

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

JULY/AUGUST 2012

VOLUME 67

**Finding a Way
Gerbracht Logging**

**Expo Returns to
Grand Rapids**

**TPA's 75th Anniversary:
The Beginnings of
the North Star Expo**



2012 North Star Expo

September 14th and 15th

Itasca Co. Fairgrounds

Grand Rapids, MN

Free Admission!

More than 100 exhibitors and vendors!

Draft Horse Demonstration!

Master Loader Contest!

Win a Chainsaw Carving!

Friday Night: Annual Expo Dinner

Saturday Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Nortrax!

For more information: MN Timber Producers Association

218-722-5013



TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 67
July/August 2012
Duluth, Minnesota

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ON THE COVER

Preparations are nearly complete for the 59th Annual North Star Expo at the Itasca county Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids. For more information, please see page 14.

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Minnesota
Timber Producers
Association



Hello from Birchdale!

I am Kit Hasbargen, owner, along with my brothers Clarence and Denton Hasbargen, of Hasbargen Logging Incorporated. I look forward to the opportunity to serve as the president of this organization. Thanks again to Mike Warren for his leadership as president. He left some big shoes to fill.

The shutdown of the Verso mill is going to have a huge effect on a lot of our members. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the

President's Column



employees and businesses directly affected by this

closure. Hopefully other opportunities and markets will open up to help.

Our yearly blow down event came with the July

storms in the Deer River / Grand Rapids area. We would all like to see the cleanup of this wood proceed faster. Hopefully the state and county roads affected get cleaned up soon.

It has been an unusual summer, a lot of rain for some locations but very dry in our area. Creeks and ditch grades that normally have water flowing are now dry. With the fall season approaching, I'm sure mother nature will change that.

The North Star Expo is September 14-15 in Grand Rapids. Hope to see you there!

"Use what talent you possess: The woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best."

—Henry Van Dyke

Kit Hasbargen

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So Long, Jane!

TPA Office Manager Jane Abel, who has worked for the association for seven years, has decided to leave the organization and move to Florida to be with family.

"Jane has been an invaluable part of our TPA staff," said TPA executive vice president Wayne Brandt. "She's handled a wide variety of duties, from helping members with our drug and alcohol program to vendors who call to reserve space for the Expo. She's been deeply involved with everything we do here and we'll miss her professionalism and friendly attitude. We wish her well."

"It's certainly bittersweet for me," Jane says. "It's been a great eight years. I've enjoyed meeting with our members in a wide variety of areas and helping them with their



issues. I'll miss everyone, but I'm excited to move on to the next stage of my life."

A search is underway for a new office manager.



Dale Erickson drove his CTL Processor through his hometown of Birchdale during its 4th of July parade in honor of being named Minnesota Logger of the Year by the State SFI Implementation Committee. Erickson is a nominee for Lake States Logger of the Year, which will be named in October.

5. With Verso's announcement that they will not continue to operate their Sartell mill it brings the number of large mills in the state that have permanently closed since 2006 to 5. Ainsworth plants in Cook, Grand Rapids and Bemidji, the Weyerhaeuser plant in Deerwood and now the Verso mill have all permanently shut down.

It's a human tragedy when people lose their jobs. Jobs in the mill, jobs in the woods, jobs supplying the mill, jobs transporting the product and jobs supported by loggers are all lost. In our society you don't have much if you don't have a job.



Executive Vice President's Column



1,700,000. Cords. The amount that annual wood consumption by the industry has decreased as a result of mills that have closed in Minnesota. The impact of this is felt every day in communities throughout our state.

Statewide wood consumption will now sink to a bit over 2.5 million cords per year.



30+. The number of years it's been since the statewide annual harvest went as low as 2.5 million cords.



75. Years. The number of years that TPA has been in existence. Founded in 1937 has been the voice of the timber industry for a long time. It's a proud tradition of fighting the fights necessary to help our members. Some of our history was highlighted at the Annual Meeting in June. More will be shown at the North Star Expo on September 14 & 15 at the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids. A history of our 75 years will be published this fall. Bill Beck, who also wrote the history of the first 50 years of TPA and the history of the North Star Expo, is hard at work on writing this new publication.



0. Injuries. This is what we should all strive for on the job and away from the job.



839,752. Cords. The amount of wood sold by the DNR in Fiscal Year 2012 which ended June 30. This includes everything from pulpwood to bolts to saw logs to biomass and boughs. Thank you! I don't know where we'd be if the DNR hadn't continued to produce. Now we're going to need better quality of wood to keep the remaining mills competitive. The days of running any old junk through a mill are gone if we want what we have left to survive.



31 & 1. Years. Our workers compensation partnership with LUA has been going strong for 31 years. The length of the program and service provided is unique in our industry. 1 - we're in our first year of adding Northern Capital

Insurance to our partnership with LUA. Familiar faces servicing your insurance needs.



170,000,000. Dollars. The amount that Sappi is investing in Cloquet to convert their pulp mill so that it can produce chemical cellulose. It's a ray of hope for our industry during very difficult times. Thank you!



.417. Percentage. The Twins winning percentage as I write this column is .417. And we think we have it tough. I'm still a fan. I still love baseball. I'm still going to watch them. My guess is that our members still love their work. You'll continue to log, to haul, to saw and to supply. You'll continue to be the backbone of your communities. I'm proud of you for that and you all should be proud of yourselves too.

Member Feature...



(L-R): Rod Gerbracht, Dave Gerbracht, Jayson Melander, Clyde Knutson, and Roger Krueth of Gerbracht Logging.

