



## FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION of WISCONSIN

# Woodchips

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### How The Erie Canal Transformed America - IT'S HISTORY

Europe called it impossible. President Thomas Jefferson claimed it was “nothing short of madness.” However, the state of New York proceeded anyway and carved the largest canal the world had ever seen. Though the state faced many challenges, including training an engineering team, carving the land, designing the climbs, and even securing permission for construction. Today, we will explore the history of the Erie Canal. [View Video](#)

### In the News

#### The Erie Canal at 200; America's First Massive Infrastructure Project Set the Stage for Agriculture's Success.

The Erie Canal—which celebrates its 200th anniversary this year—put the U.S. on a trajectory to become an agricultural powerhouse, capable of growing and moving crops on a global scale. Just as Northeastern soils were being depleted and the population was looking west for opportunity, the canal tapped the efficiency of water transport to move people and goods across growing distances as the country expanded. [Read More](#)

#### Erie Canal Celebrates Bicentennial

On October 26, 1825, America's first navigable waterway from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes—the old Erie Canal—was officially completed. "It was a dream of pharaonic proportions—a 363-mile-long artificial waterway that most people considered impossible," wrote Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Edwin G. Burrows about the canal and its legacy in American Heritage. Europe called it impossible. President Thomas Jefferson claimed it was “nothing short of madness.” [Read More](#)

#### State Forestry Leaders Talk About Why Forestry and Forest Products Matter to Wisconsin

Sam Ridders, chief operating officer for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, on Oct. 20 led a panel of forestry industry experts to talk about opportunities, challenges and all of the facets of the future of forestry in Wisconsin for Forest Products Week on the University of Wisconsin-Steven Point's campus. [Read More](#)

#### Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, Wisconsin Paper Council, Wisconsin Council on Forestry: Wisconsin “Forests FIRST” Project Aims to Strengthen our State's Forest Products Industry Health and Economic Future

Wisconsin's forest products industry is integral to our state's environment, economy, and quality of life. To ensure that this important element of Wisconsin's heritage continues to thrive for future generations, a coalition of forest products industry stakeholders is taking a major step forward with the launch of Wisconsin Forests FIRST (Forest Industry Roadmap and Strategies for Tomorrow). [Read More](#)

#### Wisconsin Wood Scientists say Government Shutdown is Stopping Vital Research

For over a century, the federal government has headquartered its research into wood at an outlet of the Forest Service, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in a hulking stone building on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. ... Today the lab buildings are closed, and Nathan Bechle, a materials research engineer and most of his colleagues are furloughed, part of the ongoing government shutdown that began on Oct. 1. In that time, the Trump administration has tried to lay off some workers and threatened not to release back pay. [Read More](#)

#### Trump Addresses the Threat to National Security from Imports of Timber, Lumber, and Their Derivative Products

Today, President Donald J. Trump signed a Proclamation invoking Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (Act) to impose tariffs on imports of timber, lumber, and their derivative products (wood products) to bolster American industry and protect national security. [Read More](#)

#### Harvest renewal; The Important Role Timber Harvesting Plays in Forest Health

Timber harvest is one of the most regenerative dynamics in our Lake States forests. Without disturbance, forests have difficulty regenerating, maintaining vigor, and optimizing habitat conditions. Harvest provides intentional “times and places” for disturbance which, in turn, maximizes the myriad of forest benefits across a landscape. [Read More](#)