

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

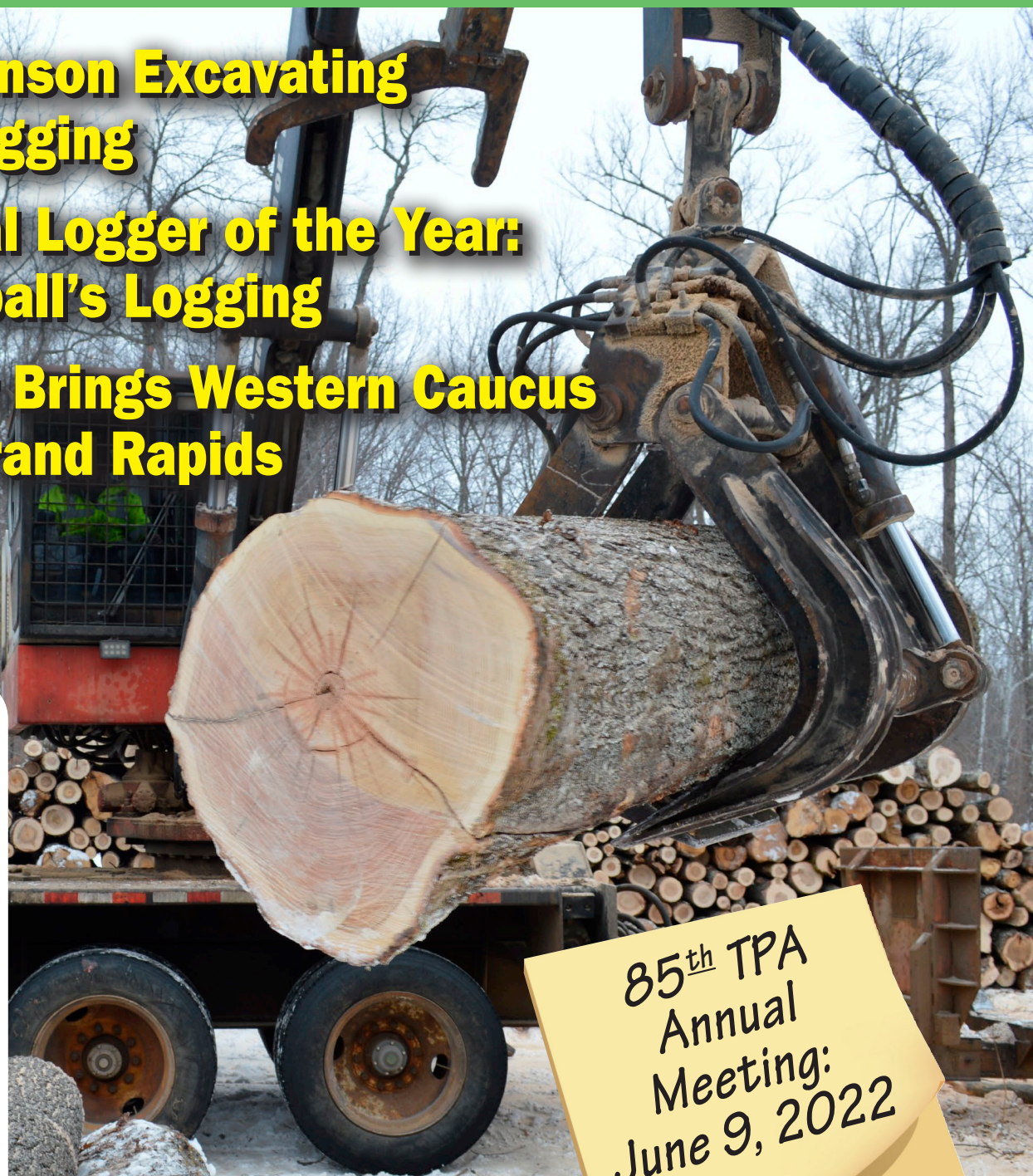
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022

VOLUME 77

**John Benson Excavating
& Logging**

**Regional Logger of the Year:
Kimball's Logging**

**Stauber Brings Western Caucus
to Grand Rapids**



85th TPA
Annual
Meeting:
June 9, 2022

Tigercat®

625H



BUILT FOR THE JOB

The Tigercat 625H skidder has arrived with a redesigned cab, easy serviceability, and outstanding productivity.

**Experience the Tigercat 625H for yourself.
Contact Titan Machinery today.**

4311 Haines Road
Hermantown, MN 55811
(218) 727-3038
(800) 795-0117

**TITAN
MACHINERY**

www.titanmachinery.com

TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 77
January/February 2022
Duluth, Minnesota

IN THIS ISSUE

It's Good to be Adaptable **8**

Kimball's Logging **13**

Logger of the Year Nominations..... **15**

Stauber Leads Congressional Roundtable ... **17**

Safety Pays **19**

Offering 401(k) Benefits Company Owners..... **21**

On The Markets **22**

Timber Talk **24**

Loggers of the Past **28**

Classifieds and Advertisers Index **30**



TIMBER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

President
ROD ENBERG

Past President
KURT BENSON

1st Vice President
COREY LOVDAHL

2nd Vice President
KELLY KIMBALL

Secretary/Treasurer
BRADY HASBARGEN

Editor-in-Chief
RAY HIGGINS

Graphic Design, Editorial and Mechanical Production
STEWART-TAYLOR PRINTING

ON THE COVER

Aaron Benson slashes harvest oak in Aitkin County. For more on John Benson Excavating & Logging, please see page 8.

The Timber Bulletin is published six times annually, in February, April, June, August, October and December by the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, located at 903 Medical Arts Bldg., 324 W. Superior St., Duluth, Minn. Minnesota Timber Producers Association members receive the Timber Bulletin at an annual subscription rate of \$25 which is included in their membership dues. Periodicals postage paid in Duluth, Minnesota. Advertising rates and data on request. The views expressed in the Timber Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association.

Postmaster: Please send address corrections to TIMBER BULLETIN, Minnesota Timber Producers Association, 903 Medical Arts Bldg., 324 W. Superior St., Duluth, Minnesota 55802, Phone 218-722-5013.
ISSN: 10973532 – USPS: 016208

No articles may be reprinted without written permission from the Minnesota Timber Producers Association.



Minnesota
Timber Producers
Association



President's Column



Rod Enberg

As I look back on our winter harvest season, so often we deal with warm weather, no frost or just the opposite: its colder than we can describe. Or we get excessive snow. But we all deal with it in our own way and it seems to work out when breakup comes. Somehow we get done what needs to get done.

But this season, I and many of our fellow loggers are dealing with a new set of circumstances: the ability to find enough help. This isn't something that affects just our industry but all trades. When visiting with other folks it's interesting that so many of our older workforce have retired, and the younger people have no or limited experience. Where do we find more operators and drivers?

The industry that we have chosen to make our livelihood in has very limited or no training programs so we bring them in and train them ourselves. And we all know how that works out: with decreases in production and a lot of repair costs. I could go on about this in depth but I'm sure you all can relate to what I'm saying.

So like all of the other challenges that we face each day in the woods and on the roads, we will face it head on and survive as we have in the past. But as we look into the future, are there things that can be looked at, such as more detailed training programs or simulation programs for the equipment we buy. This could this be a win/win for everyone.

As always, be safe and healthy!

Executive Committee

- Rod Enberg: 218-352-6175
- Corey Lovdahl: 218-244-4580
- Kelly Kimball: 218-849-5222
- Brady Hasbargen: 218-368-2700
- Kurt Benson: 218-835-4525

TPA Staff

- Ray Higgins: 218-722-5013
- Ann Todd: 218-722-5013



CASS FOREST PRODUCTS INC.

BOX 1008 • CASS LAKE, MN 56633 • 218-335-2694

www.cassforest.com

Buying Fresh Logs: Red and White Pine

Pine Bolts: Jack, Red and White

For Specifications Call 218-335-2694



**TRUSTED PRODUCTS.
EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE.**



**Don't forget to call us for
all of your hydraulic needs.**

**Everything you need, all in
one place.**



**CORPORATE OFFICE:
Medford, WI • 715-748-5565**

**BRANCH OFFICE:
Appleton, WI • 920-687-9750**

**CHECK US OUT
TODAY AT:**

MidStatesHydraulics.com

USED REPAIR PARTS

Wheel Loaders, Crawlers, Track Excavators
Loader Backhoes, Skidders, Skid-Steer
Loaders, Engines and Transmissions
"Rely on our experience—Est. 1967"



1-800-626-6046

**Schaefer
Enterprises**

www.sewlparts.com - parts@sewlparts.com



4535 State Route 3 N • PO Box 136
Wolf Lake, IL 62998

GOT WOOD?



