



MANITOWISH WATERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Old growth white pine towering out of
Toy Lake Swamp along the trapper's trail

North Lakeland Discovery Center and MWHS Team Up for a Historic Wilderness Hike



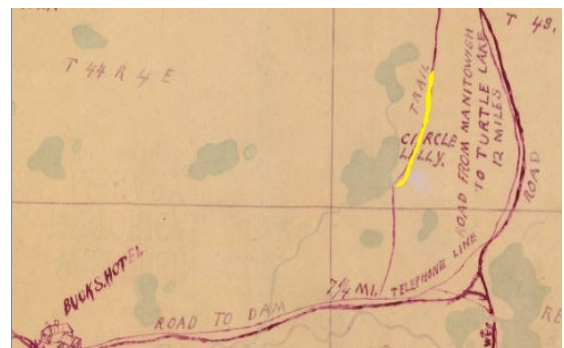
Frank and Kelley DiLeonardi at the base of a 200+ year old white pine

Discovery Center Naturalist Annie McDonnell and Jim Bokern discovered the ultimate Northwoods interdisciplinary hiking experience on January 5th with a group of 15. This fascinating journey followed a series of 1895 magazine articles and a 1900 map (right, hike highlighted in yellow), chronicling the exploits of local pioneer and trapper Fay Buck (see page 5). A somewhat strenuous hike through the Toy Lake Swamp State Natural Area placed hikers near blow downs and tree-tips similar to where Fay Buck trapped a six-foot Canadian lynx. Exploring where early loggers and trappers both traveled and harvested over a century ago, the hike revealed a dangerous and rugged lifestyle.

Walking in their footsteps through a mixture of logging slash, mature timber and old growth forests, McDonnell instructed hikers on the evolution of Wisconsin forestry. The trees reveal a porcupine den, damage from black bears, a balsam witch's broom tree, and a white cedar burl. Animal tracks abound in this area, which provided McDonnell the perfect teachable moment to share her expertise and insights regarding animal behavior. Logging remnants, mysterious tree marks, and historic blazes require blending the

scholarship of both naturalist and historian to better understand the origins of our beloved Northwoods.

Most importantly, consider how you may have fared on this 1895 winter wilderness adventure, with the 21-year-old woodsman guiding and running a winter trap line. Would you have been a tenderfoot, yielding to the strain of the journey, deadly cold, and rigorous trapping duties? Or would you have risen to the challenge, trying to match the mettle of early Northwoods pioneers like Fay Buck?



Lakes Tributary to G. W. Buck & Son Resorts
Wisconsin Historical Society
<http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/maps/id/1572/rec/2>



Jim Bokern

President's Letter

2019 looks to be another exciting year for the Manitowish Waters Historical Society (MWHS). We have many new historic discoveries to share from both community members sharing their collections and MWHS researchers combing archives, capturing digital records and copying key collections. Please see our calendar below and go on line to <https://www.mwhistory.org/events/> to learn about the many events we are hosting to share our discoveries and to promote historic preservation. Watch for new MWHS collaborations with area businesses and organizations, allowing us to share the great historic traditions of Manitowish Waters. We hope to see you at an event or two!

MW Historical Society 2019 Calendar

JANUARY MWHS Snowshoe Hike w/History 1/5, 1 to 3 pm Toy Lake area Photo & Documentation Workshop 1/24, 10 am to 2 pm Koller Library	FEBRUARY Snowshoe Hike w/ History 2/15 Discovery Center Board Meeting 2/20, 5 to 7 pm Koller Library History of Town Government 2/26, 7 to 8:30 pm Koller Library	MARCH No MWHS Meeting	APRIL Board Meeting 4/24, 5 to 7 pm Koller Library
MAY MW Historic Preservation Leaders Celebration 5/22, 5:30 to 8 pm Discovery Center	JUNE Dillinger Pontoon Tours 6/15, 9 am to 4 pm Discovery Center MW Historic Mysteries 6/22, 9:30 to 11 am Koller Library Fun Night 6/27, 5 to 7:30 pm White Oak of Chippewa Retreat Historic Traditions Alder & Wild Rice Lakes by Water 6/28, 9 am to 4 pm Discovery Center	JULY Dillinger Pontoon Tours 7/6, 9:30 to 4 pm Discovery Center Logging Impacts 7/6, 9:30 to 11 am Koller Library Exploring Rest Lake by Pontoon 7/12, 9 am to 4 pm Discovery Center Railroads and Commerce 7/13, 9:30 to 11 am Koller Library Civilian Conservation Corps 7/27, 9:30 to 11 am Koller Library	AUGUST Chamber After 5 Exploring MW Mysteries 8/1 Details coming soon! Turtle Flambeau Pontoon Tour 8/3, 10 am to 3 pm Discovery Center Dillinger Pontoon Tours 8/10, 9 am to 4 pm Discovery Center Big Lake Canoe Trip 8/24, 9 am to 2:30 pm Discovery Center
SEPTEMBER Nibbles n' Knowledge 9/12 5 to 7 pm Discovery Center	OCTOBER No MWHS Meeting	NOVEMBER MW's Unique Environmental Legacy 11/14, 5:30 to 7 pm Discovery Center	DECEMBER No MWHS Meeting

