

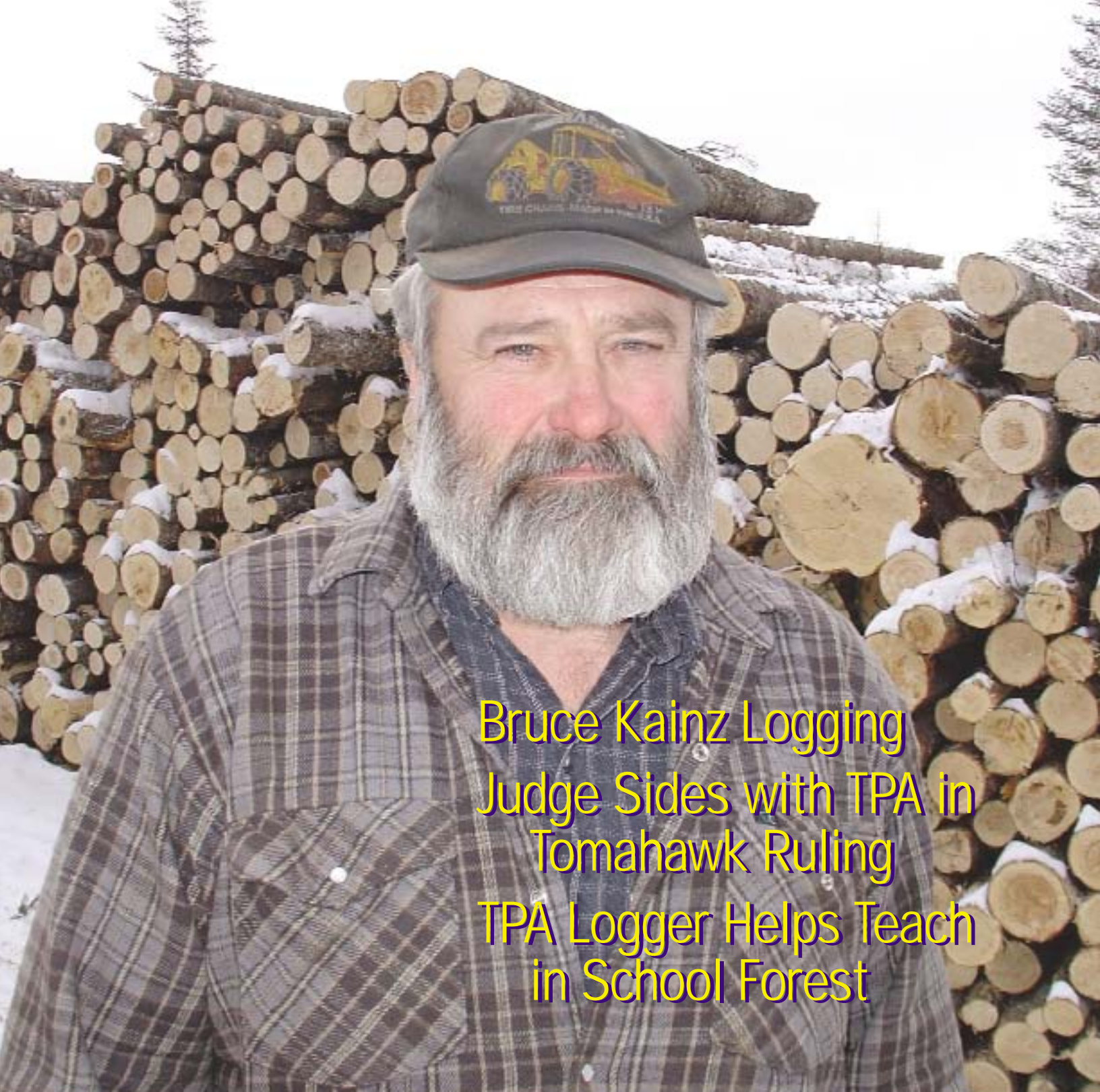
THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

# TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

MARCH/APRIL 2006

VOLUME 62



Bruce Kainz Logging  
Judge Sides with TPA in  
Tomahawk Ruling  
TPA Logger Helps Teach  
in School Forest

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Volume 61  
March/April 2006  
Duluth, Minnesota

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TPA member Bruce Kainz, at a job site just west of Babbitt."

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Timber Producers  
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**G**reetings!

Another winter is in the books. It will go down as an unusual one, that's for sure! Even with the long delay at the beginning, in the end most, if not all, of the

## President's Column



wood yards filled up. Now with spring here seasonal load restrictions are in place, slowing down the flow of wood. This is the time most everyone catches some rest, and performs needed maintenance on trucks and woods equipment. Many of us also attend our required MLEP and Log Safe sessions in the spring. These programs have been very successful over the years at addressing some of our insurance, management guidelines, trucking, and even business concerns. They are as important as ever now in allowing the state and counties to achieve certification of their forests. Dave Chura, Ed LaFavor and their aides do a good job of bringing these programs to us at nearby locations with many and varied courses. Thanks, guys! The MTPA is proud to have been in on the inception of these success stories.

