



## FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION of WISCONSIN

# Woodchips

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### Traditional Cooper - George Smithwick - History and How to Make a Wooden Bucket

George Smithwick is a sixth generation cooper who makes traditional wooden buckets and barrels. He is continuing a family tradition that began in the 18th century in Ireland. George talks to us about what a Cooper is, some history of the trade, tools he uses, and the step-by-step process of making a wooden bucket. Edward Washington and Jimmy Murray from the Sydney Living Museums' Programs team flew down to catch up with George to see if he could help with making us some new buckets and he was happy to show us how he worked; using tools, techniques and practices that have remained the same for hundreds of years. [Watch Video](#)

### In the News

#### Snapshot Wisconsin Opens Statewide August 9

MADISON — Snapshot Wisconsin, a 26-county network of wildlife-monitoring trail cameras, is seeking volunteers in all 72 counties as the popular program goes statewide on August 9. Snapshot coordinator Susan Frett credits the volunteers for the success of program that has been bringing Wisconsin's wildlife into homes and classrooms for the last four years. "We're thrilled to see what we can learn once we start seeing trail camera photos from every corner of the state," Frett said. [Read More](#)

#### Perrot State Park Marks 100 Years with Community Celebration

TREMPEALEAU — A land donation of 880 acres in 1918 has evolved and flourished into the picturesque Perrot State Park over the decades, reaching its landmark 100-year anniversary in pristine condition and brimming with history. The now 1,270-acre state park, which encompasses bluffs, prairie fields and Trempealeau Bay and Mountain, celebrated its centennial on Saturday with free admission to the park and a host of activities and demonstrations. Visitors met live raptors, participated in nature crafts, recorded their memories of the park for a Centennial Notebook and immersed themselves in the centuries-old history of Perrot. [Read More](#) and Wisconsin Public Radio broadcast. [Listen Here](#)

#### Wisconsin Bat Festival Flies in to Ashland August 25

ASHLAND, Wis. -- The Wisconsin Bat Festival is moving north this Aug. 25, giving Northwoods residents and visitors a chance to see live bats up close, learn about them through science presentations and displays, and enjoy a host of family friendly activities aimed at demystifying this flying mammal and staple of Halloween celebrations. [Read More](#)

#### California's Mendocino Complex of Fires Now Largest in State's History

California has been dealing with record breaking fires for the past month and they aren't even halfway through their fire season. The Mendocino Complex eclipsed last year's Thomas fire which burned 283,800 acres last December 2017 in Ventura and Santa Barbara. Besides the huge and horrifying Mendocino Complex, there are four other extremely large fires consuming large swaths of the state as well. The Carr fire, the Donnell fire and the Ferguson fire are all taking their toll on the state [Read More](#)

#### California Fire Delivers One of the Most Ferocious Fire Tornadoes the US Has Ever Seen (video)

Growing up in California, we had earthquake drills and fire season, which seemed like a fairly good trade-off for tornadoes and hurricanes. Fire season would announce itself with a frosting of ash outside as nearby mountains burned. Of course there were some bad fires, but in my memory, there was nothing close to what we've been seeing lately. The poor Golden State has become home to scenes that look pilfered from an apocalyptic disaster movie. And now the state even has its own tornadoes ... and not just any tornadoes. [Read More](#)

#### National Association of State Foresters Celebrates Smokey Bear's 74th Birthday!

Since 1944, Smokey Bear has been teaching Americans about their role in preventing wildfires. Today, we celebrate the 74 years of the Smokey Bear Wildfire Prevention campaign, the longest-running public service campaign in U.S. history. [Read More](#)

#### Way Through the Wood; Barrel Biochemistry for Brewers and Distillers

Until the advent of plastic, wooden containers, commonly referred to as 'barrels' in the US and called 'casks' in the UK (because there the barrel is a measure), had been a feature of everyday life for nearly two millennia. Capable of holding a variety of liquid and solid foodstuffs, they were the result of the skill of coopers who were masters of woodworking and metalworking. [Read More](#)



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## Visiting Woodchips Embedded Links to Webpages

Hyperlinks embedded into Woodchips allow readers to enjoy featured video or audio presentations as well full news articles or papers of interest with just a simple click of their mouse. The links appear at the end of an article (a news headline with one or two introductory sentences) typically as [Watch Video](#), [Read More](#), or [For More Information](#).

To open the link, place your cursor over [Watch Video](#) or [Read More](#) and so on, and then left click on your mouse. That should open the link in a new window providing access to the specifically linked webpage.

With this issue of Woodchips, we will start listing the full URL to each hyperlink on a second page. If needed, the URL can be copied and pasted into your web browser address bar (also known as location bar or URL bar).

Past issues of Woodchips are found on the Forest History Association of Wisconsin webpage at <http://chipsandsawdust.com/> under News and Events.

To keep issues of Woodchips arriving in your e-mail's inbox, keep your e-mail address up-to-date in FHAW membership records by contacting our membership chairman, Robert Walkner at [anvils@charter.net](mailto:anvils@charter.net) or the editor, Don Schnitzler, at [thefhaw@gmail.com](mailto:thefhaw@gmail.com).

## Links shared in this issue of Woodchips

### Traditional Cooper - George Smithwick - History and How to Make a Wooden Bucket

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GE7QA1chUzw>

### Snapshot Wisconsin Opens Statewide August 9

<https://dnr.wi.gov/news/Weekly/Article/?id=4333>

### Perrot State Park Marks 100 Years with Community Celebration

<http://www.leadertelegram.com/News/Daily-Updates/2018/08/05/Perrot-State-Park-marks-100-years-with-community-celebration.html>

<https://www.wpr.org/listen/1312096>

### Wisconsin Bat Festival Flies in to Ashland August 25

<https://dnr.wi.gov/news/Weekly/Article/?id=4327>

### California's Mendocino Complex of Fires Now Largest in State's History

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/08/180807133233.htm>

### California Fire Delivers One of the Most Ferocious Fire Tornadoes the US Has Ever Seen (video)

<https://www.treehugger.com/climate-change/carr-fire-delivers-one-most-ferocious-fire-tornados-us-has-ever-seen-video.html>

### National Association of State Foresters Celebrates Smokey Bear's 74th Birthday!

<http://www.stateforesters.org/news-events/blog/nasf-celebrates-smokey-bear's-74th-birthday#sthash.19xATLhk.TNSuVwqF.dpbs>

### Way Through the Wood; Barrel Biochemistry for Brewers and Distillers

<https://www.ibd.org.uk/resources/document-library/wooden-casks/wood.pdf>