

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

# TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

JULY/AUGUST 2010

VOLUME 65



**TPA Annual Meeting  
Complete Coverage**

**Nelson Brothers Logging  
Continuing the Legacy**

**2010 Expo Preview**

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# TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 65  
July/August 2010  
Duluth, Minnesota

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### ON THE COVER

New TPA President Mike Warren (L) presents past President Mike Rieger a plaque thanking Rieger for his two-year stint leading TPA.

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Minnesota  
Timber Producers  
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**H**ello Everyone,

Once again I would like to thank Mike Rieger for all his time and hard work as our past

## President's Column



president. I hope over the next two years we can continue to move forward and solve the problems that face the timber industry. In addition, I would like to thank Tom

McCabe for his many years of service on the executive committee and look forward to his continued participation on TPA's board of directors.

We are always looking for volunteers with fresh ideas to serve on committees. You can contact me, Ray or Wayne. There are a couple of events this September, Log A Load golf tournament on the 10th and North Star Expo on the 17th and 18th. Hope all can attend, they are always great events. Work safely and hopefully the rain will slow down.

### **TPA Executive Committee**

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**Y**ou may have seen the tragic story of a teenager who was killed when a landscaping block went through the window of the vehicle he was in. It happened in southern Minnesota. The media reported that the block came loose and flew off the back of the truck that was transporting materials. The media also reported that the company that owned the truck had previously been cited for improper load securement. I haven't heard if they were cited for the same thing in this terrible accident.

We've spent a lot of time on load securement issues in the past. This accident shows how important it is. Let's all spend a little extra time to

**Executive Vice  
President's  
Column**

review load securement with anyone driving a truck. Wood deliveries are the most visible part



of our industry. Let's make sure that the deliveries are all safe.

And, thank you to everyone who has been going the

extra mile on load securement through the years. You are a credit to our industry!



We have had a lot of good speakers at the TPA Annual Meeting through the years. But, I don't recall people staying around and visiting with a speaker as long as was the case this year. Our speaker, former CIA official Jim Olson, captivated our audience with his insights and experiences. It's a world that most of us know little about. I feel like a better citizen for having heard his presentation and I know that the banquet attendees felt the same.



Mark your calendars now for this year's North Star Expo - September 17 and 18 at the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids. Sales of lots and booths are running ahead of the last several years so it looks like it should be a great show again.



Congratulations to Dan Toivonen who was recently named Woodlands Manager for Boise's operations in International Falls. Dan has previously done stints with Sappi and Potlatch before this new assignment. A true professional, I know that Dan will do a great job at Boise.



And now the General Election field has been set. Mark Dayton will square off against Tom Emmer and Tom Horner for governor. Dayton bested two rivals in the Democratic Party primary largely on the strength of rural and northern Minnesota votes. I look to me like we'll all be tired of the TV ads before long. And, I think the ads will be more negative than what we're used to. On forestry issues Mark Dayton was very supportive when he served in the U.S. Senate. Tom Emmer has not served on any of the natural

resources committees but has been strongly pro-business as a legislator. Tom Horner, as a private citizen, doesn't have any track record yet.

One thing that gets lost in this year's races is reapportionment. After completion of the census all of the federal, state and local district lines will be re-drawn to equalize the number of people in each one. Whichever party is in control will be in the driver's seat for this effort. There have been lots of twists and turns in reapportionment through the years. Stories of district lines being drawn on recently deceased Federal District Court Judge Gerald Heaney's pool table; former Governor Carlson missing the deadline to veto the bill a decade ago and on and on. It is always a process full of intrigue.

*W. J. Smith*



Nelson Brothers Logging: (L-R) Monte Nelson, Shawn Pritchard, Mitch Nelson, and Troy Nelson, joined by Boise forester Chuck Hughes.

# Fueling Efficiency

## Focus on the Basics Helps Nelson Brothers Logging through Time of Transition

by Ray Higgins

**T**he weather's been unpredictable. An early thaw meant spring load restrictions went on early, trapping hundreds of cords in the woods. Then the spring in this part of Koochiching County was soggy, and the summer

months haven't been much better.

"This is about as wet as I've seen it in years," says Monte Nelson.

"We're getting a little bit behind. I think a lot of guys are."

This week has been typical. Heavy rains two days ago during the afternoon and evening prevented logging operations on this portion of the Chippewa

National Forest yesterday, despite bright sunshine.

"We could have fished for crappies here yesterday," says Troy Nelson.

When the brothers left their Big Falls homes at four o'clock this morning, they hoped to find the job site again ready for harvesting operations.

Finally today, with clear skies and dry ground, the Nelsons are back to work harvesting aspen and spruce. Monte and Troy form Nelson Brothers Logging, a new logging business headquartered in Big Falls with roots as deep as the trees it cuts, that emphasizes efficiency with its small woods crew.

"You have to be efficient out here," Troy says. "Every move has to count."

It's a lesson learned from their grandfather Walter and father Butch.

"They logged together for years," Monte says. "Troy and I got our start in the woods when they were still together."

"I was bucked up on a landing when I was 11," says Monte, now 44. "By 12 I was hand falling, limbing, everything. Back then all we had was a skidder. Troy (who's now 42) was doing it all by 12, too. It was a different deal back then. We used power saws and didn't have to worry about whether the air conditioning in the cab wasn't blowing cold while limbing balsam when it was 90 degrees out."

"When our grandfather passed away, my dad took over," Troy says. "Last fall he retired, and we formed the new company."

In the "new" business, Troy oversees the woods operation and Monte handles the trucking side. Their wives, Joan and April, are also partners in the business and also help out with the bookkeeping, scale tickets, etc. while holding down full-time jobs of their own.

It almost didn't happen. When he graduated from Littlefork-Big Falls High School, Monte headed off to Bemidji State to get a business degree and Troy went to Thief River Falls to learn how to become an aviation mechanic.

"When we graduated, we were in a bad recession," Monte says. "It wasn't looking too rosy for a while."

"But once you get into logging when you're little," Troy says, "it gets in your blood, I suppose."

Both ended up back in Big Falls, working for their dad. The brothers learned everything they know about logging and business from Butch, mainly because he got them involved in all aspects of the operation.



Troy Nelson operates the John Deere 200LC delimitter, equipped with a Lim-mit 2000B.

"I've spent many an evening at Dad's kitchen table going over the books with him," Monte says.

"He had an amazing work ethic," says Troy. "He'd outwork anybody we'd hire, even when he was 65 years old, no matter who you brought out here. We learned that work ethic from him."

Another lesson from Butch: the importance of equipment maintenance.

"Every day, his machine got greased," Troy says. "Every single day when he was done. We go through lots of grease."

