



FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION of WISCONSIN

Woodchips

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An Adventure in the History of Fire Prevention - Long Live the Tower

The Gordon Firetower offers the only rental of its kind East of the Rocky Mountains. What started as a unique camping trip turned into an adventure of historical significance, as I explore the area, discover its unique past, and learn about the early pioneers in the evolution of fire lookout towers. The fate of the Gordon tower looked bleak, until the people of this small community rallied to save this iconic structure. [View Video](#)

In the News

Forest Fire Lookout Association; Preserving Lookouts and Their Legacy

A listing of Wisconsin Lookout structures (by County) with Name, Latitude, Longitude, Type, Status, and National Historic Lookout Register/Formal Fire Lookout Site (NHLR/FFLOS) number. [Read More](#)

As Canada Wildfire Smoke Spreads, Midwest Air Quality Plummets. When Will Skies Clear?

With hundreds of wildfires ablaze in Canada, parts of the Midwest saw some of the worst air quality conditions in the world on July 31, and similar conditions are expected to persist for several days. While air quality is expected to improve slightly in Milwaukee and across Wisconsin on Friday, Aug. 1, wildfire smoke is expected to linger in parts of the Midwest and Great Plains for several more days. [Read More](#)

This 19-year-old is Working in Wisconsin's Paper Industry. Here's how the Industry is Encouraging More Women to Join

Working in the paper industry has always appealed to Carissa Ashman. Growing up in Kaukauna, Ashman often visited the former Paper Discover Center with her mother. Located inside the old Kimberly-Clark Atlas paper mill along the Fox River, the hands-on paper lab taught her how to make handmade paper. Her grandparents, who worked as machine operators at a former SCA facility in Neenah known as Essity for three decades, also sparked her interest in the industry. [Read More](#)

New Museum is a Living Tribute to US Forest Service

The National Conservation Legacy Center, part of the National Museum of Forest Service History, is under construction. Slated to open in summer 2026, the structure is turning heads with a bold vision: to honor America's conservation legacy through a museum built of wood, made for people, and inspired by the forest. [Read More](#)

What is a Eastern Hemlock Tree: Discover Its Unique Features and Ecological Importance

Have you ever wandered through a forest and noticed a tree with soft, flat needles and a graceful, conical shape? That might just be the Eastern hemlock. This tree isn't just a pretty sight; it plays a crucial role in its ecosystem. [Read More](#)

Eastern Hemlock Tree: The Majestic Evergreen That Holds Secrets of Nature's Resilience

The Eastern Hemlock tree (*Tsuga canadensis*) is a majestic evergreen that thrives in the temperate forests of Eastern North America. Renowned for its graceful drooping branches and soft, needle-like leaves, this tree is not just a beautiful component of the landscape; it also plays a vital role in the ecosystem. [Read More](#)

Job Interview: Fire Manager Shares What it Really Takes to Prevent and Fight Wildfire

Bradley Oen loves the forest and part of his job is setting it on fire. Oen is the assistant fire management officer at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's northwest hub in Detroit Lakes. His work is all about how to properly protect federal lands and habitats in Minnesota. "Every square inch of federal land that has burnable vegetation on it requires a fire plan," Oen said. [Read More](#)

Foresters: The Original Environmentalists

It's a Picnic in the Woods. Being a forester can be a gratifying career; it can take you from the woods in a tiny town in Montana across the United States to the corporate office in Connecticut and many other places in between. Career trajectories may vary, but if you are willing, able, and curious, the ride will be epic. As a forester, you won't get a picnic in the woods every day, but it is one of the few professions where that opportunity exists. [Read More](#)