

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

MARCH/APRIL 2008

VOLUME 64



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TIMBER BULLETIN

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March/April 2008
Duluth, Minnesota

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ON THE COVER

Tom McCabe visits with students at North Shore community School, one of several TPA members over the years who have taken the time to teach kids about logging. For more, please see page 22.

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



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Minnesota Timber Producers Association



Another winter is behind us. The mills seem to have gotten the wood they wanted. For those with markets it was a good year for production. On the other side, high fuel costs and mill down-time and closures hurt our industry.

President's Column



Once again the timing of spring road restrictions surprised us, especially in the north frost zone. This is something we need to look into.

Spring breakup is here, time for some relaxation and much-needed repairs. Keep in mind Log Safe and MLEP. Those either harvesting biomass or considering it should attend MLEP's Biomass Harvesting Guidelines class this spring.

Have a good spring and I would like to see everyone at the annual meeting and golf/fishing outing June 12 and 13.

Stay active in the MTPA, your voice counts.

Thomas C. Meche

Mark Your Calendar

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

- June 10 Workshop: "How to Prepare for DOT Audit" in Bemidji
- June 12 TPA Annual Meeting and Golf/Fishing Event at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge
- June 13 TPA Board of Directors Meeting at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge
- Sept. 4-6 63rd Annual Lake States Logging Congress Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association – Shopko Hall and Lambeau Field, Green Bay, Wisconsin
www.timberpa.com
- Sept. 12-13 2008 North Star Expo in Bemidji
- Oct. 9 Workshop: "How to Prepare for DOT Audit" in Grand Rapids

For information further information on these events, please call the TPA office at 218-722-5013.

In Memoriam

Minnesota's Longest Working Logger Dies

Harris Walsh of Park Rapids, recognized as the longest working logger in Minnesota history, died Monday, March 24, at the age of 97.



Walsh started as a logger at the age of 14 and lasted almost eight decades, concluding with his retirement from logging and heavy equipment operating in 2003 at age 93. That's a total of 78 years in the woods. Upon his retirement, TPA recognized Walsh as "Longest Active Logger in Minnesota History."

Walsh has probably been interviewed more than any logger around. When he decided to retire, he told the Timber Bulletin, "I just thought it was time. And things were getting more and more so that it was harder to make a dollar. So I just decided I'd quit."

He began logging with his father in 1924, hauling wood with a Model T truck. "My dad had a lath mill and a lumber mill and a shingle mill all in one. And of

course, I started real early working around it," Walsh said.

He worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and helped build the Alcan Highway in British Columbia in the early 1940s, and returned to Park Rapids in the early 1950s to start a logging business. Throughout the years, Harris witnessed the entire mechanization revolution that has taken place in the logging industry.

"I think the greatest joy was for years and years, you'd walk out in the woods and everything was quiet and you were out in the woods with nobody pushing you, no telephone, no nothing, and I liked that. I liked the woods, and I always liked being in the woods."

Congratulations to TPA Past President Dale Erickson who was appointed to the MN Forest Resources Council by Governor Pawlenty. Dale joins Alan Ek (Higher Education), Rob Harper (U.S. Forest Service) and Joel Koemptgen (Environmental Group) as a new member of the Council.

Executive Vice President's Column



Bruce Cox (Counties), Dave Epperly (DNR), Kathleen Preece (Private Landowners) and John Rajala (Secondary Manufacturers) were reappointed.

We owe a big thank you to Dick Walsh who was a very respected voice during his years representing loggers on the Council.

The word around the Capitol is that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is strongly encouraging the Minnesota State Patrol to increase truck weight enforcement. Make sure you're running with legal weights because we're likely to see more portable scales out on the road this year.

I talked with longtime TPA vice president Bruce Barker the other day. He had triple bypass surgery a while back but says he is pretty well mended and feeling good. Bruce was a well respected voice for TPA for many years and did a great job for everyone. We wish him many more years of retirement to enjoy.

With spring road restrictions in place we can look back on what is reported to be a safe winter logging season. I am not aware of many significant injuries that happened this year. This is a testament to the emphasis that everyone places on safety in our industry. Spring is always a new start. When you and your crew have rested a bit take time to review the things you did to make it a safe winter. Also think

about the things that could have been done better and share both topics with your crew. While the economy is very tough right now don't cut any corners on safety.

Our country is in a recession, whether people want to admit it or not. The Federal Reserve Bank has made a number of dramatic moves to shore up credit and liquidity in the financial system.

I have read a number of reports recently on the housing market which drives OSB and lumber production. The picture is not pretty. Most analysts are predicting fewer than one million housing starts this year. Contrast this with the years earlier this decade when we were averaging more than two million starts per year. Projections are for some strengthening of the market in 2009 and 2010 while building back to more robust figures in future years.

The underlying demand for new housing is estimated by most experts to be 1.7 to 1.9 million starts per year. This should give us some optimism that when the credit markets settle down a recovery in housing could come sooner. While housing was clearly over produced for several years and a backlog of inventory remains, the current depressed production will only last for so long.