"Look at that old loader," he says, pointing at a 1991 210C that's being utilized on this jobsite. "That thing's bucked a lot of wood, but it's still going strong because we've taken good care of it."

Another characteristic of the Nelson Brothers and crew: they're versatile. They have primary responsibilities, but can fill in in other jobs to make things run smoother.

"I'll sit there and haul a load," Troy says, "and then meet another of our trucks halfway to the mill and switch trucks so I can get back



The Timbco 425 EXL feller buncher is operated by Shawn Pritchard.

and load or slash. If you can get a load a day by doing that, that's great. Whatever makes it go faster."

"We do a lot of that sort of thing," Monte says. "Whatever makes the job go smoother. If we can gain a load a day by switching, we do it."

The crew can jump from job to job as well. Shawn Pritchard was hired to run the Timbco 425 EXL feller-buncher when Butch retired, but at this point he can run just about anything. Troy is operating the 200LC John Deere de-limber with a Lim-mit 2000B and also drives truck, builds roads, and can fill in where needed. Monte usually hauls and runs one of the company's three loader/slashers. Today, Troy's 16-year-old son, Mitch, is driving the Ranger 867 skidder for some extra cash before heading back to Littlefork-Big Falls High School in the fall. And Rowdy Pithlia joins Troy and Monte hauling timber to the mill.

And that's just in the summer. During the winter logging season, production ramps up and the work weeks stretch to seven days and 80-90 hours. Troy's brother-in-law, Russ Hartman, is joining the company soon to haul, putting a fourth Nelson Brothers truck on the road, and Bradley Boorman will be back in the winter for his 15th year of running skidder for the Nelson

family after working construction during the summertime.

"Bradley's probably the best skidder operator I've ever seen," Troy says. With him, every move counts. We'll have four trucks running and he'll skid for all four by himself. That's where the efficiency comes in.

"Look at our slash," Troy says, pointing to where some of the 700

cords of aspen and spruce have been harvested. "It's how it should be. It's not big piles of limbs. They've been spread nicely. You do that on the way back and forth so you're not running around when the forester comes out and says hey, you've got to go spread those limb piles and waste half a day. It's done."

"He also sorts wood on the fly," Monte says. "He'll bring the aspen in and then on the way back maybe grab some spruce to get that piled up in a different spot. He's always doing something, just really a good operator."

Part of being efficient is trying to stay close to home. This sale – a federal sale that includes an aspen clearcut and a little bit of softwood thinning – is roughly 45 miles from the Nelson's home base of Big Falls.

"It's as far as we like to go," Monte says. "Sometimes we go 60-65 miles. That's about as far as we go. Eighty percent of the time we're within 20-25 miles of Big Falls."

The other reason that helps is it keeps the haul to the mill short. Most of the wood on this sale – all of the aspen – will go the Boise mill. In fact, the Nelsons have been working with the International Falls mill for years, back to when their father and grandfather had



Monte Nelson keeps an eye on the wood as he loads a truck with their Prentice 210C loader. The Nelsons have two other loaders as well.



the business, before Boise came to the Falls, merging with Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company in 1964. The spruce will be hauled to Verso in Sartell.

"Probably three-quarters of our wood goes to Boise," Monte says, "and then our other company is Verso. I would say very good things about both companies. They treat us very well. It's a really good fit because Boise's looking for the hardwoods and certain softwoods and Verso in our area is looking for balsam and some spruce and it really works well together."

"The Nelsons are an example of the great longevity of our logging community," says Boise forester Chuck Hughes, who works regularly with the Nelsons. "That's how our mill gets to the point where we can celebrate our 100th anniversary."

The relationships they have with the Boise and Verso mills is standard operating procedure for the Nelsons, and another aspect of the business they learned from their father. That also extends to businesses they use to keep their trucks and equipment running.

"We do a lot of our own maintenance," Troy says. "But if we have anything big we bring it to Kenny Kennedy in Big Falls. He's really good or to Merv Mannassau at Mannco in International Falls."

"Those guys will bend over backwards for us, to keep us



Mitch Nelson is helping out before going back to Littlefork-Big Falls High School in the fall by driving the Ranger 867 skidder.

operating," Monte says, "and that is huge."

Looking ahead, the Nelsons are concerned about markets, about finding and keeping good employees – they've got a great crew right now, the brothers say – and about keeping their equipment running and updating where necessary without accumulating too much debt.

"That's an obstacle we're facing right now, trying to update, and do it without breaking the bank,"

Monte says. "We try to satisfy the needs but with a manageable debt level we don't have to worry about."

"Fortunately, we cut a lot of wood with that old equipment," Troy says. "That stuff cuts wood."

So the Nelsons approach the future with optimism. The work is hard, but it's satisfying.

"There are a lot of hectic days," Monte says, "but there are a lot of nice days, too. There's something to be said for going out in the woods and if you want to start early and quit early to go fishing or hunting or whatever, you're kind of your own boss, set your own hours the way you want."

"And we think it's important work, too," Troy says. "A guy told me a couple of weeks ago it's a good thing somebody's doing it or else there'd be nothing in Kooch County."



The Nelson brothers learned the business working for their father, Butch.

# Former CIA Chief of Counterintelligence Inspires at Banquet

by Ray Higgins

**T**PA members were honored to hear a unique speaker at this year's banquet: former CIA Chief of Counterintelligence Jim Olson.

A native of Iowa, Olson shared amazing stories of his time serving our country as a spy during the cold war in places like Paris, Moscow, and Vienna. He also explained how he was recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency and his training as an undercover operative in espionage, sabotage, and hand-to-hand combat.

"Let me be clear where I stand," Olson told TPA members. "It is crucial for the greatest country in the world – this one – to have a strong intelligence community."

While working overseas, Olson had a variety of cover jobs, including travel agent, banker, journalist, book publisher, and fertilizer salesman. He had so many jobs that his wife's father was worried he couldn't hold a job.

"When we came out from under cover, no one was happier than my father-in-law who realized his ne'er-do-well son-in-law was going to be OK," Olson said.

Olson's wife, Meredith, was also a spy, so she understood her husband's occupation.

"She'd be gone and I wouldn't know where, what she was doing, or what names she was using," Olson said. "And when she came back, I left to do my work."

"Meredith is petite, beautiful, and really dangerous."

Most of Olson's operations while in the CIA are still classified, but he was able to share with banquet attendees some of what he and Meredith went through while living as foreign spies, including some of the details of one of his undercover missions. Olson said his time in the CIA was fascinating, exciting, but also filled with pressure, for obvious reasons.

"Espionage is a crime in every country in the world," he said. "We knew that if we were to be caught, we'd be on our own. The CIA would disavow any knowledge of us."