WE WILL BUY THE FOLLOWING SPECIES:

Aspen • Red Pine • Jack Pine • White Pine
Scotch Pine • Spruce • Balsam Fir
Tamarack • Basswood • Birch • Oak • Maple

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ 100" length
- ✓ 5" minimum diameter inside the bark ("dib") for spruce and balsam fir
- ✓ 5.5" minimum dib for red pine
- ✓ 6" minimum dib for all other species
- ✓ 14" maximum dib for all species

DELIVERIES RECEIVED:

at our mill in Bowerville (one hour south of Park Rapids)
and at our transfer yards in Bemidji and Grand Rapids

maverickwoodproducts.com

612-849-5919 • patrick@maverickwoodproducts.com

MAVERICK WOOD PRODUCTS LLC • BROWERVILLE, MN

HAN FAB



**SLASHERS AND CARRIERS
ENGINEERED TO SUPPORT
ALL MANUFACTURERS**

**Custom Manufacturing
Hydraulic Repair
Full Machine Shop**

Hancock Fabrication Inc.
9138 Hwy 22
Angora, MN 55703
(218) 666-5630
Hanfabslashers.com

PROUDLY SERVING THE TIMBER INDUSTRY SINCE 1980

I'm hearing it from all over the state: It's been a tough winter so far. Fuel prices are high, supply chain issues make it hard to get parts, truck drivers are hard to find, and the weather doesn't want to cooperate with too much snow and more cold than we need.

But what I love about our TPA members is: they know the ones who can overcome obstacles and who can work through less than ideal conditions are the ones that are the best business people, the best entrepreneurs, and ultimately the best loggers. If it was easy, anyone could do it. Yes, there's plenty for loggers to navigate under the best of circumstances, but the best find a way, and in my experience, TPA members are the best.

The 2022 Minnesota Legislative Session is underway and I've already spent a fair amount of time in St. Paul talking to legislators and advocating on your behalf. With the Republicans controlling the Senate

Executive Vice President's Column



Ray Higgins

and the DFL in control of both the House and the Governor's office, agreements have been elusive the past few years, and it won't be a surprise if this year's session is again contentious. We're talking to lawmakers about some transportation issues, as well as encouraging them to fund things like forest roads and bridges through the bonding process so we can get in and out of the state forests to harvest timber. So far, so good. I'll keep you posted.

Something else of note at the legislature: A bill has been introduced that would change

the deadline for payments to the DNR. Currently, state statute says payments by check have to be received in St. Paul by the date they're due. The bill would make it so payments need to be postmarked by the due date. The way the mail works these days, it can take a while for a payment to get from International Falls to St. Paul, for example. In fact, one of our members was assessed more than \$800 in late fees, despite the fact that he mailed payment before the due date, only to have it arrive late. Our thanks to the DNR for agreeing to make this change, and also a provision that would make it retroactive, allowing our member to get his \$800 back. We'll be encouraging legislators to support this helpful change.

I'd like to congratulate Rick Horton on his appointment as Executive Vice President of Minnesota Forest Industries. Rick and I have worked together a lot over the years when our associations were together, and I look forward to continuing that strong working relationship.

Case in point: on a Friday in December, one of the counties that sells timber indicated they wanted to implement a one-year moratorium on pine thinnings due to last year's drought, believing that thinnings would greatly stress the trees. Rick and I wound up on a conference call strategizing on our arguments against that. Rick wrote a letter to the county board, and I called loggers in the area to let them know what was going on in their county, some of whom reached out to their county commissioners. The following Tuesday, I was at the county board meeting making our case. Ultimately, the land commissioner and board members agreed a moratorium didn't make sense. It all goes to show you what TPA has always stood for: that working with people is a lot more effective and makes a lot more sense than working against them.

US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced a new ten-year

strategy to confront a wildfire crisis in January.

We in Minnesota know all about this after the Greenwood Fire burned roughly 41 square miles of forest in August. I don't need to remind you the role loggers played in helping the Forest Service fight that fire, building a fire line more than twenty miles long to help stop it.

Some of the strategies in Secretary Vilsack's plan sound familiar to what many of us have been saying for a long time: managing federal forests, particularly through timber harvest, will keep forests young and healthy, reducing disease and bug infestations that make them susceptible to events like the Greenwood Fire. Congress is pitching in with almost \$3 billion to fund the effort. That's good for everyone who loves forests, whether for timber or for recreation.

In January, I had the chance to meet some folks from Nevada who'd like to build and operate "wood biomass biorefineries" in our state that utilize woody biomass and mill residue. And not just one. They would like to build at least three of them, maybe more.

Company officials admit "this sounds too good to be true." But they say they have the technology and the money to bring this business to our state without state subsidies. They would need to secure the first site as well as environmental permits before getting the project underway. But they know there's enough currently available forest and mill waste each year to feed three facilities.

We've seen proposals like this before over the years, so we'll wait and see. What makes this concept different from others is that no government subsidies would be required. Wouldn't it be great to get back a reliable biomass market?

2022 is also an election year, with every seat in the state House and Senate and the Governor's office on the ballot, and we'll be watching that, too. To that end, TreePAC was established last year,

a political action committee (PAC) that raises money to help elect candidates interested in our issues. Several of you have already made generous donations to TreePAC, but the important work of supporting and electing our allies continues. I ask you to consider a donation to TreePAC. No contribution is too small. If you're interested, make your personal check (it can't come from a business) out to "TreePAC" and send it to:

TreePAC
Suite 903
324 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

More than 25 years ago, a friend asked me to help out with a fishing tournament to raise money to fight Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). At the time, I didn't really

know anyone with ALS, but my friend's brother had contracted it, so I agreed to help him out. In 2000, we added a snowmobile ride through northern Minnesota called the Black Woods Blizzard Tour. In total, these events have raised more than \$18 million for ALS research and to help those with ALS and their families.

Over the years, this involvement with fundraising to fight ALS has intersected with folks I know through our industry. TPA member Katie Vivant of Woodline Saw Mills in Onamia has been a dedicated participant in the Black Woods Blizzard Tour—which won't surprise anyone who knows her because she's an avid snowmobiler. And thanks go to Ely's Warren Johnson, who has been among the dedicated snowmobile club folks who groom trails for us.

Unfortunately, ALS has hit a little too close to home. We lost TPA board member Lowell Pittack

to the disease in 2017. In the past year, Senator Dave Tomassoni of Chisholm, one of TPA's best friends in the legislature, was diagnosed with ALS. On a personal note, a colleague from a previous job also received an ALS diagnosis in the past six months.

This year's Black Woods Blizzard Tour took place in February, and Katie and the rest of the more than 250 riders raised more than \$1.5 million to fight ALS. I tip my cap to all the riders, donors, and volunteers for making it happen. And also to those with ALS and their families. I'm proud to know all of you.



NORTHERN TIMBERLINE EQUIPMENT, INC.

AUTHORIZED DEALER FOR



BARKO HYDRAULICS

BARKO 295ML TRAILER TRUCK MOUNT



- Used Equipment Sales
- New & Used Parts, Tires & Chains for Most Types of Logging Equipment
- Distributor for:



RUD CHAINS

HanFab Slashers

BABAC
TRACTION PRODUCTS

For More Information, Call:

CAM HARDWIG

Ph. (218) 278-6203

Fax (218) 278-6716

6000 County Rd. 8 • Littlefork, MN 56653

Member Feature...



Nate, Aaron, John, Lance, and Vince Benson

It's Good to be Adaptable

In November, Aitkin County's John Benson put together a winter harvest plan for his logging company, detailing which sites would be cut this winter, and in what order.

And then December rolled around, with temperatures in the mid-40s on the 1st, highs in the teens during the second week, then back to near 50 by the 15th, before dropping to more seasonal readings over the rest of the month. As a result, Benson's pre-season plan was out the window.

"The two sales I was going to start the season with were too wet and

the ground was too soft," Benson says. "We had to move into two different sales that I wasn't even going to cut this year. They weren't going to expire. And one, I just bought on the last auction, literally a month ago. So luckily we have an oak thinning and a clear cut up here. It's on some pretty good hills, so we can stay up on the high ground."

The site has some low ground too, so Benson and his crew have had to drop some trees in those areas and disturb the snow in order to firm up the ground and get some frost into the site. But so far, so good.

"It's important to just plan ahead

and stay ahead," Benson says.

"We knew we were coming here eventually. We knew we had to get this road frozen down. I knew I had to get in here and get cutting ahead to get some frost soaking in. And I had that timber down up there. I'd come down here and work a day, then go up there and finish cutting up there, and kind of bounce around. Pretty quick here, I'll go see if I can start getting into our next sale, start poking around and getting some trails broken in there, and get some frost soaking in there ahead of time. Then we'll go doze off an ash swamp that we have to get across with trucks. That's why

I kind of buy a variety of timber sales too, so I always have plenty of options. I don't focus on one or two big sales because something might happen."

Being adaptable is a lesson John learned from his father—John, Sr.—who taught his son everything he knows about logging and the wood business and who had to be adaptable out of necessity.

John Sr. was born in 1944 in Comfrey, Minnesota, and moved with his parents to a farm just southwest of Garrison at age eight. After graduating from Brainerd high school, he headed to the Effie area along with his brother Jerry where they



John Benson Sr.

worked for logger Ron Bailey.