None of this helps our members

who are struggling with markets. I know that it has been a tough winter for anyone whose contracts are tied to these markets. It has also been tough for laid off crews and laid off mill workers. The equipment dealers are seeing very little interest in new machines and are working with loggers on parts and other issues. The dealers at least have some hope with the excitement about mining projects in our region.

All of this means that we need to continue to work on the core economic issues affecting our industry. Our state and this industry need to fight to once again be positioned to be closer to the end of the line for production cutbacks instead of where we have been recently – closer to the front of the line.

Whether its stumpage, truck weights, regulations or any of the other issues that we can control here in Minnesota, we need to continue to improve our operating environment in the woods and in the mills.

We have made great strides in recent years, just look at stumpage costs, in working through the Governor's Task Forces and other venues. But, we all know that we need to do more.

St. Louis County Commissioner Helps with SFI/Habitat for Humanity Partnership

by Ray Higgins

A first-ever partnership between the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Implementation Committee, the North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity and various forest products companies has just added a new partner: St. Louis County Commissioner Keith Nelson, who is donating wood from his Tree Farm near Eveleth.

The project is the first of its kind in the United States to ensure a Habitat for Humanity home is built using products from well-managed forests. The project began in January when timber donated by Minnesota State Sen. Tom Bakk was harvested from his Tree Farm near Cook. That wood was made into oriented strand board by Ainsworth Engineered, which also donated its services.

Commissioner Nelson felled the Norway Pine himself by hand using a chain saw. From there, the timber was hauled to Mountain Iron's East Dhu River Sawmill, where it will be made into structural lumber. Mill owner Conrad Jacobsen, a TPA member, is also donating his mill's services. The lumber will be used in a Habitat for Humanity house being built in Hibbing this spring.

"The St. Louis County government and I are committed to sustainable forestry, so I'm pleased to assist with this worthwhile effort," said Commissioner Nelson, who noted that St. Louis County was the first public land administrator in the U.S. to license its public lands with SFI in 1999. "The trees we're using are renewable, but the impact they have in helping provide an affordable home for a northern Minnesota family is permanent."

Other donations of materials and cash are being provided by these other Minnesota forest products companies: Boise, Inc.; Forest Capital Partners, LLC; Louisiana



St. Louis County Commissioner Keith Nelson hand fells an 80-year-old Norway pine on his tree farm just south of Eveleth.



Commissioner Nelson and Ainsworth forester Finn Ostman unload logs at the East Dhu River sawmill, where lumber for the Habitat for Humanity project home will be milled.

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Verso Paper, Sartell Mill.

Member Feature...



Workers at the Barron facility remove bark by hand that wasn't removed by the peeler.

Holding the Line

Bell Lumber and Pole Keeps America Running

by Ray Higgins

The next time you're near the utility pole that supplies service to your home, check for the name about five feet off the ground that's embedded in it. It's highly likely you'll find the name "Bell" either branded into the wood or on an aluminum tag. That sign of quality means the pole was made by

Minnesota-based Bell Lumber & Pole, one of North America's largest and finest suppliers of wood poles to North American utility markets.

Headquartered in Minneapolis, the company also has facilities in Michigan, Wisconsin, Idaho, Washington, and British Columbia. But Bell Pole's roots date back more

than a century to near Brule, Wis., 35 miles east of Duluth.

The company's story is rich in history. In a nutshell: M.J. Bell started a logging camp near Brule in 1895. A true woodsman and pioneer, Bell also purchased considerable timberland with Norway pine and northern white cedar in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. By 1909, Bell founded Bell Lumber & Pole Company and put the corporate offices in Minneapolis, because of access to rail lines and access to the big city's financial resources. Most of the production at this time was of railroad ties, shingles, shakes, and other lumber products. Gradually, the company turned toward production of poles for the utility industry in the Midwest.

In 1919, Bell purchased 14 acres of land just north of Minneapolis, in New Brighton, for a pole yard and butt treating plant. In the 1920s, Bell began to look to the west for poles and found them in Idaho, Montana, Washington, and British Columbia. He found a 10-square-mile tract in British Columbia that was said to hold a billion feet of timber, the finest cedar pole timber he'd ever seen. So, he dismantled one of his sawmills in Ashland, Wis., shipped it out west and rebuilt it in British Columbia, setting up operations there, as well.

Still thriving in the 21st century



Tom Bell, president of Bell Lumber and Pole, is the great-grandson of company founder M.J. Bell.

and getting set to celebrate its 100th anniversary next year, Bell Pole is still headed by a Bell, M.J.'s great-grandson, Tom.

"The legacy and the history are a neat tradition to be a part of," Bell says from his office in New Brighton. "I started working here in the summer during college at Bethel, and I realized I had enjoyed the business and loved the woodlands part of it. But the people were most enticing to me. We have amazing people working here, and I was attracted to that."

The company's 90 employees are spread out across North America, which is a challenge, but a necessity in this business. Out west, the tall cedars and Douglas fir are great for transmission lines that use poles 60 feet and longer and carry electricity from the generation site to the substation. The red pine of the lake states region is more suited to the 40-foot poles used for distribution lines that run from the substation to the customer.