He also talked about the difficulty of fighting the war on terror and that he expects our country to again be attacked by terrorists on our soil, but that ultimately the war will be successful and worthwhile.

"Our country will win the war on terror," he said, "because our best young people today are stepping forward in droves to serve in the CIA, FBI, military, fire fighting, law enforcement, and emergency response."

Olson is currently CIA Officer in Residence and Senior Lecturer at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University, where he teaches courses on intelligence, national security, and international crisis management. He is the author of *Fair Play: The Moral Dilemmas of*



Former CIA chief of counterintelligence Jim Olson talks to TPA banquet attendees about his life as a spy and the current state of the U.S. intelligence community as it pertains to the War on Terror.

Spying, which takes readers inside the real world of intelligence and describes the difficult dilemmas that field officers face on an almost daily basis. The book uses actual intelligence operations to illustrate how murky their moral choices can be. The book is available online through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and other booksellers.

Also at the dinner, winners of the TPA Safety Contest were recognized for having no lost-time accidents from April 2009 through March of this year.



Kelly and Shelly Kimball of Kimball Logging in Park Rapids hold the safety awards the company earned for the safe work of their employees over the past year.

## Logging Division

C. O. Johnson Logging, Inc.,  
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D & B Walsh Logging, Park Rapids  
Dick Walsh Forest Products, LLP,  
Park Rapids  
Dukek Logging Inc., Bemidji  
Erickson Timber Products, Inc.,  
Baudette  
Gerbracht Logging, Inc., Bagley  
Great Northern Logging, Inc., Pierz  
Greg Cook Logging, Inc., Bigfork  
Johnson Logging, Inc., Cannon  
Falls  
Killmer Bros. Inc., Big Falls  
Kimball's Logging Inc., Park  
Rapids  
Lundberg Forest Products, Inc.,  
Solway  
M & R Chips, Inc., Grand Rapids  
McCabe Forest Products, Inc.,  
Duluth  
Northwoods Chipping Inc., Int'l  
Falls  
Page & Hill Forest Products, Inc.,  
Big Falls  
Palmer Logging, Barnum  
Pittack Logging, Inc., Bovey  
Root River Hardwoods, Inc.,  
Preston  
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Third Generation Logging Co.,  
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Products LLC, McGregor  
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Dukek Trucking, Inc., Bemidji  
Erickson Timber Products, Inc.,  
Baudette  
Gerbracht Logging, Inc., Bagley  
Greg Cook Logging, Inc., Bigfork  
Johnson Logging Inc., Cannon Falls  
Kimball's Logging Inc., Park  
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Lake Nebagamon, Wis.  
Lundberg Forest Products, Inc.,  
Solway  
M & R Chips, Inc., Grand Rapids  
McCabe Forest Products, Inc.,  
Duluth  
Northwoods Chipping Inc., Int'l  
Falls  
Palmer Logging, Barnum  
Pittack Logging, Inc., Bovey  
Root River Hardwoods, Inc.,  
Preston  
Two Inlets Mill, Park Rapids



Bruce Meade of Ultima Bank won the Grand Door Prize, a Stihl Chainsaw.



L-R: Chad Lovdahl, Dean Haley, and Corey Lovdahl receive their Caddyshacker awards on behalf of their team for their performance during the TPA Golf outing.

## Sawmill Division

Cass Forest Products, Cass Lake  
Erickson Timber Products, Inc.,  
Baudette  
Johnson Logging Inc., Cannon Falls  
Land O Lakes Wood Preserving  
Co., Tenstrike  
Page & Hill Forest Products, Inc.,  
Big Falls  
Two Inlets Mill, Park Rapids

Special recognition went to Dukek Logging of Bagley as the repeat winner in the logging division every year since 1987.

Lundberg Forest Products of Solway was also recognized as a repeat winner in trucking division every year since 1988.

In the drawing for cash awards from among those recognized in the safety contest, \$500 awards went to M&R Chips (Grand Rapids), Pittack Logging (Grand Rapids), and Third Generation Logging (Bigfork). Awarded \$250 were D&B Walsh Logging (Park Rapids) and Palmer Logging (Barnum).

# Members Gather for Informative Presentations

by Ray Higgins

**T**PA's Annual meeting was highlighted by the Annual Report of Association Activities, by guest speakers on a wide variety of topics – including the new commercial vehicle enforcement matrix called CSA 2010 – and by the election of new members of the organization's board of directors and executive committee.

Two new directors joined TPA's board: Doug Hustad (Doug Hustad Logging) and John Venhuizen (Venhuizen Forest Products).

In addition, Dave Berthiaume (Berthiaume Logging) joined the executive committee and Mike Warren assumed the duties of TPA president, replacing Mike Rieger, who completed his two-year term. Rieger remains on the executive committee as past president.

## Annual Report of Association Activities

At the annual meeting, members heard from TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt on TPA's accomplishments and activities over the previous 12 months.

Among the issues Brandt addressed regarding the 2010 legislative session were:

- Funding for DNR Timber Sale Program
  - DNR Bonding
  - DNR Forestry Policy
  - Suspension of state biodiesel mandate
  - Transportation Policy Bill
  - Streamlining Environmental Review
- Brandt also outlined some of the other TPA activities of the past year, including:
- Meeting in Washington, D.C. with USFS Chief
  - Lobbying in favor of increase of interstate truck weights
  - Submitting comments on Forest Management Guideline Revision
  - Wood Yard Safety Task Force
  - Ongoing communication with county, state, and federal agencies on various issues
  - The North Star Expo

## Featured Speakers

The 2010 membership meeting again included several invited guests who shared information and gave members an opportunity to engage in questions and answers. **St. Louis County Land Commissioner Bob Krepps** discussed the county's timber program, as well as his career in forestry.

"In the 43 years I've been in this business," Krepps said, "there have been a lot of changes and if there's one constant over that time, it's change."

Krepps also stressed the partnership between the county land managers and the logging community.

"We are trying to manage the land and we need you, as producers, to keep that viable," he said. "We



St. Louis County Land Commissioner Bob Krepps talks to TPA members about the state and future of the agency's timber program.

can't do forest management without the work you do. We're a partnership."

Krepps cited challenges that lie ahead for the department, including an aging workforce in the land department, the need to update the forest inventory, and keeping distractions and disruptions to a minimum.

"But we still have the infrastructure in place to manage the forest and we need to do what we can to make sure that continues," Krepps said. "We may disagree at one point or another, but we're all partners. We can work through the issues before us."

Also attending the meeting were **Major Ken Urquhart** and **Captain Tim Rogotzke** of the State Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement division.



State Forester Dave Epperly provides an update on the DNR's timber program.