The MTPA board of directors will meet Friday, April 28 in Duluth. In a departure from previous years, the Annual Meeting will not be held following this, but will be held in June in conjunction with the Annual TPA Golf and Fishing Outing. Our Public Relations Committee, chaired by Rod Bergstrom, is hard at work on the details. Look for your packets in the mail!

Have a nice spring!

*Dave A. Emberson*

# Coming Events

## *Loggers and Truck Drivers – mark your calendars.*

Planning for MLEP workshops and conferences is well underway. A brochure detailing all the MLEP workshops and training dates will be out soon, but here is a preview. For additional information, contact MLEP at 218-722-5442.

### ■ 2006 Loggers Conference

Each conference will offer MLEP training on Day One. During Day Two, LogSafe training will be offered. These conferences are part of an effort to provide “one-stop shopping” for logger education. The conference format should reduce the need to travel to several cities on different dates in order to fulfill training requirements

April 11-12

Biwabik (Giants Ridge)

April 18-19

Bemidji (Northern Inn)

### ■ Truck Weight Compliance Training

This workshop is ideal for those who want to load to the maximum legal weight possible and need to understand and

comply with Minnesota's legal weight limits.

April 20 Grand Rapids  
(Wendigo Conference Center)

### ■ Skilled Truck Driver Workshops

Representatives from the Minnesota State Patrol will discuss enforcement issues, provide a review of the load restraint standards and discuss the use and placement of these restraints during a truck/trailer walk around. Topics to be covered include tractor/trailer air brake systems, auto slack adjusters, clutch, and more.

April 25 Bemidji (Northern Inn)

April 26 Virginia (Coates Hotel)

### ■ LogSafe Training Dates

April 12 – Biwabik  
(MLEP conference)

April 19 – Bemidji  
(MLEP conference)

April 25 – Two Harbors  
(Grand Superior Lodge)

April 26 – Cloquet Forestry  
Center

April 27 – Biwabik  
(Giants Ridge)

May 2 – Bemidji  
(National Guard Armory)

May 3 – Brainerd  
(National Guard Armory)

Week of May 8 – Grand Marais  
(at loggers' work sites)

We finally got some winter. While quite a bit of wood ended up being produced, too much of it was on sales that should be logged in the summer or fall. In the end I think that it will take a season or two before we see the real impacts of this winter. Summer wood will be in even shorter supply this summer and next summer. Spruce sales that should have been cut this

## Executive Vice President's Column



winter will need to be scheduled next winter which will further back things up into the following years. Oh well, we always seem to manage.



Wetlands. The issue is like a bad penny that keeps coming back. Governor Pawlenty directed his Clean Water Cabinet to review the Wetlands Conservation Act and its effectiveness. So what's the first issue on the table, the silvicultural exemptions in the law? Can they focus on development or agriculture, where wetlands actually get filled or drained? No. They've got to target forestry. Why? In my opinion it's largely because the greens in state and local government don't like timber harvesting and want to reduce and regulate it any way they can. This issue will play out over the rest of the year as we make our case once again for our legitimate exemptions.



I had the chance to sit down with Bob Krepps who is the new St. Louis County land commissioner. This is a very important job. St. Louis County is the second largest source of public stumpage in the state behind only the DNR. Mr. Krepps, a professional forester, comes with a long resume including previous stops as the Missouri State Forester and over 20 years in many different positions with the U.S. Forest Service. I told him that he would start with a clean slate – we wouldn't hold his time with the Forest Service against

him. In our meeting Mr. Krepps expressed his strong support for active forest management. He will have ample opportunity to show this support as he leads the county's outstanding forestry staff in managing the county's 900,000 acres of timberland.



Kirby Puckett is pretty far off my usual topics but I couldn't let his passing at such a young age go without a few observations. First, there are days that I wish I lived in a world where my illusions would not be so frequently disabused. Sometimes it would be easier if the public side of kid's heroes were all that we ever knew. Second, I think one of the reasons that Kirby was so loved, and so forgiven, is that he was the public face of the two times our state has won it all. He was the face that made all Minnesotan's the big winners – twice.



The *College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences* will be the name of merged colleges and programs, including the *College of Natural Resources*, at the University of Minnesota. It's a small victory that the words natural resources were even included in the title. While the structures and alignments have not been completed for the new college, by any measure it seems to be a long way from the commitment made by the university's administration to improve natural resource programs. Time will tell as to whether or not these commitments will be met. Personally, I'm not holding my breath.



The U has also begun a search for a dean for the new college. Neither of the current deans from agriculture or natural resources is in the running for this position. If you're a tea leaf reader, bet on the new dean being from agriculture. Two thirds of the new name is agriculture, two thirds of the college itself is agriculture and it's clear that the current administration, their land grant college responsibilities notwithstanding, view natural

resources as a nuisance, not a core program.



With the winter logging season behind us it's time to take a breath. As you look back on this season think about the things that you did to run a safe operation. Think about what you can do to make it even safer next winter. And, think about what you and your employees are going to do to prevent accidents this summer.