"You have to have access to the different wood baskets," Bell says, "so you have to center your yards. Different markets demand different species. That's why we're out west as well as here in the lake states."

Jim Parma handles procurement for red pine in Minnesota and part of Wisconsin and works for Bell Timber, Inc. as one of nine professional foresters in the lake states region. Bell Timber is the procurement and base manufacturing portion of Bell Lumber & Pole. All of the wood from those two states first goes to Bell's facility in Barron, Wis., just west of Rice Lake, but Parma will go as far as it takes to get quality wood.

"Our wood comes from all



A red pine "barkie" log is peeled at the Barron facility.



Bell Pole Woodlands Supervisor Jim Parma (L) and Barron Area Manager Brian Hamilton, in front of red pine poles waiting to be seasoned.



The air-seasoning process in Barron: the seasoning of the pile on the left is just starting while the pile on the right is completely seasoned.

sources, public and private," Parma says. "We've bought wood as far north as Big Falls and as far west as Williams in Lake of the Woods County. In that case we'll hire a logger to harvest the timber and have an independent trucker bring it here."

Once the wood arrives in Barron, each stick goes through several steps: first the bark is peeled off and it's inspected for defects and classed, based on circumference. Then it's cut to length and any bark that the peeler missed is removed by hand. Next, the wood is seasoned, either by air out in the yard, or in one of the facility's two kilns.

"We air season as much as we can," says Barron facility manager Brian Hamilton. "Mother Nature doesn't cost us anything but space. The beautiful thing about this location is it's wide open all around us, there's almost always a breeze here, and we get a lot of sunshine during the summer, very good conditions for air-seasoning poles. We kiln-dry poles if we don't have air-seasoned ready to go and we have orders to fill."

After the pole is seasoned, it needs to be sterilized to kill any wood-decaying fungus or bacteria that may be present. Then the pole is framed: a flat face is cut and holes are drilled for the cross arms to be mounted. But that isn't done until orders are received.

"Several of our customers have a unique framing pattern," Hamilton says. With their order comes a blue print that tell us where to drill the holes, how far apart, how big of a hole they want to make. So we don't stock specialized framing ahead of time. It's got to be custom ordered.

"The rural electric authorities do have a standard print," he says. "We'll stock that and in the case of an emergency like an ice storm where a city might lose some poles, we do have poles on hand to send them and they can make due with those until we can get their specific print."

Once the process in Barron is completed, the poles are shipped to New Brighton where the company's treating facility is located on the same site purchased nearly 90 years ago, adjacent to Bell Pole's headquarters. Once the poles are finished, they're ready for delivery.



These red pine poles are seasoned and are ready to be removed by one of Bell's two kilns in Barron. One of the kilns just went on line in March and can handle up to 400 poles at a time. The other kiln can handle 550 poles. It takes three to six days to kiln dry the poles, depending on the temperatures used.



Red Pine poles that were peeled, seasoned, and framed at the Barron plant now enter New Brighton's treatment cylinder.

The entire process used to be handled in New Brighton, but Bell ran out of room and expanded to Barron about six years ago. The company has a similar facility out in Idaho to handle the cedar and Douglas fir operations out there, and another one in the UP of Michigan to take in nearby red pine. A large percentage of the company's poles last year were red pine, so that remains a major part of Bell's business. On occasion

they'll handle some southern yellow pine and have brought wood in from as far away as Kentucky. But red pine remains core to the company's success.

"Red pine makes a great pole," Hamilton says. "It's the softest of the pines, which makes it the lightest weight and easiest to climb compared to the other pines. Cedar is softer, but it's more expensive.

You have to import it from the west
(continued on page 14)

(continued from page 12)



An aluminum tag is placed on each finished pole for identification purposes.



An independent trucker secures a load of finished poles in New Brighton, ready to be delivered to a customer.

coast. With red pine, we've got a locally grown product that's user-friendly as far as the linemen are concerned. It takes treatment really well, and holds it really well. Our objective is to grow the red pine program and make use of the resource that's here."

One challenge is a small percentage of a red pine stand might be suitable to becoming a pole. The limbiness of the wood, the structure of the limbs, and straightness of the trunk are all factors, and it's hard to tell until the trees are harvested and brought to Barron.

"They can look gun-barrel straight in the woods," Parma says,"

but it's hard to tell until the limbs are off. We sell the excess wood to local sawmills and pulp mills."

"For us to get the volume we need," Bell says, "sometimes we have to buy the whole stand."

Bell Pole also makes red and white pine log products for of log home builders and for various log construction markets. The company also recycles poles from decommissioned lines. But harvesting timber and crafting brand new quality poles remain the company's bread and butter.

It's all part of three concepts that make up Bell Lumber & Pole's mission statement: stewardship, excellence, and entrepreneurial spirit. All three are embossed on each employee's calling card and are embedded into everything the company does.