Urquhardt was promoted to major this spring and now oversees a variety of areas within the Patrol, including commercial vehicle enforcement, and Rogotzke was promoted the previous day to lead the CVE division.

Urquhart focused his presentation to the members on CSA 2010, the new federal system for tracking and enforcing safety and regulatory compliance in trucking and the differences from the old Safestat system.

“The feds want to be more specific and focus more on areas where there are problems,” Urquhart said. “For example, why look at a company’s vehicle maintenance when that company hasn’t had a problem in that area, but there is in improper loading? We’ll be more focused on trouble areas.”

Among the major changes under CSA 2010 is that not only will trucking companies be monitored, but individual drivers as well. For example, a driver’s roadside inspection history will be recorded and monitored, and drivers can be penalized just like motor carriers.

Another change will be that the new program ranks each trucking company against its peers based on the carrier’s number of power units. This means one violation can have a major impact. For example, because there aren’t many drug and alcohol violations across all carriers, a company that has a driver cited for controlled substance or alcohol use could see that one violation hugely impact the company’s score under CSA 2010.

Urquhart said carriers and drivers can keep their scores above intervention thresholds by always having “good” inspections. For example, the score won’t be affected if there are no drug and alcohol violations or load securement infractions during inspections.

Another difference is that all inspection violations are considered in the new scoring rather than just out-of-service violations. So a carrier that had a good score in a particular area under Safestat can now have a high score in the new system because lots of vehicle



**Capt. Tim Rogotzke and Maj. Ken Urquhart of the Minnesota State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Enforcement chat with TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt and TPA board member Cliff Shermer about various enforcement issues. Urquhart addressed TPA members about the CSA 2010 enforcement program and he and Rogotzke spent more than an hour answering members’ questions after the meeting was completed.**



**TPA members and other guests filled the banquet room at Ruttger’s Sugar Lake Lodge for the TPA Annual Membership Meeting.**

violations, even if they are not out-of-service, start adding up. In addition, violations like size and weight and medical certificate violations that were ignored in SafeStat now count under CSA 2010. So if a carrier has a pattern of these types of violations and their percentile is such that they are clearly generating these types of violations more than their peers with similar inspections, these carriers are going to be identified in CSA 2010.

Urquhart acknowledged the system isn’t perfect and urged TPA

members to submit comments on trouble areas during the comment period, which ends this fall.

After the meeting, Urquhart and Rogotzke stayed for roughly 90 minutes, giving individual TPA members the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback on a variety of enforcement issues

The meeting ended with a presentation from **DNR Division of Forestry Director Dave Epperly**, who talked about the state timber sale program and the future of the division in current economic times.

## **TPA Thanks Our Sponsors!**

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Potlatch Corporation  
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### **Door Prizes:**

AgStar Financial Services  
Blandin  
Boise  
Border State Bank  
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Fluid-Tech  
Forest Capitol Partners  
Land O'Lakes Wood Preserving  
LUA  
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Northwest Tires  
Nortrax  
Potlatch Corporation  
Prairie Trailer  
Tom Clusiau's Service Center  
Ultima Bank

The chainsaw was donated by Minnesota Forest Industries

# NORTH STAR EXPO

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Friday, September 17

8:00 am	Equipment Displays Open
9:00 am	Display Contest Judging
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Loader Contest (sign up at site)
11:00 am - 3:00 pm	Kid's Mini-Loader (sign up at site)
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	BBQ and Door Prizes - on site

### Saturday, September 18

7:00 am - 9:00 am	Free Pancake Breakfast (sponsored by Nortrax)
8:00 am	Equipment displays open
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Loader Contest (sign up at site)
9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Kid's Mini-Loader (sign up at site)
11:00 am	Coloring contest winners announced
1:00 pm	Winners announced for Loader, Master Loader, and Best Load 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.

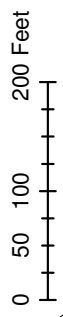
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Minnesota Timber Producers Association  
324 W. Superior St. #903 • Duluth, MN 55802  
218-722-5013



**NORTH STAR EXPO**  
 September 17 & 18, 2010  
 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



# Expo Returns to Grand Rapids, Features Duke Skorich BBQ

by Ray Higgins

**F**or the second consecutive year, the North Star Expo is returning to the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids. Minnesota's largest logging equipment show is in its 57th year and will be held Sept. 17 and 18. As always, there will be lots to see and do, including the latest in logging equipment from all of the region's top vendors.

Back by popular demand at Friday night's dinner will be the famous Duke Skorich Barbecue. The menu will feature barbecue beef and pork, baked beans, potato salad, and European cole slaw. Tickets for the dinner are \$15 each and can be purchased in advance from the TPA office or at the door.

Continuing the Expo tradition of great food and fellowship, Nortrax will again provide a free pancake breakfast on Saturday morning.

"Grand Rapids is always a great place to have the Expo," said TPA event chair Joan Pomp. "The Itasca County area is central to the logging industry in our state and the people there always roll out the red carpet for the North Star Expo."

Again this year, attendees will have the chance to win a beautiful chainsaw carving! Everyone attending the Expo will get a vendor card at the entry gate, and on the back of the card will be vendor names and locations. Just visit those locations and have the vendor initial your card. Once all the vendor names have been initialed, return the card to the registration area. At the end of the Expo, one lucky name will be drawn to win the carving!

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

The Best Load contest is taking place again this year. Wood only 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. For the kids, we'll have the Kid's Mini-Loader.

The Coloring Contest will take

place this year as well. In this 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.



Year in and year out, folks come to the Expo to see the latest logging equipment, from the top manufacturers, and this year will be no different. Last year, Ponsse received the award for Best Outdoor Lot at the Expo.



Anticipation for the Friday night dinner was high in 2009 because it featured the famous Duke Skorich Barbecue, and the meal did not disappoint. That's why Duke Skorich will be back in Grand Rapids in 2010 to feed the masses.

Entries will be posted at the Expo for all to enjoy.

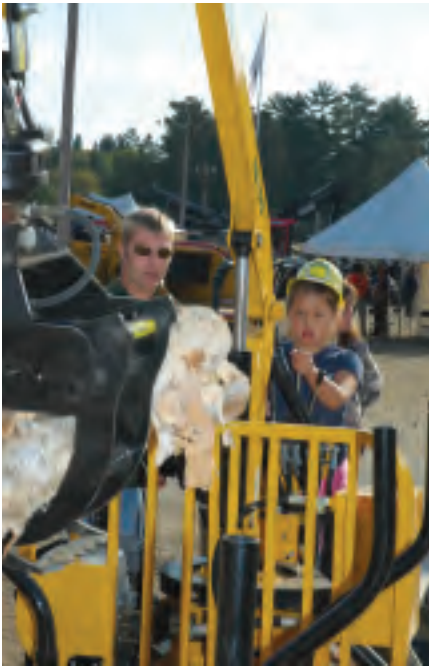
Don't forget to bring in your wood cookies for the Big Cookie Contest. Remember to attach a list

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 Sept. 17 and 18 in Grand Rapids!