The state legislature is in full swing, or what passes for full swing this year. It appears that they may truly make this a short session with a bonding bill passing and only a few other items. After the past few years of gridlock, most of the players seem committed to getting a limited agenda accomplished and finishing on time.



Mark those calendars for June 8 and 9. Those are the dates for the new and improved TPA Annual Meeting at Breezy Point. Check out the information in this issue of the *Timber Bulletin* and watch your mail box for more details.

# Bruce Kainz Logging

by Ray Higgins

In 43 years in the logging business, Ely's Bruce Kainz has seen firsthand how much the industry has changed. From the use of horses to today's highly mechanized operations, Kainz has seen it all.

"I grew up in it," Kainz says. His grandfather and three sons moved to the Isabella/Sawbill area in the 1930s to set up a logging operation there. "When I was just a kid – 5, 6 years old – I saw guys cutting with bow saws. When I first started in it, there were people logging with horses yet."

When Bruce was born, his family lived in a logging camp at Sawbill. In those days Bruce figures around 125 people lived in the Sawbill area.

"My grandfather and my dad and his brothers had a portable sawmill," he says. "They'd set up on a site and they'd cut wood, and

then they'd dray skid the logs, a couple of miles sometimes. And once they were done there, they'd move the sawmill and the operation to a different site. They sawed a lot of jackpine in those days and a lot of aspen."

That community of loggers and their families at Sawbill is long gone. But the way of life remains with Kainz. That's why he has stayed in the business all this time.

"I guess as a little kid I liked to monkey with wood. I liked to cut it and stack it and haul it. It's just something you grew into."

Bruce started cutting wood when he was 13. At 17, the family moved to Ely, where they'd opened a sawmill. When he graduated from high school, Bruce joined the family business fulltime.

Of course, much has changed. Where horses were once used,



**Kainz uses a Komatsu delimeter. He also utilizes a Dimarco for delimiting. His bunchers usually work as much as a week ahead of the rest of his equipment.**

heavy machinery has replaced them, allowing loggers to increase production exponentially. And Kainz has kept up with the times.

"Years ago, when a guy would cut a cord or a cord-and-a-half a day, that was hard work. Now you can cut 40-50 cords a day if you have the right kind of machinery."

Kainz has the right machinery. He runs two conventional operations. On this day at a site just west of Babbitt, Kainz is operating his 200 Serco loader on an International truck with a slasher unit. Kainz also has two John Deere 653 fellerbunchers, two John Deere 548 skidders, three 648 skidders, two John Deere cats (a 750m and a 450) a John Deere



**Kainz operates his slasher at a jobsite just west of Babbitt. He uses a 200 Serco loader on an International truck with a slasher unit.**



**Bruce Kainz with some of the aspen he and his crew cut just west of Babbitt. Kainz cuts wood for Ainsworth, Sappi, and Blandin, as well as buying his own stumpage.**



**Kainz uses five skidders in his operations. He generally has workers on two sites at a time.**

544 loader, two John Deere 690 backhoes, and delimiters from Komatsu and Dimarco.

Now 56, Kainz has seen his father and uncles retire, but he keeps cutting wood. In those 43 years in the business, he's seen the growth and re-growth of the forest, and has seen firsthand how important it is to properly manage our forests.

"I could take you out to Sawbill where my dad cut and now it's a nice stand of Norway," Kainz says. "Other places where they didn't cut, it looks like a bomb went off because it all blew down."

"I could go to a lot of places where I logged when I was a kid and there's a whole new forest there already. Why would you want to take a crop and not cut it and let it fall down and waste it? Leaving all these big stands of wood to rot is about as dumb as you can get. All the places we logged over in Sawbill, today they're thinning and actually clear cutting some of the places my dad cut. Even the roads they built, you can't see. If they'd leave it to the professionals to manage it, we wouldn't have any problems.

"It's a renewable resource," he says. "Why not use it?"

That knowledge and outlook has

helped Kainz become one of Minnesota's top loggers. He was named Logger of the Year by the American Pulpwood Association in 1990. In 1991, he was named Outstanding Logger for the Lakes States region.

But it's never been easy. These days, the price of diesel and this winter's warm temperatures are just two of the hurdles Kainz has needed to overcome to keep his business going.

"An 80- or 90-hour week is nothing for a guy to put in just to try and make it," Kainz says.

That work ethic is something Kainz learned from the start, living in that logging camp at Sawbill.

"Anybody that had to limb a truck load of balsam on a 90 degree day, they know what hard work means in the woods. Everything we touched was full of pitch.

"It's a lot different than it was."

# Wood Fiber Council Goes to St. Paul



**Sen. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) speaks to the Wood Fiber Council about the current legislative session. Listening, from left, are Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Grand Rapids), Wood Fiber Council co-chair Archie Chelseth, and former council co-chair Dave Olson of Teamsters Local 346 at UPM Kymmene-Blandin.**

**T**he Wood Fiber Employees Joint Legislative Council spent three days in March at the Capitol to lobby legislators on issues important to the timber industry.