"All of those concepts," Bell says, "they're not new. They're something that have been a part of our company a long time. For example, the core action plans under stewardship include being good stewards of our human resource and our assets by utilizing strong communication, strong planning, and giving back internally and externally. We like to give aggressively in the communities we operate in, helping people out when we can.

"We're trying to take those concepts and distill them down into a passion, so that we not only say it, we do it. Our people are responding to that, because they're extremely effective and committed, and I love working with them."



This is an undated photo from the early days at the New Brighton site, when horses did most of the work, moving poles around the company's yard. Bell Lumber and Pole's headquarters still stand on the same site.

Beltrami County Names Land Commissioner

Greg Snyder has been named Beltrami County land commissioner and director of the Beltrami County Natural Resource Management Department.

Snyder has a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., and a Master of Science degree in forestry from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn. From there, he

worked as a teacher and naturalist at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont in Townsend,

Timber Talk

Tenn. He came to Beltrami County in 2000 and has worked as a planner and forester for the Beltrami County Natural Resource Management Department.

Snyder has been working as interim land commissioner since the January resignation of Bob Milne.

Encounters with Wolves

Two experiences with wolves in Minnesota since the start of the year are noteworthy.

According to the Minnesota DNR, a southeastern Minnesota coyote hunter discovered last month that the north woods aren't necessarily the only place to find a wolf in Minnesota. The man saw what he thought was a coyote about 250 yards away while hunting near the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area in Olmsted County. He made the shot but discovered he had taken a gray wolf – commonly referred to as a timber wolf – instead of a coyote.

The hunter reported the incident to a DNR conservation officer, who issued only a written warning because the hunter reported the incident, was forthcoming during the investigation and the animal was mistakenly taken well outside Minnesota's established wolf range.

"Typically, the killing of a wolf is a gross misdemeanor because it is a protected wild animal for which there is no hunting season," said DNR Enforcement Director Col. Mike Hamm. "Under different

circumstances, the action could have led to a conviction, stiff fine, jail time and \$2,000 restitution.

Also, Sappie forester Chris Martland reports he and cohort Craig Ferguson had a wolf encounter of their own.

"We were out inspecting an active St. Louis County timber sale with my dog, Sadie, near Canyon," Martland wrote in an email. "While out on the sale, we saw what I thought was a coyote and Craig thought was one of the logger's dogs. Well, instead of a dog or coyote it ended up being a timber wolf about the same size as Sadie. Sadie and the timber wolf went nose to nose for about two seconds and then seemed like they were going to play – at this time they were about 30 feet in front of us. Neither seemed to be aggressive towards each other. I started to run toward the wolf and Sadie, knowing that there were probably more wolves waiting in the nearby woods. Sure enough, the smaller wolf that was playing with Sadie tried to lure her back into the woods about 50 feet away. By now I had gotten about 20 feet away (Craig had seemed to back up to about 50 feet away) and I could see at least two more bigger wolves waiting in the woods about a 100 feet away. Thankfully, Sadie didn't follow the wolf any more and at that time a skidder pulled up and scared the three wolves away."

New Master Loggers Certified

Four more Minnesota logging businesses have met the qualifications and successfully achieved the status of Minnesota

Certified Master Logger. Among them are TPA members Patzoldt Brothers, Inc. of Pine City and Venhuizen Forest Products of Isle.

That brings the number of logging businesses certified by the Minnesota Master Logger program to 47. Loggers who become certified are able to provide certified wood to the market place. This means loggers and mills in Minnesota will be in a strong position to provide certified wood from family forestlands to customers that demand it.

"Minnesota Master Logger Certification (MMLC) is a means to certify timber from private forest landowners who are not likely to otherwise certify their forests," stated Dave Chura, MMLC's program administrator. "This certification provides customers and the general public assurances that the person or company performing the job has the education, training, and experience to do the job correctly and that appropriate practices are being implemented."

The MMLC program promotes sustainable forestry and provides an independent, third-party audit of a logging business's harvest, safety and business practices. The program is administered by the Minnesota Logger Education Program and was developed transparently by a working group which included representatives from the broad forestry community.

Lessons from Losses

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

Incident: As the winter logging season was reaching its last month of work before spring break-up, a track feller buncher abruptly tipped over when the operator tried to fell a large white pine. Due to the position of this equipment the machine completely rolled on one side and partially on its top. The tracks were in the air and the side panels were blocked.

It was mid-morning and the full crew was working the site spread out over a ¼ to ½ mile distance, approximately 10 miles from the nearest town. The feller buncher was over 300 yards off the access logging road. The operator was not injured in the roll-over and was able to escape through the entrance door. Immediately this individual called the owner's son to report what occurred. In the conversation the owner's son double-checked to be sure the key was shut off along with the electrical master switch; it was shut down correctly. Within 3-5 minutes the equipment started to smoke from the engine compartment and the side panels/doors could not be opened due to the position of the roll-over. As the smoke intensified, the owner, owner's son, other employees and a logging crew working close by responded with extra multi-purpose fire extinguishers, equipment (skidders, shovels, etc.), and also with the use of the surrounding snow. As hard as they worked to extinguish the fire, they could not get to the base of the fire or inside the engine compartment. Soon the limited protection that was available was exhausted. The fire could not be stopped from spreading through the engine/hydraulic compartments

and cab areas.

