The fourth, and final, 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.

The Pine View Recreation Area on Fort McCoy had its beginnings when someone decided to create an impoundment on Squaw Creek located in Camp McCoy. The impoundment was created in 1961 and named Squaw Lake. It provided the Army with a location on Post where they could do bridging training with boats. Previously they would travel to the Black River, about twenty miles away.

According to Julian Hutchinson: "When I got there, here was the beautiful Squaw Lake confluence with the La Crosse River, Trout Falls, and some of



Pine View campground in 2007 with the picnic area in the lower right, camping circle 1, and Suukjak Sep Lake in the distance. The parked camping trailers are part of the equipment rental program.

the most gorgeous white pine I had ever seen, about six hundred acres of it laid between Squaw Lake and the La Crosse River. It was not a training site, except around the lake where they would practice bridging. It was a thing of beauty, so I had this idea, a perfect recreation area. We are talking about the mid to late 1960's and camping was just coming to the forefront in Wisconsin. The DNR was starting to have campgrounds on some of the county forests, so I created a plan for a campground in that area and some hiking trails."

"At one of the Conservation and Beautification Committee meetings, the Director of Training requested input on any type of construction that combat engineer units could do in pursuit of their annual two-week training. I piped up with two suggestions. One was for units to construct fishing piers at some of the ponds for better fishing. And two, I shared my design of a camping and picnic area by Squaw Lake. The training director liked the idea for a campground, he applied for and won a grant for innovative ideas in the amount of \$100,000. Army Reserve units came in and made shelter houses and 50-60 camping sites. They put in hard pads and steel fireplace stands for cooking."

An article from the June 30, 1972, edition of *The Real McCoy* (the Fort McCoy installation newspaper) reported on a ribbon-cutting ceremony in June 1972. The ceremony was hosted by the Camp McCoy Commander, Colonel Richard Crecelius, and the 416th Engineer Command Commanding General Major General Cyrille LaPorte. The 416th Engineer Command had units that were responsible for most of the construction done in the area. These units included the 385th Engineer Group and the 367th Engineer Battalion.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony the area was named the Squaw Lake Recreation Area. In 1992, the campground was re-named the Pine View Recreation Area. About 20 years later, Squaw Creek and Squaw Lake were re-named Suukjak Sep Creek and Lake to remove the Native American slur and honor the Ho-Chunk Nation. Suukjak Sep means black wolf in Ho-Chunk.

The 2005 Fort McCoy Integrated Natural Resources Plan (INRMP) described the recreation area: "It is a complete facility containing 118 paved camping pads, 25 tenting pads, 5 lakeside cabins and other types of rentals for overnight stays. Most are equipped with full (electric, water, sewer) or electric hook-up, picnic table and grill. All types and sizes of camping units are accommodated. Located within walking distance of the campground is a five-acre picnic site with two comfort stations, two large shelter houses, grills, playground equipment, swimming beach and ample parking. A marked hiking trail of about 1.5 miles begins at the picnic area and meanders along the La Crosse River.

About the same time the campground was established, Colonel Crecelius, an avid skier, asked Hutchinson to identify a location for a ski hill. Julian found a suitable hill just west of the campground and had the forestry crew clear it of trees, smooth the soil, then apply seed and mulch. The first lift consisted of a rope tow powered by a military jeep engine.

The 1989 Outdoor Recreation Plan describes Ski Hill as consisting of one 900-foot lighted slope with a 170-foot vertical drop. The facilities included a T-bar lift, snow making system, ski equipment rental and a warming facility with a snack bar. A 700-foot tubing run with a rope tow was added. The plan mentions a marked and groomed cross-country ski trail consisting of several loops starting at Ski Hill. Approximately three miles of trails meander over rolling terrain through pine plantations and oak forests.



Ski Hill undergoing improvements in 1974.

By 2005 Ski Hill was re-named White-Tail Ridge Recreation Area (WRRRA) with a 185-foot vertical drop, four lighted slopes (the longest two are 1300 feet in length), and a T-bar lift. A water storage pond is located within WRRRA to provide water for the snowmaking machine. Other amenities include snow tubing, ski equipment rental, chalet with snack bar, lounge and restrooms.



From the Newspaper Archive



Nazi Prisoners Get No Butter Little Meat On Menu At McCoy Compound

By ALFRED W. RICE , Tribune City Editor
(From The La Crosse Tribune, May 29, 1945, Page 10, via Newspapers.com)

CAMP McCoy, Wisconsin. There isn't a civilian in the United States, or an army man, either, who wants to sit down to the "grub" they turn out for the prisoners of war at this military reservation.

So, all you folks who have been fingering your ration books and wondering how you're going to stretch your stamps to buy a couple of pounds of chops, a nice juicy roast or a pound of butter or two during the week need have no further worries.

The prisoners of war aren't getting any of the things that you just can't get, ration stamps or not.

We saw it ourselves, and the commanding officer personnel of the prisoner of war camp here wasn't putting on any dog when we were escorted into the compound and taken on a tour of the German POW mess hall.