The council is a joint labor-management organization representing unions and companies in Minnesota's forest products industry. For more than 30 years, the council's union and management delegates from throughout the state have spoken with a united voice on legislative issues affecting jobs and the economic health of the industry.

The three-day event, not only included a trip to the Capitol to meet with legislators, but also several presentations on issues vital to the industry: DNR Assistant Commissioner Brad Moore and Director of Forestry Dave Epperly spoke about issues within the department; Dr. Alan Ek and Dr. Mike Kilgore from the University of Minnesota College of Natural Resources gave a presentation on Minnesota's Generic Environmental Impact Statement and what has happened in the 10 years since it was written; Dave Zumeta, executive director of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council, briefed council members on the biomass issue and on development as it pertains to

timber harvesting and wood supply; and Dave Chura, executive director of the Minnesota Loggers Education Program, outlined progress made in logger safety, including the new Master Logger program.

TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt complemented the council on its work over the years.

"Gains for our industry in the past couple of legislative sessions would not have happened without the Wood Fiber Council," Brandt said. He cited legislation that has included bonding money for

reforestation, allowing trucks with 6th axles to haul additional weight, and money added to the DNR's budget to hire more foresters as three of the most important measures passed in the last legislative session alone.

Council members also had the chance to hear from Sen. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) and Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Grand Rapids) at a private breakfast. Both legislators shared their view of the current legislative session and the status of several bills before the legislature.

Sen. Bakk also pointed out that Northeastern Minnesota will have an open seat in the state senate after this session due to the retirement of Sen. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick). Sen. Bakk encouraged council members to back a candidate in November's election who would be friendly to issues important to the timber industry.

This year's legislative issues include:

- Bonding money for reforestation, forest roads, and the Cloquet Forestry Center and Grand Rapids experimental station
  - Extensions on state timber sales due to warm winter weather
  - Increasing truck weights to include outbound forest products
  - Requiring the largest coal fired power plants to reduce their mercury emissions by 90 percent.
- The Wood Fiber Council opposes this proposal.



**Minnesota Logger Education Program Executive Director Dave Chura updates the council on MLEP's Master Logger program.**

# TPA Logger Helps with School Forest Harvest

It's a labor of love for Staples-Motley High School teacher Kerry Lindgren.

Lindgren teaches agriculture education and is the school's FFA adviser. He led 175 students from grades nine through 12 to the school's forest, where it turned into a working logging site.

TPA member Rod Enberg logged 11 acres of the 80-acre forest, giving students an opportunity to see firsthand what the logging profession is all about. The project also raised money for the FFA program at Staples-Motley.

"It was an opportunity for 175 students to take part and observe a modern-day logging operation and let them see that harvesting is OK," Lindgren said.

Most of the students came from Staples-Motley High School, but about two dozen kids from Pillager High School also took part.

It was a continuation of lessons on forestry. Lindgren has been going through several topics in the classroom, so the day in the woods showed the students why a well-run logging job is crucial to properly managing the forest.

And the day in the woods changed some students' minds.

"We had a number of students when we went over there that were



Logger Rod Enberg talks to students from Staples-Motley High School at a timber harvest in the school's forest.

saying, 'I can't believe you're letting them cut trees, Mr. Lindgren.' That was their mindset," Lindgren said. "But when they came back, they realize that harvesting is necessary and that it's important to manage the forest."

That's why Enberg got involved, as well.

"Environmental groups and organizations like that, they target our school kids with negative information about logging," Enberg said. "So I thought maybe this is a

good program to take part in so the students learn the positives of our industry and what timber harvesting and forest management is all about."

Enberg did more than harvest the wood. He also donated all of his proceeds from the harvest back to the Staples-Motley FFA program and also wrote letters to vendors and mills, soliciting donations for the Staples-Motley program.

He participated in a similar project at Pillager High School about five years ago.



Staples-Motley students watch while TPA member Rod Enberg harvests a portion of the school's forest.



Who said logging isn't fun? Staples-Motley students Abby Lundeen, Erika Leehy and Christina Gangestad enjoy their lessons in the school forest.



Enberg runs a conventional operation, so students were able to see how a fellerbuncher, skidder, delimeter, and slasher operate. Enberg cut 271 cords of mostly aspen and jackpine, with some birch and red maple. Forty cords will be donated to the Society of American Foresters "Forests for Humanity" program. The wood will be used to help rebuild schools in Mississippi that were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Norbord is manufacturing OSB at its Solway mill for that project.

Several other Minnesota mills helped out, as well. Ainsworth and Weyerhaeuser bought aspen, birch, and jackpine. Potlatch bought bolts. Ainsworth also donated hard hats for the students.

The harvest will enable Lindgren to have future classes return to the forest and monitor the regeneration process. Students will return to the jobsite before the end of the year to see if the regeneration has begun.

Then, next fall, the plan is to bring grade schoolers to the forest, and have the high school students pass on what they've learned through this year's harvest.

"We'll have a school forest day and hopefully we'll be able to see what that area looks like after the harvest," Lindgren said. "We'll have the high school kids teaching the kids in grades K through six."