At the beginning of this serious accident the fire department was called. However, due to the time to respond and the inability to reach the equipment that was on fire with

their fire trucks there was nothing they could do to save this equipment. Fire fighters did respond with two hand-held extinguishers, but the fire was too large for this protection. By this

time, the fire had already spread to the cab and the machine was a complete loss. All that could be done is contain the fire to the equipment involved, be sure the fire did not spread to the surrounding area, and prevent possible personal injury. There is some salvage value with the felling head.

It is believed that the probable cause of this loss is operator error and training in the limits of this equipment during operation. The sudden tip-over that created this situation led to this fire situation. The actual ignition cause is uncertain (oil, fuel, debris, etc.). Some other problems that added to this situation were the on-board self-suppression system failed in the automatic mode, the manual activation could not be reached after the fire started, and the side panels/doors could not be opened to address the base of the fire with fire extinguishers.

Other Factors: There were no immediate maintenance problems needed or completed prior to this fire emergency. This equipment was last power-washed in the fall before freeze-up. Daily housekeeping does occur.

The employee involved is a seasonal employee and was employed for approximately six months. He was first trained to run the skidder and then the feller buncher in both operation and maintenance. The feller buncher had been operated for approximately 4 ½ months. Over two years of prior operator experience in logging equipment had occurred (skidders, feller bunchers, etc.).

Radio communication between equipment was in place and cell phones were operable at this location.

The day of this occurrence the weather was normal; temperatures reached 15 degrees F, low humidity, sunny and no wind.

LUA Suggested Preventative Measures Include:

1. Complete initial and refresher employee training for proper operation, service, emergency response, etc. for new and existing employees. These training needs change with each job site. Weekly tool box safety meetings work well in reviewing all equipment (limits of equipment,



- etc.). Cross training all employees is also very beneficial.
2. Review all equipment for the placement of fire port holes to assist in extinguishing a fire in an emergency situation. The placement of these fire port holes need to be in high fire hazard areas on all equipment (manifold turbo/area, starter/alternator area, battery area, etc.). Fast access is very important in an emergency.
3. Frequent operator self-inspections for housekeeping and maintenance, especially in dirty timber.
4. Always shut down the electrical disconnect (master switch) on your mobile equipment in an emergency situation. Refresher

- training for all employees must be reviewed regularly.
5. Train employees on proper use of fire extinguishers in an emergency situation. Utilizing the extinguisher hose to direct the flow to the base of the fire and not wasting the extinguisher in a panic situation.
6. Install an on-board fixed self-suppression system on all mobile equipment. Additional protection is always very beneficial in a fire emergency situation. Always follow the owner's manual maintenance required for regular maintenance. Also self inspection is crucial to the performance of this protection.



*Minnesota Timber
Producers Association*

Board of Directors Meeting

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TPA Golf & Fishing Outing

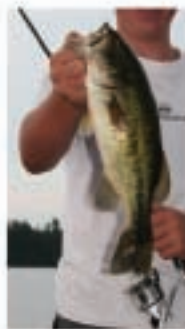
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Annual Meeting

○○○

Annual Banquet

**Thursday June 12th & Friday June 13th
At Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge**



It's a fun and informative 2-day event for all TPA members, as well as vendors and other related organizations

Loggers Go to School – Show Students How It’s Done



TPA president Tom McCabe (r) shows students at North Shore Community School what a skidder does during a harvest at their school forest.



TPA member Scott Pittack speaks to students at the Forest History Center in Grand Rapids. The students from Van Dyke Elementary in Coleraine visited the center to learn timber harvesting yesterday and today.

Awesome,” shouted the boy, dressed in a bright yellow down jacket.

His friend didn’t say a word, watching with his mouth wide open as the freshly made chips were blown from the Tom McCabe’s chipper. The other 20 or so students in the fifth grade class at North Shore Community School in Lakewood Township, just north of Duluth, shouted or pointed, and none could turn away as they watched logs being turned into the chips.

It was just one example of TPA loggers heading to area schools to teach kids of all ages how loggers help manage our forests and keep them healthy.

A similar scene is playing out in Grand Rapids at the Forest History Center. Roughly 100 students from Van Dyke Elementary in Coleraine watch as Scott Pittack’s cut-to-length system harvests trees. In addition, Ed Nelson from the Center leads a horse logging demonstration where kids get to watch as a tree is felled by hand and then skidded to the landing. Some students even get the chance to try their hand with a cross-cut saw, making a tree cookie they can take back to their

classroom and study.

The teaching doesn’t stop there. In recent years, logger Wayne Johnson has done similar demos in Blackduck, as has Rod Enberg for high school students at Staples-Motley and grade school kids at Pillager, just to name a few. It’s one way TPA loggers give back to their communities by promoting proper forest management.

“We’ve got a generation that’s growing up not as connected to the forest as they were in the past,” McCabe says. “I think it’s very important that they realize that forest management is a good thing.”