Food for the Germans and the Japanese in the compounds don't fare any better is according to Hoyle under the new menu regulations that have been handed down by the war department's powers-that-be in Washington.



Macaroni Was The Major Dish on the menu for the German prisoners at Camp McCoy. These two men are shown with their plates of macaroni and helpings of cabbage. On the table are two large platters of macaroni, which are for eight to 10 men, sliced bread, a bowl of flour and water gravy and a pitcher of coffee.

Drastically Cut Rations

What we saw is an illustration of what Major General Russel Reynolds, who left the post of commanding general of the Sixth Service Command in Chicago last week for an overseas assignment, said in a statement issued on April 27.

"For months," the statement said, "the prisoner menus have been progressively curtailed to keep pace with growing civilian shortages in meat and other items. Rations now have been cut more drastically. The new regulations call for more 'meatless' meals, with such substitutions as 'cheap grades of fish, macaroni, spaghetti, beans and other similar entrees."

"Butter long ago disappeared from the prisoners' tables, along with cheese, jellies, poultry, canned fruit and juices, and other so-called delicacies. Rendered fats are substituted for lard. Use of canned milk and sugar has been reduced to a minimum.

"Prisoners are given a substantial diet of three meals a day, sufficient to keep up their strength for work they are doing in areas where civilian labor shortages exist. They are allowed no frills or luxuries."

The tour of which we were a part was occasioned by a letter from Robert C. Dunn, La Crosse district OPA information executive, to Lieutenant Colonel Horace Rogers, commanding officer of the Camp McCoy prisoner of war camp.

Tells Of Complaints

In his letter, Dunn stated: "The American public is very sure, as you know, that our prisoners of war are being fed better than American civilians. Because of wild rumors and stories which are going the rounds, we are having a very difficult time convincing the public of the necessity of rationing."

Dunn and Fred Hake, his assistant, were in the tour of newspaper representatives escorted on the tour Monday afternoon by Major Paul Johnson, executive officer of the POW camp. Johnson was most anxious that his group secure the answers to every question outside the realms of military security.

The group arrived at one of the several compound areas just as one of the groups of prisoners was marching in formation under armed guard up to the huge iron gates after a day doing field labor.

One of the armed guards at the gate counted the group as it came to a halt.

"Fifty-one," he called, and a companion holding the checking sheets replied, "Okay."

A command barked out in Japanese, and the company marched through the opened gates to its barracks.

Follow Jap Prisoners

The tour followed on its heels. Continuing through the Japanese section of the compound to the far end where the German prisoners were quartered and had their mess.

Both Jap and German squad leaders snapped to attention and saluted the major heading the tour. He returned the salute. It was one of those things coming under the general heading of military courtesy.

We went into the kitchen portion of the long, low building that was the German POW mess hall. A short, somewhat slender chap dressed in white (he resembled somewhat a chef in a civilian hotel or restaurant, but minus the customary chef's hat) was in charge.

Into a back room we went, and Major Johnson pulled open a heavy door of a refrigerator room. It was in a sorry state, with its large shelves practically empty.

What we saw included: Sticks of rhubarb that made up the fruit the German unit was to have. Few pork kidneys in a huge pan (just about enough for them to cover the bottom), some 60 pounds of herring, a little re-rendered fat, eight quarts of milk (the milk was for nine men who were either sick or were employed in the battery repair shop and had to have it on doctor's orders), and a few eggs.

"The regulation is for one egg per man for breakfast, when eggs are on the menu, and those eggs are not what you call 'farmer fresh' either," Major Johnson said.

For 300 Prisoners

That quantity of food was to feed from 275 to 300 men in the German POW section.

In addition, there was a partially filled barrel of powdered milk. The allotment, the major explained, was 15 pounds per 100 men per day.

On a shelf in the storage section of the rear room were several boxes of whole wheat cereal, the supply being for two meals. Packages of wheat cereal were also there, not too many of them. The cereals, according to the information, was part of that shipped back to the States by the army from Alaskan bases.

On another shelf were several jars of marmalade. There was enough for one meal, no more. The allotment, it was stated, was three pounds per 100 men only once a week.

There was no butter. Civilians should sit up and take notice at that. There hasn't been any of it for weeks, and then some.

Instead, the Germans have been getting oleomargarine three pounds per 100 men per day.

When it comes to sugar, the prisoners get some four pounds of it per 100 men per week.

A few weeks ago, the group used up its 89-pound allotment for the week in a hurry. For the remainder of the week the men had to eat their cereal without any sugar.

Receive Little Syrup

Here's something else, too. There is a gallon of corn syrup per 100 men, this used largely on Saturday and Sunday, if it goes that far.

The Germans get coffee for all meals, except when it isn't specified on the menus.

There are two things the prisoners get all they want of, bread and flour.

"We see that they get all the bread they want," Major Johnson said.

"They also get all the flour they want."