Please join us for MWHS **FUN NIGHT** Featuring

**June 27, 2019
5 to 7:30 pm
White Oak at
Chippewa Retreat**

Come compete for prizes
on Manitowish Waters
history. Two examples are
below.



MW Business that occupies
the 1912 site of the earliest
Wisconsin Forest Reserve
Ranger Stations

Anglers

1930's Rest Lake Dam area
structure that became a
state model for migrating
fish Conservation.

Fish Ladder

Board of Directors

Jim Bokern President - jimkb@aol.com
John McFarland Vice President
JoAnn Miller Secretary
Barbara Bartling Treasurer
Janelle Kohl Board Member
John Hanson Board Member
Ruth Gardner Board Member



Tree Blazes in the Northwoods

We've all heard the phrase "to blaze a trail" or the name of someone who does...a trail blazer. Like a lot of words and phrases we use today, it's interesting to understand from where and when they came.

To "blaze" a trail originally referred to a mark made in a tree to show a path to help guide our forefathers. The marks were usually made with a knife, hatchet or axe. Early frontiersmen, loggers and trappers used blazes to communicate with themselves and each other to determine a path, route or even where to trap. Modern blazing or any defacing of mature and old growth trees is illegal and would ruin the historical context of the unique historic blazes in our forests. "Leaving the forest as we found it is always best practice."

Here are pictures of several "blazes" that still can be seen in our Northwoods, including these from our featured hike on page one. Can you tell which implement created each blaze?



Early Logging in Manitowish Waters

Manitowish Waters was swept-up in the national push for aggressive 19th century logging and land speculation. Shortly after the ink was dry on the 1837 and 1842 treaties ceding Ojibwa lands to the government, timber cruisers were systematically surveying the newly available land (especially near robust river systems). By the 1850's, timber cruisers were sharing with land agents and logging interests both our community's abundant timber and quality river driving opportunities. In 1878, the Army Corps of Engineers claimed the Rest Lake dam site as one of the best on the entire Flambeau River system.

In 1862, the original land surveyors documented

that pines on Rest and Benson Lakes were to soon be taken to market (most likely illegally), marking the start of logging in Manitowish Waters. Modern scholars divide logging and lumber industries into three different phases: 1) river drives of white pines 2) railroad logging and harvesting the remaining white pines, red pine, hardwoods and other trees and 3) post WWI small logging camps using trucks and tractors.(1) Undoubtedly, the different phases of logging in the Manitowish Waters area dramatically defined community development at the turn of the 20th century.

Excerpted from the MW Historical Society Website

Go to <https://www.mwhistory.org/early-history/logging/> for more



Trapper Buck's Log: How Fur is Caught and a Glimpse of Life in 1895

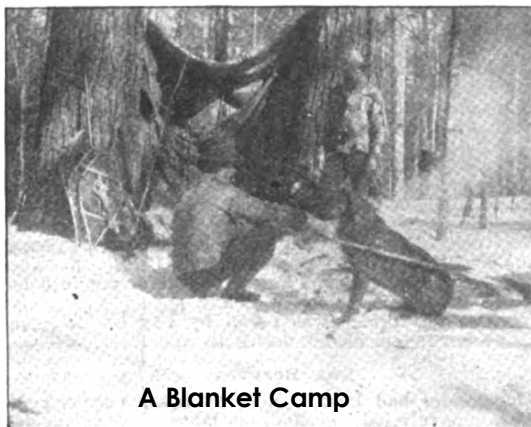
The hiking trip featured on page one is based on a trip described in a series of five articles from **Forest and Stream** magazine in 1895, entitled "How Fur Is Caught." The articles follow the travels and exploits of pioneer and trapper Fay Buck. If you want a glimpse into what life looked like in our area before the turn of the 20th century, insights regarding the trapping, logging, railroad operations and pioneer traditions of the Northwoods, click or visit <https://www.mwhistory.org/2016/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/How-fur-is-caught-II.excerpt.pdf>

We think you'll enjoy this exciting look back!



