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If You Find A Bent Tree In The Forest, You May Have Just Stumbled Upon A Centuries Old Secret

Trees come in all sorts of shapes, sizes and colors – but one of their few unifying characteristics is that they stand tall, reaching up toward the sky. If you look long enough, though, you'll eventually come across trees with crooked trunks and weird kinks. And if you find one of these, then you may have chanced upon a long-forgotten secret. Dennis Downes grew up close to Lake Michigan, on the border of Illinois and Wisconsin. With a growing love of nature, he spent his childhood playing in the forests near his home. And here there were trees quite unlike any of the flora surrounding them. [Watch Video](#)

In the News

Did Native Americans Bend These Trees to Mark Trails?

As a kid, Dennis Downes was the type who played in the woods. The forests where he frolicked were near Lake Michigan, around where Wisconsin and Illinois meet. The spot is striking—in these woods, there are large, old trees that have contorted into incredible shapes. [Read More](#)

After Pelican River, Oneida County Officials Make Land Use Policies Less Conservation Friendly

County board members in Oneida County who opposed the conservation of the Pelican River Forest are now working to make the county's land use policies less conservation friendly. The Pelican River Forest is the largest conservation project in state history, setting aside 70,000 acres of forest land across Langlade, Forest and Oneida counties. After months of wrangling between state, local and federal officials, a conservation easement protecting the land in perpetuity was created in January. [Read More](#)

Billerud Paper Mill in Wisconsin Rapids to be Sold to Capital Recovery Group

WISCONSIN RAPIDS, Wis. — The Billerud-owned paper mill in Wisconsin Rapids will be sold, the Swedish company announced Thursday. In a press release, Billerud said it reached terms with Capital Recovery Group, LLC for the sale of the idled mill and related assets. Billerud will continue to own and operate the Wisconsin Rapids converting facility. [Read More](#)

Hidden Forest Estimated to be 13,500 Years Old Discovered Along Lake Michigan's Shore in Manitowoc County

MANITOWOC – Did you know there's a buried forest right along the shores of Lake Michigan in the Manitowoc area? Yup, there's a hidden secret, right out in the open, called the Two Creeks Buried Forest. [Read More](#)

How to Protect Mature and Old Growth Forests

In June 2023, President Biden signed Executive Order 14702, instructing the Agricultural Department's U.S. Forest Service and the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management to define, identify and inventory all of the mature and old growth [MOG] forests in their care. Eleven months later the two agencies issued their report – a data rich 77-page report filled with tables and charts. Warp speed compared to the three to five years it takes the agencies to complete an Environmental Impact Statement. [Read More](#)

What It Means If You See Spots On Your Maple Tree's Leaves

If you have spotted a maple tree lately and taken a gander at its leaves, though, then you may have noticed something other than the vibrant shades of green, yellow, orange, and red — black patches across the upper surface of the leaves. If this threw you for a loop, well, fret not. Those patches are called maple tar spots, and they are nothing to fear. [Read More](#)

Speaker Looks at State of Forest Products Industry

ESCANABA — In recent years, the number of sawmills and pulp and paper mills in the United States has been rapidly diminishing. Shutdowns have hurt not only domestic loggers who provide timber for production, but also workers in other fields connected by the ripple effect — like packaging manufacturing and printing — when their employers have gone out of business or been forced to make cutbacks. [Read More](#)

"Walking Tree" Resembling an Ent from *Lord of the Rings* Crowned New Zealand's Tree of the Year

In a scene reminiscent of Tolkien's Middle-earth, a solitary northern rātā tree with a striking resemblance to a walking Ent has been crowned New Zealand's 2024 Tree of the Year. That's most fitting seeing how the Lord of The Rings was filmed in the picturesque country. [Read More](#)