"They were seven miles out in a cedar swamp," John Jr. says. "They were cutting cedar and spruce and cutting it and stacking it by hand. Someone would come down the trails and pick up the wood with a dozer and a little loader trailer behind. They literally stayed in tar paper shacks out there."

By the mid to late 1960s, the brothers found work back in Aitkin at Woodland Container

Pallet Company. John Sr. was night foreman and Jerry worked there, too. By 1970, John purchased the family farm near Aitkin.

"He had 32 head of milk cows," John Jr. says. "He was milking cows, and farming during the day and working at Woodland Container at night. And then he decided to strike out on his own and bought an old Bell Saw sawmill, a D2 dozer, and then was doing his own thing."

The plan was to keep the dairy herd, and also harvest his own wood to run through the sawmill. That's when tragedy struck.

While working the back forty of the farm one winter, John Sr. was on the D2, skidding trees from the woods toward the sawmill when the trees hit a standing dead tree.

"He never saw it coming," says John Jr., who was three years old at the time. "There wasn't a top on the dozer. The dead tree came right down on top of him and broke his back. He's lucky he made it."

Initially, John Sr. was paralyzed from the waist down. Doctors at the University of Minnesota inserted two 16-inch stainless steel rods in his back and sent him home in a full body cast. Incredibly, his left leg was fully functional by the following October. His right leg recovered strength too, but not 100%. For example, he couldn't run

the foot pedals on equipment, and it was difficult to drive his pickup with his bad right leg. But he'd grab his pant leg and place his foot on the gas pedal and maintained enough control that he could drive. And while he dragged his right leg a little, he could walk, often with the help of a stick he'd find in the woods.

In other words, he adapted. Very well.

"He just kept going," John Jr. says, "and his brothers worked with him. He bought some more saws, a resaw, and at one time he had eleven guys working for him. He had guys in the woods, he had the mill going, and he had guys up in the upper building, building pallets and they took them to Chicago."

John Jr. started helping his dad in the woods here and there when he was nine. By the mid 1980s he was in high school, and helping his father any way he could.

"Whenever I had the chance," he says, "I'd get off the bus after school and my brother Lance and I would head to the mill and be down there until 10 o'clock at night helping to get a lumber order done."

After graduating from Aitkin High in 1987, John Jr. eventually took a job with Aitkin County, going around to county forests and parks doing everything from brushing



Harvested timber prepares to leave the landing. Jerry Demenge and Timber Transport handle the pulp hauling for the Bensons.



John Benson operates the John Deere 643 D feller buncher.

the roads to planting acorns and seedlings. He was making \$150 a week. His dad responded by telling him, “you should be able to make that logging.”

“I think I worked for the county for six months or something,” John recalls. “I said, ‘all right, we’ll give her a whirl.’ We cut some logs up by Big Sandy Lake, just the two of us. We’d go up, get our 11 trees out and loaded. We’re hauling 50-footers up to a log home site in Walker. And we did another one over in Brainerd, out of a pretty nice pine sale we got up by Big Sandy. And we did that with a little Timberjack 205 cable skidder. We were cutting quite a bit of oak around Bay Lake and some private stuff.”

All the timber was sawed in their sawmill. John Jr. basically took over the most of the business operations, with his dad always having the final word. They made a great team.

“I took over a lot of the stress load, I guess you’d say,” John Jr. says. He was my right-hand man, and I was his. It was a lot of hard work.”

They were still hand-falling the timber, but decided to see how life with a three-wheeled feller-buncher looked like.

“We bought it maybe in my early-to mid-20s,” he says. “It had a bar saw, but that thing didn’t work out too well. Unless you were on good and flat ground and cutting single trees about 16 inches, maybe 18 inches, and once in a while you cut down a 20-inch popple. But I laid that buncher on its side. It was probably a 20-inch popple. It was

windy that day. It was on perfectly flat ground. I got that tree cut off and in the head and all of a sudden the machine did a little rock and did another one, and just slowly tipped over. We used it off-and-on for probably ten years, but you had to be in the right timber. We finally sold it because it just wasn’t working out. I was hand-falling up until my mid-40s.”

Unfortunately, John Sr. ultimately developed a brain tumor, which took his life in 2000, just short of his 56th birthday.

“Dad was one hard-working persevering guy,” John says. “He just never gave up.”

John has grown the business over the years, putting together a full set of conventional equipment, and then some. He’s also carried on the example set by his father, that work ethic. In fact, the whole company has, thanks to the fact that they’re all descendants of John Sr.: John Jr. is

joined in the woods by his brothers Lance and Vince and sons Aaron and Nate. Aaron has partnered on some equipment and puts a lot of time and effort into the operation. A third son—Tom—also helps out occasionally, but isn’t full-time at the moment.

“Having a good crew that takes care of the equipment, is huge,” John says. “None of us are ramrods. We run older equipment, but it’s good equipment. We just take care of it, and it will remain to be older, good equipment. We also have a backup of every machine, so if one does break down, the whole operation isn’t coming to a standstill. We can’t afford downtime. It’s a short season and we have to go.”

Having backup equipment at their disposal is a huge help, particularly these days with all of the supply chain issues that make it hard to get parts when a machine breaks down.

“We try to have it so the backup machines are the same model as our main machines,” he says. “If we need parts or filters we’re not dealing with all kinds of variety of parts. We can order filters or parts that will work on either machine. Plus, we get to know the machine so when we work on them we’re familiar with them.”

It helps that the Bensons typically only harvest timber during the prime logging months of December, through March. They’ll spend November going over all their machines with a fine-tooth comb, making sure they’re ready for the



Aaron Benson slashes harvested oak.

busy harvesting season ahead. During the other months of the year, they work in dirt and excavating, mostly on septic systems.

“My dad logged year-round,” John says, “and always had a lot of struggles in the summertime. I can remember we were stuck in the mud, semi loads of logs. There’s a lot of clay soil around here. If it rains a day, moderate rain, you’re out of the woods for two days. Then about the time it dries up it’ll rain again. And it seemed like whenever we got stuck in the mud, the equipment was getting abused. So I have an excavating business. We’re doing septic systems, septic mounds, footing excavation for basements, building pads, hauling gravel, doing driveways, doing lot clearing, and putting in roads.

“I like not having to completely rely on logging. I saw a lot of the struggles Dad went through. Trying to find summer wood is difficult. I mean, last summer would’ve been really good, but how often has that happened? To try to find summer wood, especially here in Aitkin County with all of the clay soil we have here, it’s tough. A lot of this kind of ground, you’re not going to get out here in the summer. You wouldn’t even get out here last summer in the drought. We’re crossing some little ash pockets here and there, and there’s been some standing water. I fell through right up to the running boards three weeks ago, up there on top of the hill. You can be in Aitkin County and be up on a hill, and there’ll be a swamp up there in the middle.”

The sale the Bensons are currently working includes 350 cords of maple that will be hauled to Sappi, plus 110 cords of ash, 140 cords of basswood, and 185 cords of oak. They’ll send pallet-grade timber to Savanna in McGregor, and when they have higher grade wood, particularly aspen and oak like on this site, they’ll haul to Hawkins Sawmill. Unless, the Bensons saw it themselves. They still have the sawmill back at the shop and will send some grade oak lumber to Woodcraft in St. Cloud to be made into cabinets.

When purchasing timber, Benson also likes to have options. This winter they happen to have only Aitkin County sales lined up—although they purchase timber from other agencies like Crow Wing County and the DNR as well. All the sites this year are within about a mile and a half of one another which minimizes moving equipment.

“We buy a variety of timber sales,” Benson says. “Maybe the weather won’t let us get into one, or a market could change. So we try to stay in different species of wood. We even have a couple of pine sales, which we’ll probably send to Savanna, or I might bring some of that home and saw some lumber out of it. There will also be logs for log homes.”

John says maybe the most important family member in terms of the business is his wife Lori.

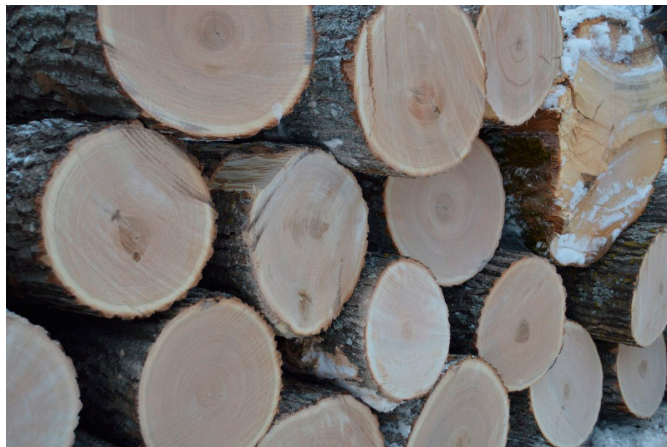
“If it wasn’t for her, I wouldn’t be able to be here at the scale I am,” he says. “She takes care of everything at home, and she puts up with the hours I put in. She also works with special needs adults as a life skills trainer.”



Vince Benson drags harvested oak from the delimeter to the landing with a John Deere 648G skidder. It’s one of two identical skidders working on this site, the other driven by Nate Benson.