Finding A Way

Father and son Rod and Dave Gerbracht navigate difficult markets to survive in the logging business.

by Ray Higgins

It's early August just south of Bemidji. Temperatures are in the 70s with no breeze, and the sky is cloudless, the sort of day loggers like Rod and Dave Gerbracht love.

"It's absolutely perfect," Rod Gerbracht of Bagley says.

While weather conditions are ideal, logging conditions aren't.

The 650-cord spruce and jack pine sale purchased at the DNR auction was hit by high winds during the first week of July and much of the timber blew down. That means this harvest that the Gerbrachts had planned for the fall had to be completed in a hurry to salvage the pine bolts that had been earmarked for Potlatch's Bemidji stud mill.

"You only have three weeks to a month to salvage it for bolts,"

Rod Gerbracht says. "I bought it in the first place because I knew we needed wood for the fall, and this has sandy soil. But then the storm hit and the DNR foresters were on top of it right away and let me know we'd better get over here and have a look."

Harvesting operations in blow down are difficult and more costly to the logger. That's why the state made a price adjustment in this case

and in several others.

"You can't find the tree butts in the pine species," Dave Gerbracht says. "You're digging, trying to pick the trees up and you think you have the butt and you're not even close with all of the pine needles. It definitely cuts the production down by half. And it's not as many bolts as we would have had. "We have a lot more waste because so much broke off."

On top of unexpectedly ending up in blown down timber, one of the Gerbrachts' markets dried up with the explosion and fire, and ultimately the permanent closure of the Verso Paper mill in Sartell.

"The spruce pulp would have gone there," Rod says. "We didn't haul a lot of wood to Verso, but on average it was something every week, so it's going to hurt."

And yet, the Gerbrachts are staying positive and looking to the future. They've seen difficult times before and are looking for – and finding – ways to thrive.

Rod Gerbracht was exposed to life in the woods as a boy. His father was a piece cutter, had a wood truck, and also did some carpentry work, but died while Rod was young. When he graduated from Bagley High school in 1978, Rod got married and worked construction for about a year. That's when opportunity knocked.

"My father-in-law had a sawmill in Bagley at the time," Rod says, "and he suggested I go to the woods and provide him with some logs. That's how I got my start. I hauled to the peeler in Bagley at first, for about three years. Then Norbord opened in Solway in 1981, I got on board there right away and I've been there ever since."

Rod's brother Jim was a partner in those early years. While there was opportunity, there was also a lot to learn about logging and running a business.

"We took it week by week," Rod says. "We had a pole skidder and cut the wood up by hand, and felled by hand, and we did that for 15 years."

That's when things changed drastically. Jim Gerbracht was ill and passed away. But also Rod's son Dave was graduating high school and ready to join the business.



The Gerbrachts use the John Deere 703 processor for delimbing.

"It's all I ever wanted to do," Dave says. "I was always in the truck and in the woods when I was a kid. When I was 8 to 10 years old I was riding around in the semi."

It was also about this time that the business was ready to stop harvesting timber by hand and purchase a feller buncher. These days, the Gerbrachts run a buncher, two skidders, and a loader/slasher. They still limbed the trees by hand up until last year when they purchased a cut-to-length processor

to handle the de-limbing.

"We did it for safety reasons," Rod says, "and it enables us to cut spruce, and balsam, and jack pine, so it allows us to be a little more versatile."

"Also," Dave says, "maybe we can eventually add a forwarder and get another operation going. We haven't been able to put it together yet and buy the right wood. But it's an option. Pine thinnings would be an option. It could open up a different market."



Sawdust flies as Dave Gerbracht operates the Timbco feller buncher in blown down timber.

The processor has come in handy while working in the blown down timber.

"You can butt off all of the split ends and take care of it so it's ready to go right to the slasher," Dave says. "It speeds it up so we don't have to pick through stuff and butt the stuff out."

Traditionally, Gerbracht Logging has been a true family business. Rod's sons Jared and John have worked alongside their dad and brother over the years, but Jared got another opportunity and John also owns a body shop in Bagley and has decided to focus on that. Plus, a couple of Gerbracht nephews have joined them in the woods but also found other opportunities. Still, Rod's wife Mary handles the books and learned the logging business right alongside her husband through the years, and Dave's wife Kari helps out too when she's not teaching school.

The Gerbrachts also have a history of doing what was necessary to make ends meet. In the early years, that meant basically knocking on doors to find wood to cut. And business was good.

"When I started logging in Bagley," Rod says, "I bought wood for three bucks a cord. I'd go out and find a landowner with a 40, and just move from 40 to 40. There were a lot of 40s, and the price of fuel was 60-80 cents a gallon."

In those days, the Gerbrachts cut mostly wood from private landowners. There have also been times when they had to travel farther away from Bagley to find good private wood.

"We have traveled all the way to the Canadian border over the past 30 years," Rod says. "We actually spent five years up there cutting aspen from like 2002 to about 2006. The plant was paying good money at the time so we stayed in fish houses out on the job, right on the border. We cut a lot of wood from Thief River north for a lot of years, just going from landowner to landowner. We knew that wasn't going to last forever, so we stayed up there and ran hard those years. That's kind of what built what we have."

It's tougher to work that way now with fuel prices so high over the past several years.



Mitch Johannessohn uses a center-mount to load timber for delivery to the mill.

"There's still private wood up there," Rod says, "but with the cost of fuel and trying to get it to the mill, it won't work."

"They call us and want us to come up there," Dave says. "Now they're just waiting."

That's another thing that has paid off for the Gerbrachts over the years, the reason landowners

keep calling, looking to have their timber harvested: taking care of the customer.