Enberg says many districts have school forests, and he hopes they'll implement programs to show students the facts about harvesting. And he hopes other loggers get involved to teach this valuable lesson.

"Other school districts have parcels of timber," Enberg said. "If we could get a few more guys across the state to take part, that would be great. The way I see it, you've got to give back to what you're getting from."

# Logger Certification Auditors Learn What it Takes

by Ray Higgins

**T**he Minnesota Master Logger Certification program came one step closer to certifying loggers at a two-day seminar in Cloquet.

The seminar trained foresters who will conduct audits of the harvest sites of loggers that apply to become Certified Minnesota

Master Loggers.

The Minnesota Master Logger Certification program is a voluntary, add-on component being offered by the Minnesota Logger Education Program.

“By certifying loggers through the Minnesota Master Logger Certification program, loggers in Minnesota will be in a strong

position to provide certified timber from family forest land to customers like Time Inc. that demand it,” said Dave Chura, executive director of MLEP.

The first day of the training was held in classrooms at the Cloquet Forestry Center. On day two, auditor trainees headed for the woods to see sites that had been



Master Logger Auditor trainees head to the woods as part of a two-day seminar to learn how to audit the logger certification standard.



Michigan Master Logger Warren Suchovsky shows auditor trainees what to look for while performing Master Logger audits. Suchovsky led the two-day Master Logger auditor training seminar with Bill Rockwell, right.

logged in the last year.

Leading the training were Bill Rockwell, a forestry consultant from Lansing, Mich., and Warren Suchovsky, a Michigan Master Logger. They showed the trainees what to look for on their field audits.

"They're here to talk about appropriate auditor protocols and qualifications, how to conduct yourself, how an auditor acts, types of questions he should ask, things he should look for," Chura said.

Thirteen people, mostly consulting foresters took the two-day course. All have four-year forestry degrees, a requirement to become a master logger auditor.

MLEP developed and is implementing the Minnesota Master Logger Certification Program to provide loggers with a way to authenticate their professional business and sustainable harvest practices. In addition, it will increase the amount of certified timber in the marketplace. Currently, Minnesota's public forests have been certified as sustainable by SFI. So have forests owned by major land owners like Potlatch and Blandin. That makes Minnesota wood more attractive to some major publishers, like Time Inc.

But 38 percent of Minnesota's forest are family forestland and they provide almost 50 percent of the timber harvested annually in the state. That's where Certified Minnesota Master Loggers come in.

"If you are a Certified Minnesota Master Logger and you harvest family forest land," Chura said, "you can market that timber as certified." Each job site audited must conform to a rigorous standard and practices in order for the logger to earn the "Certified Minnesota Master Logger" designation.

TPA has been a strong supporter of MLEP's efforts to implement a logger certification program.

"Certification is needed," Chura said, "to meet the demands and expectations of the marketplace. Further, it will raise the overall bar of the logging profession in terms of safety and the implementation of the guidelines.

"The primary purpose here is training these auditors, bringing them up to speed on our standard, the field audit document, and training them how to use the field audit form so they can go out and

look at a logging site and evaluate the site to see if it complies with the standard."

Among those training to be an auditor is Chris Peterson. A former forester for Blandin, Peterson is now a consulting forester who is getting involved because it's good for the logging industry as a whole.

"It's an opportunity to get involved with a new program,"

Peterson said. "I've got an interest in as far as the whole industry getting better, and if we consulting foresters can help that, great. I believe in it."

MLEP's Minnesota Master Logger Certification program is one of only three in the country that has been endorsed by Time Inc. The others are programs in Maine and Wisconsin.

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# Judge Clears the Way for Tomahawk Timber Harvest

**A** Federal judge has ruled in favor of TPA and the U.S. Forest Service, saying logging can be allowed at the Tomahawk site in the Superior National Forest.

The ruling clears the way for the site to be harvested.

The Sierra Club had sued the Forest Service, claiming the environmental impacts of the Tomahawk project hadn't been adequately analyzed. U.S. District Judge Joan Erickson rejected that claim and sided with TPA and the Forest Service.

"This is a tremendous victory for forest management," said Wayne Brandt, TPA executive vice president. "The Sierra Club's claims were all rejected, so now we can go on about the business of improving the forest and its wildlife habitat while providing the products that we all use."

Part of the Sierra Club's argument against Tomahawk was that the site is close to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and that recreational use would be impacted by a timber harvest. Judge Erickson disagreed.

"This argument was quickly dispatched by the court," said David Oberstar, who argued on behalf of TPA. "BWCA users drive through this area to get to the access points, so mechanical noises are not unexpected. BWCA use is impacted by weather and permits, not harvest in these areas. Some, including hunters, would have positive impacts from harvest."

Oberstar also said the Sierra Club's objection due to noise issues was also rejected.

"The sales are of short duration with little impact on recreational users," Oberstar said. "Visual impacts were addressed by the court, noting that even with the mitigation measures there will be some areas where a visitor may see harvests. But this is typical of the historic disturbance pattern of the forest. Also, she repeated our reference from the EA that this is flat land with views usually less than 100 feet into the forest."