Lance Benson operates the company’s Link Belt 2800 delimeter.



Slashed oak on John Benson’s Aitkin County harvest site.

Of all the different points of the year, whether it’s working on septic systems in the summer or sawing lumber in the spring, it’s wintertime and the chance to be in the woods that continues to be Benson’s favorite.

“Just to be out here, and the smell of wood, the nature,” he says. You never know what you’re going to see out here. Sooner or later when we’re cutting, the deer find us and they just start coming in. I love it.”



NELSON WOOD SHIMS
EXCELLENCE IN BUILDING

Nelson Wood Shims is Buying Basswood Logs!

- **Length: Must be 100"**
- **Diameter: 8 Inch Minimum, No max**
- **Limbs: Well Trimmed, Flush with Bolt**
- **No Bells, Rot or Crotches**
- **Minimal Cracks and Sweep**
- **Need to be Fresh Cut Logs**

**Cloquet Scaling Yard
& 24/7 Self Unloading
Drop Site Available**

For more information
Contact Crystal
1-800-441-7390 ext. 127
crystal.lewins@shims.com



Nelson Wood Shims
500 N.W. 3rd Street • PO Box 395 • Cohasset, MN 55721
(218)328-6203 • Fax (218) 328-6205



RAPTOR
BUNKS AND STAKES

- High Strength Steel
- Double the Strength Resistance and Life of Aluminum
- Comparable Weight and Costs

NOW IN STOCK!
TRUCK BUNK SYSTEM

**ALUMINUM DROP DECK
with RAPTOR Bunks and Stakes**



NOW IN STOCK!
ALL ALUMINUM CRIB TRAILERS

- The Lightest Crib Trailers on the Market
- Increased Payload • Increased Profit



**ALUMINUM STRAIGHT FRAME
with RAPTOR Bunks and Stakes**



8450 County R
Suring, WI 54174
www.greatlakesmfg.com
For pricing,
call 1-877-248-5677

Kimball's Logging: 2021 Lake States Region Outstanding Logger



(L-R): Donny Pachel, Zach Kimball, Justin Kimball, Kelly Kimball, Tyler Henry, Zachary Munch

The Forest Resources Association (FRA) and STIHL recognized Kimball's Logging as the Lake States Region 2021 Outstanding Logger at FRA's Lake States Region 2021 Virtual Fall Meeting on December 7.

Located in Park Rapids, Minnesota, Kimball's Logging received a cherry and walnut wooden crosscut saw plaque from FRA, an MS 462 chain saw gift certificate, and \$250 check provided by STIHL.

In accepting the award, Kelly Kimball recognized his wife Shelly, sons Justin and Zach, both of whom work on the Kimball's Logging crew, as well as son Cory, who is also in the timber business, working as a forester for the Minnesota DNR. In addition, Kimball thanked all the company's hardworking employees for his success in the logging business.

Earlier in the year, Kimball's Logging was also recognized as the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative Logger of the Year.

Kimball's Logging can trace its roots in the logging/sawmill business back to the first settlers from Europe, nearly 400 years ago. The first Kimballs came over from England in 1634, making wagon wheels. The Kimball family spread out from there: north to Maine, and gradually west to Wisconsin, and then to Minnesota.

"The Sustainable Forestry Initiative congratulates Kimball's Logging for being recognized as the Lake States Region 2021 Outstanding Logger," said Kathy Abusow, President and CEO of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. "Loggers like Kimball's play a critical role on the ground in implementing

the requirements of the SFI standards, such as protection of water quality, management of forest aesthetics, and a commitment to training."

"The Kimball family story is truly a unique one," said Ray Higgins of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association. "Kelly and the rest of the Kimballs are giants in logging our state, active in their community, and taking a leadership role in both the Minnesota Timber Producers Association and the Minnesota Logger Education Program. They are an outstanding example of the fine forest management work performed by professional loggers in Minnesota and throughout the Lake States."

Kimball's Logging will now compete for the FRA National Outstanding Logger of the Year with other Regional Outstanding Loggers. The National Outstanding Logger of the Year will be announced in May during the FRA Annual Meeting.

FRA's Outstanding Logger Award program is designed to raise the visibility of professional logging contractors and encourage other loggers to adopt the performance of the award winners.

The Forest Resources Association Inc. is a nonprofit trade association concerned with the safe, efficient, and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from woods to mill. FRA represents wood consumers, independent logging contractors, and wood dealers, as well as businesses providing products and services to the forest resource-based industries.

STIHL Incorporated serves as the sponsor of FRA's Regional and National Outstanding Logger Awards.



CHOICE INSURANCE

Choice Insurance is the largest Independent Agency of wood / forest product companies in the region and one of the largest nationally.

Choice Insurance writes all lines of coverage for the following Industries: Sawmills and Planing Mills, Pallet and Truss Manufacturing, Cabinet, Door, Furniture, and Flooring manufacturing, Retail and Wholesale Building Material Distributors, and Logging Businesses.

For More information, contact Jay Eystad at (218) 255-0446 or at jeystad@insurewithchoice.com



The image shows the cover of a report titled "Minnesota Timber Pricing Report" from the Forest Data Network. The cover features a photograph of a snowy forest landscape. A green box in the top left corner contains the Forest Data Network logo and the text "FOREST DATA NETWORK". Below the title, there is a map of Minnesota with several regions highlighted. A list of regions is provided: Bemidji, Near Woods, Red River Valley, and Soudan. To the right of the map, another list includes St. Cloud, Superior, and West Lakes. The text "INCLUDES PRICING FROM 7 MINNESOTA REGIONS" is also present. At the bottom of the cover, it says "TIMBER PRICING REPORT".

Forest Data Network
now reports **up-to-date**
timber pricing in...

MINNESOTA

www.forestdatanetwork.com

Logger of the Year Nominations Being Accepted

The Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program Implementation Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2022 Logger of the Year Award.

The award is designed to recognize outstanding independent logging contractor performance, increase the visibility of competent professional independent logging contractors within the forestry community, encourage independent logging contractors to emulate the outstanding performance of award winners, and improve forester-logger-landowner relations by publicly recognizing outstanding logging performance as an essential element of every planned timber harvest.

Among the areas in which nominees will be evaluated are safety, forest management, timber harvesting practices, business management, as well as community

involvement.

To nominate an outstanding logger, please go to the Minnesota Logger Education Program website at www.MLEP.org and download the electronic nomination form. Complete the nomination form describing why you think your nominee should receive the Minnesota SFI Implementation Committee Logger of the Year Award. Your nomination should include Letters of Support from peers, private landowners, agency staff, etc.

Nominations are due Friday, March 4, 2022.

The winning logger will receive a \$500 cash award and “2022 Logger of the Year” plaque. In addition, this year’s honoree will be nominated for FRA’s Regional and National Logger of the Year awards.

Previous Minnesota winners include:

2021 – Kimball’s Logging
2020 – Fjeran Forest Products
2019 – JATCO, Inc.
2018 – Shermer Logging*
2017 – Dobbs Logging
2016 – Hasbargen Logging*
2015 – Greg Cook Logging, Inc.
2014 – Scheff Logging
2013 – Rolle Logging
2012 – Erickson Timber
2011 – M&R Chips
2010 – Lovdahl & Sons LLC
2009 – Berthiaume Logging LLC*
2008 – Pittack Logging, Inc.
2007 – McCabe Forest Products
2006 – Rieger Logging, Inc.

**Went on to be named National Logger of the Year*

WA WHEELER ASSOCIATES

Employee Benefits | Wealth Management | Qualified Plans

324 West Superior Street | Suite 1000 | Duluth MN 55802 | 218-722-8010 | www.wheeler-associates.com |
Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser.



Cold Weather Equipment Blanket



Shorten expensive warm-up time and be more productive and profitable with your **Iron Nitey!**

Constructed with Thinsulate liner, quilted with a rugged and durable outer shell. **Iron Nitey** attaches to your equipment with magnets. No ropes or bungee cords!

Custom made to fit pieces of logging equipment large and small

Made in Minnesota

Developed, Tried, and Tested by Northwoods Loggers!

(218) 352-6175
IRONNITEY.COM

Stauber Leads Congressional Roundtable on Forestry

Minnesota Rep. Pete Stauber led a delegation of members from the Congressional Western Caucus in a round table discussion on forestry at the TimberLake Lodge in Grand Rapids in February.

Along with Rep. Stauber, members of Congress who came to Grand Rapids to take part in the discussion included Rep. Michelle Fischbach (R-Minnesota), Rep. Tom Tiffany (R-Wisconsin), Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Washington), Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Arkansas), and Rep. Jerry Carl (R-Alabama).

The Congressional Western Caucus is a group of roughly 70 members of Congress, mostly from western states, but not exclusively, advocating for rural policy issues throughout the West and beyond.

TPA President Rod Enberg was among those participating in the discussion, sharing concerns and obstacles loggers face every day in running their businesses. Among the concerns shared with the members of Congress, were the trucking shortage and the inability to hire drivers, the need for more wood on the market—including forest service wood, the need for new markets in our state, and the general rising costs of staying in business.