When we're dealing with the landowners, we respect their land," Rod says. "When you're honest and doing things right, things just keep going. We've had good word-of-mouth over the years. Honesty and treating landowners with respect,



Roger Krueth operates one of two John Deere 648 skidders on the Gerbracht job. Clyde Knutson drives the other one.



Rod Gerbracht loads timber after slashing it with a Barko 495. He likes to run the slasher/loader so he can stay on the landing and manage the trucks that come and go on the logging job.

just like it's your own land. Taking care of business, doing it right. Those have been keys.

These days profit margins are much tighter, making that word-of-mouth advertising all the more important, as well as working as efficiently as possible.

"I've told our truck drivers and equipment operators," Rod says, "if the machine's not running, shut it off. In the summertime, with the cost of fuel sky high, it's getting tougher and tougher to pencil it out. At the end of the month you think you've made some money and then there's a \$30,000 fuel bill that's waiting for you. It's hard. We try to keep our equipment up, keep it clean, keep it greased. All of our workers know that, and they're good about it."

The Gerbrachts are used to tight margins. They also own and operate Fireside Grill, a supper club in Bagley. Mary and daughter Katie run it, but it's not a long-term alternative to the logging business.

"Having a bar and restaurant is like having a dairy farm," Rod jokes. "It's pretty tough to make money there, too."

So, work continues on the blown down timber. The pulp that was going to go to Verso has been

marketed to Hillside Lumber in Bagley, the same mill Rod's father-in-law owned back in the day.

The family plans to keep logging for the long haul. Dave's son Ben turns 10 in February and Eric just turned eight. They love the woods, just like their dad and grandfather. They want the business to be around – and thriving – when

they're ready to join in.

"He comes out on weekends whenever he can," Rod says of Ben. "He's just like Dave was when he was a kid, he's so into it. He'll sit here on the bank and watch all day long if you let him. So we're going to try to keep going. Dave loves it. At my age, I obviously won't be doing anything else."

July Storm Creates Blowdown

For the second year in a row, high winds in early July blew down merchantable timber in Northern Minnesota.

A total of 40,000 acres of public and private land were affected by the straight line winds in the Bemidji, Deer River, and Grand Rapids areas, including Itasca State Park and the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

Actually two separate wind events on July 2 and July 4 created the blowdown conditions to hundreds of thousands of trees in the region. The Chippewa National Forest saw the most damage, with the storm affecting roughly 17,000 acres in an area 10 miles wide and 40 miles long. In addition, 4000 acres of state forest land in the area blew down, from Bemidji to Deer River.

DNR and Chippewa National Forest managers are looking to the logging community to help clean up the damage. However, Chippewa forest supervisor Darla Lenz told Minnesota Public Radio she doesn't have enough staff to ensure the timber is appraised and on the market that quickly.



This forest just south of Bemidji was among the areas damaged by high winds during the first week of July.

“Because of the magnitude of the blowdown, it’s unlikely we’d be able to recover all of it for saw timber,” Lenz told MPR. “We believe we’ll have some areas that have higher fuel levels now, may be more prone to wildfires in the future, so we need to plan on treating those areas, and we won’t

be able to accomplish all of that work in one year.”

On July 1, 2011, a much larger event struck east central Minnesota, blowing down an estimated 250,000 cords of timber on a total of 300,000 acres in Minnesota, including in the Chengwatana, St. Croix, and Nemadji state forests.

Expo Returns to Grand Rapids

For the fourth straight year, the North Star Expo is returning to the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids. Minnesota's largest logging equipment show is in its 59th year and will be held September 14 and 15. As always, there will be a lot to see and do, including the latest in logging equipment from all of the region's top vendors.

Continuing the Expo tradition of great food and fellowship, Friday night's banquet dinner menu will feature a grilled teriyaki pork chop, baked potato, corn on the cob, coleslaw, roll, and beverage. Tickets for the dinner are \$15 each and can be purchased in advance from the TPA office or at the door.

In addition, Saturday morning's pancake breakfast will again be provided free of charge by Nortrax.

"We're thrilled to be back in Grand Rapids in 2012," said TPA Expo Committee chair Joan Pomp. "The community always gives us a warm welcome and we look forward to being back in a place so rich in logging history."

This year's event will recognize the 75th Anniversary of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, including vintage logging photos from throughout the years and even some equipment used by loggers in years gone by.

Like at any Expo, there will be plenty of competitions:

The **Best Load** contest is taking place again this year. Only the wood will be judged, not the truck it is hauled on. Points will be scored on the timber quality, product quality, product manufacturing, load appearance, and load securement. Monetary prizes are awarded to the top finishers.

The **Loader Contest** will also be held again this year, as well as the **Master Loader** contest.

The **Coloring Contest** will take place this year as well. In the last issue of the Timber Bulletin, you'll find a pull-out poster for the little ones to enter. Just have them color the poster and either bring it to the Expo or mail it to the TPA office. Entries will be posted at the Expo for all to enjoy.

Don't forget to bring in your wood cookies for the **Big Cookie Contest**. Remember to attach a list indicating species, where taken, company name and *register at the Registration Desk first!*

Test your visual skills and **Guess the Weight!** Entry forms will be available near one of the Best Load trucks.

We'll have fun for the whole family. See you September 14 and 15 in Grand Rapids!



Pomp's Tire captured the "Best Outdoor Display" award at the 2011 Expo.



Last year's Big Cookie was truly a Big Cookie: a white spruce from Roseau County provided by L-R: Cameron Erickson of Erickson Timber, and Brady Hasbargen and Brent Hasbargen of Whitefish Creek Enterprises, all of Birchdale. The cookie was a popular item in 2011.



After a busy day at the 2011 Expo, these kids found a comfortable place for a quick rest.

