

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

# TIMBER BULLETIN

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Doug Brenner  
Logging

# TIMBER BULLETIN

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### ON THE COVER

Doug Brenner Logging.

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Spring break-up! Do we consider this the end of the logging season or do we look at it as the beginning? I believe no matter how we see it we have some very important things to consider. Was this past logging season a profitable time for us? If it was, what will we have to do to assure ourselves that this will continue in the future? Now is the time to take a serious look at

## President's Column



our logging operation as a whole and consider the economic climate we are in. Would some changes be beneficial to us? If the year 2002-

2003 was not profitable, we know for sure we cannot continue with business as usual. As we look at big corporations in the U.S. and around the world there are major changes on every hand. I believe that we in the logging business have to look at cost saving issues, too. We must work in the most efficient way possible.

The TPA executive committee has been busy discussing many important issues that affect our businesses throughout the year – timber supply, transportation regulations, legislative issues, just to name a few. I would like to thank all the committee members who work so hard all through the year to make Minnesota a better place to run a logging business.

Also, thanks to all of our TPA members for your support, and if you are not a member I invite you to become involved in this organization.

I'll see you at the Annual Meetings on April 24 and 25 at Spirit Mountain in Duluth. Please remember to work safely.

## Wells Fargo Financial Leasing Acquires Assets of Telmark LLC of New York

Wells Fargo Financial Leasing Inc., a subsidiary of Wells Fargo & Company, has acquired the assets and business relationships of Telmark LLC., a rural commercial leasing company based in Syracuse, N.Y. The acquisition closed at the end of business on Fri., Feb. 28.

Approximately \$615 million in owned and managed lease receivables have become a part of Wells Fargo Financial Leasing, which currently has more than \$1.2 billion in lease receivables. Two hundred fifteen employees of Telmark in Syracuse and in field positions throughout the United States have joined the Wells Fargo Financial Leasing team.

Dan Edinger, president, Telmark, LLC, will become president of Wells Fargo Financial Leasing – Rural Markets. The company, located at 333 Butternut Drive, DeWitt, N.Y. will retain its offices in the Syracuse area.

“With this acquisition, Wells Fargo Leasing will build upon the strong foundation achieved by the team at Telmark to enter an important new line of business,” said Tom Shippee, president and chief operating officer for Wells Fargo Financial, parent company of Wells Fargo Financial Leasing.

The acquisition will enable Wells Fargo to introduce a new product line to rural markets in its 23 banking states as well as to expand the Wells Fargo presence to new markets, Shippee said. “Together with our partner companies throughout Wells Fargo and

Company, we can provide this new customer base with an extensive array of financial products from Wells Fargo & Company, the nation's fourth largest financial services organization.”

Wells Fargo Financial Leasing, based in Des Moines, Iowa, currently provides leasing to businesses, manufacturers and the medical community. Its parent company, Wells Fargo Financial, is an \$18.6 billion company providing consumer installment and home equity lending, automobile financing, consumer and private label credit cards and commercial services to consumers and businesses in 47 U.S. states, the 10 provinces of Canada, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands

Wells Fargo & Company, based in San Francisco, Calif., is a \$349 billion financial services company providing banking, insurance, investments, mortgage, and consumer finance from nearly 5,600 stores, as well as the industry's leading Internet site [wellsfargo.com](http://wellsfargo.com) and other distribution channels across North America and elsewhere internationally. Wells Fargo has more than 134,000 team members.

2003 TPA Annual  
Membership Meeting  
Friday, April 25  
Spirit Mountain, Duluth, Minn.

It's not news to anyone in the woods that times are very tough in our industry. The news has made its way to St. Paul and the governor's office. Governor Pawlenty has announced that the state will conduct an assessment of the economic competitiveness of the forest products industry. He also announced the appointment of a nine-member advisory task force to guide this project. TPA President

## Executive Vice President's Column



Clarence Johnson has been named to this task force. The governor wants the assessment to analyze how Minnesota compares to other states, regions and countries on the big economic issues: wood cost and quality, environmental permitting and regulations, transportation, taxation and energy. And, he wants the work completed by July 1.

We applaud Governor Pawlenty for taking this important step. It's easy to say that big factors are at work and there is nothing that can be done at the state or local level. That's kind of like punting on third down. We hope that this assessment will show which areas our state needs to improve to help the whole industry.

