

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

# TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010

VOLUME 65



**57th Annual  
North Star Expo  
Making Adjustments –  
Brad Rootkie**

# TIMBER BULLETIN

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September/October 2010  
Duluth, Minnesota

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## ON THE COVER

Boise's Nathan Heibel shows James Towner (grandson of TPA board member Cliff Shermer) how to work the mini-loader at the 2010 North Star Expo. James was celebrating his 7th birthday at the show. For full coverage, please see page 14.

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# Koochiching County Board Adopts Updated Forest Plan

**M**ay how time flies when you are having fun, time for another column. The weather this fall has improved, so hopefully loggers have been able to not only get some work in the woods done, but also enjoy the warmer

## President's Column



conditions. TPA is dealing with budget issues, not the most pleasant part of the job. It's always a juggling act between what you need to do and what you want to do. TPA's

DNR Timber Sales Task Force met in late September, there seems to be a number of issues that need to be looked at. We are discussing them and trying to give the DNR some better alternatives. I hope everyone is getting a chance to do a little hunting or other fall activities. As always, remember to work safely.

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**A**fter more than a year of committee work, the Koochiching County board approved in September a long-range forest management plan.

Among those serving on the 16-member citizens advisory committee that developed the recommendations were TPA members Dale Erickson, Rod Bergstrom, and Wayne Skoe. In addition, the committee was chaired by former Boise woodlands manager Steve Earley. Bergstrom served as vice-chair.

The proposed plan recommends an increase in timber harvest from 3,530 acres to 5,300 acres over the next two years. Over the next eight years the plan scales back timber harvest averaging approximately 4,600 acres per year, an overall 34% increase above current harvest levels over the next 10 years.

In addition, the plan adopted by the county board says all aspen over 60 years of age should be harvested, and that harvest is to be accelerated for all cover types over the next 10 years.

The 88-page recommendation was the result of a dozen committee meetings and was adopted by the county board after a public hearing that included dozens of loggers.

### TPA Board Member Enberg Praises Kooch County Board

Following passage of the updated forest plan by the Koochiching County board, TPA board member Rod Enberg, of Motley, sent the following note to the TPA office:

*This is a bit of good news. Fortunately, the County Board up there actually understands the tie between resource utilization and economic impact and I wish to send a big thanks to the TPA members that took their time to get involved. That's what it takes! Hopefully it can spread to the other counties, and for some miracle on to the state and the feds. The bottom line is our timber industry in the state will wither away in many areas without more resources to work with, and they are out there.*

*Keep the battle going!!*  
 Rod Enberg

**A** big thank you goes out to all of the vendors, TPA members, interested folks and our Expo Committee for a great *North Star Expo* this year in Grand Rapids. We sold more space both inside and outside and there certainly was a lot of iron on Itasca County fairgrounds. There was also more optimism in the crowd. While the forest economy, and the economy in general, hasn't recovered I think we've made the adjustments to the new realities and are now waiting for profits to return. It was good to see names on some of the equipment at the show.



I made a trek from Duluth to Grand Forks, N.D., a few weeks ago. When you travel the breadth of our state it makes you marvel at the bounty the land

**Executive Vice President's Column**



gives to us all. Starting with Lake Superior and the Port of Duluth at your back, moving across the forest and bogs,

seeing mills big and small and then finally hitting the Red River Valley. It's truly amazing. The sugar beet harvest was underway in the valley, which had the fields and roads alive with people, machinery and trucks – all earning a living from the soil. Log trucks moving out of the woods. Papermills, sawmills, sugar refineries and supporting business with vehicles parked around them; people inside earning a living converting trees and crops to products while supporting their families and communities.

You can't help but be an optimist when you see all of this bounty. It also makes me think of our city cousins who may not see this. It's hard to have a broad perspective if you don't see and experience what others do around our state. We all get to the city a lot but I'm not sure that those cousins of ours get to see what we see every day – the land providing for us.



I'm saddened to report that Bob "Bena Bob" Johnson passed away after a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. Bob was a long-time TPA member who ran a great mill in Bena. He rarely missed a *North Star Expo*, was a strong TPA supporter and was actively engaged in our industry. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends at this difficult time.



I was reviewing the files about the start of the TPA/LUA workers compensation program recently. With the program coming up on 30 years in operation it is clear that safety has always been the key to the success of the program. It's also clear that running safe operations is good business. Premiums in the 1980s and early 1990s were in the \$40 to \$60 range. Now they're under \$10 and have been there for awhile.

LUA has been an outstanding partner all of these years. We couldn't ask for a better relationship and better people to work with. TPA members have done their part by continuing to put a strong emphasis on safety every day.

We can each think of the injuries that have been prevented by attention to the details of safety. This is the most important thing. But, we can also think of vast savings in premium dollars that we've had by being safe.