NORTH STAR EXPO

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 14

7:45 am	Workshop Registration
8:00 am - Noon	Workshop: Fluids & Filters (4 hrs MLEP credit)
9:00 am	Equipment Displays Open
9:30 am	Display Contest Judging
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Loader Contest (sign up at site)
11:00 am	START YOUR ENGINES
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Celebrity/Media Loader Contest
12:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Loader Contest (sign up at site)
5:00 pm	Equipment displays close
5:00 pm	Cash Bar Social Hour begins
6:00 pm	Dinner and Door Prizes - on site

Saturday, September 15

7:00 am - 9:00 am	Free Pancake Breakfast (sponsored by Nortrax)
9:00 am	Equipment displays open
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Loader Contest (sign up at site)
11:00 am	START YOUR ENGINES
11:30 am	Coloring contest winners announced
1:00 pm	Winners announced for Loader, Master Loader, and Best Load contests
1:30 pm	Winners announced for Guess the Weight, Big Cookie, Vendor Drawing, Wood I.D. and Big Cookie contests
2:00 pm	Equipment displays close

CONTESTS

Vendor Drawing – Visit the vendors identified on the back of your entry card and become eligible to win a chainsaw carving!

Guess the Weight – Guess the weight of a fully loaded truck

Wood Identification – See how many tree species you can identify

Loader – Test your skills against the clock

Masters Division Loader – Loader contest for those 50 and over - sign up at site

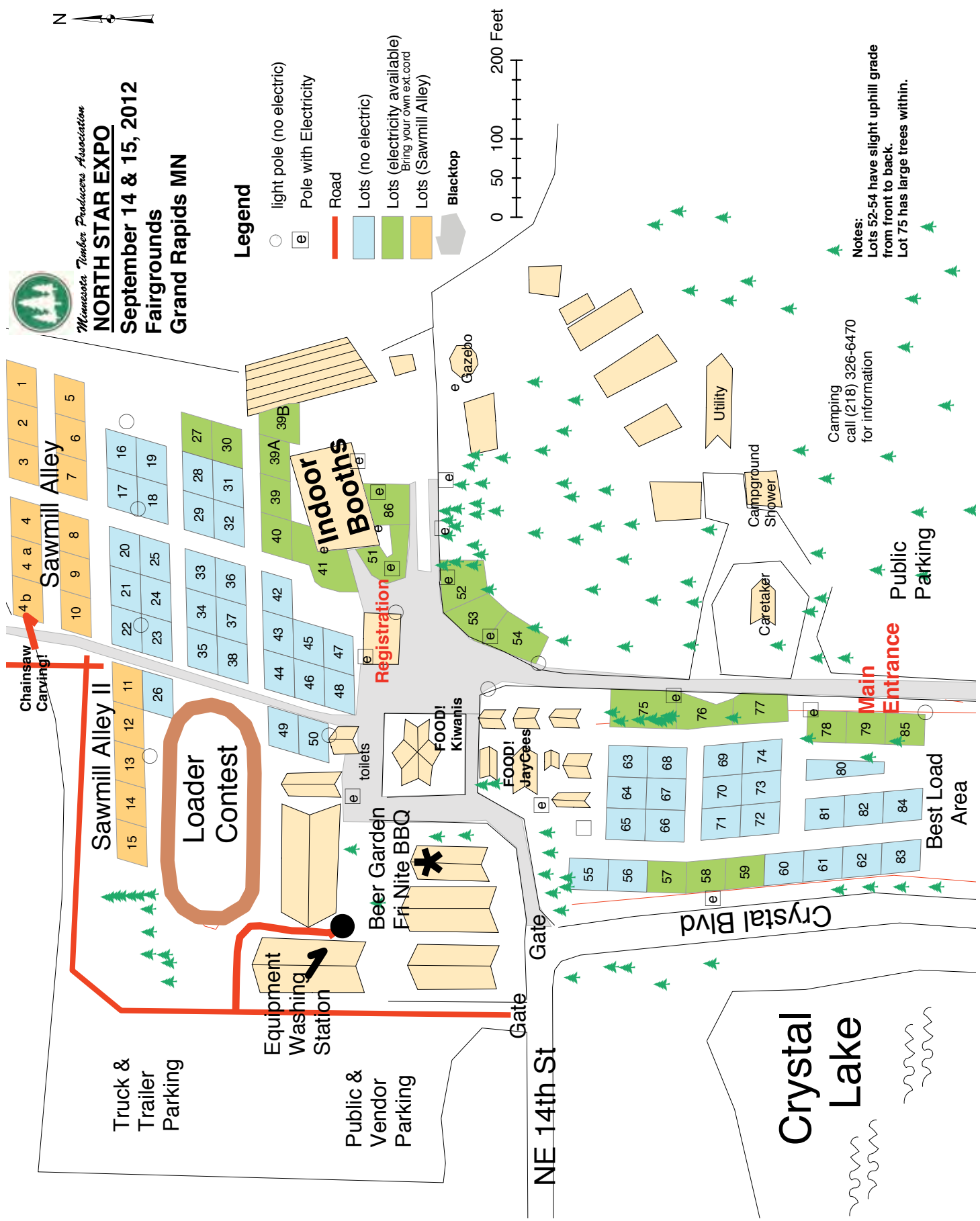
Best Load – Come and see the Best Loads of Wood on Display

Big Cookie – Enter to see if your wood cookie is the biggest of its species.