In the bulletins sent out from Washington for German prisoners of war, it specifically states: "Meat and fish, fresh vegetables, fresh fruits and dried fruits are not specified as to kind on the menus. In the lists given below, the kinds of these items which are used are specified. Availability, season and cost should govern the cost of these items.

"Meat from swine will be limited to feet, hearts, livers, kidneys, tails, neck bones, salt pork, fatbacks, dry salt bellies and oily pork not acceptable under existing specifications for army feeding.

Meat from veal will be limited to utility grade carcasses and hearts. Meat



German Prisoners Of War crowded into their mess hall in the Camp McCoy compound to sit down to a meal that was not any too interesting, to civilians. The food prepared for the 275 to 300 men disappeared in a hurry, with the hall being cleared within 15 minutes after the prisoners had started eating.

from lamb and mutton will be limited to mutton of any grade, utility grade lamb carcasses, and mutton or lamb livers. Meat from beef will be limited to shanks, flanks, skirts, livers, hearts, kidneys, ox tails, tripe, brains and green bones.

Sausage products will be limited to those products authorized by OPA specifications for civilians accord-

ing to MPR 389, bologna, and frankfurters, types three and four, liver sausage other than Braunschweiger, liver loaf, pork or breakfast sausage, types three and four, minced luncheon meat, berliner sausage, meat loaf, miscellaneous, types three and four, and Polish sausage, type three, MPR 389 and scrapple.

Given Cheaper Fish

"Fish will be limited to the cheaper grades of salted or round dressed fish.

"Fresh vegetables beet greens, cabbage, carrots, Kale, mustard greens, spinach, turnip greens, beets, green onions, dry onions, parsnips; rutabagas, turnip roots and sauerkraut. And other vegetables in season which are in ample quantity and reasonable in price.

"Fresh fruits in season when ample in supply and reasonable in price.

"Dried fruits will be raisins or dried prunes.

"Soups. No separate issue has been made for soup ingredients. The soup may be made from leftovers or from part of the issue of meat, potatoes, vegetables, soybeans or dried peas."

The menu Major Johnson showed us for Monday was: "Breakfast -- coffee, bread, oleomargarine, marmalade and cakes (the latter being one of their own concoctions). "Noon -- noodles, bread and coffee. "Supper -- macaroni, cabbage, bread and coffee."

The camp has a farm of about 175 or 200 acres where the tractor work is done by the Germans and the manual labor by the Japanese prisoners. All vegetables raised on the farm go to the quartermaster for re-issue in lieu of actual purchases by the different compound mess halls.

Some Have Gardens

Some of the prisoners have their own little gardens. They are raising pota-

toes and a few other vegetables; the work being done on their own time in the evening after supper and they are free of regularly assigned tasks. They bought their own seeds.

Under the regulations, each prisoner is allowed 10 cents per day, whether he works or not. If he works, he gets 80 cents a day. If on contract, he will be paid the same as any American laborer, but the amount over 80 cents per day is paid into the treasury of the United States.

The payments are not in cash, but in coupons or tickets. These can be exchanged at the canteen in the POW compound for such things as are available.

We saw the canteen. Its shelves were just about empty. They contained such things as smoking tobacco (no cigarettes), toilet articles and similar things. The tobacco issue is two ounces per man per week, no more. The canteen offers no soft drinks whatsoever, and no beer.

Beer was eliminated about a month ago, Major Johnson explained.

The POW compounds are operated under the policy of "no work, no eat." Prisoners refusing to work go into solitary confinement on a bread and water diet.

"The men are given a reasonable amount of work to do each day, and they must stay on the job until it is done," Major Johnson said.

Sports Are Permitted

When it comes to recreation, the prisoners can play baseball, volleyball, wrestling and other games, and even pursue some track events, it was stated.

"Anything they like to do in the way of recreation within the compounds, we try to encourage," Major Johnson explained. "The men are not criminals, but are prisoners of war, thinking somewhat differently than we do."

There is a theater in the compound area that is open every night. Selected films are shipped in by various agencies, but all are in English. At that, the theater is crowded every night. The men have to pay 15 cents in coupons to see the films.

The Germans are encouraged to have their own educational classes in English, literature, American history and other subjects. Many of the Germans speak English.

There are religious services, both Protestant and Catholic, for the Germans. The Japanese also have their own services.

Coal for the hot water heaters is provided, being rationed, but the wood for the cooking ranges and to heat the barracks is cut by the men themselves from salvage timber on the reservation.

Did You Know ...

- *In 1942, the Civilian Conservation Camp (CCC) Discharge and Reception Center at McCoy, constructed by the government in 1939, was converted to an "enemy alien" internment camp to detain civilian "enemy aliens."*
- *In April 1943, the mission of the camp changed from an "enemy alien" internment camp to POW camp.*
- *At the end of World War II, the POW camp held approximately 3,000 German, 2,700 Japanese, and 500 Korean prisoners, making Fort McCoy the largest permanent Japanese POW camp in the United States.*

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

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- Bob Walkner
- Tom Jerow
- Jim Kerkman

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