Congratulations to Kent Jacobson who has been hired by the DNR as

a business analyst in the Division of Forestry. Kent has done stints on a logging crew, teaching and in wood procurement for Potlatch and Ainsworth. He will be detailed to Grand Rapids but working on many issues. I think it will be a breath of fresh air for the DNR to have someone with intimate knowledge of industry in their meetings. I look forward to working with Jake in this new role.



Our task force on DNR timber sale operations has been meeting and working through issues and recommendations. This task force is looking at all of the operational and financial issues for DNR sales, basically everything except the total volumes that the department is selling. As we work through the issues our goal is to resolve as many of them as possible administratively with the Department though some may take legislation. This task force is doing important work and has a great group of members giving their time to make things better for all timber purchasers.



Grouse and waterfowl seasons are underway. Lots of folks are heading west for elk hunting and the deer season is just around the corner. It's the annual hunting pause before we hit the hectic winter logging season. Times like these give us a chance to reflect on life, the times, business and our families. Enjoy them safely.



Brad Rootkie started in the logging business in 1982 when he was 16.

# Making Adjustments

## Brad Rootkie Finds Adjusting to Changing Conditions a Secret to the Success of Central Pine Lumber

by Ray Higgins

It's the sort of day Brad Rootkie hasn't seen too many of lately. For one thing, the sun is shining brightly and temperatures are pushing 75.

"We've been getting so

hammered with rain at home it's just unbelievable," he says. "We'd get 2,3,4,5,7 inches at a time. It was dry, we were going good and we had one good high-ground sale and boy it just got to the point where we couldn't do it anymore. The woods

were fine, but we couldn't get the trucks out. It doesn't do you any good to make the wood if you can't get the trucks out."

That's one reason his logging crew has ventured roughly 125 miles from their home base in

Brook Park, just west of Hinckley, and are starting work on a Lake County sale just north of Two Harbors.

"We're a little out of our element," Rootkie says. "This is different country. At home you don't seem to get the mix of the species you have here. Birch grows in an area, and popple grows in an area, and you get a few spruce and balsam there, but if we see ten cords of spruce and balsam in a year, that would be a huge amount. Here everything grows together. The popple and balsam and birch are all growing in the same patch."

The terrain on this site is quite a bit different, too. The aspen, spruce, balsam, birch, maple, ash, and balm on this 1650 cord sale is scattered over numerous hills and ridges as compared to the relatively flat ground he's used to in the Brook Park area.

"It's hard for us to work in because we're not used to it," he says. "We'll work through it. We can't have the landings we're used to having. It's nice to have an acre or two landing and here you're lucky if you get a 50 foot by 100 foot landing. But we'll make the adjustment and get it done."

Making adjustments is something Rootkie is used to, starting in the wood business at age 16. But it wasn't the first business he tried.

"My dad bought me four pigs when I was ten years old," he says. "I raised them and I suppose I had 15 sows at one time and raised some feeder pigs."

"Then when I was 12, my grandpa was getting up there in age and he told me that if I took care of the cattle and made the hay, from then on any calves were mine. He kept his original cows and everything else was mine. I came over every day and did the chores."

It was during these years that Rootkie was also exposed to the logging business for the first time, although he doesn't recall being particularly fond of it.

"My dad logged off and on," he says, "and I'd go with him sometimes. And I remember a couple of times going with him and freezing my butt off."

The pigs and cattle kept him pretty busy, along with his school work at Hinckley High School. He



Rootkie's longtime friend and co-worker Mark Knudson operates Central Pine Lumber's John Deere 843H feller buncher.

also met Mark Knudson who shared many of the same interests. Then at age 16, Rootkie had the chance to buy his first skidder.

"Dad had a metal fabrication shop and a big portable sawmill that went out and custom sawed," Rootkie says. "Dad knew somebody that had an inexpensive skidder and so I sold a few cattle, borrowed some money and bought it. I kept the cattle along with logging, too. I logged in the summertime and during the fall

and school, and Mark helped always. We started in the summertime on his grandpa's land. His grandpa had a bunch of popple there and we started cutting there in the summer of 1982 at 16 years old."

Rootkie would take the wood and saw lumber on his dad's mill. When he graduated from Hinckley in 1984, he logged and sawed full-time. But that eventually necessitated another adjustment.

"I was starving to death," he

says. "So I went to work construction for about three years, working in sewer and water."

But he hurt his back and couldn't do it any longer, especially since he understood what sort of commitment his employer expected. Rootkie felt he needed to start his own business so he could take care of his back, ease off when necessary so as not to cheat an employer out of a full day's work.

"When I'm working for somebody else," he says, "I know they expect 100%."

So, Rootkie again hooked up with his old buddy Knudson and started sawing aspen for pallets as well as dunnage, while logging during the winter. They called the business Central Pine Lumber and they'd also peel popple with an old machine peeler Rootkie's father had for a company that made excelsior.

"It got to the point where if you got a 1000 cord sale you'd be lucky to get 100 cords of sawlogs, then the rest was pulpwood," Rookie says. "The problem was figuring out what to do with the pulpwood. That's when we were machine peeling, and that was too slow and labor intensive."