All of the lessons led by loggers are different, depending on the day, the school, and the grade level. For example, Enberg’s demonstrations for high school students were more advanced and detailed. For others that deal with younger kids, just giving them the chance to see what logging is all about for themselves sets the stage for future learning and a lifetime of living surrounded by the north woods.

When McCabe brought his operation to North Shore, he harvested eight acres of timber from the school forest which sits right on the school grounds. That

meant all of the school’s 280 students in grades K-6 got the opportunity to watch McCabe and his crew work. The day before, McCabe and DNR forester Fran Casey spent the day inside the school, telling students what they’d see the next day.

“In the classroom, we explained to the kids about forest health and why we’re taking the trees out that we’re taking,” McCabe says, “and we also brought products from most of the mills around here to show what is made from the trees around here.”

“At any grade level, and especially with adults, it’s vitally important,” says B.J. Kohlstedt, North Shore’s curriculum director. “The teachers told us there’s one kid that keeps asking ‘why are you cutting down our trees?’ And I sat down at lunch with our staff, and one of our older volunteers says, ‘I hate to see those trees go.’ And so we try to explain to them we’re actually improving the forest. Some trees are diseased, the oak isn’t able to get out from under the diseased aspen and the red pines that were planted here aren’t necessarily the best trees for the soil. You can see that they’re dead and dying. So, I think when we

spend time with them, they learn that this is not damaging to the forest."

Jolene Landwer agrees. She's the principal at Van Dyke Elementary and has joined the third graders for the demo at the Forest History Center.

"We want the students to have a clear understanding that forest management includes harvesting," Landwer says. "There is a misnomer out there about taking down trees. So if our kids have a good understanding, then they become the teachers of the future and can carry this on."

All of the schools handle the topic differently. For example at Van Dyke, the school is getting involved in the Forest Education

and Awareness Project (FEAP) that seeks to incorporate lessons about logging and the woods into all aspects of a school's curriculum.

"We're in the process with the help of the FEAP group to try to integrate forestry education right within our current curriculum," Landwer says. "So that when we have math activities, we have some real life situations to reinforce those math activities and when we have the reading we also are incorporating it. So it becomes just a part of the thread of what we do. It isn't an add-on to our curriculum, but it becomes embedded into our curriculum. Forestry is huge, this is what we do in northern Minnesota, so our kids have to have a good

understanding of it.

"The important piece for us is not only to have our kids very environmentally aware," she says, "but also understanding forest management and its uses. It goes beyond being environmentally friendly, it goes with keeping a sustainable forest. We want them to understand the multi-use of the forest and we also are really concerned about developing a work force, a good knowledgeable work force for the area and for them to understand that the workforce goes beyond labor. It also is involved with team, communication, working as teams. So that is a huge piece of it."

North Shore Community School



Tom McCabe watches as students participate in an exercise called "Every Tree For Itself." In the lesson, students learn how trees compete for the water, light and nutrients that affect a tree's growth. DNR forester Fran Casey led the exercise.



Third Graders from Van Dyke Elementary learn how hard draft horses work when skidding trees. Ed Nelson of the Forest History Center staff had the students pull him riding on a freshly cut pine log, while Nelson's horses take a much needed breather.



Julie Miedtke from the University of Minnesota Extension Service explains to students why timber harvesting is a crucial element to proper forest management and good forest health by showing students at the Forest History Center the rot in the trees that had just been cut.



Van Dyke Elementary students watch Scott Pittack operating his harvester during the logging demonstration at the Forest History Center.



North Shore Community School students “ooh and aah” while watching Tom McCabe’s crew chip freshly cut aspen.



After the chipper has done its job, Tom McCabe shows the North Shore Community school students the freshly made chips and explains how they’re used.

is a charter school, with an environmentally integrated curriculum. That means each grade level studies a different question addressing how humans interact with nature in their community. For example, kindergartners study the question “How are trees useful,” and fifth graders study “how can we sustainably manage our deer population on the school site.” Because about half of North Shore’s 40-acre footprint is the school forest, learning about these and other issues is as easy as stepping outside.

“Part of the science standards for kindergartners are to figure out parts of things,” Kohlstedt explains, “so they start by learning that trees are made of parts and then they move on through the winter to learn how animals and other pieces of nature are benefited by trees. For example, in the winter they take the aspen tops and cut them down and make bunny restaurants. And then they watch the snowshoe hare tracks and learn about what they’re doing. Because the fifth graders are looking at the impact of deer on the forest, one of the things we want to do after this cut is to put up a deer enclosure fence, not only so we can protect some of the white pine, etc. in a larger fence, but also have two gates through there with a trail so the kids can start studying what the effects are of deer outside the area versus inside and how the understory grows up faster.”





The harvests at North Shore and at the Forest History Center were done late in the winter logging season, meaning the loggers involved had to take valuable time away from their businesses to be with the students. But the value in teaching these lessons is so high, they say it’s time well spent.

“If we don’t spend this time educating the kids,” Pittack says, “our industry will struggle. We’ve seen it out west and other places. As a logging community, we need to do more of this.