We anticipate that when the assessment is done the Pawlenty administration will forge a proactive agenda to address the issues identified in the assessment.



When spring load restrictions are announced, my telephone always starts to ring. That was particularly true this year when winter weights came off one day and spring restrictions went on the next – statewide.

Appealing to the DOT on spring restrictions was a bit like trying to shape some high ground road this winter. You put the blade into it but all you do is spin the tracks and nothing really happens.

We did get the governor's office

to take a good hard look at the issue this year. Our appeal was fairly heard and reasonably considered. In the end, the governor allowed the restrictions to go on, but at least they heard and responded to us.



A new supervisor has been named for the Chippewa National Forest. He's Norm Wagoner. Currently he serves as a district ranger on Rountt National Forest. It is expected that he will begin his duties in Minnesota on June 1. We can only hope that he has a strong constitution and an iron will. Getting the Chippewa back on track will take all of that and more.



Speaking of the Chippewa, the acting supervisor since Logan Lee left has been Duane Kick. Duane is the timber boss on the Superior National Forest. He has done an excellent job as acting supervisor and we look forward to continuing to work with him when he returns to the Superior. The mess he found on the Chippewa was, no doubt, worse than any of us thought.



We're a little more than half way through this year's state legislative session. The focus has been, and will continue to be, the budget. The governor's budget proposal included both funding and direction that the DNR offer its full planned harvest volume for sale. It also includes a small increase for the under-funded work of the Minn. Forest Resources Council as it implements the Sustainable Forest Resources Act.

In the policy arena, two of the recommendations from the TPA Task Force on DNR Timber Sales have been turned into DNR sponsored legislation. This bill would allow timber sale purchasers to post a 10% performance bond and then put in roads and landings. It would also allow security to be transferred from one sale to another if the first sale was opened but not operated.

Another bill moving would allow the DOT to create a new far northern zone for winter weights. It would also make full winter weights legal on nine-ton roads

during the winter.

With a \$4.5 billion dollar projected deficit, it's hard to predict what will happen the rest of the way. The one thing that is certain is that the regular legislative session will adjourn the first Monday after the third Sunday in May. This year that's May 19. Whether the work of creating a balanced budget is done when this day comes will dictate whether or not a special session is required.



What's the best rumor that I've heard lately that probably has some truth behind it? That the Feds have taken note of all of the "special" log hauling legislation in Minnesota during the past couple of legislative sessions and are going to begin taking a hard look at compliance with drug and alcohol testing and commercial drivers license requirements.

As reported in previous issues of the *Timber Bulletin*, they've been looking at other trucking operations recently and the fines for non-compliance have been many thousands of dollars.

If you have trucks and drivers make sure everyone is properly licensed. If you are not in a drug and alcohol testing program, get signed up for one now. TPA has a very affordable program which is offered through our subsidiary TPA Services. Call the office and talk to Bev if you want information on the program.



Make sure you take in this year's TPA Annual Meeting. It's being held Friday, April 25 at Spirit Mountain in Duluth. We've got a great line-up highlighted by DNR Commissioner Gene Merriam who will giving the keynote address at the evening banquet.



All reports indicate that we had very few injuries during a safe winter logging season. TPA thanks and salutes each and every one of you for this. Safety is a team effort and this winter's team was a champion.

# Doug Brenner Logging



Doug Brenner

by Bruce Barker

Spring is getting close. According to the calendar it has already arrived. However, for those of us that live in northern Minnesota it is a known fact that spring arrives, as do the other seasons, somewhere between the first two weeks of March and the middle of May, depending on the year. We had been having our first warm weather of the season. I use the word "warm" rather loosely because in this case it means the temperature is above freezing (32 degrees).

On this late March day I headed north toward Grand Marais to meet Doug Brenner, the owner of Doug Brenner Logging. He was logging on a Forest Service sale north of the Grand Marais airport. This was the last timber sale the forest Service sold in this area several years ago. Typical of sales in this part of the country, it contains spruce, balsam, birch and a very small amount of

aspen. Needless to say Doug Brenner Logging is delivering to four or five different markets in order to move the varied products.

Doug started logging on his own in 1980. Prior to that he had worked in the woods. In the 1970s he was a cutter for Consolidated when they had logging operations in northern Minnesota. Over the years his equipment has changed from a chainsaw and skidder to an operation which is quite highly mechanized and includes a John Deere processor that Doug operates along with his other responsibilities. When I arrived he was doing some maintenance work on the processor head chainsaw bar.

