



FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION of WISCONSIN

Woodchips

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Life as the Last Fire Lookout

Hiking 45 miles in Washington's Cascades to meet one of the last fire lookouts in the world and explore the wildfire that saved American forests. [Watch Video](#)

In the News

Forests into Charcoal: "Coal" Kilns and Railroads

An article written for Woodchips (April 2024) and the Forest History Association of Wisconsin on a significant forest product that impacted Wisconsin's early forests. Charcoal burning was a major wood consumption activity, and it was centered on railroad stations to facilitate charcoal transport to the iron furnaces. It is a forgotten, but extremely interesting, industry. [Read More](#)

Scientists Discover Trees from 350 Million Years Ago that Look Completely Alien

Scientists have discovered trees from 350 million years ago looked like "something from Dr Seuss's imagination" and are "unlike any of those that live" in the modern day. Research carried out on a fossilised tree species called Sanfordiacaulis from New Brunswick, Canada revealed a unique three-dimensional crown shape. [Read More](#)

Wisconsin Specialist Wants to Tap into State's Full Syrup Potential

During a strangely warm winter that made maple trees ready to share their sap earlier than usual, a Wisconsin forestry outreach specialist found a constant: The state still has a lot of trees ripe for tapping. While Wisconsin trails Vermont, New York and Massachusetts for maple syrup production, Wisconsin has more untapped maple trees than any other state, according to Tony Johnson, a natural resources educator for the University of Wisconsin-Extension. [Read More](#)

Girl Power on the Assembly Line

In 1813, a businessman named Francis Cabot Lowell formed the Boston Manufacturing Company and built a textile mill next to the Charles River. By 1840, the Industrial Revolution was in full swing, and Lowell's mills employed almost 8,000 workers, with women making up nearly three-quarters of the workforce. [Read More](#)

Where Are Wisconsin's Forest Products Going? A Closer Look At International Trade

Wisconsin's forest industry creates \$24 billion of products each year. Historically, more than \$1 billion of that total has included products sold internationally. However, did you know that in most years, Wisconsin imports forest products of an even greater value from international sellers? [Read More](#)

Fires arrive early in Wisconsin

SPOONER, Wis. – Some folks enjoy arguing about why things are the way they are until the cows come home. And while it's good to know what causes problems in life, sometimes we just need to do something about our immediate problem and worry about the causes of it later. So it is with the danger wildfires currently pose in much of Wisconsin. [Read More](#)

Lapham Lodge: New Kettle Moraine State Forest Building Breaks Ground

DELAFIELD, Wis. - The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources broke ground Tuesday on Lapham Lodge – a new building located within the Kettle Moraine State Forest's Lapham Peak Unit. Lapham Lodge will serve as a year-round, public gathering space at the park's most popular trailhead, the DNR said. It will include a large gathering area, restrooms, changing areas, lockers and more. [Read More](#)

Ash: A Lingering Hope (podcast)

Sometimes foresters in eastern North America may feel as if they are in a Lemony Snicket novel, with chestnut blight, spongy moth, Dutch elm disease, and emerald ash borer creating a continuing series of unfortunate events. Emerald ash borer (EAB) is one of the most recent invasive pests with the potential to eliminate an entire tree species. And foresters have many questions on how to manage EAB-impacted stands and what they can do to help maintain ash trees as a component of our forests. [Read More \(listen\)](#)