The Kids Loader is always very popular among the younger generation of Expo visitors, and will return in 2010.



Celebrities from around the region come to the Expo to vie for the coveted Celebrity Loader contest crown, which last year was won by Laura Kennedy of WDIO-TV. 2009 celebrities included (L-R): Minnesota DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten, Kennedy, Boua Xiong of the Northland's News Center, Chisholm Mayor Mike Jugovich, Jim Marshall of UPM Blandin, and Bob Anderson of Boise in International Falls.



The Saturday morning Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Nortrax has become an Expo tradition.

# TPA Golfers and Anglers Dodge Raindrops

**T**he weather didn't look like it would cooperate, but good things come to those who wait. TPA golfers and anglers started the afternoon in damp conditions, but as the day progressed, the rain moved off to the east and participants were able to enjoy themselves, making the TPA Golf and Fishing outings another rousing success.

As has become custom, the fishing event was held on Sugar Lake, with awards going to the angler with the longest fish and the angler with the shortest fish. Again this year, since it was a catch-and-release event, fish were measured in the boat and anglers reported their lengths at the end of the day.

The Conservation Award (smallest fish of the day) went to Quintin Legler of UPM Blandin, while the Big Walter Award (largest



L-R: Mike Rieger of Rieger Logging, Ryan Millet of Road Machinery, David Hughes from Hughes Timber, and Dave Hensel of UPM Blandin posted the best score in this year's TPA golf outing.



Quintin Legler of UPM Blandin has the shiners as he, Jim Scheff of Scheff Logging, and Gene Grell of UPM Blandin get ready to hit the water at the TPA Fishing outing.

fish) went to Dan Klocek of Boise.

In golf, the Caddyshacker Award – for the team that had the most fun and the highest score – went to Cory Lovdahl, Chad Lovdahl, Dean Haley, Erik Lunemann, Ryan Davies and Kalen Kvitek.

The Foot Wedge Award – earned by the team with the best score – went to Mike Rieger, David Hughes, Ryan Millet, and Dave Hensel.



Ron Beckman prepares to roll in a 22 foot putt as Wayne Johnson of CO Johnson Logging and Bob Johnson watch.



Jake Hasbargen of Hasbargen Logging is about to crush a drive in the TPA golf outing as Kit Hasbargen looks on.

# Crow Wing and Itasca Counties Maintain Insurance Requirements

The county boards in Crow Wing and Itasca counties each recently decided to keep the liability insurance requirements at the \$1 million level after receiving input from interested parties, including TPA.

In Crow Wing County, the county board considered increasing the insurance requirement to \$1.5 million. Because liability coverages are sold in increments of \$1 million, loggers doing business with the

county would have had to purchase coverage totaling \$2 million, significantly increasing costs.

## Timber Talk

Crow Wing County Land Commissioner Kirk Titus was among those urging the board to leave the liability requirement as is, due in part to the fact that it would put the county at a competitive disadvantage in selling its wood. Ultimately, the board agreed with Titus and didn't increase the insurance mandate.

In Itasca County, the board actually decided to raise the insurance requirement to \$1.5 million in May, but after receiving input, reversed itself in June. As a result, the liability insurance requirement for logging contractors in Itasca County will continue to be \$1 million.

## Deere Launches Biomass Website

John Deere Construction & Forestry has launched a woody biomass website ([www.woodybiomass.com](http://www.woodybiomass.com)) designed to educate and inform about the importance of harvesting woody biomass.

The user-friendly website explains what woody biomass is, why harvesting it is important, how it works as a fuel and what types of innovative public policies are needed to encourage responsible harvesting

and the use of woody biomass.

"Woody biomass harvesting can provide a significant source of renewable energy, promote forest stewardship and generate economic recovery for the country's forestry communities," said John Deere Marketing Manager Andrew Bonde. "We launched this website to explain just how it works."

## Wallwork Truck Center Number One in North America

Wallwork Truck Center, with locations in Fargo, Bismarck, Williston and Fergus Falls, was recently honored as PACAAR Inc.'s customer support dealer of the year.

One dealer in North America is chosen by PACCAR Inc. PACAAR is

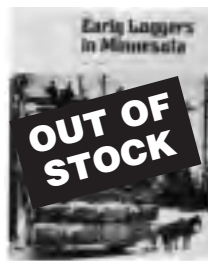
an American company that owns Kenworth and Peterbilt trucks. There are over 1,800 PACCAR dealer locations worldwide.

Wallwork Truck Center has been a Kenworth dealer since 1969, and serves North Dakota and parts of South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota. The parent company, W.W. Wallwork Inc., was established in Moorhead, Minn. in 1921 and was originally located in the building which was formerly Coaches on Center Avenue. They are on the Web at [www.wallworktrucks.com](http://www.wallworktrucks.com).

## Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I



VOL. II

VOL. II



VOL. III



VOL. IV



VOL. IV

First-hand recollections by storyteller "Burr" Ryan of the loggers, loaders, swappers, wood butchers and pull cones who ruled the woods in the hey day of the pioneer lumberjacks with dozens of historical photographs.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Prices include sales taxes, postage and handling.

Please make check or money order payable to "TPA Services"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Minnesota Timber Producers Assn.

903 Medical Arts Bldg., 324 W. Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802

# Vandalism Strikes Two Pieces of Logging Equipment

by Dave Amundson  
Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance

To help TPA members avoid accidents resulting in injury or damage to property, the Timber Bulletin, in association with Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance, will publish details of actual incidents and what can be done to avoid such occurrences in the future. By sharing this information, TPA and LUA hope to make our industry as safe as possible.

## Background:

Despite the best efforts of owners and operators to properly maintain and protect their equipment from

the risks of day-to-day operations, vandalism can rear its ugly head at any time, making all of these efforts futile. The following

## Lessons from Losses

information was put together from a personal interview with the owner, review of the involved mobile equipment, and discussion with the responding volunteer fire department.

A mid-sized Minnesota logging company operates a conventional logging operation with supporting trucks and the necessary dozers/equipment for small road-building jobs. The weather had been dry and sunny with low humidity, and with temperatures around 90 degrees. The job site included a mixed timber stand consisting of hardwood, balsam and jack pine, and was located on private land along an existing driveway about 1/8 of a mile off the township road. A private home was also located at the site, farther down this driveway, approximately 100 yards from the logging work site.