The skidding is done with a John Deere grapple skidder, which is operated by Darrin Bloomquist. He delivers the tree-length material to the slasher. On this sale the logs are cut to length, sorted and the rest of the tree is put in the deck to be cut up before hauling. Each species is landed and sorted separately.

Paul Olin was running the slasher and loader the day I was

*(continued on page 10)*





(continued from page 8)  
there. He usually drives the logging truck, but with spring load restrictions on at this time he was working in the woods.

Sharon Brenner, Doug's wife, takes care of the office and paper work. "I couldn't stay in business if it wasn't for Sharon's work and support," Doug stated.

Doug Brenner Logging is concerned about the high cost of stumpage and the availability of stumpage. Since the Forest Service,

the area's primary source of timber, has stopped selling timber sales, the only major source for timber is the state of Minnesota. Doug thinks they have been doing a good job, however he is concerned about the future availability because of the funding cutbacks that appear to be coming.

Another problem is the age of the timber. All the agencies that have been selling timber have been putting up a lot of over mature stands which make the wood

quality very poor. Now that the Forest Service isn't selling timber, the trees are still getting older and dying of old age and disease. If they ever start selling timber again what is going to be available?

Cook County owns very little forest land and so does not have much of a timber sale program. "At this time the future does not look very bright. I hope we can stay in business," Doug commented. "The markets are still there if we can get the wood."



Paul Olin, truck driver and slasher



Darrin Bloomquist, skidder operator

# Coming Events

■ **The Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association (WPLA)** is proud to present the 2nd Annual Logger Expo to be held June 18-June 20, 2003, at the Tomahawk Timberlands in Hazelhurst, Wis.

The Expo is one of only five "live" shows of its kind in the United States and will feature up to 10 cutting demonstrations with mechanized cut-to-length harvesting equipment on separate five-acre sites.

Also featured will be a variety of "live" and other exhibits from companies serving the logging and forestry industry.

There is a \$10 registration fee to attend. For more information, or to register, call toll free 877-819-9908 or e-mail rrs@netnet.net.

**Voluntary Plans Are Allowed** – No participation requirements for each company

Current monthly rates for the \$750 plan are \$13.61 single, \$24.64 employee plus 1, and \$36.34 for family coverage. Rates for the \$1500 plan are \$20.16 single, \$38.06 employee plus 1, and \$58.40 for family coverage. Enrollment kits were sent to every MTPA member in October of 2002. The dental plan is administered by MSB (MySmartBenefits) of Hammond, Ind. MSB is currently providing

dental plans for over 250,000 members nationwide, including a number of associations. To take advantage of this unique and cost-effective dental plan, contact Dan Zobel at Otis-Magie Insurance at 1-800-241-2425, 1-218-722-7753, or dzobel@otismagie.com. Other products and services available to MTPA members from Otis-Magie include Group Health Insurance, Section 125 Pretax Cafeteria Plans, AFLAC Supplemental Benefit Plans, and Benefit Plan Compliance Consulting.

## MTPA Member Dental Program Update

by Daniel J. Zobel

In late spring of 2002 Otis-Magie Insurance Agency, Inc. of Duluth began marketing a dental program for MTPA Members. The initial effective date of the group plan was 6-1-02 for the first enrollments. June 1 of each year will be the group plan's annual renewal date for rate and coverage changes. The dental reimbursement plan offers two coverage limit options of \$750 and \$1500 per year, per participant. The plan can be employee-paid, employer-paid, or a combination of the two. Key features of this plan include:

**Freedom of Choice** – You and your employees can go to any dentist

**Reduced Costs** – Group discounts have been built into the pricing for the MTPA

**Great Coverage** – There are only a few exclusions or limitations on treatment

**Easy to Use** – No preauthorizations are required for service

**Orthodontia Included** – no extra charge for this valuable benefit for children under 19

# Forest Management – Essential to Forest Wildlife in the Eastern United States

by Daniel R. Dessecker, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Ruffed Grouse Society

In August 2002, President Bush unveiled his Healthy Forests Initiative – a bold plan designed to protect our nation's forests and the very existence of many rural communities. A foundation of the Healthy Forests Initiative is needed regulatory reform to untie the hands of natural resource professionals so that actions can be taken to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires and other events, rather than simply respond as these events unfold. Predictably, some interest groups opposed to active forest management have characterized efforts to proactively treat unhealthy forests as little more than a giveaway to the forest products industry. Although this rhetoric makes great headlines, it does little to advance a balanced, thoughtful approach to forest resource conservation, one that includes active forest management.