It was about this time that Rootkie was getting married and his father-in-law, Chuck Davidson,



This Tigercat 630C is one of three skidders Rootkie owns. He'll typically have two on each job site.

was in the trucking business and had been in the logging business. They decided to stop sawing and work together logging, while Knudson went and farmed with his dad.

Rootkie and Davidson bought a slasher, then a shear, a grapple skidder, and it built up from there. They worked together as partners

from 1991 until 1998 when Rookie bought out his father-in-law, although Davidson continued to handle the trucking for the company until he retired in 2003. The company's name remains "Central Pine Lumber" even though the company no longer has a sawmill.

"We had so much pulpwood and in our country," he says, "the wood was so old, you just couldn't get enough pure sawlogs, you had so much pulpwood to deal with, and that had to be marketed."

That's when Rootkie established a relationship with North Shore Forest Products.

"Back in those days," he says, "everybody in our country sold to North Shore. LP in Hayward is the closest mill and we could have done business directly with them, but it was easier for North Shore to get the contract at LP and you just shipped it over there and got the check. So I don't buy any of my own stumpage. North Shore takes care of everything. It works out real well for us."

"It's a good relationship, Rootkie says. "There are a lot of things I don't have to deal with. I don't have to put money up for stumpage. I couldn't work on the crew, I'd have to be working the phones and checking on things,



Rootkie runs the Barko 495ML Epic Loader/Slasher. He typically slashes after harvesting operations have been completed and the other equipment has moved to the next job.

setting sales up and I'd have to do all of that. Production would be affected, and I'd have to hire someone else. It's a great relationship."

For all of the adjustments Rootkie has had to make, his relationship with North Shore Forest Products has been a constant, one that's allowed him to get out of the sawmill business. Central Pine Lumber remains the name of his company, but he exclusively logs now.

It's a rare day when most of the crew is on the same site. Usually they're hopping between up to three jobs at the same time with the feller buncher in one spot, the skidder and delimeter in another, and then Rootkie at a third with the slasher-loader.

"We can jump between the bunch of them and then I usually have them leave a skidder with me so that I have one to clean-up with," Rootkie says. "Usually I see the guys four days all winter. They're long gone ahead when I pull in with the slasher. The piles are done. They've moved onto the next job.

Not this time. Newly hired Louis Duchene is running the brand new Komatsu delimeter that was just delivered this week; Justin Hanson is driving the Tigercat skidder, and running the John Deere feller buncher is Rootkie's old buddy Mark Knudson, still helping out after all these years.

"Having Mark around really helps a lot, really takes a lot of stress off," Rootkie says. "He'll run the feller, the skidder, and does whatever. If we have road building to do, he does that. When you have guys that you can count on, that you don't have to babysit, that's huge."

Rootkie's cousin Bruce is also part of the team, running the shop and handling some of the trucking of equipment with low-boys.

"He's a really good fabricator," Brad says. "He built the loader carrier, and he builds trailers, bunks for trailers and does all the repair stuff."

Rootkie hires trucking to transport the timber to the mill, with this wood going to LP in Hayward. Next week he'll have his chipper here so chips can be



Louis Duchesne runs the brand new Komatsu PC 200 LC delimeter. Rootkie has another delimeter back home and says, "The biggest thing is we do a lot of wood with very few guys. My equipment is good and we put wood out rather than wrench on stuff, so having good equipment is important."

delivered to Laurentian Energy. Most of the time his chips are sent to Georgia Pacific's Superwood plant in Duluth.

It's a business model that's working well. Now 44, Rootkie lives on his Grandfather's land – where the two raised that cattle – with his wife Sherry and their two daughters, just half a mile from where he grew up, the two places

he learned about business and work.

"My dad and my grandpa were always do it yourself guys," Rootkie says. "You didn't have anybody else do it if you could possibly do it yourself. I mean, they never said it, but it was always 'if somebody can do it, I can do it.' And that's just the way it's always been."



# Annual North Star Expo Returns to Rapids

by Ray Higgins

**W**ith another increase in both indoor and outdoor equipment displays, the North Star Expo was again the place to be to see the latest and greatest in logging, trucking, and sawmill equipment. The 57th annual event returned to the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids for the second straight year, where Minnesota's logging community was greeted with mostly blue skies and typical fall temperatures for the two-day Expo.

As always, the Expo not only provides the timber industry the best opportunity of the year to see the latest in logging, trucking, and sawmill equipment and technology, but also the chance to show the general public the importance of logging to Minnesota's economy.

The community of Grand Rapids and Itasca County embraced the Expo, with nearly than 2000 folks visiting over 100 exhibitors, who displayed in excess of \$20 million in equipment, over two days. Vendors reported being pleased with the turnout, seeing a steady stream of loggers and other interested industry insiders wishing to see what dealers had to offer.

The regional media also visited the Expo, with WDIO/WIRT-TV and The Northland's News Center from Duluth and Bemidji's Lakeland Public TV News all doing stories for their newscasts. That's on top of the Grand Rapids Herald-Review's special 12-page section on the Expo that was included in each Sunday paper the weekend before the event.

