

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

# TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

MAY/JUNE 2005

VOLUME 61



**TPA Annual Meeting 2005  
Northwoods Log Homes**

# 2005 North Star Expo

September 16th and 17th

Itasca Co. Fairgrounds, Grand Rapids, MN

Friday 8-5 Saturday 8-1

**Free Admission!!!**

More than 250 exhibitors and vendors!

Industry Workshops!

Draft Horse Demonstration!

Mini-loader for the kids!

Master Loader Contest!

Win a Chainsaw Carving!

Friday Night BBQ!

Saturday Pancake Breakfast!

Fun for the whole family!

For more information: MN Timber Producers Association

218-722-5013





# TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 61  
May/June 2005  
Duluth, Minnesota

## IN THIS ISSUE

TPA Annual Meeting 2005 .....8

Meet the Director .....9

Northwoods Log Homes .....12

Governor Pawlenty Visits  
Ainsworth Cook OSB Mill .....20

Loggers of the Past .....22

Classifieds.....26

Advertisers Index .....26

### TIMBER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

President

DALE ERICKSON

Past President

CLARENCE JOHNSON

1st Vice President

WARREN JOHNSON

2nd Vice President

TOM McCABE

Secretary/Treasurer

MIKE RIEGER

Editor

MAUREEN TALARICO

Editor-in-Chief

WAYNE E. BRANDT

Graphic Design, Editorial and Mechanical Production

STEWART-TAYLOR PRINTING

### ON THE COVER

TPA President Dale Erickson addresses members at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

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 \$15 which is included in their membership dues. Periodicals postage paid in Duluth, Minnesota. Advertising rates and data on request. The views expressed in the Timber Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association.

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

Issn: 10973532 - USPS: 016208



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



Minnesota  
Timber Producers  
Association



**G**reetings!

Make plans now to attend the MTPA Golf and Fish Tournament on June 30 in Detroit Lakes. This is a different format from years

## President's Column



gone by. If you don't golf, you can fish. If you don't fish, you can golf. Sure sounds like something for everyone. I look forward to seeing you there. Hats off to the PR

Committee for this new idea. Look elsewhere in this issue for the details.

Also the Expo Committee is hard at work with plans for the 2005 North Star Expo. New for this year: the date – Sept. 16 and 17; and location – Grand Rapids Fairgrounds. New ideas here as well, including a vendor shoot-out, cookie contest, and many others. More about this in later issues.

By the end of May most, if not all, of the state highway spring load restrictions have been lifted. Although this means wood flow can resume, it also means road construction time. Detours may have different weight limits and speed limits than we are used to. Please drive carefully through the work zones.

As always, please work safely.

Thank you,

*Dan A. Eickman*

## THATS Launches “New Logging Employee Safety” Website

**T**he National Timber Harvesting and Transportation Safety Foundation (THATS) has launched a new section of its [www.loggingsafety.com](http://www.loggingsafety.com) web site to help loggers orient new employees to logging safety, complete with free, downloadable materials.

“Nearly one half of all logging injuries occur to workers with less than one year on the job,” states Virginia Tech’s Bob Shaffer, leader of the team that developed the program. “We realize that new employees are in a vulnerable position, and that logging safety programs need to put a special focus on them.”

Shaffer worked with the Forest Resources Association’s Southwide Safety Committee to develop the six-step “First-Year Safety Program for New Logging Employees,” to enable a logging business owner or foreman to communicate a safety ethic, along with safety information, to each new crew member. A grant from THATS supported the project.

The program calls for presenting a first-day safety overview, following up with a series of 20- to 30-minute safety training sessions during the first eight weeks of employment, and conducting structured “safety observation

audits” throughout the first year, as well as monthly “debriefings” – apart from the new crew member’s participation in OSHA-mandated safety meetings.

The on-line resource contains hot links to downloadable supporting materials an employer or foreman can use to conduct the sessions or reviews recommended, including relevant FRA Loss Control Overviews, Safety Alerts, and Technical Releases, as well as Observation Audit Forms for specific logging tasks. Access is free to all.

THATS encourages all forestry and logging organizations to link directly to this important resource at [www.loggingsafety.com/first\\_year\\_safety/NwE-home.htm](http://www.loggingsafety.com/first_year_safety/NwE-home.htm), or to the LoggingSafety.com home page at [www.loggingsafety.com](http://www.loggingsafety.com).

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

School's out for summer but the state Legislature is still in, albeit in special session. In what has become an all too frequent occurrence, the House of Representatives, Senate and governor were unable to resolve their differences and complete work on the budget and other issues before the clock ran out on

## Executive Vice President's Column



When you combine this lack or urgency with power being divided amongst the parties and with very narrow majorities in both the House and the Senate, you get a special session.

If the legislation that funds the DNR is not passed before July 1, many aspects of the agency would shut down. This would likely include timber sales administration. In other words, it is likely that we couldn't cut on DNR sales if the budget doesn't get passed. What nightmare!



The University of Minnesota continues on its path to merge the College of Natural Resources with the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences. I testified in front of the board of regents a few weeks back. Whether they listened was hard to tell as the format for the hearing precluded any questions. It was interesting that of the 40 people who were "selected" to speak, 30 were university faculty, staff or administrators.

It is expected that the board of regents will act on these proposals at their June meeting. We will continue to report on this issue and hold the university's feet to the fire.



I want to thank everyone who

attended the annual meeting and banquet. The turnout was great. I also want to thank our sponsors and all of the speakers. If you have any ideas for next year's annual meeting, please let us know. We're always looking for ways to make the meeting more relevant to our members.