For additional information, contact:
Minnesota Timber Producers Association
324 W Superior St #903, Duluth, MN 55802
218-722-5013



Minnesota Timber Producers Association
NORTH STAR EXPO
 September 14 & 15, 2012
 Fairgrounds
 Grand Rapids MN



Legend

- light pole (no electric)
- ◻ e Pole with Electricity
- Road
- ◻ Lots (no electric)
- ◻ Lots (electricity available)
Bring your own ext.cord
- ◻ Lots (Sawmill Alley)
- ◻ Blacktop

Notes:
 Lots 52-54 have slight uphill grade
 from front to back.
 Lot 75 has large trees within.

Camping
 call (218) 326-6470
 for information

Vendor Display Booths at Expo

INDOOR BOOTHS

	BOOTH #
A. M. Ludwig Saw Shop	1
Central Power Distributors	2
Faun Trackway	3
Jackson Lumber Harvester Co Inc	4
Timber Producers Association	6
Rainy Lake Oil	7
Road & Equipment Parts Center	15,27
Schaeffer Mfg. Co.	16
SunSource	17
Savanna Pallets, Inc.	19
MLEP	28
MN DOL	29
Badger Truck Refrigeration	30
AgStar Financial Services	31
Northern Capital / LUA	32
FleetPride Truck Parts	39, 40
MidStates Equipment	44
Minnesota Forest Industries	42, 43
Rice Blacksmith Saw & Machine	45

OUTDOOR LOTS

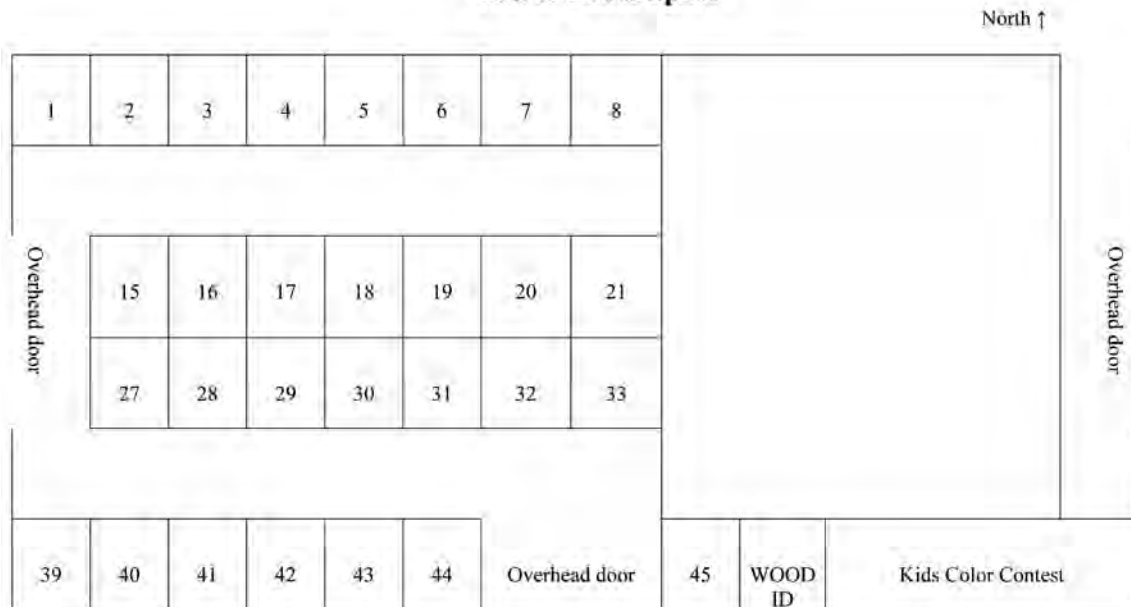
	LOT #
Resource Recovery	2
Lockhart's Firewood Grippers	10
Mini-Tractor Enterprises	11
Dyna Products	12
Wood-Mizer Products	13
Road Machinery & Supplies	16,17,18,19
Northern Star Cooperative	20
Titan Machinery	21,22,23,24
Three Rivers Forestry, Inc.	25

OUTDOOR LOTS

	LOT #
Ponssé North America	29,31,32
Industrial Fluid Tech	33,36
Rotochopper, Inc.	34
Diamond Industrial Cleaning	35
Terex Factory Store	37
Towmaster Trailers	38
ZieglerCAT	39e,39A,40e
Petro Choice/Rapid Hydraulic	41e
Laona Machine	42
Nortrax, Inc.	
43,44,45,46,47,48	
Northern Timberline Equipment	49,50
Waste Oil Distributors	52e
Jake's Quality Tire	53e
Skubic Bros. Int'l	55
Don Evans Insurance	56
Two Harbors Machines	58e,59e
Wallwork Truck Center	60
Wilkens Industries, Inc.	61
Duluth Tire	62
Pomp's Tire	63,68,75e
Nuss Truck	65,66
Vermeer Sales	69,70,73,74,77e
Allstate Peterbilt	71,72
Don Dens Sales	76e
NW Tire	78e,79e
Prairie Trailer	80
Boyer Trucks	81
J-N-K Stoveworks	83
RihmKenworth	84

2012 North Star Expo

Indoor Booth Space



Drawing is NOT TO SCALE

All booths are 8' x 10' and one table and two chairs will be provided with each booth.

Forest Cap's Minnesota Lands Sold to Molpus

Forest Capital Partners, owners of 286,000 acres of timberland in Minnesota has sold its entire portfolio to two companies.

Molpus Woodlands Group has purchased the Minnesota land, as well as 110,000 acres in Louisiana and 138,000 acres in Idaho.

The Hancock Timber Resource Group bought the remaining acres, located in Louisiana, Oregon,

Washington, and Idaho. All told, Forest Capital Partners sold 1.88 million acres of timberland.

Timber Talk

As part of the transaction, the vast majority of Forest Capital Partners' employees associated with the timberlands will be merged into operations of the

respective new managers, Molpus Woodlands Group or the Hancock Timber Resource Group.