Commercial timber harvest and other forms of active forest management are often portrayed as grave threats to the health of our nation's forests and, particularly, forest wildlife. Yet it is today the very lack of active forest management that is threatening many species of forest wildlife in the eastern United States. Wildlife that require young forest habitats, habitats sustained only through disturbance, are increasingly imperiled as our forests continue to mature in the absence of disturbance.

Each species of forest wildlife has a particular type of habitat that it prefers. Some species, such as the pileated woodpecker, prefer mature forests. The large-diameter trees of mature forests provide sites for nest cavities, as well as potential sources of food in the form of wood-boring insects that often infest dead and dying old trees. Other species, like the golden-winged warbler, prefer very young forests. The thick protective cover afforded by

literally thousands of small-diameter trees and shrubs growing closely together hides nests and recently fledged young from potential predators. In addition, the lush vegetation of young forests supports many insects, an important food source for developing young birds.

Temporary openings and thick young forests are important habitats for ruffed grouse, white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, and many species of nongame wildlife as well, including the eastern towhee, yellow-breasted

chat, field sparrow, and many others. Breeding Bird Survey data document that whereas 50 percent of the bird species that breed in young forest habitats are declining in the eastern United States, only 24 percent of the bird species that breed in mature forests are declining. Conversely, only 19 percent of the birds of young forests are increasing, whereas 39 percent of the birds of mature forests are increasing. These data do not suggest that we ignore the documented conservation needs of

*(continued on page 14)*



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some species that prefer mature forests. However, these data clearly demonstrate the importance of placing additional emphasis on the conservation of wildlife that require young forest habitats. Currently, the forests of the eastern United States are predominantly middle aged as a result of past land use. Few very old forests exist east of the Great Plains and young forest habitats are becoming increasingly rare throughout many regions of the east.

Historically, our eastern deciduous forest landscape was a patchwork of various types and ages of forest – maple, aspen, oak, very young to very old. Patches of young forest were created by fires of natural and aboriginal origin, windstorms, insects and diseases, and other types of disturbance. Patches of old forest developed where disturbance had been absent for many years, allowing the trees to mature, die, and be replaced by young trees already growing beneath the forest canopy, waiting for their turn to shine in the sun. Today, because society has virtually halted fire from playing its ecological role in the renewal of our eastern forests, forest management practices are the primary means of sustaining important young forest habitats and associated wildlife.

Forest management practices and the resulting young forest habitats are currently relatively common in northern Minnesota, northern Maine, and the pine forests of the southeast. This is due to a combination of ecological and economic factors. The old forests of these regions are susceptible to forest pests that can kill old trees. Therefore, many old forest stands have been managed, through logging, to harvest wood fiber prior to its decay, and to regenerate healthy new forests. In addition, forest products industries are important to the economy of these regions.

Oak forest communities dominate much of the forest landscape of the eastern United States yet are declining in most regions. Although acorn production can vary widely year-to-year, this food source is critical to many species of forest wildlife. Substantial canopy removal is generally required to sustain oak forests, as young oak trees require substantial sunlight or they will

wither and die.

Like oak, the aspen forests of the Great Lakes region are sun-loving – extremely so. A clearcut regeneration treatment is the optimum method to harvest a mature stand of aspen and to make way for a vigorous young aspen forest. Aspen habitats can produce 4-10 times more ruffed grouse per unit of area than any other type of forest. Ruffed grouse are the number one upland game bird in the eastern United States and are pursued by almost one million sportsmen and women each year.

Numerous songbirds nest in very young forests. Research indicates that the golden-winged warbler, which is one of the most seriously imperiled songbirds in the eastern United States, is far more numerous in very young stands of aspen than in other habitat types.

Strangely, one seldom hears calls of alarm regarding the plight of the golden-winged warbler from organizations that so commonly express concern over the status of wildlife that use mature forests. Likewise, there is rarely any hue and cry over the plight of the Kirtland's warbler, even though it is a federally endangered species that is only 10 percent as abundant as its more famous cousin, the northern spotted owl. Yet unlike the spotted owl, this beautiful little warbler breeds exclusively in very young stands of jack pine in a small region in Michigan. These young jack pine habitats are sustained almost solely through clearcut regeneration harvests – could this be why the Kirtland's warbler is seldom mentioned during forest policy discussions?