“Educating these kids, that’s our future. We need to be doing more of this,” Pittack says. “Anything for the community.”

Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

"Before First Aid Kits Camp to Camp"

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*



Today with all the logging companies and loggers setting rigid accident prevention and control programs, I can't help but look back to woods safety in the old days.

Accidents were rare then. I can recall clerking in a 175-man lumber camp where I didn't report an accident during an entire year. In the many years I was associated with my father's logging jobs, I only remember reporting two lost-time accidents.

One was when a group of men were trying to lift a sick horse to its feet and it struggled and fell back on one of the men's feet, breaking it at the ankle. And this was not really a lost-time accident, as the man was back in camp with a cast on his foot within 24 hours. He spent the rest of a winter as night fireman.

The other accident occurred when a top-loader slipped on the frost atop a load and fell on a man's shoulder, breaking his upper arm. It was nearly spring, and he was unable to return to work for several months.

Axe cuts as well as saw cuts were rare. And head injuries due to falling limbs or dry tops were very few. Most injuries came during loading or breaking down skid-ways or decked logs—occasionally a man would be caught by a fast rolling log as high-decked logs were broken down.

Prior to 1919, a first aid kit was never found in a lumber camp. It was only after workmen's insurance laws were passed that insurance companies insisted first aid kits be in every camp. If a man got a scratch or cut, he would apply balsam pitch or a chew of Peerless tobacco to it; and it would heal in a few days. The only medicines sold in the camp commissary were Hinkleys bone liniment, Davis Vegetable pain killer, castor oil, Prunia, Vasoline, Jamaica Ginger, Cascara pills, carbolic salve, and in later years, aspirin tablets. Most camps had more medicine on hand for the horses than they had for the men.

Why there were fewer accidents in the old days, I do not know. But it was probably because men were better trained. It was a bad mark against a

man if he allowed himself to get hurt. No one wanted to hire a careless man, and no one wanted to work with a

careless man. Men took great pride in being able to do a job without having or causing an accident.



Woods workers performed many dangerous jobs, dressed for cold weather and recorded remarkably good "no-lost-time" records.



Combined Board Meeting, Annual Meeting, and Golf and Fishing Event returns to Grand Rapids



Scott Pittack of Pittack Logging (R) backs his boat out of the dock as he heads onto Sugar Lake for the 2007 TPA Fishing Event. He was joined in his boat by Tom McCabe, Sr. and Scott's wife, Lisa.



The foursome of (L-R) Ryan Milette (Road Machinery and Supplies), Dave Hensel (UPM Blandin), Mike Rieger (Rieger Logging and Trucking) and John Rolle (John Rolle Logging) celebrate making a putt during the 2007 TPA Golf Event.



DNR Forestry Director Dave Epperly answers questions during the 2007 TPA Annual Meeting.

Mark your calendars for June 12 and 13 for the 2008 TPA Annual Meeting, Board of Directors Meeting, and Golf and Fishing Event at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge just south of Grand Rapids.

For the second straight year, the three events have been combined to give members the opportunity to attend three major events all in two days. The two days will be filled, not only with info to help you run your business, but also with the opportunity to socialize with fellow loggers and vendors.

Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge features a beautiful golf course and clear, blue Sugar Lake. We've again chosen this location not only because of the success of last year's events, but also because it is centrally located just south of Grand Rapids.

Registration forms for the 2008 Annual Meeting, Board of Directors Meeting and Golf and Fishing Event will be mailed sometime in April. Watch your mailbox and join us for these great events!

Schedule

Thursday June 12

Morning – Annual Meeting

Afternoon – Golf and Fishing Event

Evening – Social Hour and Banquet

Friday June 13

Morning – Board of Directors Meeting

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

Note: On state sales, the DNR does not calculate price per cord on individual auctions. Price per cord information on these sales is done by TPA staff. This average is for "trembling aspen" and "aspen species" combined, unless otherwise noted.

DNR – Bemidji Area

February 7 – Oral Auction

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$25.88

St. Louis County

February 21 – Oral Auction

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen pulpwood	\$22.91

Birch pulpwood	\$ 8.14
Black Spruce pulpwood	\$33.25
Balsam fir pulpwood	\$18.44

Cass County

February 28 – Sealed Bids

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$27.83
Birch	\$18.48
Jack Pine	\$38.13
Red Oak	\$18.92

Crow Wing County

March 26 – Oral Auction

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$25.11
Balsam Fir	\$23.94
Birch	\$17.26
Oak	\$14.04

This auction contained 17 turned back tracts.

St. Louis County

March 27 – Oral Auction and
Sealed Bids

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen pulpwood	\$26.18
Balsam pulpwood	\$17.92

Black spruce pulpwood	\$24.64
Birch pulpwood	\$14.61
Tamarack pulpwood	\$ 8.98

This auction contained 16 tracts of turned back sales. Eight were sold through sealed bids and eight were offered via oral auction. One of the eight oral tracts received no bids; the other seven sold.