The newly purchased Molpus lands in Minnesota were formerly owned by Boise before being sold to Forest Capital Partners in 2005.

"This portfolio's timberlands are intensively managed, highly

productive, and ideally situated near timber markets with competitive pricing," said Molpus Woodlands Group president Dick Molpus. "With the opportunity to partner on this transaction, we are able to provide key assets to our clients, which we will oversee from new forestry offices in Coeur

d'Alene, Idaho and International Falls, Minnesota. We continue to be committed to the sound forestry stewardship practices historically associated with these properties. We will keep our focus on client objectives, and we look forward to working with new colleagues, employing innovative management and technologies towards sustainable forestry."

Skoe Wins Kooch County Primary

TPA Board of Directors member Wayne Skoe was the highest vote-getter in the primary election for the Koochiching County Board's 5th District seat.

Skoe, of Northome, received 52% of the vote in the five person race. He'll face Linda Dreher in November's general election. She received 22% of the vote in the August primary, the second highest total in the race.

Superior National Forest to Implement New Rules for Motorized Uses

After more than six years of interagency collaboration, public involvement, and environmental analysis, US Forest Service managers are implementing the Travel Management project decision. The Forest Service says significant benefits will be realized by both the forest and to off-highway vehicle riders.

This project is part of the Forest Service-wide Travel Management Rule framework to address increased off highway vehicle (OHV) use on national forests across the country.

The project decision redirects OHV use to locations that increase safety and quality of experience for riders and reduce impacts to aquatic resources, wildlife, sensitive areas, and to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. This direction applies to all classes of motor vehicles except aircraft, watercraft, and over-snow vehicles.

The primary implementation tool for the Travel Management project is the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) which will be updated annually and posted in a downloadable format on the Forest website with free paper copies available at all Superior National Forest offices. As of Aug. 8, 2012, motorized travel on the Superior National Forest is ONLY allowed on roads and trails as designated by the Motor Vehicle Use Map.

According to the Forest Service, virtually the same total miles (1,600) of off-highway vehicle riding opportunities across the Superior National Forest will exist as before but redirected to locations that increase off-highway vehicle designated loop riding opportunities by 285 miles and long distance riding opportunities by more than 300 miles.

The Forest Service says water quality impacts will be reduced with reduced OHV use within riparian areas by 60 percent; reduced stream crossings open to any OHV use by 62 percent, and generally reduced OHV disturbance in streams. OHV use on trails and roads on soils more susceptible to disturbance and erosion will be reduced by 72 percent. The agency also says a

Forest-wide reduction of 154 miles of unneeded roads will include a total of 9.5 miles currently within one mile of the BWCAW. OHV travel in sensitive areas, including inventoried roadless areas, RARE II areas, Research Natural Areas, candidate Research Natural Areas, and eligible Scenic and Recreational Rivers will also be reduced.

Initially, forest managers will focus on education as well as compliance and we intend to work with user groups to help maintain and improve the travel routes, and to help communicate Tread Lightly techniques, local rules and regulations for OHV use.

Grand Rapids Project Targeted for former Ainsworth Site

Cutsforth Inc., a company headquartered in Cohasset, plans to build a 13,480-square-foot building on the former Ainsworth site in Grand Rapids that will house the operations of subsidiary

DC Manufacturing as well as the administrative offices for Cutsforth. The parent company started in 1990, making replacement brush holders for generators and exciters in the power industry. DC Manufacturing was created in 2010 as a division of Cutsforth and currently operates

with a focus on manufacturing top quality products for Cutsforth and other customers. The sales, marketing and engineering functions of Cutsforth are located in Bellingham, Wash., while distribution and field services are headquartered in Bloomington, Minn.



Verso Permanently Closes Sartell Mill

After 105 years of making paper in Sartell, current mill operator Verso Paper announced the facility won't reopen.

The move comes as a result of a Memorial Day explosion and fire that killed one mill worker and injured four others.

"After a very comprehensive assessment, Verso has made the extremely difficult decision not to reopen the Sartell mill," said Lyle Fellows, Verso's senior vice president of manufacturing and energy. "It's a decision that's not based lightly. It's based on the length of time it would take to rebuild the facility, the infrastructure inside and all the systems, as well as the marketplace challenges presented from the selling of paper."

With the permanent closure, 259 employees lose their jobs, and hundreds of suppliers, including many in the logging community, lose a source of revenue. Over the years the mill operated under five different names, beginning with Watab Pulp and Paper. Verso purchased the facility from International Paper in 2006.

In the days between the explosion and the closure announcement, several federal, state, and local government officials met with mill personnel with offers of support and

assistance. In the end, repair costs proved to be cost prohibitive.

In a statement, the company said the decision was based on the length of time that it would take to rebuild the mill structures and systems that were destroyed in the fire and explosion, and the marketplace challenges that would present.

"In the grand scheme of the markets we were playing in, and with the cost of the facility, to be honest we didn't ask for a lot of help because we didn't think it was going to change the decision," Verso plant manager Matt Archambeau said.

The closure announcement comes less than a year after Verso shut down two of its three paper machines, which resulted in 175 layoffs.

"The mill has not been competitive for a number of years," said Verso President and CEO David Paterson in statement. "And despite our employees' dedicated efforts since the December 2011 shutdown of two of the facility's three paper machines, our assessment indicates that it is impossible for the mill to achieve a competitive position in today's marketplace, especially after a setback of this magnitude and duration."

"I think most people now use what we call a paper reduction

device," Fellows said. "Those may not take the place of catalogs and magazines but it's the age. Newsprint has gone through a severe decline with what we're doing. There will always be some print, but those that don't have integrated facilities – which are pulp mills with powerhouses behind them – have a very difficult time in today's marketplace to compete."