Unfortunately, because some forest management practices, like

those required to maintain young jack pine habitats, are visually dramatic, they can engender opposition from some within the public that don't fully understand the reasons for their use. Resource management agencies have responded to this opposition by reducing the use of active forest management on national forests and other public forestlands. Reductions in the use of active management mean that fewer and fewer acres of temporary openings and young forest habitats are available on public lands. In addition, forest management as typically practiced on private forestlands maintains too many mature overstory trees for these habitats to develop.

As deciduous forests in the east continue to mature, they will increase in volume and in potential value. This could lead to increased proactive forest management and, therefore, increased young forest habitat. However, private forest landowners control most of the forestland in the east (70 percent) and these owners typically do not consider economic benefit from the sale of forest products as an important reason for forest ownership. Therefore, proactive management and the establishment of temporary openings and thick young forest habitats will probably not significantly increase on these lands.

The bottom line is that the ongoing declines of many species of wildlife that depend on young forest habitats are likely to continue unless we increase the amount of habitat for these important components of biological diversity, by increasing the amount of active management practiced on our forest landscapes.

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# Governor Pawlenty Forms Task Force to Assess Competitiveness of State's Forest-Based Industries

*–Minnesota companies face significant challenges, Governor says–*

**G**overnor Tim Pawlenty directed the Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to lead an interagency task force to assess the long-term competitiveness of Minnesota's forest-based industries.

"Unless Minnesota's industries can remain competitive in the global marketplace, the state risks additional losses in this important economic sector," Governor Pawlenty said.

DTED Commissioner Matt Kramer and DNR Commissioner

Gene Merriam will serve as co-chairs of the advisory task force, which will examine global trends and issues affecting the primary processing segment of Minnesota's \$6.9 billion forest-based industries. These primary industries – which include paper manufacturing as well as engineered wood products and lumber – are an important part of the state's third largest manufacturing sector.

The task force also includes: Ron Salisbury, plant manager of the Potlatch Corp.; Joe Maher, senior vice president and general manager of the Blandin Paper Co.; Howard

Hedstrom, president of Hedstrom Lumber Co.; Gene Foster, vice president of Minnesota operations for Boise Paper Solutions; Susan Stafford, dean of the College of Natural Resources for the University of Minnesota; Dave Epperly, land commissioner for St. Louis County; and Clarence Johnson, CO for Johnson Logging.

The governor said globalization trends in the wood products and pulp and paper industries have created significant challenges for Minnesota companies and contributed to several years of poor industry performance. Within the past year, machine shutdowns at paper mills in Grand Rapids and Brainerd caused the loss of nearly 1,000 jobs.

DTED Commissioner Matt Kramer said the task force will examine competitiveness issues in a regional, national and international context while exploring barriers and constraints to achieving and maintaining healthy forest-based industries.

"The purpose of this task force is to gather information needed to form a basis for policy recommendations," Commissioner Kramer said. "We'll gather and synthesize facts and issues affecting the viability of the paper and wood products industries in hopes of informing policymakers of the economic consequences of various options before them."

DNR Commissioner Gene Merriam said the task force also will examine land management, environmental concerns, tax issues, forestry research and other related topics.

"The entire industry is based on healthy forests," Commissioner Merriam said. "And that requires sustainable management practices that improve environmental quality while also taking into account the needs of our commercial timber industry."

The task force expects to complete its work and submit a report on its findings within 10 weeks.

**North Star Expo**  
August 1 & 2, 2003  
South St. Louis County  
Fairgrounds  
Proctor, Minn.

# K-12 Teachers Invited to Enter 5th Annual 'Minnesota Forest Educators of the Year' Competition; Two \$1,000 Awards to be Presented

What has quickly become a Minnesota education tradition continues in 2003, when two K-12 teachers will receive statewide recognition and \$1,000 each as winners of the fifth annual "Minnesota Forest Educators of the Year" competition.

Sponsored by Minnesota Forest Industries (MFI), the statewide program is open to all Minnesota teachers who have focused at least one of their lessons during the 2002-2003 school year on helping students learn about Minnesota's forests. The awards competition, which will accept entries until June 6, is divided into separate divisions for grades K-6 and 7-12.

A panel of professionals from the forestry and education fields will review entry materials and select one Minnesota Forest Educator of the Year from each grade division. Each winner will receive \$1,000 during a ceremony at the State Capitol in August.