Prior to the incident, maintenance and housekeeping had been very good for these two pieces of equipment. The John Deere delimeter had a good spring

cleaning approximately 100 hours before the fire and a new engine with less than 300 hours of use. The John Deere skidder also had been recently power washed, the radiator replaced, new battery/cables installed, and an injector pump replacement all within the last nine hours of operation. The involved equipment had sat idle for over 60 hours before the fire occurred.

The operators for these machines were considered fully trained in proper operation and maintenance. The delimeter operator had worked for this operation for over a year, bringing over 25 years of work experience to this operation. The skidder operator had been with this operation for over four years also with additional experience.

## Incident:

On a Sunday morning around 8 a.m., the land owner reported the equipment fire to the volunteer fire department, located approximately four miles away. Upon arrival, the two pieces of equipment were found still burning. Both cabs on the machines were completely destroyed, and the skidder tires were just starting to catch fire. The equipment was nearly a total loss, with some salvage value on the

delimeter.

The fire in the equipment and surrounding area was extinguished. No injuries occurred. Vandalism was speculated as the cause.

## Unsafe Act and/or Condition:

Considering that this logging equipment had not been operated for over 60 hours and the level of destruction that took place, the cause of loss remains uncertain.

However, a number of factors were considered in the investigation that causes some question as to the cause: 1) there had been no weather situations in the area over the last two days, 2) the operators were quite certain the electrical master switches was shut off, 3) there were five pieces of equipment on this job site and the two pieces that burned were the closest to the roadway, 3) separation of the equipment was sufficient to the uninvolved equipment and the skidder tires may have burned had the fire spread from one machine to the other, 4) the hottest area of fire was in both cabs, and 5) the engine compartments were still burning upon arrival, suggesting this was the latest area of involvement in both pieces. Speculation leads to the conclusion that this was a result



Separation of mobile equipment at log landing.

of vandalism involving fires started within the cabs.

### VANDALISM PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Restricting vehicle access to job sites during off-hours is one of the best ways to protect equipment. Use a gate, boulders, dirt berm, or a drag of trees to stop traffic.
2. Remove keys, lock doors, and turn off master switches when leaving the job overnight. Additional master switches for electrical and fuel systems could be added for backup.
3. Lock fuel, oil and engine compartments to prevent tampering. Add locks if they did not come installed from the factory.
4. Park equipment away from ignition sources. Stay back from slash piles that could be ignited. Space equipment at least 50 feet apart to reduce chance of fire spreading from one machine to another.
5. When harvest site is adjacent to a traveled road, use terrain or standing trees as a visual screen to prevent shooting at equipment from the road.
6. Don't leave equipment unattended in an unsecured location for long periods of time. Check on the status of equipment during off days when feasible. In high-risk situations, consider having someone stay at the harvest site.
7. Over nights and weekends, service trucks and log trucks should be taken home or to another secure location when possible.
8. Consider using hidden motion-activated cameras to record movement in and out of the job site. Using signage on equipment indicating video surveillance will serve as a discouragement to vandals.
9. Mark equipment with your company name. Engrave saws and tools to identify them. Use crime prevention stickers on equipment to show would-be thieves and vandals that you take the safety of your equipment seriously.
10. Enlist the help of neighbors to watch and notify you and the sheriff of trouble. Use private access to timber sales when possible.
11. Inspect equipment for signs of tampering prior to startup to prevent further damage while running. Look for contaminants around fuel and fluid fill areas.
12. Contact local law enforcement, forestry, etc. to report suspicious activity.

The attached pictures highlight different suggestions in blocking roadway access and mobile equipment separation during shut down.



Permanent gate and signage used to block access.



Dirt berm used to block road access.



Drag of wood used to block access on a short-term basis.

# Boise Mill Celebrates 100th Anniversary

**T**housands of people from around the region converged on Smokey Bear Park and the Boise Mill in June to celebrate the 100th anniversary of papermaking in International Falls.



**Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty addresses a community breakfast celebrating 100 years of paper making in International Falls.**

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty joined community leaders at a celebration breakfast and broadcast his state-wide radio program from the Falls. Congressman Jim Oberstar was also among the dignitaries attending the breakfast and a community celebration at Smokey Bear Park.

Festivities included activity and display booths in the park, a commemorative program, community picnic, and mill tours.

At the turn of the 20th century, Minneapolis sawmill owner Edward Wellington Backus viewed the powerful Koochiching Falls on the Rainy River and began to dream of what could be. Workers from around the world came to build and work at the mill. The first paper was made on June 6, 1910, and shipped to a newspaper in Great Falls, Mont.

The mill's history is captured in a book, *The Mill at the Falls – 100 Years of Papermaking on the Border*, by Bill Beck, which tells the



**Children had the chance to make paper as part of a community picnic honoring the Boise mill's 100th anniversary. Thousands attended the event in Smokey Bear Park.**

fascinating story of how the people of the border country made Backus's vision a reality during a century of challenge and opportunity. Employees and retirees are receiving copies of the book, and copies are available for purchase through the Koochiching County Museum in International Falls.

Today the mill at the Falls is the largest employer in Koochiching

County, with 830 employees. Independent wood suppliers and specialized contractors add another 300 workers to area payrolls.

During its 100-year history the mill has been regularly modernized. It now operates four paper machines complemented by a coater and five sheeters that produce a combined 548,000 tons per year of office papers, specialty, and label and release papers.



# 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
<b>Carlton County</b>		
<i>June 7th—Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen	\$30.99	(NA)
Balsam	\$18.21	(NA)
Birch	\$15.43	(NA)
Norway Pine Bolts	\$47.00	(NA)
<b>DNR-Blackduck Area</b>		
<i>June 9th—Oral Auction</i>		
Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$34.32	\$28.68
Tamarack (WC)	\$ 4.62	\$ 4.92
Balsam (WC)	\$22.04	\$15.10
Aspen Species (WC)	(NA)	\$21.69
Aspen Species (WMP)	(NA)	\$31.83
<b>DNR-Sandstone Area</b>		
<i>June 9th—Oral Auction</i>		
Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$21.45	\$24.37
Aspen Species (WC)	\$17.13	\$18.31
Red Maple (WC)	\$ 6.31	\$ 6.04
Maple Species (WC)	\$ 6.03	\$ 5.83
Norway Pine (WMP)	(NA)	\$38.52
Norway Pine (PB)	(NA)	\$30.55
<b>Lake County</b>		
<i>June 10th—Sealed Bid</i>		
Aspen (PB)	\$15.96	(NA)
Aspen Pulp	\$18.74	(NA)
Birch (PB)	\$10.44	(NA)
Maple Pulp	\$ 5.96	(NA)
Maple (PB)	\$ 8.82	(NA)
Balsam	\$14.31	(NA)
<b>DNR-Brainerd Area</b>		
<i>June 15th—Oral Auction</i>		
Intermediate Auction included some tracts from the Park Rapids Area		
Aspen Species (WC)	\$24.53	\$23.14
Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$32.99	\$21.28
Norway Pine (WMP)	\$45.35	\$25.65
Pine Species (WMP)	\$19.60	(NA)
<b>DNR-Littlefork Area</b>		
<i>June 16th—Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen Species (WC)	\$19.22	\$27.47
Black Spruce (WC)	\$18.00	\$16.59
Pine Species (WMP)	\$44.53	\$46.22
Balsam (WMP)	(NA)	\$14.84
Balsam (WC)	\$10.72	(NA)
<b>DNR-Aitkin Area</b>		
<i>June 17th—Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen Species (WC)	\$25.58	\$27.43
White Spruce (WMP)	(NA)	\$36.84
Norway Pine (WMP)	(NA)	\$27.94
Paper Birch (WMP)	\$ 7.65	(NA)