“I see a lot of my trucks sitting in my yard every morning with

no drivers,” Enberg told the panel. “I think the regulations for our driving careers really need to be looked at. How can we change these regulations, so that we can get our products moving? We can produce mountains of wood, but what do we do with it if we can’t get it to the mill?”

Rep. Stauber agreed, sharing a bit of information he learned while service on the US House Committee on Small Business.

“This year, the additional cost for regulations on small business is \$200 billion dollars,” Stauber said. “These are the Biden Administration’s numbers, not mine. That came out last week. That’s the most in the history of this country. And you wonder why our small businesses are struggling, especially in a pandemic. That is wrong.”

Rep. Westerman is a forester by trade, viewed as the foremost expert on forestry issues in the Congress. He talked about the importance of proper forest management in our country.

“People who manage the land are the original environmentalists,” Rep. Westerman said. “People often

don’t realize just how important forestry is. If you like clean water, guess what? Healthy Forests are the single most important thing you can have for clean water. A vibrant, healthy forest filters water, cleans it, and makes our streams healthier.

“You all are on the right side of science,” Rep. Westerman added. “You’re behind the truth. We can’t stop telling that story. That’s why the Western Caucus travels around the country, having meetings like this.”

All the Western Caucus members present represent districts in forested regions of the country, and understand the challenges the timber industry faces. Rep. Stauber vowed to take the information learned at the round table back to Washington to try to make improvements in our working conditions.

“There are some hurdles that the industry is facing every single day,” he said. “For me, to be able to bring my colleagues to understand from the experts, and hear some of your concerns, we want this industry to be vibrant. Without question, we have the ability to do that, if we just allow you to do what you do.”



TPA President Rod Enberg (left) discusses forestry issues with Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Arkansas) and Rep. Pete Stauber (R-Minnesota).



Members of the Western Caucus (L-R): Rep. Jerry Carl (R-Alabama), Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Arkansas), Rep. Pete Stauber (R-Minnesota), Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Washington), Rep. Tom Tiffany (R-Wisconsin), and Rep. Michelle Fischbach (R-Minnesota).



TPA President Rod Enberg talks about challenges in the logging industry at the Western Caucus Round Table on Forestry in Grand Rapids.

Hedstrom Lumber Co., Inc.

1504 Gunflint Trail
Grand Marais, Minnesota



BUYING LOGS:

Red and White Pine,
Spruce

Deliveries accepted at:

Mill Site
Grand Marais, Minn.

Foster Trucking
Superior, Wis.

Kirscher Transport Yard
Virginia, Minn.

Diamond Match Yard
Cloquet, Minn.

For specifications and a contract call:

Wood Procurement Director - Chris Hegg
218-877-7031

Iron Range Area - Jeff Elliott
218-750-2700

Canada - Jack Erickson
807-627-8826

Visit our website:
www.hedstromlumber.com

DULUTHSIGN

- WARNING/ SAFETY SIGNS
- REFLECTIVE ROAD SIGNS
 - VEHICLE GRAPHICS
 - BUILDING SIGNS
 - VINYL BANNERS



WHEN DOING
WHAT'S RIGHT IS JUST
**GOOD
BUSINESS.**

We have an attorney for you.

- BUSINESS/CORPORATE LAW ◦
- » John Gasele » Joseph Heck
- » Robert Kanuit » Paul Loraas
- » Daniel Maddy » David Pritchett

FRYBERGER
— LAW FIRM —

fryberger.com

Searching for Answers in an Imperfect World

By John Saccoman,
Mackinaw Administrators, LLC.

In a perfect world, logging companies would have enough buildings to house all their trucks and vehicles.

Of course, in this perfect world, these buildings would be heated and everything frozen would thaw at night and be ready for use the next day.

But that's a perfect world.

Here in Minnesota, life isn't perfect. There aren't enough buildings to house logging vehicles. They sit parked outside in brutal temperatures. Fierce winter conditions wreak havoc on most any moving part and in turn, sometimes its employees.

Such is the case of an employee of a Minnesota logging company. In late December, 2021, the 54-year-old truck driver was trying to crank up the tarp on his 53-foot walking-floor cube trailer used to haul wood chips when it broke in the frigid air and sent him for a tumble.

The employee fell to the ground and broke his wrist. According to the company's worker's compensation company, the injury is reserved at \$28,000. The employee

has needed both surgery and at least 4-6 weeks at home to heal. That timeline may expand again if the employer needs the employee to start cranking again, a work comp spokesperson said.

"A lot of it had to do with the heavy snow that caused the crank for rolling the tarp up to pop," a spokesperson for the logging company said. "When it snapped it knocked him off balance and he lost his footing. He was fighting winter," she said.

Ideally, if it's going to snow, the company asks its drivers to roll up the tarps so the snow falls in the trailer instead of on the tarp.

"You don't want those trailers to get covered," she said, "and then have your driver take off and lose a sheet of ice on the highway. We've all been behind that truck that loses a big sheet a frozen snow. We don't want that.

"If we could all just pull in somewhere warm for the night, it would be just dandy," she said.

Again, that's life in a perfect world.

The employee has had surgery and is home resting his way back to full duty.

"He's driving his wife crazy and he's trying to get back soon,"

she said laughing. "So he's highly motivated to get back."

So what's the takeaway? Is there a lesson to be learned?

The employee was working within what he was taught to do. He wasn't doing anything outside of safe operating procedures that could have caused his fall. The company spokesperson said they looked to the accident investigation to find an answer and it wasn't clear.

"Aside from clipping these guys into cleated boots, I don't know how practical that is," she said. "They're climbing up on a truck with cleats on their feet and they'd fall on their butts doing that. So, I don't know what the answer is."

Maybe the answer is simple. Frozen situations call for increased awareness. Reinforce the thought to employees that everything is slower in cold weather. Trucks, tarps, cranks, and sometimes people all are a bit more unpredictable in winter. Expect the unexpected.

"I guess operating tarps in cold conditions, things don't want to work right," she said. "But to go down the road, the truck's gotta move. Sometimes there isn't a perfect answer."

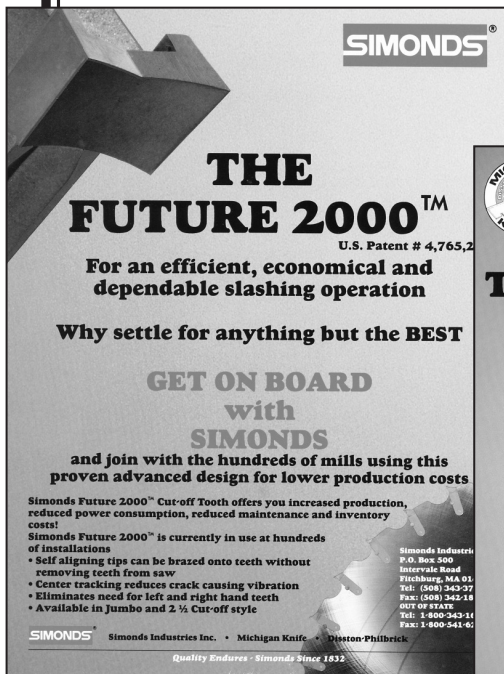
John Saccoman is a loss control consultant for Mackinaw Administrators, the third party administrator for TPA's Workers Compensation Program. For information on the TPA/Workers Compensation Insurance Program, call the TPA Office, or Jay Eystad (218-255-0446) of Choice Insurance.



Rice Blacksmith Saw & Machine &

SIMONDS®

are proud to feature



SIMONDS®

THE FUTURE 2000™

U.S. Patent # 4,765,2

For an efficient, economical and dependable slashing operation

Why settle for anything but the BEST

GET ON BOARD with SIMONDS

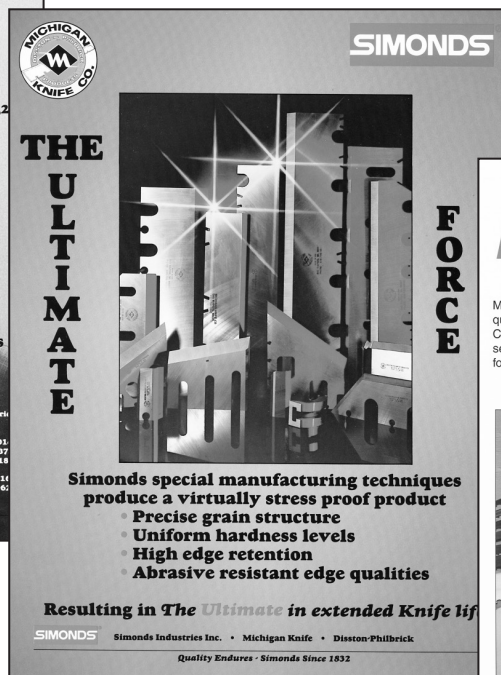
and join with the hundreds of mills using this proven advanced design for lower production costs

Simonds Future 2000™ Cut-off Tooth offers you increased production, reduced power consumption, reduced maintenance and inventory costs!