Application forms are available by mailing to: Minnesota Forest Educators of the Year Award, c/o Minnesota Forest Industries, 903 Medical Arts Building, Duluth, Minn. 55802. Teachers may also obtain applications by calling 218-722-5013, by downloading one from MFI's Web site, at [www.minnesotaforests.com](http://www.minnesotaforests.com), or by sending an e-mail request to [minntrees@aol.com](mailto:minntrees@aol.com).

"Minnesota's teachers play a vital role in helping young people learn about the importance of Minnesota's forests in everyday life," said Wayne Brandt, MFI executive vice president. "Our Minnesota Forest Educators of the Year Awards honor the commitment that teachers use to help tomorrow's generation fully understand Minnesota's forests and wood products."

In 2002, teachers from all over the state submitted applications highlighting creativity used in making learning fun and

informative. During an August ceremony at the State Capitol, Lt. Gov. Mae Schunk presented the winners awards to Christopher Holmes, a fifth-grade teacher at James Madison Elementary School in Virginia, and Doug Ploof, a senior agri-science instructor at Little Falls Community High School.

Holmes, who oversees the Virginia School District's 120-acre school forest, had lessons during the past school year that included tree identification, seedling planting, tree pruning, birdhouse building, and student writing of a Virginia history booklet, including the importance of logging to the city's development.

Ploof teaches two forestry classes each trimester - "Introduction to Forestry" and "Forest Management." His lessons include: field trips to the Weyerhaeuser Museum and several forests, tapping trees and boiling maple syrup, pruning 1.5 acres of pine using pole saws, a portable sawmill demonstration, and working as teams to make tables and chairs

from raw materials gathered in the forest.

MFI is an association representing Minnesota's forest products companies. MFI encourages conservation, proper forest management and industry development that foster sound environmental stewardship, multiple use of timber lands and long-term timber supply. Additional information about MFI can be found at [www.minnesotaforests.com](http://www.minnesotaforests.com).

LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

# The Wood Butchers

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*



Next in importance to the blacksmith in keeping the equipment in a logging camp going was the "wood butcher." He was sometimes called a "handy man" depending on the part of the state you were in, but the name "wood butcher" was most commonly used throughout the logging industry.

These were the men who did all the wood work on the construction and maintenance of logging equipment. All the camps had one of these men and most sleigh haul camps several, depending on the amount of new equipment being constructed in the camps.

While the blacksmith made up all the iron work, it was the wood butcher's job to mount all the iron work on the equipment.

Wood butchers started their work as soon as camps opened in the fall, and their first jobs would be putting the skidding equipment in shape. Skidding started soon after logs were cut and continued until the snow got deep enough to make the logs hard to find.

The wood butchers would make up skidding trays, whistle-tree sets for the skidding teams and put new handles in cant hooks. Next the decking jammers and skid poles would have to be put into shape. Sleighs, water tanks, pul cutters and watering troughs were all part of the camp equipment the wood butchers made and kept in shape.

All wood butchers were experts with a broad axe in hewing out timber to be used in their construction and repair work. They usually went right into the woods and selected the trees they wanted for their wood: white ash for whistle-trees, straight spruce for jammer handles, white pine for watering troughs.

New leads were placed on most jammers each year, although the runner section of a jammer usually lasted several years. A couple of 50-foot slender spruce would be selected, cut and skidded into camp, and with broad axe and saw the wood butcher would shape them into jammer leads and install the iron work salvaged from the dismantled jammer. If new irons were needed, the old ones were always replaced, as the wood butchers were especially careful that all equipment



In a logging camp south of International Falls about 1910, a wood butcher builds a two-hank dry, mostly of birch. The go-devil used for skidding a pine log below was made in camp by a wood butcher. Minnesota Historical Society photo.



that worked along the lumberjacks' heads was in good shape. If new runners were needed, the whole wood work on the jammer would be made new.

About the only wood parts of logging equipment that were not taken right out of the woods and made up in camp were sleigh runners and poles for sleighs. Runners and sleigh poles were usually made of oak, and if possible oak planking would be hauled in from a saw mill for these. Also, three oak trawls and groove planks were brought in for building water tanks. However, in the very early days even runners and water tank planks were hewed out of timber right in the camps.