Agency Regular Intermediate

### Cass County

*June 24th—Sealed Bid*

Aspen	\$28.92	\$27.69
Birch	\$20.78	\$18.72
Red Oak	\$28.41	\$28.28
Maple	\$17.64	\$13.00
Jack Pine	\$36.16	\$28.98

### DNR-Warroad Area

*July 8th—Oral Auction*

Aspen Species (WC)	\$28.60	\$18.56
Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$21.86	\$22.56
Jack Pine (WMP)	\$25.97	\$32.68
Jack Pine (PB)	\$30.34	(NA)

### Becker County

*July 23rd—Oral Auction*

Aspen – Mixed	\$24.14	(NA)
Birch – Mixed	\$10.06	(NA)
Fir, Balsam – Mixed	\$24.18	(NA)

### Cass County

*July 29th—Oral Auction*

Aspen	\$22.12	\$25.45
Red Oak	\$32.89	\$20.23
Birch	\$17.12	\$15.62
Maple	\$12.86	\$10.92

### Koochiching County

*August 4th—Oral Auction*

Aspen (PB)	\$27.34	\$29.72
Jackpine (PB)	\$40.67	(NA)
Balsam (PB)	\$16.08	\$18.46
Spruce (PB)	\$17.84	\$28.64
Balm	\$25.33	\$21.97

### Beltrami County

*August 4th & 5th (Sealed and Oral)*

Aspen pulpwood	\$31.40	(NA)
Jack Pine (PB)	\$34.82	(NA)
R&W Pine Pulp	\$10.72	(NA)

### Products:

PB= Pulp and Bolts

WMP= Woodsrun mixed Products

WC= Woodsrun cordwood

ST=Sawtimber

WST=Woodsrun Sawtimber

## Legislators Call for LEED to Credit All Forest Certification Systems

Minnesota Congressman Jim Oberstar is among 79 members of congress from 35 states that is calling on the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) to change its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system to give credit to all of the major third-party forest certification systems in the U.S.

The letter, signed by representatives from states that have millions of acres of private forestland, noted that the LEED rating system excludes two of the largest third-party wood certification programs in the U.S. from its "certified wood credit." More than 84 million acres of forests in the U.S. are certified by the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) and the Sustainable Forestry

Initiative® – nearly three times the amount of forests that are certified through the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the only certification program granted a “certified wood credit” in the LEED system. Additionally, the LEED rating system does not give preference to wood over other building materials such as concrete and steel despite the fact that wood is a much more environmentally-friendly product and a renewable resource.

As Schrader noted, “There is nothing greener than the production of sustainably harvested wood from our small woodlots and American forests. Wood can store carbon for hundreds of years and uses less energy to produce than many other building products.”

“Most of America’s forests are privately owned. Down the road from where you live, in every corner of the country, family forest owners are doing their best to keep forests as forests. But they need healthy markets to keep their forests healthy. They need resources to support sustainable management practices. Without healthy markets, it becomes more



difficult for landowners to invest back into their forests to keep them productive for wildlife, clean water, and good jobs. It makes it more difficult to keep the developers at bay,” said Tom Martin, president and CEO of the American Forest Foundation.

“America’s family forest owners who are certified through our sustainable forest management program, the American Tree Farm System, should be at the top of the list when it comes to choosing wood

for U.S. buildings,” Martin said. “When architects and builders are deciding on what materials to use, they should get more credit for using the most environmentally sustainable material – and that’s wood,” Martin added.

“It’s time to give credit where credit is due – and that’s to family forest owners doing the right thing by sustainably managing their forests and who deserve more markets for their wood,” said Martin.

LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

## "The Steady, Stubborn Ox"

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*



To persons not familiar with the logging industry, the large loads of logs hauled over ice roads by four well-matched horses always rate high attention. And while—without a doubt—these were among the major accomplishments of the early loggers, there were other activities just as important. The work of the great top loaders, river drivers, canthook men and many others was not so "showy"—but just as necessary.

And take the lowly ox, who gets but very little credit for his part in this great industry.

During the early days of logging in Minnesota, the ox was used extensively throughout the southern half of the pine region. The early loggers working out of Stillwater and St. Anthony Falls and up

along the St. Croix and Rum Rivers and the Mississippi used oxen for practically all of their skidding to the rivers and streams. The area west around Lake Mille Lacs and west to the edge of the pine area, north and west along the Mississippi as far as Deer River, and all the area south of Duluth was logged with the use of oxen.

However, the area north of Duluth and the Iron Range and north of Bemidji had but little logging done by oxen. There was one company—the Howards Mill, north of Duluth—which used oxen quite successfully.

Oxen were much slower than horses and were not considered good on sleigh hauls, although in the early days quite a few companies used them on short sleigh hauls—mostly on snow roads and very

little on ice roads.

The problem of shoeing oxen was the main reason they were not used on ice roads. You cannot pick up an ox's foot and put on a shoe as you can on a horse. If you pick up an ox's foot he will fall down or lie down. So a special "shoeing rack" had to be built, in which an ox was held up by ropes or bands and a clamp held each foot as shoes were put on. And the ox, having a split hoof, had to have a separate shoe on each half of the foot. These shoes, nailed on only one side, were easily pulled off while working on ice roads, making shoeing quite a problem.

While skidding in the early fall and in snow, many of the oxen worked without shoes and did quite well. They were, in fact, much better on soft ground than horses. They were much less excitable than horses, but were also, in many cases, stubborn. They were much easier to keep, and would work and stay in better shape on little or no grain than horses.

In the very early days, all the oxen had to eat was hay. Some of the early loggers would take their "cattle," as they called the oxen, north during the summer into the area to be logged, and men would cut hay from the wild meadows along creek bottoms and put it in stacks to be used during the winter. The next summer the "cattle" and men to tend them and put up hay would move on again to the next camp site.