The 2010 Expo was again an action packed two days, filled with various contests, good food, great vendors, and the chance to compare notes on the industry with folks from throughout Minnesota.



Nortrax receives the **Best Outdoor Display** award from Expo Committee member Chad Lovdahl. L-R: Chad Bjorgaard, Robert Buyense, Bob Cook, Lovdahl, Ryan Davies, Kalin Kvitek, Dick Samuelson, and Dale Gessell. Receiving second place honors was Ponsse North America. Magneto Power was awarded third place.



TPA Expo Committee member Chad Lovdahl presents Dave "Punky" Kolden (L) and Joe Marchese of W. P. & R. S. Mars Co. with the blue ribbon in the **Best Indoor Booth** competition. American Pressure, Inc. received the second place award, and Road Equipment Parts Center placed third.



Matt Lundberg (R) of Solway posted the fastest time in the **Loader Contest** for the second year in a row. His time of 3:28.8 bested his father, Dan Lundberg (L), who completed the checkerboard in 4:00.98. Tony Kowitz of McGregor was third. Ramon Killmer of Big Falls successfully defended his championship in the Master Loader competition with a time of 6:26.96. That's five straight Masters division wins for Killmer.



Participants in the 2010 **Celebrity Loader** competition were (L-R): Minnesota DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten; Northland's NewsCenter reporter Elayne Crecelius; UPM Blandin Mill General Manager Joe Maher; UPM Blandin Forest Resources Manager Jim Marshall; Chisholm Mayor Mike Jugovich; State Sen. Mary Olson (DFL-Bemidji); Bemidji Mayor Richard Lehmann; Bob Anderson of Boise Inc. in International Falls; and WDIO/WIRT-TV reporter Katie Rusch. Mayor Lehmann won the competition with a time of 1:45.78, followed by Sen. Olson (2:27.11) and Commissioner Holsten (2:27.92).



Alli Miska, of Breezy Point, shows off the blue ribbon and her winning entry in the age 7-9 division of the annual Expo Coloring Contest. Along with the ribbon, Miska also received an art kit. Second place went to Anna & Zoe Trip, of Cook, while Hallie Rootkie, of Brook Park, received third prize. For kids aged six and under, Nashwauk's Jazlynn Svaleson, claimed top honors for the second straight year, followed by Jackson Lovdahl, of Effie, and Abrianna Hasbargen, of Birchdale. In the category for kids aged 10 to 12, Jared Knudson, Brook Park, was the winner, with Blackduck's Brody Savich and Elizabeth Arendt, of Grand Rapids, rounding out the top three. The top three in each category received ribbons, while each winner was awarded an art kit.

We ended up with several masterpieces that displayed the talent and hard work of our youngsters. Congratulations to all of the winners, and to everyone who showed off their skills by entering the coloring contest!



Winning this year's **Best Load** contest was Lovdahl and Sons of Effie. The entry was sponsored by Boise. The truck from Berthiaume Logging, sponsored by Sappi, finished second and Kimball Logging, sponsored by Potlatch, was third. Thanks go to Rotochopper, Nortrax, AgStar Financial, Skubic Brothers, and Felling Trailer for donating prizes for the winning entries.

In the **Guess the Weight Competition**, Troy Nelson of Big Falls guessed 89,820, missing the mark by just 45 pounds to capture the \$50 prize.



Here's the biggest cookie, provided by Bill Anderson, of Loman. He brought this white spruce cookie from a tree in Indus Township.



The Expo again attracted media from throughout Northern Minnesota to not only report on the event but also on the state of Minnesota's timber industry. Here, Katie Rusch of WDIO/WIRT-TV in Duluth interviews Minnesota DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten. Media outlets from Hibbing, Bemidji, and Grand Rapids also covered the Expo.



Folks at the Expo enjoyed watching the talents of Cindy Servis, of International Falls, who displayed her chainsaw carving abilities this year. Cindy provided the carving for this year's vendor drawing, which was won by Joe Robben, of Staples.



Thanks to Nortrax, nobody went hungry Saturday morning. The John Deere dealer once again sponsored the free pancake breakfast, with more than 300 folks feasting on the flapjacks, sausage, juice, and coffee!

In other competitions, the **Wood Identification Contest** was won on Friday by Shawn Linder, of Grand Rapids, and by Lindsey Rootkie, of Brook Park, on Saturday. Each won \$25.

**Next Year**

In 2011, the Expo will return to the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids. The TPA Expo committee is already working on plans for next year, and we look forward to seeing you there!



As is Expo tradition, Friday was capped off with a delicious dinner, featuring the Famous Duke Skorich Barbecue. More than 250 tickets were sold for the delicious pork and beef with all the fixins'. The Grand Rapids Curling Club staffed the Beer Garden, making it an evening of great food, cold beverages, and lively conversation, the fitting end to day one of the North Star Expo.