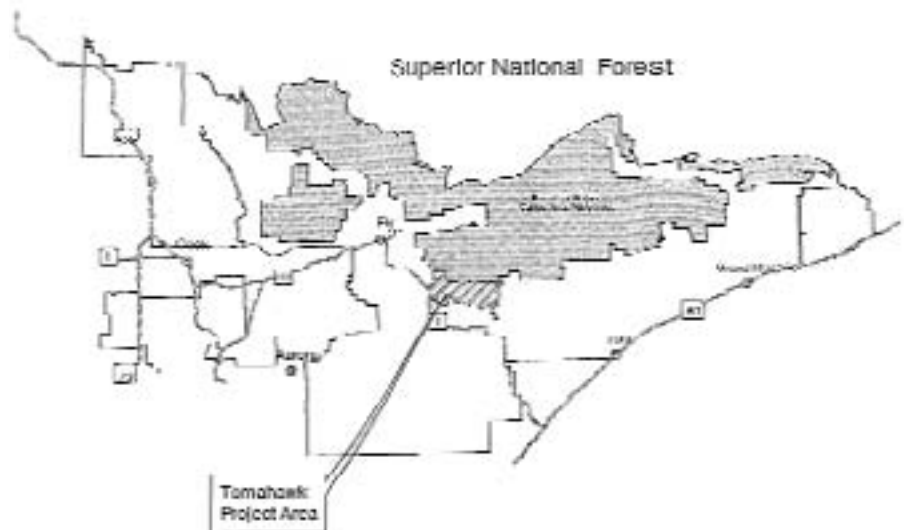
The road construction issue was addressed by the court noting that more than 13 miles of vehicle road

and about six miles of ATV-use road would be eliminated. The road closure activities were found by the court to be reasonable. The plaintiff's concern about illegal use of the roads was discarded by the court with the notation that prior road closures by the Forest Service

have been successful.

The next step is for the Forest Service to sell the timber.

"We'll move forward with advertising and awarding those sales yet this year," said Jim Sanders, forest supervisor of the Superior National Forest.



A map of the Tomahawk site, just south of the BWCA in the Superior National Forest. A federal judge ruled the Forest Service can proceed with a timber sale at the site.

## Minnesota Timber Producers Association *Meet the Director—Gordy Dobbs*

**G**ordy Dobbs began logging 25 years ago, joining his twin brother Glen and father Elmer in the family business.

Born and raised in Littlefork, Gordy not only helps run Dobbs Logging, Inc. but has also taken an active role as a member of the TPA board of directors.

"I guess we grew up in the woods and in the business and we love doing it," Dobbs says. "I like the people that we work for and the employees we have. I like working outside."

Gordy has gotten involved as a member of the TPA board because he says the work the association does is crucial to the industry's success.

"The association does a lot for us at the Capitol and keeping us



informed on transportation laws and DNR changes," Dobbs says.

Gordy's and his wife, Lori, have been married 20 years. They have two children, Kaitlyn and Ethan. When he's not working, Gordy likes to fish, camp on Winnie, and hunt.

## Two New Managers Join Nortrax Duluth

**N**ortrax, the John Deere construction and forestry equipment dealer in Duluth, has added two people to its management team: Robert Cochran, service manager and Corey Hulst, parts manager.



**Robert Cochran**



**Corey Hulst**

"These individuals possess the skills and experience to build on our base of technical and parts personnel serving the Duluth area. They also have a positive customer-first attitude and we expect them to make an immediate contribution to our construction and forestry customers," said Dale Gessell, general manager of Nortrax's Duluth and Grand Rapids branches.

Cochran is an industry veteran. He has spent much of his career in the South, most recently as service manager for H&E Equipment Services, Tampa Bay, Fla., and Baton Rouge, La. Bob will be responsible for the shop and field operations for the John Deere Construction and Forestry Division territory, centered in Duluth. Cochran and his wife are relocating to Duluth from Louisiana.

Hulst joins Nortrax with a vast parts and product background and has worked in the industry with Bobcat, Swanson's Repair Inc., Detroit Lakes, and RDO Implement, Fargo, N.D. Cory will be responsible for the parts department and product merchandising for the Nortrax store in Duluth. Hulst lives in Duluth with his wife and son.

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## Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan



First hand recollections by storyteller 'Buzz' Ryan of the loggers, loaders, sawyers, wood butchers and bulwarks who lived the woods in the hey-day of the pioneer lumberjacks—with dozens of historical photographs.

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## LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

# "Logs on the Lakes"

by J. C. Ryan

This story is reprinted from an earlier *Timber Bulletin*—one of the first of "Buzz" Ryan's ever-popular contributions to these pages. The *Bulletin* will continue to reprint selected stories from the memories he recorded for us.—Editor



There is no part of the work of the old logging days that comes in for more expounding than does the transportation of logs in and across the lakes of our state. Almost every lake in the pine region of the state, some large and some small—had some logs landed on it or transported across it.