"We can't thank our employees enough for their years of dedicated service," Archambeau said. "And the support we had the last two months has been outstanding. We want to thank the city and the local leaders for their help, and the citizens and local businesses for their support and donations. Doing business here has been a pleasure, and it saddens us to have to come to this point."

Verso Fire Cause Identified

An overheated air compressor caused the explosion and fire at Verso Paper's Sartell mill, according to a report from the Minnesota state fire marshal.

The Memorial Day mishap killed one Verso employee and injured four others, ultimately leading to the permanent closure of the mill that had run for 105

years.

The 27-page report said the overheated air compressor ignited oil vapors both in the compressor and in an air receiving tank. The report says the water supply that is designed to cool the compressor was severely reduced in the hour before the explosion. The report indicates that the plant had been

shut down earlier in the day to repair a leaking water pipe and that the plant was just being brought back online when the explosion happened.

The state Occupational Health and Safety Administration is conducting its own inquiry into the explosion and fire.

TPA Celebrating 75th Anniversary in 2012

Forming TPA

The Minnesota Timber Producers was founded in 1937, making 2012 the organization's 75th anniversary year. In commemoration, over the course of the year the Timber Bulletin will look back on TPA's history and that of Minnesota's timber industry, based on the 50th Anniversary edition of the Bulletin, written by Bill Beck and published in 1987.

The Beginnings of the North Star Expo

With the advent of mechanization in the logging industry, TPA leaders looked to the east and saw the success of the Lake States Logging Congress equipment show held by the Timber Producers Association of Michigan and Wisconsin and thought, why not us, why not here?

TPA's first "Field Day" was held August 27, 1953, at the Tomahawk Timber Company offices at Forest Center near Lake Isabella. The event included sawing contests for participants using a four-foot crosscut saw or bow saw, chopping contests, and two-man crosscut saw demonstrations. Visitors were treated to a tour of Tomahawk's new Swedish-type gang mill, followed by outdoor demos of safe logging practices.

In 1954, TPA moved the show to the U of M's Cloquet Forestry Center and renamed the event "The Logging and Forest Management Show." Equipment dealers from throughout the region had exhibits, and some 225 TPA members showed up to see the latest in machinery. The day also included a tour of the university's experimental plantings on the site.

For many years the show was held in a clearing near the center. In 1974, the site was changed to the Buffalo House off I-35 south of Duluth and in 1978, the Expo was held in Grand Rapids, establishing a practice of moving around to various cities in northern Minnesota. In 1983, the Logging Congress held its event in Duluth, jointly sponsored by TPA and by the Timber Producers of Michigan and Wisconsin.

In 1967, TPA began sponsoring a logging equipment show at the Minnesota State Fair called the "Space Age Forestry Show," winning a blue ribbon for outstanding achievement. At the 1968 Fair, the demonstration played to nearly 9000 people at its three shows each day.

Of course, the North Star continues to this day, with the 59th Annual Event being held at the Itasca County Fairgrounds September 14 and 15.



A demonstration at the first ever TPA Field Day at Forest Center in 1953.



TPA's Space Age Forestry Show at the Minnesota State Fair in 1969.

From Bulletins Past

A sample of topics covered by *The Timber Bulletin* through the years, this time from 50 Years Ago: the August/September 1962 Bulletin:

President's Column

We hear a lot of talk from time to time about economic factors. Some people who don't understand ask, "What are economic factors?"

Obviously these cover a wide range of items and involve many different cost situations. Any costs which affect the harvesting of wood from the first cut through the final unloading at destination is an economic factor to us.

Stumpage costs, labor, power saws, skidders, tractors, trucks, loaders, highway licenses, gasoline tax, Workmen's Compensation Insurance, Unemployment Compensation, Social Security, income tax, various governmental regulations, including bookkeeping requirements, and many others, affect the ability of a logger to get his production efficiently produced and delivered. These same factors may be higher or lower in other regions, such as the South and the West as well as in foreign countries. As some have said, "this is one world," and we are often finding this to be too true. Every one of our Association activities somehow affects some of the items above. The effort is a continuous one. The best ideas of all of our members are needed continuously to help solve these problems and keep our products competitive in the market place.

That we are still here today is a tribute to our united activity. We fully intend to keep up this determined struggle for existence, and to improve our status and that of those who depend on us. As our forests grow more abundantly, we can grow likewise, but we need the full support of everyone in the industry to pursue our sound and common objective.

—Rudy Rice, TPA President

MECHANIZATION – Our Mechanization Committee is already active planning the biggest Logging Demonstration ever which you know is scheduled for September 20. The members of



the Committee are taking an active interest in developing better ways of logging more economically. One of our members, Bud Holm of Cook, has sent us the above picture of his latest self-made skidder. This is a truck Model FO6 C-C Prentice knuckle-boom loader mounted on a Model 99 Austin Western Grader. Bud shortened the grader 5 feet

and states that with the 4-wheel drive and 4-wheel steering, it gets around amazingly well on rough, rocky ground handling four or more cords per hour.

J.A. Mathieu to Build Sawmill on Rainy Lake

At 92, when most people are content to keep to their rocking chair, J.A. Mathieu of Fort Frances has issued a startling announcement that he is planning on building a modern sawmill on Rainy Lake.

The wealthy timber magnate, who is a living legend on the border, said his new mill will have an annual production of

20,000,000 feet of lumber and 16,000 cords of chips for sale to pulp and paper mills.