Runners of log sleighs were four inches thick and as a rule seven feet long. Sleigh beams were made of oak if available; if not, green tamarack cut from the woods was used. Sleigh bucks, usually 10 feet wide, were made mostly from Norway pine.

Iron castings for sleighs were made by several foundries, but Clyde Iron Works of Duluth furnished most of the iron for sleighs in northern Minnesota. Irons would last through several sets of sleigh runners, but shoes had to be replaced most every year. Most sleighs operating on ice roads used cast iron shoes and those operating on snow roads steel shoes. It was the wood butcher's job to replace these irons on the runners and other parts of the sleigh whenever a wood part was being replaced.

New spring poles were put on sleighs

every year. The sleigh pole was very heavy—too heavy to be supported by the horses' necks—and the whifflebars of the lead team hanging on the end of the pole made it still heavier. To support the sleigh pole, a rod ran along the top of the pole and was attached to a green ash pole known as a spring pole, fitted into two rings attached to the front of the sleigh beam. These spring poles had to be replaced with new green poles each year so as to have some spring in them.

Water tanks lasted a number of seasons, but had to be gone over each year before use—acorns recalked with oakum and hulls around the stove tightened. To keep ice from forming, all water tanks had a stove in them that was fired from the outside.

Rut cutters usually were made of oak and lasted several seasons, but the knives had to be taken off and sharpened and replaced quite often. Another job for the wood butcher before the horses arrived in camp was the making of a watering trough. A straight white pine about 24 feet long was hauled into camp and the wood butcher with broad axe and adz would hollow this out into a watering trough. Some loggers installed heaters in one end of the trough to take the chill off the water, claiming that horses did better when they had warmer water to drink.

After log hauling began each fall, there were always daily jobs for the wood butcher—replacing broken stakes, axe and cast hook handles and drag runners.

Sleighs were kept in good shape and it was a rare thing to see a sleigh broken down on the road. Everyone knew that a sleigh breakdown would hold up all other sleighs on a logging road, and they did their best to see that it didn't happen. Most loggers took very good care of their log hauling equipment and each spring when the hauling season was over they would move the equipment to high ground and place blocks of wood under the runners to keep them off the ground and free of rot. Some companies painted their runners, water tanks and rutters.

Each logger or lumber company had its own type of equipment, and while the equipment was similar in general design, there was always a little difference that would identify a certain logger.

Good wood butchers' services were always in demand, and each company or logger had men that followed their camps each year. They were usually paid about the same as a blacksmith and in some cases more, as some of these men specialized in constructing a certain type of equipment.

One example was Dave McNally of the Crookston Lumber Co. of Bemidji, who made most of the rut cutters used in their

The blacksmith has two handy men as wood butchers. Make sleigh pole and roll being made. Smith is putting on hook to hold over while one handy man borrows a hole in the end of roll. Man at left is repairing a cast-iron shoe and right holds skidding rigging. Lamps indicate they often had to work late. Minnesota Historical Society photo.



camps. The "walking boss" would shift him from camp to camp—wherever they needed a new cut cutter.

And there was Dunk MacCharles who worked for the Crookston Lumber Co. It was said that if you gave him an axe and a saw and turned him loose in the woods he could make anything. And according to his own words, after he had a few drinks in town, "I could even make a new walking boss out of wood as good as the one we got now." However, he specialized in making up snow plows—going out into the woods, selecting the logs to be hauled to camp and splitting them with a saw to use in making his plows. MacCharles also was known for his construction of heavy tote wagons that brought supplies into the camps, and he made up a number of them, taking all his material but the iron right from the woods.

Jim Devran was a wood butcher I knew as a boy when he worked in my father's camps for a number of years. He had lost a leg as a young man and wore a peg that prevented his getting around in deep snow, so he took up wood bushing to be, as he said—on solid ground. But he got around well on his peg leg and did a good job with a broad axe. When I asked him one day how he happened to take up wood bushing over some other job, he explained, "Well, it was like this: I had to make up a new peg for my leg about one a week and one for the neighbor boy who also had lost a leg, and I kind of got on to working with wood so though I would make a career of it." That neighbor boy, by the way, had lost his left leg and Devran his right, and he added, "We both wore number eight shoes and we would buy a new pair of shoes a year and split them."

Some of the other outstanding wood butchers I know were Ed McLaughlin of the Cloquet Tie and Post Co., William Dewar of the Northern Lumber Co., Anton Sterle of the T. M. Partridge Cedar Co. and Dick Turner of the A. C. Johnson Lumber Co.—all men that the logging industry could be proud of.