Owners of oxen tried to have the teams well mated in gait, size and color, and there were some very fine looking teams of oxen. The average weight of most oxen that worked in the woods was around 1,100 pounds, but there were some very large ones weighing up to 1,500 pounds when in good condition.

Oxen never worked singly, but always in pairs, and quite often four would be used in skidding large logs. Oxen "skinners," as they were known, were different men than the teamsters who drove four horses. Most horse teamsters would not have anything to do with an ox, as handling horses was a completely different job than skinning oxen. No lines or harnesses were used with oxen—only a

Shoeing oxen was a major job—and they had to be put into shoeing racks, where their feet were made secure and their bodies supported by ropes or chains.





Skidding was the main job for the oxen. They were slow and worked well in snow.



yoke with a ring in it—and the skinner controlled and directed the ox team by word of mouth and the use of a “goad stick”—a hickory or birch stick about six feet long with a nail in it. The handling of four oxen by a good skinner was a sight to see for anyone interested in draft animals.

Ox yokes were made of hardwood, and when well dried would last a long time. But they did split sometimes, and a new one would be made up in camp. Most camps had a good supply of yokes made up in advance.

The story is told about Wes Day, one of the early loggers along the Mississippi north of Aitkin, as he was in town trying to hire an ox skinner. When approached by a man who said he was qualified, Wes dropped down on all fours and said, “I’m an ox. Drive me.” The man shouted, “Get up, Gov.” Wes jumped to his feet and said, “You’re not an ox skinner.”

When approached by the same man a few days later, Wes dropped to all fours and said again, “I’m an ox. Let me see you drive me.” The man grabbed a goad stick and drove the nail an inch into Wes’s rear—and Wes jumped to his feet and said, “Fine. You are an ox skinner and you are hired.” The man spent several winters driving oxen in Wes Day’s camps.

Sometimes in the early days a young ox would be kept in camp to haul hot lunch out to the men in the woods. My grandfather, an old ox teamster, told me of one that could trot like a horse and would haul the lunch from camp to the woods in short order. This young ox, he said, had been raised in camp, was a real pet of the men and became quite fond of the warm biscuits they would feed him. They named him “Biscuits,” and every day when the crew was “dinnering out” the jacks would look up from their work about 11:30 and seeing the ox approaching, say, “Well, here comes Biscuits—I wonder what he’s bringing for lunch today.”

By 1900, the use of oxen in the woods was pretty well past, and what few oxen were left in the country were mostly owned by settlers. In the late years, they did away with the yoke and put a regular horse harness on oxen. The collar and hames were reversed, with the narrow end of the collar at the bottom, fitting the ox’s neck quite well. A bridle and bit were also used in the ox’s mouth and the teams were driven somewhat as horses. In fact, I have seen several teams of an ox and a horse driven together in the early 1900s.

In the old days, there were many tales about oxen as to their size and their ability to haul a large log—and like most bunkhouse stories they were sometimes greatly exaggerated. These animals, however, were powerful and strong and easy to feed and maintain—and surely the lowly ox played a large part in the early logging history of Minnesota—worthy of whatever mention we can give him.



For four oxen, 8,419 board feet was a good load—plus the dog on top.



This well-matched team is moving 16,870 board feet, a “champion load” in 1890.

Oxen used in decking logs (below) were an unusual sight.



## Mark Your Calendar

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

Sept. 9-11 – Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association 65th Annual Lake States Logging & Equipment Expo  
Green Bay, WI – Shopko Hall & Lambeau Field  
\$10 Admission for the 3-day event  
Visit: [www.timberpa.com](http://www.timberpa.com) or Call: 715-282-5828

Sept. 17 & 18 – North Star Expo at Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids, MN. Parking \$3, admission is free. For more information, call the TPA office at 218-722-5013.



# 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 Staggemeier Stave Co. Inc.  
 Caledonia, MN 55921  
 Office: 507-724-3395  
 Cell: 608-792-7598

## WANTED

Private Land Timber Sales  
 for Biomass  
 South and Southeast Minnesota  
 Area  
 TPA / MLEP member, DNR  
 Certified Logger  
 Call John at 612-867-1282  
 Dakota Wood-Grinding, Inc.  
 Rosemount, MN

## EXCESS EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

60 inch Lemco Slasher  
 2002 John Deere 648G3 PC  
 Call 218-348-7904 for details

## FOR SALE

1999 Trailmobile Open Top Tipper  
 Trailer. 53' X 102" X 12'4", Spring  
 Ride, Steel Wheels.....\$13,000  
 Prairie Trailer, Morris, MN 56267  
 800-522-2560

## FOR SALE

1992 Siiro Delimber  
 Slasher.....\$6,500.00  
 1984 667 Clark Grapple  
 Skidder.....\$20,000.00  
 453 Detroit Power Unit .....\$3,000.00  
 12,000 gallon fuel tank.....Best Offer  
 Contact: 218-376-4638

## FOR SALE

Walking Floor Trailers  
 42 Ft - 53 Ft Trailers In Stock  
 Prairie Trailer, Morris MN  
 800-522-2560 or www.ptrailer.com

# TIMBER BULLETIN Subscription Order

Please ENTER my subscription to the Minnesota Timber Bulletin (six issues per year). Payment is enclosed for:

1 year \$25     2 years \$40     3 years \$55

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY/ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

Please send my GIFT SUBSCRIPTION to the Minnesota Timber Bulletin (six issues per year) to be sent to the name below. Payment is enclosed for:

1 year \$20     2 years \$33     3 years \$45

Please type or print clearly.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

TPA Services, Inc., 903 Medical Arts Bldg., 324 W. Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802

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

## FOR SALE

60" Siiro Slasher.  
 Call 218-787-2264 for details

## FOR SALE

84 Case 1187 Buncher, 20-inch  
 shear.  
 Hahn Shortwood Processor –  
 work ready.  
 \$25,000 for both.  
 Call 218-353-7303 or 218-353-7330

## FOR SALE

Walking Floor Pine Trailers – 48 Ft.  
 AJ's Lawncare & Landscape Center  
 Duluth  
 For information call: 218-729-4686

## FOR SALE

Portable Lath and Stake Mill 7-10  
 inch rip saw, 24 inch teeth smooth  
 cut, 10 HP Tecumseh gas motor on  
 all steel 3/8" x 3" angle iron frame,  
 40 inches high, 28 inches wide, 93  
 inches long. Four eight-inch wheels  
 with brakes, two 13" wide, 23" long  
 feed in and out 4 foot rollers..\$2,500  
 Al Rhoda, Bemidji, MN  
 218-444-1855



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