"Through careful logging and forestry practices, the district of Rainy River has as much timber, if not more, than when I first arrived here in 1902," Mathieu commented. "There is a perpetual supply of timber both for the new sawmill at Rainy Lake and for

the modern mill at Sapawe (90 miles east) being operated by Jim Mathieu Lumber Ltd."

Production of chips for pulp and paper mills is a new development which has taken place in sawmilling operations recently. The Mathieu sawmill at Sapawe produces chips for the Lakehead and North Shore mills.

On the Markets

The *Timber Bulletin* publishes information regarding results of a sampling of recent timber sales and other market indicators, as well as other market-related news items.

Recent Timber Sales Average Prices, as reported by each agency

Agency Regular Intermediate

Carlton County

June 13 – Oral Auction

Aspen	\$26.00	NA
Balsam	\$18.67	NA
N. Pine bolts/ pulp/chips	\$26.19	NA

All 13 tracts offered were purchased.

DNR – Two Harbors Area

June 19 – Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	NA	\$ 9.79
Paper Birch (WC)	NA	\$ 4.17
Balsam Fir (WC)	NA	\$ 6.66

Only 1 of 14 tracts offered on the regular and intermediate auctions was purchased.

Cass County

June 28 – Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$31.11	\$23.83
Red Oak	\$34.97	\$17.85
Birch	\$19.07	\$13.88

All 8 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Backus Area

July 10 – Oral Auction

Aspen Species (WC)	\$21.42	\$24.06
Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$21.25	\$21.25
Red Oak (WMP)	\$16.20	\$14.62
Paper Birch (WMP)	\$ 9.67	\$10.37

All 10 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Warroad Area

July 25 – Sealed Bid

Aspen Species (WC)	\$27.16	NA
Spruce-Balsam (WMP)	\$21.19	NA

Pine Species (WMP)	\$16.24	NA
Norway Pine (WMP)	NA	\$26.37

Of the 5 tracts on the sale, 3 were purchased and one sale was cancelled.

DNR – Warroad Area

July 26 – Oral Auction

Aspen Species (WC)	\$16.55	\$19.69
Jack Pine (WC)	\$36.94	\$10.17
Spruce-Balsam (WMP)	\$13.61	NA
White Spruce (WMP)	NA	\$20.74

12 of 22 tracts offered on the regular and intermediate auctions were purchased.

Cass County

July 26 – Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$27.16	\$21.48
Red Pine Bolts & Pulp	\$60.50	\$29.75
Red Oak	\$21.88	\$16.89

7 of 8 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Koochiching County
August 1 – Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp/ Bolts	\$25.87	\$33.52
Spruce pulp/ bolts	\$24.93	\$19.81
Balsam pulp/ bolts	\$16.53	\$18.98

24 of 27 tracts offered during the auction were purchased.

Beltrami County
*August 7 and 9 –
Sealed Bid & Oral Auction*

Aspen pulpwood	\$30.47	NA
Jack Pine pulp & bolts	\$33.90	NA
R&W Pine pulp	\$22.45	NA
Balsam pulpwood	\$18.64	NA

All 26 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

St. Louis County
August 16 – Sealed Bid

Aspen pulpwood	\$30.48	NA
Balsam fir pulpwood	\$17.69	NA
Black Spruce pulpwood	\$28.63	NA
Birch pulpwood	\$11.52	NA

30 of 35 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Products:
PB = Pulp and Bolts
WMP = Woodsrun mixed Products
WC = Woodsrun cordwood
ST = Sawtimber
WST = Woodsrun Sawtimber

Mark Your Calendar

Here are some of the events in the coming months you'll want to make sure are on your calendar:

Sept. 6-8

Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association
2012 Lake States Logging Congress & Equipment Expo
EAA Grounds, Oshkosh, Wis.
Visit: www.timberpa.com or call: 715-282-5828

Sept. 14 & 15

59th North Star Expo at Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids, Minn. Parking \$3, admission is free. For more information, call the TPA office at 218-722-5013.

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Note: Existing subscriptions will continue at their current rate until they expire.

Classifieds

To serve our readers better, the Timber Bulletin offers free classified ads of up to 85 words to all members and associate members of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association. All ads must be submitted in writing to the Association office. The MTPA assumes no responsibility for ad contents and accepts free ads on a first-come, first-served basis within space limitations.

WANTED

Barrel stave logs – White Oak and Burr Oak butt cuts 12-inch diameter and up – random lengths
For more information call
Robert Staggemeier at
Staggemeyer Stave Co. Inc.
Caledonia, MN 55921
Office: 507-724-3395
Cell: 608-792-7598

FOR SALE

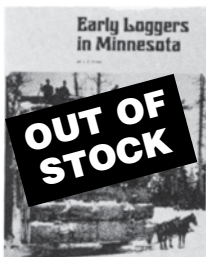
Two tree-length bunks with stakes.
Made by Han-Fab..... \$500.00
60" Siiro Slasher.....\$2,500.00
Shuster Logging 218-787-2264

Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I

VOL. II



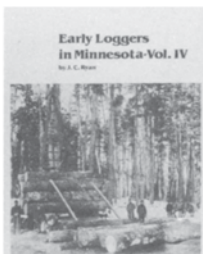
First-hand recollections by storyteller "Buzz" Ryan of the loggers, loaders, swampers, wood butchers and bull cooks who ruled the woods in the heyday of the pioneer lumberjacks—with dozens of historical photographs.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for

_____ copies "Early Loggers in Minnesota" Vol. I at \$8.50 each.

VOL. III

VOL. IV



_____ copies "Early Loggers in Minnesota" Vol. II at \$8.50 each.

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_____ copies "Early Loggers in Minnesota" Vol. IV at \$8.50 each.

Prices include sales taxes, postage and handling.

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