Cass County

March 27 – Sealed Bids

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$30.35
Maple	\$17.48
Birch	\$23.94
Red Oak	\$21.49

Beltrami County

April 3 – Oral Auction and
Sealed Bids

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen	\$32.13
Hardwood P&B	\$12.41
Balsam	\$26.91
Balm	\$27.27

DNR Sets 2008 Base Prices

On March 4, the Minnesota DNR released its list of base prices that went into effect April 1, 2008. Below is a sample of prices for selected species going into effect:

Woodsrun Cordwood Price List for Auction Sales

	DBH	Statewide	NW	NE	Cent.
Pine	<12"	\$18	\$15	\$20	\$17
Spuce	<12"	\$14	\$13	\$14	–
Tamarack	<12"	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$ 3	–
Balsam	All	\$11	\$13	\$10	–
Aspen	<12"	\$18	\$18	\$18	\$18
Birch	<12"	\$ 7	\$ 6	\$ 7	\$ 9
Balm	All	\$11	\$11	–	–
Basswood	<12"	\$ 5	–	\$ 5	–
Ash	<12"	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5
Oak	<12"	\$15	\$15	\$12	\$15
Maple	<12"	\$ 6	\$ 6	\$ 6	\$ 6
Mixed Hrdwd	<12"	\$ 8	\$ 7	\$ 8	\$ 8

Sawtimber Price List for Auction Sales

	DBH	Statewide	NW	NE	Cent.
Norway Pine	≥12"	\$107	\$115	\$98	\$88
White Pine	≥12"	\$ 97	–	–	–
Jack Pine	≥12"	\$ 93	–	–	–

Consult your area forester for a complete list of base prices.

Agencies Total more than \$24 Million in Unrealized Revenue from Turn Back Programs

According to a figures compiled by the DNR, timber sale turn back programs and forfeitures instituted in 2007 in response to the industry downturn resulted in more than \$24 million in unrealized revenue for the DNR and Minnesota's counties.

The \$24 million of unrealized revenue represents the total amount agencies would have collected had the turned back sales been harvested and paid for. Because only down payments had been paid by timber purchasers, only a fraction of that total had been collected and had to be refunded through the various turn back programs. Still, this represents the total agencies would

have collected, and the total obligation timber purchasers avoided last year.

The chart below shows the average cost per cord of the turned back sales (all species combined),

the average cost per cord of the sales when re-offered and purchased at auction, and the difference in the total values of the tracts that were turned back and then resold.

Agency	Original \$/cd	Resold Value	Unrealized Rev.
Aitkin County	\$63.40	\$28.62	-\$401,946
Beltrami County	\$60.05	\$30.44	-\$378,740
Cass County	\$63.64	\$28.60	-\$1,050,529
Clearwater County	\$47.86	\$26.99	-\$103,104
Crow Wing County	\$61.74	\$23.38	-\$526,215
Itasca County	\$66.89	\$21.83	-\$2,355,379
Kooch. County	\$53.79	\$26.48	-\$623,321
Lake County	\$35.73	\$17.16	-\$145,344
St. Louis County	\$62.81	\$22.68	-\$6,680,664
DNR	\$59.36	\$23.15	-\$12,606,526
Total – All Agencies			-\$24,871,768

Unique Partnership Again Heads to Capitol Hill

For three days in February, the Capitol in St. Paul was again the site of a unique partnership between labor and management.

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

The three-day event, not only included a trip to the Capitol to meet with legislators, but also a breakfast with Sen. Tom Saxhaug (DFL-Grand Rapids) and Rep. Tom Anzelc (DFL-Balsam Township). Both legislators gave the council a run-down of current hot button issues at the Capitol, including those related to the timber industry, and council members had a chance to ask questions and share their thoughts on the current state of the industry.



Rep. Tom Anzelc (DFL-Balsam Township) talks to the Wood Fiber Council in St. Paul about the current legislation session and issues affecting the timber industry. Sen. Tom Saxhaug (DFL-Grand Rapids) looks on.

In addition, the council heard several presentations on issues vital to the industry. DNR Forestry Director Dave Epperly told the council about current DNR initiatives and capital bonding requests. Epperly asked the

council to talk to lawmakers about the importance of forest productivity and forest health. He also talked about the importance of hiring young foresters to replace those retiring. Epperly told the council he's excited about working

with the new crop of foresters and he looks forward to getting more boots in the woods.

Among others addressing the Wood Fiber Council were Dr. Alan Ek and Dr. Mike Kilgore from the University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources, Dave Zumeta, Executive Director of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council, and TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt.

“The Wood Fiber Council is very effective and well respected at the Capitol,” Brandt said. “It makes a difference. One of the reasons we had success in raising DNR funding last year was the work of the Wood Fiber Council.”

The council decided to lobby on several issues in their visits with legislators. They included:

- Support provisions in the bonding bill that would provide funding for reforestation and forest roads and bridges
- Oppose legislation that would institute a cap and trade system for greenhouse gas emissions in Minnesota
- Support the appropriation of \$53,000 for a study on the effects of parcelization of lands in Minnesota

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