# Thank You!

The Minnesota Timber Producers Association would like to thank the following companies and organizations for their donations toward making the 57th Annual North Star Expo a huge success:

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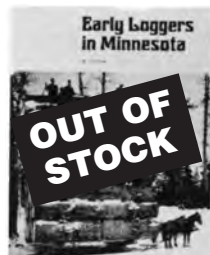
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TPA would also like to thank Dave Chura for taking the Expo photos seen in this issue of the *Bulletin* and throughout the event again this year.

# Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I



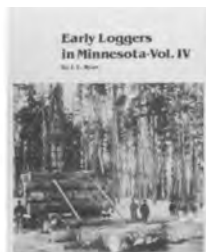
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# Cass County Man Convicted of Spiking Trees

**S**tephen Thomas Olson, age 52, of Backus, was found guilty in September of felony criminal damage to property and gross misdemeanor damage to timber following a three-day jury trial in Walker. The Cass County jury deliberated for approximately three hours before returning a verdict.

In November 2009, the Cass County Land Department discovered that over 500 trees had been spiked with six-inch-long ring shank pole barn nails. A crudely made sign was posted on a tree near a gated entrance to the county property that read, "II in each tree!" with a

## Timber Talk

smiley face drawn next to the wording.

The Cass County Sheriff's Department followed up on leads provided by the public. The investigation led to the discovery of Olson's role in planning and executing the tree spiking.

At trial, the jury heard evidence that Olson was angry that red pine trees on county land were going to be logged. The tipping point came when Olson found out on Oct. 31, 2009, from a person camping on the county land, that loggers were coming to start work the next day. According to testimony at trial, Olson became demonstrably angry and made statements to the camper that he was going to spike the trees to prevent the logging. Over the next week, Olson and two others pounded the pole barn nails into the trees.

Previously, two teenage males pleaded guilty in the case.

Metal in trees poses a significant risk of danger to logging equipment and loggers. After the spiking occurred, Cass County, due to safety concerns, had to sell the entire stand of spiked trees (165 cords). The highest bidder after the spiking was \$21.52 per cord. Originally, the county had planned to only harvest a limited portion of the stand (14.6 cords), and the winning bid had been

\$77.50 per cord. The spiking resulted in well over the statutory threshold of \$1000 of damages to the county.

Olson faces up to a year and a day behind bars. He and the two teenagers will also have to pay more than \$9200 in restitution.

## New DOT Testing Procedures

**T**he U.S. Department of Transportation is implementing new testing procedures as of Oct. 1, 2010, affecting carriers and drivers in drug and alcohol testing program.

These changes are:

- Ecstasy (Methylenedioxy-methamphetamine-MDMA) is being added to the substances drivers will be tested for.
- Drivers will now be screened for heroin on initial test.
- The tests will have lower cutoff levels for some substances – including cocaine.

They are also changing training and examination requirements for medical review officers (MROs) – which doesn't really affect us as much as the other changes.

Federal law requires commercial drivers to be tested for drug and alcohol use. TPA offers a program, as do other entities. For more information on TPA's drug and alcohol testing program, as well as how these changes affect you, please call Jane Abel in the TPA office: 218-722-5013.

## "Bena Bob" Johnson Passes

**L**ong-time TPA member Robert Jay Johnson, known as "Bena Bob," died Oct. 11, 2010, of pancreatic cancer. He was 52.



He was born on Oct. 17, 1957, to Maurice and Anita (Bergendahl) Johnson, in Moose Lake, Minn. In 1968, his family moved to Bemidji, where he

attended Northern School and later graduated in 1976 from Bemidji High School. He worked numerous jobs after high school at Johnson Lumber Company, his father's sawmill. He partnered with his brothers when his father retired, and together they ran the mill. He married Cindy Hanson on Aug. 9, 1980, in Bena. In 1982, he expanded the business and branched out on his own with a retail lumber yard.

Bob enjoyed hunting, fishing, golf, restoring classic cars and working in the woods.

He is survived by his wife, Cindy; sons Jason (Rachel) Johnson, of Bemidji, Jared Johnson, of Bena; sisters, Judy (Jerome) Blackmarr-Stejskal, of Bena, Noreen (Butch) Holsclaw, of Iron River, Wis., Jean (Eli) Essa, of Burbank, Calif.; brothers, Richard (Nancy) Johnson, of Los Angeles; and Randy (Stacy) Johnson, of Bena; numerous nephews and a niece.

# Mobile Equipment Fire Self-Suppression System Does Its Job

by Dave Amundson  
Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance

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

## Background:

It is always good to hear positive news when a safety device or system does its job, whether

preventing a possible personal injury or property loss. In this case, preventing a mobile equipment property loss was

## Lessons from Losses

accomplished, as well as preventing a personal injury, because proper emergency response protocol was in place. The following information comes from a personal interview with the owner, a review of the involved mobile equipment, and a discussion with the employees at the work site.

