FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION
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Woodchips

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How Two Brothers Turned 100-Year Abandoned SILO Into a Luxury Family Space

Two brothers. One crumbling 1909 stone tower. Zero outside contractors. In this documentary, we follow the incredible journey of Mitch and Jake as they attempt to save a 100-year-old abandoned silo from collapse. Their goal? To transform a rotting agricultural ruin into a 3-story luxury family retreat. Over the course of a year, they face brutal winters, massive structural failures, and the physical exhaustion of hand-milling 16,000 pounds of lumber. From bending steel with a farm tractor to engineering a self-supporting timber roof, this is the complete story of how they turned a pile of rocks into a masterpiece. *View Video*

In the News

More Buildings Are Using Mass Timber. Could it Boost Wisconsin's Forest Industry?

An emerging technology in lumber could have implications for Wisconsin's forestry industry. Mass timber is a process of strengthening wood, typically by gluing panels together to create dense layers of wood called cross-laminated timber or CLT. CLT is "essentially plywood on steroids," said Alex Anderson, forest products specialist for the state Department of Natural Resources. It's strong enough to build skyscrapers, warehouses and other large-scale projects. *Read More*

Planting Trees This Spring? Here's How To Up Your Odds of Success in Wisconsin

There are somewhere around 11.5 billion live trees in Wisconsin. That number should stay robust if the DNR and private citizens continue a longstanding history of reforestation in the state. Every spring, the Wisconsin DNR distributes 3 to 5 million seedlings in an ongoing effort to bolster the state's forests. The initiative depends on a public nursery that helps landowners create habitat, lumber, scenery and more. *Read More*

Shawano County Mill Reopens, Easing Strain on Timber Processing Across the Northwoods

A mill in Shawano County will be reopening after closing about a year ago. It's the first chip mill in the U.S. purchased by a logger co-op. Even though the mill is in Shawano County, its opening has an impact on the timber industry across the Northwoods. In the last five years, mills in Park Falls, WiResconsin Rapids and Duluth have shut down. *Read More*

Officials Issue Warning Amid Spread of Highly Dangerous Pest Across US Region: 'It's Going to Kill the Trees'

Wisconsin officials are on high alert as an invasive species could threaten millions of trees in the state. The hemlock woolly adelgid, a tiny yet deadly non-native species, has the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection sounding the alarm. *Read More*

Watch For Woodpecker Damage On Ash Trees

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages property owners to watch for woodpecker damage to their ash trees this winter. Woodpecker damage, often called "flecking," happens when birds peck away some of a tree's bark to access the larvae underneath. Flecking is a common early sign that an ash tree might be infested with emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive insect. EAB is the most damaging threat to Wisconsin trees, killing more than 99% of the untreated ash trees it infests. *Read More*

Wisconsin's Early Forest Rangers

Today, the Northern Highland-American Legion Sate Forest continues a great Northwoods legacy. The forests, lakes and streams in Vilas, Oneida, and Iron counties are the cradle of both modern forestry and abundant public lands throughout Wisconsin. *Read More*

The Mythical Lumberjack; The History of Cartography

There are many contradictory myths about Northwoods lumberjacks and the work they did in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They were depicted as hard-living, violent men, but also as upstanding, conservation-minded gentlemen. Recently, Willa Hammitt Brown, the author of the book "Gentlemen of the Woods: Manhood, Myth and the American Lumberjack," visited WPR's "The Larry Meiller Show" to help sort out logger legend from lumberjack reality. Read Here   *Listen Here*