Excerpt from How Fur is Caught

"From under the root of a fallen tree, where a few drooping boughs had aided in making a little den free from the snow, there sprang an animal as large as a setter dog, but with a flat head, close-laid ears and great thick legs and feet. In the dim light in which we first saw it in the deep woods, it looked quite black, but when we came closer, we saw the gray coat of the full-furred Canada lynx — a lynx with the steel trap hanging to his forefoot, a lynx full grown and viciously angry all the way through. Our trip was not an empty one!"



A Blanket Camp



Fayette L. Buck's Map of Manitowish & Turtle Waters-1905
Wisconsin Historical Society Collection

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM97125>



**Heavy Marching Orders
The Forest and Stream Man**

Editor's Note

The excerpt on the website has been retyped in a more readable form, and has two long narratives regarding snowshoe bindings and a confrontation with a logger omitted.

Please be aware, some of the complete articles contain nativist and racist comments, sadly typical of early authors. The MWHs has chosen to preserve these early articles unedited with a cautionary note allowing the reader full context and the option to skip offending text.

Then and Now



On the left, we see the one-time Wisconsin State Forest Ranger Station with its iconic tower looming in the back. Constructed in 1912 as one of five area stations and watch towers, it was a fully operational station until about 1923, continuing on as a watch tower until the late '60s. On the right, we have the current occupant, Anglers Fine Food & Spirits.



Lake Lenore ski hill on the corner of 51 and W when you could ski on it and now as a gravel pit.



LaPorte's grocery store in 1947 and the current store in downtown Manitowish Waters.

Who, What, Where and When?



Do you think you know who is in the water, where and when? Please submit your thoughts to Jean Bettenhausen at jmcbett@gmail.com. We will follow up in our June newsletter with feedback from MWSH newsletter readers.

Notes from the Oral History and Archival Chair Janelle Kohl

Oral history is about conducting interviews with the folks who have lived in Manitowish Waters for many years. If they summered here or lived here year around, many have an amazing story to tell.

In 2018, the following people were interviewed: **Don Rayala, Charles Nash, Bob Kassien, Bill Waffle and Bill Hembrook**. This was all done with the help of volunteers **Kay Krans, Jody Miller, John Hanson and John McFarland**. DVDs were made of these folks, and interviews are currently being transcribed by volunteers **Beth Dahlmeier, Kay Krans and Sara Kuchler**. The audio of these interviews will be available on the Manitowish Waters Historical Society website at a future date. They will also be available in book form on the library shelves. There are many steps and lots of work involved in making this all come together. **If you know someone or ARE someone who can give us important history of MW, please contact the library at 715-543-2700.**

As Archival Chair, I am putting our busy volunteers to work digitizing important documents. The MWSH would like family pictures, letters, land deeds, special stories, etc. from YOU! The MWSH would like to get these items on the website for preservation and sharing. What happens to your donation? First, you would complete a Deed of Gift form. This means we would obtain the copyright of your donation and make it property of the MWSH. Second, your donation would go through a digitizing process. Third, the digitized item(s) would be recorded in the MWSH website and Past Perfect, an online catalog that manages our collections. Anyone can then enjoy viewing the history of our beautiful town! Fourth, the original donation would be put in safe storage and possibly used for exhibitions at a later date.

We hope you'll be ready to donate and help preserve the history of Manitowish Waters!

Membership & Donations



Those interested in joining the MWHS should complete the form below and send in your form with \$20 to:

Manitowish Waters Historical Society
P.O. Box 100
Manitowish Waters WI 54545

Those considering joining the Manitowish Waters Historical Society are encouraged to explore our web page, attend MWHS events and reach out to board members.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Thank you for supporting the Manitowish Waters Historical Society.
Memberships renew each January.

Donations

Donations can be sent to:

Manitowish Waters Historical Society
P.O. Box 100
Manitowish Waters WI 54545

MW Historical Society is an approved 501c3 charitable organization, and contributions may be tax deductible. Please contact us for additional information.



MANITOWISH WATERS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 100
Manitowish Waters WI 54545
Email: mwhistoricalociety@gmail.com