This large logging and trucking company operates both conventional and cut-to-length logging mobile equipment. This summertime incident occurred on a remote logging road, approximately 15 road miles from the nearest town. The equipment involved was a forwarder on a cut-to-length operation. This mobile equipment was setup with an on-board fire self-suppression system and two hand-held multi-purpose fire extinguishers, one inside the cab and another outside the cab.

Maintenance and housekeeping had been very good on this equipment, and it had been recently pressure washed and inspected, with no major

maintenance problems noted.

## Incident:

As this mobile equipment was being driven on a logging road between logging job sites, flames were noted near the hood top. Immediately the mobile equipment was stopped and shut down, but the flames continued. Based on this, the manual control button was activated for the on-board fire self-suppression system. This system worked and appeared to control the fire.

As the operator dismounted the cab with the hand-held fire extinguisher, the electrical disconnect was shut off, and the fire appeared to be extinguished. The engine hood was opened, and a fire was still noted in the fire wall area between the engine compartment and the operator cab. Using the hand-held fire extinguisher, the fire was extinguished.

Another employee in the immediate area was summoned and assisted in removing the belly pans and lifting the operator cab to be sure the fire was completely extinguished. The machine was checked by a mechanic, who found very little damage. This was a very

serious fire situation that ended on a good note. The fire safety protection worked well and had done its job. Afterward, the on-board fire self-suppression system and the hand-held fire extinguisher were serviced and/or replaced.

## Unsafe Act and/or Condition:

As the mechanic checked over this equipment, trying to determine the root cause of this fire situation, an exhaust leak was noted between the exhaust pipe and the manifold/turbo. This hot exhaust leak was blowing directly into the fire wall between the engine compartment and the operator cab. The constant road driving may have helped create this situation. However, the root cause was the bolt failures (broken and missing) that fastened the exhaust pipe to the manifold/turbo. These bolts were replaced, correcting this exhaust leak.

Being prepared in a fire emergency will make all the difference in the end. Other fire situations occurred this last year involving mechanical failures (alternators, damage to pre-heaters, etc.) where this fire protection (minimum 10lb multi-purpose fire extinguishers) was used and successfully extinguished the fire.



The manual control button for a fire self-suppression system.



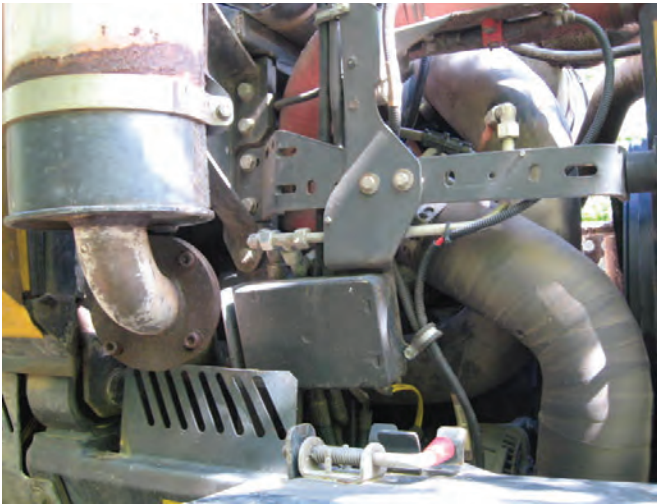
Be prepared for emergency action by putting in place a documented plan. Communicating this to your work force is a must!

**PREVENTATIVE MEASURES:**

1. Maintain a documented emergency response plan for your logging operation. The level of completeness will depend on your company size. Some points to consider, in putting this program together include;
  - Emergency phone numbers and communication method
  - Location of operations (directions to job sites)
  - Emergency response training for each piece of mobile equipment and/or operation
  - Operation of the on board fire self-suppression systems if available
  - Operation of the hand-held multi-purpose fire extinguishers
  - Refresher training and discussion
2. Complete thorough self-inspections to uncover problem areas before an emergency situation occurs, and make corrections as necessary. This is especially important before a change in operating conditions like long skids, traveling an extended distance between job sites, etc.
3. Workers must be alert and recognize changes that take place when operating mobile equipment. Your sense of smell, sound of operation, and vision of equipment/gauges are all important factors when operating equipment and preventing a fire emergency. Quick response and persistent safe corrective action is the plan.

*(continued on page 24)*

*(continued from page 23)*



Areas behind the exhaust/turbo area needs to be on your inspection list.



User-friendly, readily available fire extinguisher on a piece of mobile equipment.



# On the Markets

The Timber Bulletin publishes information regarding results of a sampling of recent timber sales and other market indicators, as well as other market-related news items.