Simonds Future 2000™ is currently in use at hundreds of installations

- Self aligning tips can be brazed onto teeth without removing teeth from saw
- Center tracking reduces crack causing vibration
- Eliminates need for left and right hand teeth
- Available in Jumbo and 2 1/4 Cut-off style

SIMONDS Simonds Industries Inc. • Michigan Knife • Diston-Philbrick
Quality Endures - Simonds Since 1832



MICHIGAN KNIFE CO.

SIMONDS

THE ULTIMATE FORCE

Simonds special manufacturing techniques produce a virtually stress proof product

- Precise grain structure
- Uniform hardness levels
- High edge retention
- Abrasive resistant edge qualities

Resulting in The Ultimate in extended Knife life

SIMONDS Simonds Industries Inc. • Michigan Knife • Diston-Philbrick
Quality Endures - Simonds Since 1832



SIMONDS®

RED STREAK

Make Simonds your source for the highest quality and best value in cutting tools. Choose from the industry's broadest selection of narrow kerf bandsaw blades for all applications and types of equipment.

Simonds manufactures high quality wood cutting bandsaws for every application.

- Resaws
- Multi-Heads
- Portable Sawmills
- Pallet Mills
- Band Edgers
- Plywood Trimmers
- Veneer Saws
- Line Bars
- Headrigs

SIMONDS Simonds Industries Inc.
Fitchburg, MA USA

Since 1832 . . . Simonds Supplies,
THE RIGHT BLADE FOR THE JOB!

Offering complete professional saw repair service—call now!

Rice Blacksmith Saw & Machine

Main Street, Rice, MN 56367 • Phone 320-393-2169 • Fax 320-393-2164
Contact: Jim or Al Voigt

Offering 401(k) Benefits Company Owners

By Ryan Coole, Wheeler Associates

Since its effective date in 1980, the 401(k) plan has become a primary savings vehicle for millions of Americans by offering a variety of meaningful benefits to employers and employees. Even with the many regulatory changes that have impacted the 401(k) plan over the years, it continues to be highly valued by employees and an appealing benefit offering for employers.

An effective 401(k) plan should be tailored to your specific needs. Key factors like your goals for offering the plan, budget parameters and employee demographics are critical areas of consideration.

By reviewing these key areas, your plan can be designed to work within your business objectives, meet your specific needs and help your employees prepare for retirement readiness. A 401(k) plan also offers features that can help target specific classes of employees to help maximum contributions to these specific groups if demographics are suitable.

You can also encourage employee savings by offering automated savings features that set a minimum savings percentage or one that increases the savings percentage each year. These plans also include simplified investing solutions that help employees overcome confusion regarding where to place their contributions and support diversified investing based on key factors, such as risk tolerance or age.

The many meaningful benefits for employers and employees make

it one of the most highly valued programs you can offer.

Benefits to Logging Company Owner

- Deductible contributions provide a valuable tax benefit for employer contributions to employees under the plan
- Flexibility in determining annual contributions along with the ability to adapt to varying economic conditions and changing business objectives
- Employee recruitment and retention is supported by a well-designed plan
- Build goodwill with employees by providing a means of supporting their retirement savings goals and by benefitting all employees, regardless of position or title
- Customized plan design allows for plan provisions that complement business goals, budget parameters and employee demographics
- Opportunity to tie productivity and profitability with incentive-based employer contributions

Common misconceptions about 401(k) plans:

Burdensome administration

Technology and full-service platforms have greatly lessened this concern.

High cost

A 401(k) plan typically has billable administrative fees that are tax deductible, can be covered by forfeited employer contributions, and in some cases, a tax credit can be applied for start-up plans. Many employers consider the administrative fees negligible when considering the tax savings created by contributions made to the plan.

Contact your advisor.

Your financial advisor is a valuable source of information and can help you learn more about the many benefits a 401(k) plan offers.

Ryan Coole is a Qualified Plan Director, Qualified Plan Financial Consultant®, Chartered Retirement Plans Specialist® and Chartered Financial Consultant® at Wheeler Associates in Duluth. He works with TPA members on the association's 401(k) program. For help with your company's retirement benefits program, Ryan can be reached at (218) 336-8526.



Coole



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

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>
Beltrami County		
<i>December 7th—Sealed Bid</i>		
Aspen Pulp		\$40.17
Red & White Pine Bolts		\$40.00
Red Pine Pulp		\$16.84
Basswood P&B		\$23.12
5 of the 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

Beltrami County		
<i>December 9th—Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen Pulp		\$38.00
Red Pine Bolts		\$64.56
Basswood Pulp		\$14.40
Red Pine P&B		\$ 8.05
All 13 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

Aitkin County		
<i>December 15th—Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen P/B	\$34.17	
Mixed Hdwds P/B	\$ 9.70	
Maple P/B	\$12.40	
Oak P/B	\$24.91	
20 of the 37 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

DNR—Deer River Area		
<i>December 14th—Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen Species (PW)	\$34.06	\$32.92
Aspen Species (PB)	\$32.53	\$31.98
Ash (PB)	\$ 9.74	\$11.63
Balsam Fir (PB)	\$ 8.62	\$ 7.79
24 of the 30 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

DNR—Warroad Area		
<i>December 14th—Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen Species (PW)	\$ 8.94	\$17.26
Jack Pine (PB)	\$33.99	\$32.17
Norway Pine (PB)	\$45.20	\$36.71
Mixed Spruce (PB)	\$16.83	\$15.62
27 of the 37 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

Itasca County		
<i>December 14th—Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen	\$35.43	\$32.71
Red Pine	\$72.27	\$26.32
Spruce	\$19.96	\$18.02
Jack Pine	\$41.37	\$24.70
Balsam	\$11.06	\$ 7.63
43 of the 47 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

DNR—Aitkin Area		
<i>December 15th—Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen Species (PW)	\$31.97	\$33.14
Aspen Species (PB)	\$50.97	\$41.49
Maple Species (PB)	\$14.00	\$14.56
Red Oak (PB)	\$17.05	\$23.72
21 of the 33 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

DNR—Cloquet Area		
<i>December 16th—Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen Species (PW)	\$36.42	\$18.85
Aspen Species (PB)	\$41.14	\$27.37
Maple Species (PB)	\$24.20	\$12.00
Paper Birch (PB)	\$27.45	\$22.25
7 of the 10 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

Carlton County		
<i>December 16th—Sealed Bid</i>		
Red Pine Bolts	\$51.38	
Red Pine Pulp	\$ 6.34	
Aspen	\$26.15	
All 5 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

DNR—Bemidji Area		
<i>December 21st—Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen Species (PW)	\$34.27	\$36.46
Ash (PB)	\$ 7.94	\$ 7.60
Norway Pine (PB)	\$20.75	\$35.11
Mixed Spruce (PB)	\$24.68	\$27.57
21 of the 31 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

Cass County		
<i>December 23rd—Sealed Bid</i>		
Aspen	\$42.66	\$25.15
Red Oak	\$27.73	\$16.65
Birch	\$21.33	\$17.15
All 4 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

DNR—Backus Area		
<i>January 4th—Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen Species (PW)	\$26.88	
Trembling Aspen (PW)		\$ 5.70
Mixed Spruce (PB)		\$10.35
Norway Pine (WST)	\$84.03	
5 of the 11 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

DNR—Two Harbors Area		
<i>January 6th—Oral Auction</i>		
Mixed Spruce (PB)	\$10.35	
Trembling Aspen (PW)	\$ 5.70	
Mixed Spruce (PW)	\$ 2.70	
3 of the 18 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

Hubbard County		
<i>January 10th—Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen Pulp		\$38.85
Birch Pulp		\$11.69
Oak Mixed		\$19.86
All 12 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

DNR—Sandstone Area		
<i>January 11th—Oral Auction</i>		
Trembling Aspen (PW)	\$52.02	\$25.46
Pine Species (WST)	\$60.90	
Paper Birch (PB)		\$18.69
9 of the 17 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

DNR—NW Region*January 10th—Sealed Bid*

Aspen Species (PW)	\$41.80	\$22.19
Trembling Aspen (PB)	\$46.44	\$34.48
Mixed Spruce (PB)	\$24.87	\$13.98
Jack Pine (PB)	\$30.03	\$21.50

33 of the 37 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—NE Region*January 6th—Sealed Bid*

Aspen Species (PW)	\$46.98	\$31.53
Trembling Aspen (PW)	\$32.95	\$25.90
Mixed Spruce (PB)	\$50.62	\$21.27
Jack Pine (PB)	\$23.88	\$33.07
Norway Pine (WST)	\$87.95	\$68.37

41 of the 53 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Good Neighbor Authority Auction*January 12th—Sealed Bid*

Norway Pine (PB)	\$ 8.48
Jack Pine (PB)	\$18.46
Aspen Species (PW)	\$19.67

2 of the 4 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Central Region*January 19th—Sealed Bid*

Aspen Species (PW)	\$25.02	
Oak Species (PB)	\$41.35	
Pine Species (PB)	\$74.14	
Jack Pine (PB)	\$23.88	\$33.07
Norway Pine (WST)	\$87.95	\$68.37

4 of the 13 tracts offered during the sale were purchased. None of the 5 sales on the intermediate auction were purchase.