If a river ran through a lake, logs probably were landed on it and then driven down the river. Some lakes were used entirely for storage places for logs until needed by the mills.

In the early days, most logging was done in the winter months and some place was needed to store the logs where they would be safe from fire and other deterioration. Rafted areas would be built in to these lakes and hoists built to land the logs from the water to the shore for shipping to the mills as needed.

In many cases, the transportation of logs across the lakes was a major undertaking. Besides the job of hoisting logs out of the lakes, logs that were driven down

river that ran through lakes had to be transported from the inlet to the outlet of the rivers. This, in many cases, was a considerable distance. In some cases, logs were towed across the lake, hoisted out on rafts, hauled a number of miles by railroad and dumped into another lake, where they were again towed across to a mill or driven down a river.

Such was the case of logs that came out of Basswood Lake over the four-mile railroad to Fall Lake and then to the Swallow & Hopkins Mill at Winton. (This is the well known four-mile portage.)

On most of our larger inland lakes like Red Lake, Mill Lake, Leech, Cass, Winnibigoshish, Kabetogama, Basswood and our border lakes of Elainy and Lake of the Woods, the towing was done by steamboat or power launches and tales of the great boats like the Yola Mae, Shantrock, Baltic and Columbia of Cass Lake, the Mudhen of Red Lake, the Franklin S. Lane of Lake Winnibigoshish, as well as many others, were told by all the old-time lumberjacks.

On Lake Superior, steam tugs towed booms containing several million feet of logs from as far north as the Pigeon River to the mills in Duluth and to Ashland, Wis. However, in this article, I will cover log transportation only on our Minnesota inland lakes.

During the later years, most of the larger companies had what were called "alligators" or "gators" flat bottomed scows equipped with a steam or gas-powered drum with up to a mile of cable and a large anchor weighing up to 1,000 pounds. In some cases they were powered by a propeller.

The gator would run out ahead of the boom of logs, drop the anchor, and on its way back to the boom would reel out the cable from the anchor. Then, with the gator attached to the boom, it would reel in the cable and move the logs in the direction of the anchor. This was repeated until the boom of logs arrived at its destination. Sometimes, in going through narrows, the boom could be moved only a

Horses and men on a headworks. Note the chains for the horses.



few feet at a time, working the logs with pike poles and with help from men on shore pushing the logs along.

On most of the smaller lakes as well as some of the larger ones, the same sort of movement was used, only the power was furnished by a "horse headworks." The horse headworks was a large raft from 40 to 80 feet long, made up of heavy pine logs held together with wooden pegs and heavy spikes. These logs were flattened somewhat on the top side to make a smoother deck to work on. Fixed to the center of the raft would be a capstan with two large arms extending from the top about 15 feet. A horse was hitched to each of these arms with the rope wound around the capstan and attached to the anchor.

From a horse headworks, a large, flat-bottomed boat called a "sacking boat," or in some cases a balsam, would be used to carry out the anchor. This boat was usually rowed out from the boom by a couple of men. While using rope, they could not go out much over a quarter of a mile and often less, as a quarter of a mile of inch-and-a-half or two-inch rope was quite heavy to handle. After dumping the anchor overboard, they would reel out the rope on the way back to the headworks and the boom. The horses would then walk around and around the capstan, and as the rope wound in the boom would move up to the anchor. The anchor was then lifted by a small tripod or beam that extended over the end of the headworks, the sacking boat was rowed under it and the anchor was lowered into the boat, ready for another trip. As the rope wound in, it was coiled in the sacking boat. This was the general procedure, although it varied some from job to job.

There was usually a shelter at one end of the headworks where the horses were fed and housed, and sometimes horses spent several months on a headworks. Also, there would be a shelter for men to get out of the weather in case of rain. In a few cases, men also slept and bread on the headworks.

When the wind was right, the headworks operated 24 hours a day. Usually, the headworks crew consisted of three men—two who took the anchor out in the boat and one who stayed on the headworks to handle the horses and ropes. The horses worked on driving as they only went around in a circle and started and stopped with a command. When they worked 24 hours a double crew was used.

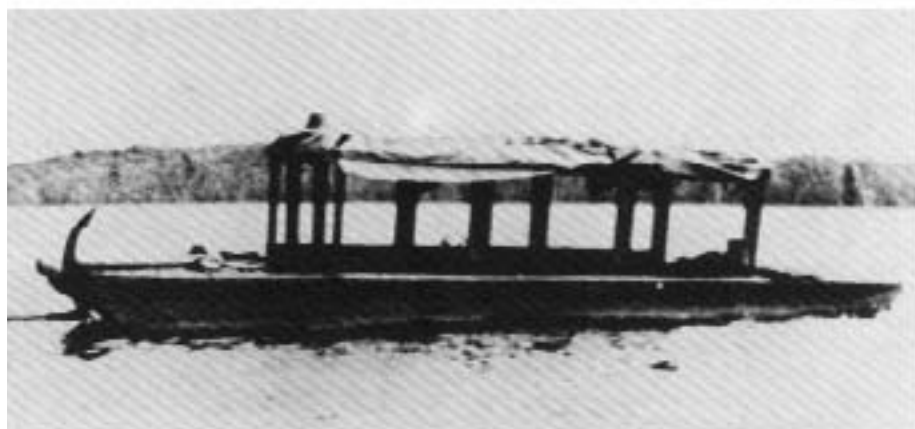
Wind was a big factor in moving logs, and sometimes crews just had to drop anchor and try to hold the boom until the wind died down or shifted and sometimes had to tie up to shore in order to hold a boom from getting away. Great care was taken in case of a bad blow, and sometimes booms were tied up several days waiting out bad weather, as no one wanted to take chances on losing a boom.