## Recent Timber Sales

Average prices, as reported by each agency

Agency	Regular	Intermediate
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### Aitkin County

August 26th – Sealed Bid

Aspen (PB)	\$28.40	(NA)
Maple (PB)	\$12.27	(NA)
Red Pine (PB)	\$25.35	(NA)
Paper Birch (PB)	\$12.93	(NA)
Mixed Hardwoods Pulp	\$12.24	(NA)

All 29 tracts offered were sold

### Cass County

August 26th – Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$25.41	\$20.50
Jack Pine	\$26.28	\$32.42
Pine Pulp	(NA)	\$8.54

All six tracts offered were sold

### DNR-Little Falls Area

September 9th – Oral Auction

Aspen Species (WC)	\$28.05	(NA)
Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$24.55	(NA)
Red Oak (WMP)	\$24.36	(NA)
Norway Pine (WMP)	\$19.67	(NA)
Paper Birch (WC)	\$ 9.96	(NA)

This was a regular auction only. Four of five tracts offered were purchased. In addition, one “salvage” tract offered went unsold.

### DNR-Park Rapids Area

September 21st – Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$35.23	\$26.12
Aspen Species (WC)	(NA)	\$22.82
Paper Birch (WC)	\$ 8.38	\$ 9.66
Jack Pine (WMP)	\$31.26	\$28.48
Norway Pine (WMP)	\$23.71	\$17.04
Tamarack (WMP)	\$ 5.60	(NA)
Pine Species (WMP)	(NA)	\$23.23

All five tracts offered on the regular auction and 31 of 35 tracts on the intermediate auction were purchased.

### DNR-Little Falls Area

September 24th – Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$26.49	\$21.88
Aspen Species (WC)	(NA)	\$23.22
Basswood (WMP)	\$11.98	\$ 9.96
Oak Species (WMP)	\$19.01	\$20.52
Red Maple (WC)	\$ 8.08	\$ 8.63
Red Oak (PB)	(NA)	\$19.98

All five tracts on the regular auction sold, as did 12 of the 15 tracts offered on the intermediate auction.

### Cass County

September 30th – Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$22.85	\$31.01
Jack Pine	\$27.61	\$ 6.51
Birch	\$16.27	\$17.86

All nine tracts offered were sold.

### Crow Wing County

September 30th – Oral Auction

Aspen	\$23.99	(NA)
Birch	\$12.40	(NA)
Oak	\$19.27	(NA)
Maple	\$ 8.65	(NA)

All 19 tracts offered were purchased.

### DNR-Baudette Area

October 12th – Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$21.81	\$21.42
Aspen Species (WC)	(NA)	\$19.20
Tamarack (WC)	\$ 2.94	\$ 3.17
Balsam Fir (WMP)	\$19.42	\$14.55
Balsam Fir (WC)	\$11.25	\$10.96

The regular auction contained two tracts, one of which went unsold. All 10 of the tracts on the intermediate auction were sold.

### Products:

PB = Pulp and Bolts

WMP = Woodsrun Mixed Products

WC = Woodsrun Cordwood

ST = Sawtimber

WST = Woodsrun Sawtimber

LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

## "Minnesota State Timber"

by J. C. Ryan

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



In a previous article on Minnesota land ownership, I mentioned state lands and federal government grants of land to the

state. These grants were for a number of purposes such as schools and universities, internal improvement, state swamp land

grants and many others. Special grants were made for state parks, Burntside State Forest and more.

Besides the government grants, much state land has been acquired through special laws such as the Volstead Act for drainage purposes, and for game refuges and building sites.

At the present time, timber management, including timber sales on all Minnesota-owned lands, comes under the supervision of the Division of Forestry. This was not the case for many years, as both sales of timber and land came under the direction of the state auditor on recommendation of the state timber commissioners.

Over the years the Legislature made minor changes in the laws, but the state auditor still kept control of timber sales until 1931, when the Conservation Department was established. At that time the management and sale of all state timber was turned over to the Division of Forestry.

Under the state auditor, a superintendent of state timber and lands office was established. Otto Dierks held this job for many years. The superintendent of timber set up timber sales districts throughout the north half of the state, and state cruisers, as they were known, were put in charge of each district. The number of men assigned to each district depended on its timber sale load.

These state cruisers were responsible for all timber trespass to state lands, the cruising of the timber to be offered for sale and the supervision of the timber cutting after the sales were made.

Under the auditor, timber was sold at public auction, with timber sales being held in the seat of the county where the timber was located—usually two sales each year, in the spring and in the fall.

In the early days most logging was done during the winter months, and some of these state cruisers would be assigned to state land sales during the summer months. Most all of these state appraisers, as they were later called, were men of high caliber who knew their timber and logging methods. Many of them were practical men who had acquired their

The late Carl Freeberg of Grand Marais, a veteran state timber cruiser, stands with a logger beside a pile of freshly cut pulpwood.





In 1945, the late Mike Guthrie, a veteran state cruiser, was standing beside these sleigh loads of pulpwood at the J.C. Campbell Co., Whyte, Minn.



Above: Logs being skidded by horses north of Two Harbors in 1912. Below: The Johnson-Wentworth Mill at Cloquet in 1917.



experience through working as loggers or cruisers for private parties or from many years work with the state.

The scaling of all timber cut from state land came under the office of the surveyor general of logs and lumber, who had scalers assigned to scale the timber. It was the duty of the state timber appraisers to see that the timber was properly scaled before it was removed from the land where cut. It was their duty also to check scale the scalers.