Each camp had its own type of work for the wood butchers and some specialized in the construction of the camps themselves—building everything from the meat block to the pine drying racks above the stoves and the bread rolling board for the cook. I have heard it said that in the early days a whole set of camps had been built by a wood butcher without a single nail—everything held together with wooden pegs.

In the very early days the wood butchers made yokes for the oxen, and some of the small wooden logging dams found on our rivers were made by these men.

Each camp had its wood butcher or handy man— all true lumberjacks" and all playing a great part in keeping the logs moving.



Load of logs about were photographed on Oliver Mining Co. operations at In-on Lake near Bemson. The 14-inch trucks on the right were hewn with a broad axe by a wood butcher. The jaw saw below was constructed entirely by a wood butcher— even to going into the woods to select the logs. Sledges in the foreground also were built by wood butchers in camp. Note the "rustent stakes" with built-up holes. Brier Ryan photos.



# 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.

## USED EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

### FOR SALE

#### CABLE SKIDDERS

1969 C4 TF .....	P.O.R.
1973 C5 TF .....	\$7,500
1970 440A JD .....	8,500

#### GRAPPLE SKIDDERS

1993 518C Cat., new trans.....	49,000
1987 666 Clark, floatation tires .....	22,000
1989 170XL Franklin, 6 cyl Cummins .....	20,000
1991 450B TJ, Cummins eng...	20,000
1979 540B JD, 28Lx26 tires .....	19,000
1984 540B JD, 640 rearends, 28Lx26 tires .....	25,000
1986 648D JD, dual function...	29,000
1988 648D JD, dual function...	33,000
648E JD, dual function .....	49,000

1980 C6 TF, with 23.1x26 tires ..	9,000
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#### CRAWLERS

1995 D3CLGP, new undercarriage, very clean .....	33,000
1990 650G, 6-way blade.....	39,500
1987 D4H LGP, 6-way blade, encl. cab .....	31,000

#### KNUCKLE BOOM LOADERS

1987 210C 6 cyl JD slasher pkg .....	27,000
1997 Prentice F90T on 1989 Lufkin trailer.....	15,500
Prentice 90 on tandem truck, 19' bed.....	9,500
1987 XL 175 Husky .....	15,500

#### TRUCKS

1998 Peterbilt, 470 Detroit, 18 sp .....	36,000
1995 Peterbilt, 400 Cummins, 9 sp .....	16,000
1978 GMC 2-ton w/hydr hoist, flatbed dump .....	4,500

#### DELIMBERS

1981 743 JD .....	15,000
Siuro delimber/slasher.....	7,000
1985 125B Case w/3000 Denis .....	30,000
1990 Komatsu PC200LC w/3500 Denis .....	44,000
1995 CAT 320 w/3500 DT Denharco .....	79,000
Cat EL200 w/Limmit 2000 ....	65,000
1999 JD 200LC /453 Pro Pac .....	110,000

#### FELLER-BUNCHERS AND SHEARS

1979 Drott 40, shearhead.....	17,000
1978 Drott 40, JD eng.....	13,000
1986 490 JD, w/20" Timbco shearhead .....	29,900
1993 JD 590D w/18' Roto saw .....	29,000
1993 T445 Timbco, w/22" Quadco sawhead w/side tilt.....	125,000
1993 Risley Black Magic w/Risley sawhead .....	110,000
1976 544B JD, 20" shear .....	21,000
1988 910 Cat, 17" shearhead, rebuilt trans.....	32,000

1987 411B Hydro-Ax.....	20,000
1986 511B Hydro-Ax, 6 BT Cummins .....	30,000

#### WHEEL LOADERS

1992 410D JD backhoe .....	27,000
544B JD.....	15,500
1979 544B JD .....	18,500
1979 544B JD .....	19,500
1981 644C JD .....	28,000

#### MISCELLANEOUS

1979 Bobcat 731 Skidsteer loader .....	6,700
1991 Bobcat 853 Skidsteer loader .....	9,500
Daewoo G25S-2 LP forklift, gas, side shift, 188" lift, pneu. tires.....	8,000
1986 Hyster LP forklift, gas .....	1,700
CAT V80D 8,000# forklift.....	6,500
20" Koehring sawhead to fit 643 JD .....	9,000

*We have other equipment not listed.*

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