



FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION Of WISCONSIN

Woodchips

[Home](#)
[About Us](#)
[Leadership](#)
[Annual Conference](#)
[Membership](#)

Wisconsin Shipwrecks—The Rouse Simmons

On November 23, 1912, the Rouse Simmons, also known as "The Christmas Tree Ship", a schooner hauling trees for the Chicago Christmas tree market, was lost with all hands while under sail in a storm north of Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The shipwreck lies upright in 165 ft. at the bottom of Lake Michigan. [Watch Video](#)

The Ballad of the Christmas Tree Ship

Song about the famous Christmas Tree Ship which sank on Lake Michigan in November of 1912 with a cargo of Christmas Trees bound for Chicago. All hands lost. [Watch Video](#)

In the News

The Christmas Tree Ship: Captain Herman E. Schuenemann and the Schooner *Rouse Simmons* By Glenn V. Longacre

The saga of Herman E. Schuenemann and the Rouse Simmons is a microcosm of Great Lakes maritime history preserved for researchers who visit the National Archives and Records Administration—Great Lakes Region in Chicago. The original and microfilmed records held in the Great Lakes Region not only document the birth, life, and death of the legendary schooner but also its enigmatic and kind-hearted captain. [Read More](#)

The Fate of the Christmas Tree Ship

It was late November and the sights and sounds of the holiday season were creeping into the bustling city of Chicago. Each year, the arrival of the creaking old three-masted schooner Rouse Simmons served as a signal for the beginning of the Christmas season. The schooner always ended her shipping season by bringing to Chicago a large and profitable cargo of Christmas trees. Along with the annual tree buyers, peg-legged and bearded Claud Winters eagerly awaited the arrival of the Rouse Simmons. Claud and Captain Schuenemann, owner and master of the ship, had an unusual bond. Although their lives were quite different, they seemed to understand and sympathize with each other. [Read More](#)

Bark Up or Down? Firewood Splits Norwegians

OSLO — The TV program, on the topic of firewood, consisted mostly of people in parkas chatting and chopping in the woods and then eight hours of a fire burning in a fireplace. Yet no sooner had it begun, on prime time on Friday night, than the angry responses came pouring in.

"We received about 60 text messages from people complaining about the stacking in the program," said Lars Mytting, whose best-selling book "Solid Wood: All About Chopping, Drying and Stacking Wood — and the Soul of Wood-Burning" inspired the broadcast. "Fifty percent complained that the bark was facing up, and the rest complained that the bark was facing down." [Read More](#)

Still A Hot Debate: Stacking Firewood Bark Up or Bark Down?

Baby, it's cold outside. So we thought we'd revisit one of the hottest Forest Products' Lab Notes posts ever published. The debate over how to stack firewood must still not be settled, as this post consistently ranks in the top-viewed list. Have a read and then decide for yourself: bark up or bark down? [Read More](#)

Upcoming Events

Event	Location	Date	Notes
Chicago's Christmas Tree Ship Chicago's boating community reenactment of the olden days of the Rouse Simmons landing in Chicago is now portrayed by the US Coast Guard Cutter <i>Mackinaw</i> . Christmas Ship festivities begin with the official welcoming ceremony of the USCGC 'Mackinaw' which docks to the west wall immediately south of the main entrance to Navy Pier near the "Captain At The Helm" statue. The ship normally arrives on Friday morning before the Saturday main event. During the day the ship is decorated with trees and lights while special school group presentations are conducted onboard including a tour of the ship, discussion of the <i>Rouse Simmons</i> and maritime history as well as the Coast Guard's Sea Partners program on marine environmental concerns.	Navy Pier 600 E Grand Ave Chicago, IL 60611	The USCGC Mackinaw will arrive on Friday, December 5th, 2014 at 8:30 AM. Ceremonies and tree off-loading will commence on Saturday, December 6th, 2014 at 10 AM.	For complete details Visit Here