Cass County*January 28th—Oral Auction*

Aspen	\$35.83	\$33.46
Red Oak	\$35.02	\$42.40
Basswood	\$13.73	\$14.62
Birch	\$18.29	\$16.41

All 21 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Koochiching County*February 2nd—Oral Auction*

Aspen P&B	\$39.32	\$33.86
Spruce P&B	\$33.75	\$22.22
Balsam P&B	\$ 8.06	\$11.23
Ash P&B	\$ 6.02	\$ 7.86

21 of the 22 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Products:

PB = Pulp and Bolts

WMP = Woodsrun Mixed Products

WC = Woodsrun Cordwood

ST = Sawtimber

WST = Woodsrun Sawtimber

PW = Pulpwood

SLV = Sawlogs/Veneer

**“Insuring the Timber Industry since 1946!”**

Trucks, Equipment and General Liability are our specialty

Contact Butch, Lonny or any of our agents at 800-934-LOGS (5647)

TPA Annual Meeting: June 9th at Sugar Lake Lodge

Mark your calendar for TPA's 85th Annual Meeting, which will return to Sugar Lake Lodge on Thursday June 9, 2022.

Details are still being finalized, but the morning meeting will include the Annual Report of Association Activities, as well as

Timber Talk

informative guests from various government agencies, who will provide updates as well as answer

questions from TPA members, which is always some of the most valuable time spent with these policy makers.

The afternoon will feature TPA's golf and fishing outings, with our Annual Meeting Banquet taking place that evening.

All members will be sent registration materials once details are finalized. Watch future issues of [The Timber Bulletin](#) for updates.

Driveway Update from the State Patrol

The Patrol is seeing some haulers that use Drivewayz failing to follow the Pre-Clearance restrictions that are detailed in the Drivewayz contract.

Drivewayz is the Nation's largest weigh station bypass service, allowing subscribers to legally bypass weigh stations. Any time a carrier/driver, hauling any type of load, that's utilizing any type of oversized or overweight special permit must ignore the bypass commands and report to open inspection sites. This means any time an inspection site is open and the driver is using any type of oversize/overweight (OSOW) permit, the vehicle must enter the inspection site regardless of the signal to legally bypass or pull-in given by the pre-clearance system.

This includes the Forest Products Permit as well as the times when the Winter Weight Increase is in effect and the Forest Products permit is being used to haul the maximum 99,000 pounds of timber. Naturally, they are allowed to follow any potential bypass signal that is given when unloaded or not using any type of OSOW permit.

It is the Patrol's goal and hope to educate those who utilize the pre-clearance systems before any type of enforcement has to take place.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Ray Higgins in the TPA Office: 218-722-5013.

Minnesota Loggers to be Surveyed

The University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources, in conjunction with Minnesota Forest Industries and the Minnesota Logger Education Program is again conducting a survey of the state's loggers to better understand the health of the industry in Minnesota.

The survey is the follow-up to similar studies, most recently conducted in 2017, on trends in the logging sector, and seeks to determine what has changed over the past five years.

"The data we gathered in the last survey was invaluable in understanding the financial health of the industry in our state, said Professor Charlie Blinn of the University of Minnesota. "But a lot has changed in Minnesota over the last several years and we want to be able to quantify how that has affected our logging businesses."

In the coming weeks, loggers in the state will be sent the survey and asked to return it. Study organizers assure that all survey information will be kept confidential, via a "double-blind" process in which respondents are only known by survey code. No information will be released that can be linked to individual companies. Once the responses are received and tabulated, focus groups will be held to gain a deeper understanding of what the data showed.

As an incentive to complete the survey, ten respondents will

receive free Minnesota one-year onXMaps licenses, a smartphone-based tool that many loggers and foresters have found helps them find boundaries, look at topography, delineate private vs. public lands, and identify private landowners.

"We hope everyone will take the time to fill out the survey and send it back," Blinn said. "The more responses we receive, the better data we'll have to paint a more accurate picture of our industry at this time."

Entry Level Driver Training Regulation Takes Effect

Federal Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) regulations for CDL holders took effect February 7th. Going forward, prospective drivers seeking CDLs must take training from programs that have filed curriculum with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

The ELDT rule was published in 2016 and was set to be effective in 2020, but was delayed two years.

Keep in mind:

- A prospective driver who obtained a learner's permit **before** Monday, February 7, 2022 **is not required** to complete the entry-level driver training for obtaining a CDL, so long as, the applicant obtains a CDL **before** the learner's permit or renewed learner's permit expires.
- Employers providing driver training to their **own** employees are exempt from having to be a licensed driving school per Minnesota Statute. The training program would need to meet the ELDT requirements for the training facility, equipment, curriculum and instructor qualifications and must be registered with FMCSA
- Individuals considered an entry-level driver include those applying to obtain a Class A CDL or Class B CDL for the first time and those upgrading an existing Class B CDL to a Class A CDL;

For more information, call the TPA Office.

Two Longtime Loggers Pass

Grand Rapids logger Dick Grover of Grand Rapids passed away in December. He was 87. Grover not only logged, but also sold building materials through his business, Grover Mill & Lumber.

Bill Benes of Spang Township, just north of Hill City, passed away in January. He was 74. Benes worked many years with his brother John, supplying timber to UPM Blandin Paper in Grand Rapids. He also made walking canes for friends, relatives, and neighbors.



Quality Preowned Construction & Forestry Equipment

Contact- Erik Lunemann, Brainerd, MN

Mobile 218-821-7485

www.lunequip.com



Visit @LunemannEquipmentCo on Facebook

Keep your truck busy during break up

We are hiring trucks and drivers during the spring time.
We provide trailers.
Please contact Larry Doose @ 612-490-6133

**TIRES
&
SERVICE**

Pomp's TIRE SERVICE

24-Hour
EMERGENCY
Truck & Skidder
Service



- **Huge Inventory**
 - Passenger, light truck, truck, skidder & off-road tires
- **Delivery Routes Throughout Northern Minnesota**
- **The "Tire Professionals" since 1939**

BRIDGESTONE
Firestone

GENERAL TIRE
Continental

GOODYEAR
KELLY TIRES

MICHELIN
bandag

116 Ogden Ave.
Superior, WI 54880
800.420.6216

Pomp's
TIRE SERVICE
www.pompstire.com

201 N. Hoover Road
Virginia, MN 55792
888.545.9803

**DON'T JUST SET YOUR GOALS.
GO GET YOUR GOALS.**

LET'S MAKE YOUR PLANS A REALITY, TOGETHER.

We see the potential in your plans. Our timber lending specialists provide financial solutions for your unique needs – **from equipment loans and leases to real estate financing, fleet services and more** – designed to give you the tools needed to succeed. And our experienced financial team will guide you every step of the way.

Partner with us to make your goals possible.

[COMPEER.COM/GOALS](https://www.compeer.com/goals)

COMPEER
FINANCIAL
(844) 426-6733 | #CHAMPIONRURAL

John Marchand
Sr. Timber Lending Specialist
(218) 216-3989 | John.Marchand@compeer.com

Julie Miles
Associate Timber Lending Specialist
(218) 290-2260 | Julie.Miles@compeer.com

Compeer Financial can provide assistance with timber financing and operations based on historical data and industry expertise. Compeer Financial does not provide legal advice or certified financial planning. Compeer Financial, ACA is an Equal Credit Opportunity Lender and Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer. ©2020 All rights reserved.

Overworked! Need to Share the Job!

We'd like to find either a sawyer or planer man.

Email:

katie@twoinletsmill.com

ITASCA WOODLAND SERVICES

- Private Timber Harvest bid invitations are available!
- Use our online Timber Portal to access bid invitations and interactive maps.

Call: **218-328-8070**
Visit: iwsconsulting.com



LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

Big Logs and Big Timber

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*



Whenever hunters, berry pickers and travelers discover one of the partly decayed pine stumps that are found throughout northeastern Minnesota, they remark about the size of the original stand of pine. And one of the questions most asked of forest rangers, historians and old-timers is about the size and extent of the original stands of pine that grew in Minnesota.

The size and density of the original stands varied considerably in different parts of the pine region. The large stumps that they notice are mostly the stumps of white pine, as these trees grow to be much larger than the Norway or red pine. White pine grew on the better soils and Norway pine on the lighter, more sandy soils along with jack pine.

Some of the better stands of white pine

Morris Erwin, walking boss for Nelson Lumber Co. of Cloquet, stands by a big butt log on the Cloquet River about 1912.



were found in the southeastern part of the pine region along the Rum, the Kettle, the Snake and St. Croix rivers. The white pine that grew on these better soils grew much faster and were lighter and known by the lumberjacks as “cork pine,” as the logs would float higher in the water.

River drivers, while they liked to work with cork pine, had to be more careful in riding a cork pine log as it would turn much faster in the water and was much harder to ride over rapids. However, by floating higher it would not get caught on rocks and sand bars and was much easier to move downstream.