The state appraisers would help in the assignment of the scalers to the jobs where needed. Sometimes state appraisers were assigned to scaling jobs by the surveyor general, and in some cases surveyor general scalers worked as appraisers when not scaling. Cooperation between the two agencies was good most of the time, but there were times when the two agencies did not agree on all matters.

The state was divided into several appraiser districts with a senior appraiser in charge who remained in the district at all times, with some of the newer men being shifted among districts to where the work load was greater. Most of the appraising for sales was done during the spring and fall, and during the winter months when logging was in progress the appraisers were busy on supervision of the cuttings. Men would be assigned to a number of camps and made trips from camp to camp at regular intervals.

Because of the State Swampland Act, a great deal of state-owned lands lay in the swampy area of the northwestern region of the state and contained much of our cedar, tie and pulpwood timber. The heavy demand for tamarack and cedar ties for the railroads and demand for cedar poles and posts for telephone expansion made logging on state land in that region especially heavy and many appraisers were assigned there. For many years, the Bemidji district was one of the busiest.

The district boundaries were changed from time to time, but for many years districts were maintained at Bemidji, Big Falls, Baudette, Hill City, Deer River, Hibbing and Duluth.

My father's company cut many state permits along the M. & I. Railroad north of Bemidji in the early 1900s, and I got to know many of the state appraisers. Johnnie McDonald, the senior appraiser at Bemidji was a good friend of my father and visited our home many times. He was a fiery little Irishman who would fight at a minute's notice if some logger was trying to get by with anything.

Among the other state appraisers I knew was Fred Letournu, who later was a forest ranger at Blackduck, Frank Getchal and his father, who were both appraisers out of the Bemidji district.

Big Falls was headquarters for appraisers for many years with Jim

McAndrews being the senior appraiser, and Denny Mahar and Art Miller being the assistants. Fred Schafie worked out of Big Falls for many years and later was transferred to the Duluth district.

Hugh Zaiser was stationed at Bigfork for a number of years and later became superintendent of Scenic State Park. Clyde Johnson was another appraiser who worked up and down the M. & I. Railroad.

Other state appraisers I knew were Alex McNeil, who worked mostly in the Duluth and Aitkin area and little Jimmy Brennan, who worked all over the state with headquarters at Stillwater, where he started scaling logs on the boom when he was 18 years old. He was only about five feet, four inches but was respected by all camp foremen and others for his ability to fight with anyone regardless of size if he was crossed up on any of his decisions about cutting and handling of state timber.

A.C. Depuy of Park Rapids was one of the early appraisers in that area. He also worked for the Division of Forestry in later years. Roy Hunt was the senior appraiser in the Duluth district, which was the largest in the state, taking in most of St. Louis County and running clear to the Canadian border. Some of the men who worked under him in this district were Sam Files, Rory McKenzie, George Gowan, Jimmy Campbell and Steve Krackenberg.

Most of the men did not work full-time but were only hired during the busy season and worked for lumber companies and others at times.

Most of the men working for the State Timber Department were more concerned with the proper cutting and handling of the timber cut from state land rather than reforestation and forest management. However, some of the district appraisers were interested in maintaining the forest for the future.

One of the men greatly interested in the preservation of our forest was Sam Dolgaard of Kelliher. Sam had worked all his life in the north woods and wanted the forest saved for the grandchildren. There was not a logger of state timber in Minnesota who had not heard Sam's plea: "Don't cut them little trees, boys." Sam did much in bringing about proper forest management to our state lands.

A few more of the later state appraisers who were taken over by the Division of Forestry when the Department of Conservation was established in 1931 were Clarence Long, Jim Angel, Sam Niles, Cliff Langgaard, as well as Sam Dolgaard.

These men did a good job seeing that the Minnesota state timber sales were properly handled and that the citizens of Minnesota were well paid for timber cut from these lands in the harvest of our vast virgin forest.



A trainload of logs on the Alger Line out of Knife River crosses the long trestle over McCarty Creek.



Above: Logs being loaded with a McGiffert jammer. Below: Cedar poles, cut mostly from state land, in the National Pole Co. yard at Belaska.



# Classifieds

To serve our readers better, the Timber Bulletin offers free classified ads of up to 85 words to all members and associate members of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association. All ads must be submitted in writing to the Association office. The MTPA assumes no responsibility for ad contents and accepts free ads on a first-come, first-served basis within space limitations.

## WANTED

Barrel stave logs – White Oak and Burr Oak butt cuts 12 inch diameter and up – random lengths  
For more information call  
Robert Stagge Meyer  
at Staggemeyer Stave Co. Inc.,  
Caledonia, MN 55921  
Office: 507-724-3395  
Cell: 608-792-7598

## WANTED

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

## EXCESS EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

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

## FOR SALE

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

## FOR SALE

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

## FOR SALE

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

## FOR SALE

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

## FOR SALE

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



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