

Meet our FHW Annual Meeting Speakers

Brad Pagel



After receiving his Associate's Degree in Conservation Technology at Fox Valley Technical Institute, Brad Pagel has been involved in everything in forest management from planting trees, marking timber, logging, to working various tasks in sawmills.

The topic of his presentation for the upcoming annual meeting is about undocumented railroad grades of the Goodyear Lumber Co. that were built in 1900 in the Stella Lake area of Vilas County.

See the results of his field research that reveals 29 spurs totaling 12 miles of logging railroad grades which will be added to the inventory of former railroads. This inventory was begun by the late James P. Kayser.

Mike Monte

Mike Monte comes from a family that logged for generations. Monte was a logger for about 18 years of his life, starting a logging business after attending UW-Stevens Point. He purchased the almost bankrupt Pioneer Express, a shopper/community paper in 1987. Always a collector of logging stories and interested in the history of the area, he started an archive of historical photos and negatives, many of which are pictures of the early logging industry. He also freelanced for Timber Producer magazine and Northern Logger magazine and is the author of a logging history book called Cut & Run, Logging Off the Big Woods. Monte is a lifelong resident of Forest County.



Charles Day



Charles is a graduate of The Ohio State University Business School, a retired traveling salesman and a data base application developer.

As a small boy in Wilmington, OH during World War II, Charles watched the overhead flying activities of the USAAF Glider Branch Test and Experiment operations conducted at the Clinton County Army Air Field. As well as remembering the tugs and gliders flying overhead, Charles remembers his mother taking him with his brother and sisters to an open house at the air base while his father was serving in the Navy in the Pacific Theater.

A member of Boy Scout Troop 44, Wilmington, OH, Charles slept in the troop built bunkhouse constructed from glider crate wood at the troop

camp a short distance from the air field. In 1997, after conversation with the Director of the Clinton County Ohio Historical Society, Charles began researching information and photographs with the idea of creating a short history of the glider test base. After four years of research, attending glider related reunions and collecting photographs from more than 32 sources (men who were there and museums) Charles published the 300 page, Silent Ones WWII Invasion Glider Test & Experiment, Clinton County Army Air Field, Wilmington, Ohio.

In 2001, Charles gladly provided history information of the glider test base and many glider photographs to the Silent Wings Museum, Lubbock, Texas in preparation for the opening of that museum. Charles continues to research the history of the military gliders and collect relative photographs. He attends reunions of the glider test base, George Koskimaki's "Lunch Bunch", the Michigan Chapter of the 101st Airborne Association and the WWII Glider Pilots Association. Charles has visited the archives of the Silent Wings Museum, National Museum of the USAF, National Soaring Museum, Deep River Historical Society, Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop England and has provided information to the Assault Glider Trust at Shawbury England as well as several glider related web sites. In addition, Charles recently has worked with Sara Connor providing information and photographs for her "Wisconsin's Flying Trees" project.

Sara Connor



President of FHW and Editor of Chips & Sawdust. With an M.S. in Curriculum - Instruction from UW Milwaukee. Ms. Connor has presented at museum, educational and professional conferences.

For the past 19 years, she had been Director of Education at Camp 5 Museum Foundation. As Curator of exhibits, Ms. Connor has implemented and coordinated numerous cooperative community exhibits involving students, seniors & veterans. "Wisconsin Flying Trees: Wisconsin Plywood Industry's Contribution to WWII" is the first nationwide traveling exhibit curated by Ms. Connor. The interpretive exhibits highlights the precision of glider and Dehavilland Mosquito Operations. The exhibit also tells the manufacturing story of the Wisconsin Plywood industry for the Allies during WWII. War brings technological innovations & genius. Dehavilland, Henry Kaiser & Howard Hughes.

Finally, the exhibit tells the story of "Spruce Goose", made in Wisconsin.

Robert Laplander

On the evening of October 2nd, 1918, Major Charles W. Whittlesey lead almost 700 men under his command into the Charlevaux Ravine, deep within the Argonne Forest of northeastern France. That night, they were surrounded by the Germans on the high ground around them, cutting them off from all support - by that time almost a kilometer in their rear.

Five days later, 194 survivors walked out.

It has taken 88 years to tell their complete story....



In his new book, Finding the Lost Battalion: Beyond the Rumors, Myths and Legends of America's Famous WWII Epic, author Robert J. Laplander has dug farther and deeper into the true story of what really happened during this legendary episode of WWII than ever has been done before. Eight years research, across seven states of the union and during four trips to France to the actual site of the event, have gone into this work. No other book on the Lost Battalion spells out the story as in depth and completely as this one does. With 100 photographs, 15 maps and written in a fast paced and highly entertaining style that everyone can enjoy, this book will appeal to the adventure reader as well as the casual reader just looking for an engaging story. Sure to quickly become a favorite on your shelf! Just read these recent reviews:

• Robert Laplander has the gift of narrative, with the well-honed senses of a keen researcher. From meticulous work and repeated visits to France, Laplander brings back to us the anonymous faces of the boys who became men who left their homes and daily lives to experience the adventures of war. What these troopers found waiting for them was the horror of slaughter and the bitter decisions of duty.

Laplander gives you the feeling of the trenches with an extraordinary series of character sketches that make you feel like the men of the Lost Battalion are your own friends, your own comrades in arms....

-Bryon Scarbrough, Author: They Called Us Devil Dogs

• Let me preface this by saying that for me, the First World War is my passion. I teach it at a university level, and I am a published author in the field. One of the triggers for this was when I read the Pratt and Johnson book on the Lost Battalion as a ten year old. As a result, I have always had an interest in the incident, and I have picked up all of the recent books on the topic, and there have been several. I could have saved my money by waiting for the Laplander book....

- Thomas Hoff, Author: Doughboy: 1916-1919

I have been involved in WWII research for more than two decades and my second book on the Lost Battalion will likely be out in early 2007. The 20th (Foresty) Engineer Regiment is a sub-passion of mine and one which might lead to a book of its own. The WWII 20th Engineer items that are on display in the museum at Camp 5 were donated from my personal collection, and I and my group of WWII living historians (reactors) come to the Camp 5 every year in August and portray Company E/2nd Wisconsin National Guard Regiment in the summer of 1917.