



# FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION

## Of WISCONSIN

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### The Terrible Story of those that Tried to Escape a Wildfire on a Rescue Train

Wildfires were a much more common occurrence in the Great Lakes during the 1800s and early 1900s than they are today. Along with those fires were very sad stories. Including the "Metz Fire" of 1908. While the fire wasn't the largest in the Great Lakes, the story turns tragic when a relief train full of refugees from Metz, Michigan attempt a mad dash to the safe of Posen, Michigan just 5 miles away. But, the train never made it. [Watch Video](#)

### In the News

#### Who is 'Mr. Frank' the Tree, and How Did He Make it from Rhinelander to the State Capitol?

The lighting of the 2023 State Capitol Holiday Tree will be a bittersweet event for siblings Diane Yunek and Debby Hansen. The Balsam fir gracing the rotunda this holiday season stood for 17 years in the front yard of their parents' Rhinelander home, a living memorial to their father, Frank Magnus. Yunek says it was heartbreaking to learn that the evergreen tribute to her father would be felled. [Read More](#)

#### Six Wisconsin Spots for Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides

What better way to experience Wisconsin's natural winter beauty than by a cozy sleigh ride with family or friends? Glide over fields and through forests while snuggled under a warm blanket listening to the jingle of harness bells and perhaps a carol or two. Whether looking for an adventure with friends, a quiet evening with your loved one or a family-friendly outing, sleigh rides are perfect for making magical winter memories with the people you love. [Read More](#)

#### Biden Lights National Christmas Tree in Annual Tradition

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was President Joe Biden's turn to bring some holiday spirit to the U.S. capital. The president and his wife, Jill, participated Thursday in the annual tradition of lighting the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse, an area known as President's Park, on the south side of the White House. "Merry Christmas, everyone," Biden said after he counted down from five and the towering tree lit up in a burst of holiday color. [Read More](#)

#### Real vs. Fake Christmas Trees: Which is Better for the Environment?

We spend a lot of time talking about the benefits of trees and why you shouldn't cut down trees, but you may be wondering, what about about Christmas trees? Are Christmas trees eco-friendly? Are real Christmas trees better for the environment? Or is it better to purchase a fake Christmas tree to save the real trees from being cut down? [Read More](#)

#### Barbie and Forestry? Bear with Me...

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF America) were quick off the mark with the film release of Barbie in July 2023. They produced a suite of forestry careers in a Facebook post less than two weeks later! I have no idea if you ever had Barbies or have bought them in recent times – I didn't and haven't. Using the series of Career Barbies, a genius at the NASF came up with job descriptions and images for: [Read More](#)

#### Chokecherry Trees: An Invasive Species in Interior Alaska

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (KTFF) - Invasive species are a problem anywhere, but one particular shrub in our community may pose a threat to moose. A statewide workshop put on by the Cooperative Extension Service on Thursday offered tips on these species and how to avoid them. The chokecherry, a small broad-leaf tree or shrub native to the Lower 48, was originally introduced to attract songbirds and pollinators, and is often planted as an ornament in yards and lawns. In recent years, however, this was proved to have been a mistake. [Read More](#)

#### Tree Thefts: An Uncommon Crime on the Rise in Iowa

People stealing trees from public and private land in Iowa is an infrequent but growing occurrence, according to state conservation officers. The crimes range considerably in their scope and sophistication, and the value of the heists can be lucrative. Some of the culprits might haul their looted timber with ramshackle trailers. Others might have full-on logging rigs. [Read More](#)



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# Woodchips

## 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](mailto:highknollroad@centurylink.net) or the editor, Don Schnitzler, at [thefhaw@gmail.com](mailto:thefhaw@gmail.com).

## Links shared in this issue of Woodchips

### **The Terrible Story of those that Tried to Escape a Wildfire on a Rescue Train**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLmAoebQqjM>

### **Who is 'Mr. Frank' the Tree, and How Did He Make it from Rhinelander to the State Capitol?**

<https://www.wisfarmer.com/story/news/2023/11/22/wisconsin-capitol-holiday-tree-has-story-of-farming-community-pride/71663297007/>

### **Six Wisconsin Spots for Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides**

<https://www.travelwisconsin.com/article/winter-activities/six-wisconsin-spots-for-horse-drawn-sleigh-rides>

### **Biden Lights National Christmas Tree in Annual Tradition**

<https://wset.com/news/local/president-joe-biden-lights-national-christmas-tree-in-annual-tradition-washington-dc-december-2023>

### **Real vs. Fake Christmas Trees: Which is Better for the Environment?**

<https://onetreeplanted.org/blogs/stories/real-vs-artificial-christmas-trees>

### **Barbie and Forestry? Bear with Me...**

<https://www.charteredforesters.org/barbie-and-forestry-bear-with-me>

### **Chokecherry Trees: An Invasive Species in Interior Alaska**

<https://www.webcenterfairbanks.com/2023/09/29/chokecherry-trees-an-invasive-species-interior-alaska/>

### **Tree Thefts: An Uncommon Crime on the Rise in Iowa**

<https://iowacapitaldispatch.com/2023/11/10/tree-thefts-an-uncommon-crime-on-the-rise-in-iowa/>