Norway pine floated much lower and had a tendency to “dead head” if left too long in the water. Norway was sometimes landed on the river banks and left to dry a few weeks before being rolled into the water. Big butt logs that floated low in the water were always a problem on drives and it took considerable hard work to move them off sand bars when they became grounded.

Both white and Norway pine sometimes grew in mixed stands, but as a rule they grew in pure stands. White pine may have had understory of birch and balsam, while Norway would be more clear and probably have a pure stand of jack pine adjoining it.

Some of the better stands of Norway pine grew in the area from Brainerd north to Bemidji and around Cass Lake, Walker and Bena and east to Deer River and west to Park Rapids. White pine grew throughout the pine region from the south edge of the pine region north to the Canadian border.

I do not want to give the idea that there was a pure stand of pine from the south to the north in this area, as this was not the case. Much of the so-called pine region was swampland covered with large stands of black spruce, tamarack and cedar, and the highlands were cut up with streams and lakes as well as stands of maple, ash, birch and other hardwoods. It was hard to find a 40-acre tract that did not have some sort of a small stream or slough. A solid, unbroken stand of pine was rare. While I have seen solid stands of Norway pine a mile square without a break in the stand, seldom could this be found in white

pine.

There is always some discussion by old-timers on what part of the pine region produced the best stands of pine. There were good stands throughout the state. The record cut of pine for a section of land was about 20 miles north of Duluth on section 35-53-13. This section cut 33 million board feet log scale and was cut by a contractor for the Brooks-Scanlon Company. There may have been larger sections cut in the early days, but this was the largest as far as keeping track of timber from a single section of land was concerned. Twenty million per section was considered very good. Forty-acre tracts containing a million and a half were considered very good, and logging companies figured 40-acre tract containing 250,000 good enough to log. Some of the largest individual trees were found on the heavy soils in Koochiching County and northern Itasca County.

I have seen several trees that would scale 2,500 feet. However, the largest white pine that I have seen cut was found five miles north of Mizpah in the winter of 1918. This pine stood in a creek bottom and 32 feet up from the stump it forked into four tops and contained 14 16-foot logs. It was scaled by the late W. E. Thayer of Northome and contained 4,400 feet. The butt log was over five feet and it was over six feet on the stump. It took six horses to skid it up from the hill from the creek bottom. While this was a freak as far as trees are concerned, it was the tree that contained the most board feet that I have ever seen. While many butt logs have contained over 1,000 board feet, 500 feet would be considered a good log.

In the spring of 1924 at the Northern Lumber Company Camp No. 114 Township 53, Range 15, I saw some of the nicest logs. The skidders had left all the big logs that they could not skid with a single team and later took four horses in to skid these large logs. The smaller logs had been loaded out, the skidways were all free of logs, and these large logs were lying three or four on a skidway along the railroad spur. The scaler, John Chonoski of Cloquet, John McNally, the Northern Lumber Company cruiser, Camp Foreman Tom Henderson and I went along together as these logs

were being scaled and guessed at the board feet in each. There were over 200 of these large logs, the nicest group of logs I have seen.

Another nice group of logs came from the Ely area about the same time. The logs were being loaded out of the water with a horse jammer, and when they got a log too big for the horses to hoist, they pushed it aside and loaded it later by a different method. They were loaded on eight railroad cars and shipped to the mills at Cloquet. Most of these logs contained over 500 feet.

I have been discussing exceptional logs, but stands of timber that ran 10 logs to the thousand were considered very good timber when they were cutting to an eight-inch top, as most cutting was done during the 1880s. During the very early days they would fall a tree and take only two or three of the larger logs, leaving the rest of the tree in the woods. Prior to 1900 most cutting was confined to white pine, but by 1900 Norway pine came more and more into the picture for dimension lumber as well as mining timber.

Besides these stands of white and Norway pine there were some very large stands of white spruce that grew on the heavier soils. Alvwood Township, 11 miles south of Northome, had some of the nicest white spruce that I have seen, with trees two and a half to three feet on the stump and containing six 16-foot logs. Much of the larger spruce in this township was cut by the Fullerton-Kruger mill in Alvwood. Other stands of nice white spruce stood along the Big Fork and Little Fork rivers.

Black spruce was seldom cut for lumber. Stands of mixed hardwoods were found throughout the pine region along with some oak, birch and basswood. In northeastern Minnesota, yellow birch with a stump size as large as pine were found. Around Hill City some of the better hardwood stands were found, and most of the Mississippi bottom lands contained mixed hardwood as large as pine.

Many of the lumber camp bunkhouses were full of stories of large logs and large trees that the "jacks" had seen or worked on. While some of these bunkhouse stories probably were exaggerated, Minnesota did contain some of the finest stands of eastern white pine in the nation and her Norway pine stands were the very best.

The white pine in Michigan and also in Wisconsin ran larger than in Minnesota, though Minnesota did have some beautiful stands. While there are but few of these large virgin stands remaining – confined to Itasca State Park and Scenic State Park, with smaller stands scattered throughout our state and national forest – the large stumps that are found all over the pine region serve as a reminder of the great trees that once covered the area which were logged and sawed into lumber for the development of our great



Above: A fine stand of white pine three to four feet on stump. Below: A nice load of logs north of Duluth about 1890.



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.

HELP WANTED

Truck driver, full time, year around, hauling tree-length wood in Southeast Texas, experience preferred. 409-489-0113

WANTED

Barrel stave logs – White Oak and Burr Oak butt cuts 12-inch diameter and up – random lengths
For more information call Robert Staggemeier at Staggemeyer Stave Co. Inc. Caledonia, MN 55921
Office: 507-724-3395
Cell: 608-792-75983

FOR SALE

1987 D4H CAT, 6 way blade with brush rake and Esco Log Grapple.
Good condition. \$25,000
Call: 218-353-7403 and or leave message.

ADVERTISERS INDEX

Cass Forest Products.....	4
Choice Insurance.....	14
Compeer.....	26
Duluth Sign.....	18
Forest Data Network.....	14
Fryberger Law Firm.....	18
Great Lakes Trailers.....	12
Hancock Fabrication Inc.....	5
Hedstrom Lumber Co.....	18
Iron Nitey.....	16
Itasca Woodland Services.....	27
Klinner Insurance.....	23
Lunemann Equipment Co.....	25
Maverick Wood Products LLC.....	5
McCoy Construction & Forestry.....	31
Mid-States Equipment.....	4
Nelson Wood Shims.....	12
Northern Timberline Equipment.....	7
Pomp's Tire.....	26
Rice Blacksmith Saw & Machine.....	20
Schaefer Enterprises.....	4
Sylva Corporation.....	25
Titan Machinery.....	2
Two Inlets Mill.....	27
Wheeler Associates.....	15
Ziegler.....	32

Equipment For Sale

2005 Tigercat 620C Skidder

**2005 Komatsu PC200LC
Delimber with ProPac**

2013 Hood 24000 Slasher

**2005 Chevy 4500 4x4 Crew Cab
Service Truck Duramax**

Call Dave at 218-380-9783

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

Please type or print clearly.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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.

TAKING DOWN THE COST OF REPAIR



GET MORE LIFE OUT OF YOUR MACHINE AND ATTACHMENTS!



MOBILE LINE BORING

Completely mobile and self-sufficient, which means we come to you, saving you transportation costs and drastically reducing downtime.



WELDING

From attachment fabrication, modification to structural repairs or specialized accessory manufacturing, we ensure that welding standards are top-quality and to exact specifications.

We know how valuable your equipment is and just how costly downtime can be. Mobile line boring and welding service helps reduce downtime and costs by saving you the time, effort and resources it takes to send equipment back to the dealer.

AVAILABLE FOR ANY BRAND, ANY MODEL.



Call your local McCoy Construction & Forestry dealership today:

Bemidji, MN
218-759-1996

Grand Rapids, MN
218-326-9427

Chippewa Falls, WI
715-834-2924

Escanaba, MI
906-789-9054

Duluth, MN
218-722-7456

Ashland, WI
715-682-5522

Merrill, WI
715-536-0633

Marquette, MI
906-789-7689



JOHN DEERE



McCOY
CONSTRUCTION & FORESTRY

mccoycf.com



Ziegler CAT offers the complete line of Weiler forestry equipment to meet your job's needs — from core machines that help with road building, millyard, and reforestation, to purpose-built machines that harvest, extract, and load. We have what you need to get the job done, plus the service to back it up.

PROFITABLE LOGGING. SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY.

- On-site service
- Convenient parts ordering
- Quality equipment for every job
- Locally owned and operated locations



BEMIDJI

5426 Highway 71 N
Bemidji, MN 56601
866.634.9983

BRainerd

3311 Liberty Lane
Brainerd, MN 56401
877.829.9850

BUHL

10081 E Highway 169
Buhl, MN 55713
800.446.9795

DULUTH

210 Garfield Avenue
Duluth, MN 55802
800.421.3831

ZIEGLER 

www.zieglercat.com