But when the wind was right, they did not even have to drop anchor—only keep the boom on course.

As a boy in the Bentidj area, I spent several nights on a headworks. It was a very good place to fish, the men had a little stove set up to make coffee, and it was sort of like camping out. Also, the

men usually had time to tell some of their lumberjack tales, which were always very exciting for a boy 11 or 12 years old to hear while pulling in fish over the side of the headworks. Sometimes we were tried some of the fish I caught. But my Dad would not let me onto the headworks as much as I would have liked because he

At top: Crew heads for work on a log boom from their sacking boat. Center: Gasoline-powered "alligator" on Black Duck Lake. More anchor on deck. Bottom: Big boom of logs moves slowly under tow between two islands.





figured I would be in the way of the men doing their work. However, I have some very fond memories of the nights I spent there with old "Sard," George Coogan and Dave Klinigman as they slowly moved the booms of logs across Turtle River Lake.

Headworks were usually built right on the lake where they were needed and remained on the lake for use year after year. Many a northern lake had one tied up to its shore long after the logging days were past.

When logs were to be boomed on a certain lake, boom sticks made from the full length of trees were cut during the winter and hauled to the lake and strung out around the piles of waiting logs.

Boom logs usually were white pine, as they floated high in the water. Trees were selected that were straight and the size usually was held to 20 inches at the butt end and no smaller than 12 to 14 inches at the top. Both ends of the boom logs would be flattened for about two feet, and about a foot and a half from each end a two-inch hole was drilled through. The boom logs were joined by chains—lengths of about eight feet. Some chains had a large ring on one end and a flat link on the other; the chain was pulled through the hole in one log until held by the ring and then secured to the next boom log by inserting it through the hole, turning the flat link so it wouldn't pull back through and then driving a wooden plug into the hole to hold it tight. Some chains had a flat link at each end and were secured to both logs with plugs. A tow was ready when a full circle of boom logs was made up around it.

Boom logs were used over and over many times, towed back after each delivery of logs to their destination. When logs were landed on the ice, boom logs were put around them on the ice. But when logs were landed on the bank, a circle of boom logs was made up in the water and the logs were broken down into it.

The men who worked on these booms were all experts in their field. I have seen many a man with a peavey in one hand and a 50-pound chain over his shoulder walk out on a boom log and, while balancing himself on one end of the log, use the peavey to pry out the wooden plug, drop the chain through the hole, replace the plug and connect his boom logs together without getting his feet wet. All the lumberjacks who followed this type of work were very clever on their feet. Better than using a boat, they would often pick a log for transportation and work their way around the boom with a pike pole.

Every company had its boom crew that worked on the lakes during the summer and in the camps in the winter. They were just a small part of the many lumberjacks who kept the logs coming into the mills, but their work was probably some of the more colorful of the industry.

At top: Landing of logs on a lake shore, waiting to be boomed. Center: Typical skidboat that moved logs on the inland lakes. Bottom: Logs at the International Lumber Co., International Falls, after being towed across the lake.



# TPA Golf & Fishing Outing and Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 8th & Friday, June 9  
at Breezy Point



We've combined the Golf and Fishing Outing with the Annual Meeting to make this a fun and informative two-day event for all TPA members, as well as vendors and other related organizations

## Schedule of Events:

### Thursday

Noon Golf and Fishing  
(Other activities available for families at Breezy Point)

5 pm Social Hour

6:30 pm Banquet Dinner

7:30 pm Guest Speaker (TBA)

8:30 pm Awards  
(post banquet activities include bonfire and live music at Breezy Point)

### Friday

9 am Annual Meeting

10 am Presentations

12 pm Adjournment

Look for information and complete details to be mailed soon to all members

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

# Classifieds

As a service, the Timber Bulletin offers free classified ads of up to 85 words to all MTPA members and associate members.

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### FOR SALE

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1991 JD 640E, new tires .....	35,500
1970 JD 440A .....	10,500
1969 TF C4 .....	P.O.R.
TJ 240 .....	P.O.R.
TJ 350 .....	P.O.R.

#### GRAPPLE SKIDDERS

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1985 JD 548D, HD axles, 28.1x26 tires .....	26,000
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2001 JD 648GIII, single function, new 28.1x26 tires .....	96,000
2001 JD 648GIII dual function .....	102,000

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1977 D6D LGP .....	27,000
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2004 643H, JD, 2100 hrs., warranty .....	135,000

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1976 JD 544, 20" shear .....	21,000
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