Mark your calendars for the TPA-sponsored golf outing on June 30 in Detroit Lakes. Find a partner and come on out to this fun event which is open to everyone who is interested, not just TPA members. There is information on the event and sign up elsewhere in this issue of the *Timber Bulletin*.



I was talking to some of the brass in the DNR Commissioner's office a while back and somehow we got on the topic of workers' compensation. They were bemoaning their costs and loss ratio's while I was telling them about our TPA/LUA program. I shared some of our information on controlling losses through working safely. They were very interested.

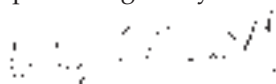
The bottom line in any operation is safety. We had an outstanding winter because you and your employees worked safely. Keep it up. The accident you prevent may be your own.



I had the chance to participate in a meeting with Governor Pawlenty while he was in Cook on his way to the fishing opener. He was very relaxed in jeans, boots and a pullover as a group discussed issues impacting us from the woods to global economic factors. He was very tuned into our issues and was fully up to speed on the status of DNR timber sales funding and other issues. He pledged to continue to work with us to make sure that sufficient funds were available when the budget is finally completed.



Keep working safely.



## 2005 TPA Golf and Fishing Outing

Get ready to have fun on June 30 at Fair Hills Resort on beautiful Pelican Lake in Detroit Lakes. The TPA Public Relations Committee is excited to announce the annual TPA Golf Outing has a few changes this year, including a fishing fun day.

In order to make this event more open to everyone, not only will there be fishing as well as golf, the event is open to TPA members, MFI members, vendors, stakeholders, and all those who support the forest products industry.

The PR Committee would also like to remind people this is not a competitive event, but a fun no-stress, no-skill-required way to get to know others in our industry. Prizes will be awarded for best and worst scores and biggest and smallest fish!

Make sure you call the TPA office at 218-722-5013 to register for either golf or fishing, but not both. Clubs will be available to rent, as will boats and gear for those that decide to fish.

Both the golf and fishing will begin promptly at 11 with a shotgun start, so be sure to arrive at 10 for registration. For the two-person golf scramble, the cost is \$50 and includes 18-holes, a cart, and prizes. Fishing is \$30, and will be based on the honor system:

- 1- Walleye – total limit (five fish limit, total length)
- 2- Walleye – largest fish (length)
- 3- Northern Pike – largest fish (length)

This is a catch and release event with either artificial or live bait and there is no limit to the number of people in each boat. As always, you must follow state fishing limits and remember to wear your life vest.

Following the fishing and golf, we will have a steak dinner, so be sure to sign up now for all the fun June 30 in Detroit Lakes on beautiful Pelican Lake for the TPA Golf and Fishing Outing 2005.

## **Tony Miller, Employee of the Year**

*by Doug Hecker, Sandstone area*

**T**he Minnesota Forestry Employees Association recognized Tony Miller as "2004 Employee of the Year," at its annual meeting in



January. Tony, who is a program forester in the Sandstone area, has worked for the Division of Forestry for more than nine years.

As the private forest management (PFM) program leader for the Sandstone area, Tony administers, implements, and coordinates the PFM workload in Pine and Kanabec counties, providing forestry services to landowners, communities, educators, and schools. He helps coordinate and responds as initial attack to fire activities in Kanabec County and the Sandstone area. Tony serves as a Natural Resource Officer, having law enforcement responsibilities for fire and state land. He also helps coordinate many of the state land management activities in the Snake River and Rum River state forests, and in the Mille Lacs Wildlife Management Area in conjunction with the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Tony was nominated for the award because of his hard work ethic and the professionalism he shows daily to his supervisor, co-workers, and constituents. He takes no shortcuts when completing his work, many times finishing projects ahead of schedule.

Tony communicates well with others and responds promptly to internal and external constituents. He often works as a team with

co-worker and office mate Bill Salo. He keeps his supervisor and other state land program administrators updated and informed on a regular basis.

Tony is also involved in his community. He is volunteer fire fighter for the Mora Volunteer Fire Department. He is an assistant scoutmaster, working with

not one, but two Boy Scout troops, one in Mora and the other in the Twin Cities. He is active in his church community as well. Tony has successfully completed the DNR Division of Forestry/ University of Minnesota Leadership Development Course. He takes pride in his work and sets a good example for all to follow.



# TPA Annual Meeting 2005

by Maureen Talarico

**T**he 2005 Timber Producers Association Annual meeting was a huge success. The day began with the annual association report given by Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt and field representative Maureen Talarico. The membership then elected new officers to the board; Dan Johnson, Jerry DeMenge and Brett Dukek. Conrad Johnson, and Harry Fisher now serve on the advisory board.

The first speaker of the day was Mike Carroll, serving then as director of the Division of Forestry for the DNR. Carroll spoke of the budget challenges the DNR faces this year, even the possibility of eliminating between 20 and 40-full time employees. He also spoke of the progress the Division of Forestry has made, "Our Division had a good winter, but we got a lot done. We're making progress with our new automation system," said Carroll, who also spoke on the positive legislative results when it came to DNR reforestation funding. "This opens the door that the governor and legislature recognize this as a bondable, sound program for the state of Minnesota."

Following Carroll, the executive director of the Minnesota Logger Education Program, Dave Chura, spoke to the group. Chura outlined some of the more recent successes MLEP has had in working with the Department of Labor and Industry on combining training days to address loggers' time demands more easily. "We're trying to make it as convenient and as easy as we can for you," said Chura. Minnesota Forest Resource Council Executive Director Dave Zumeta gave an update on the council's activities over the past 12 months.

The U.S. Forest Service's new forest plans and anticipated timber sale programs on the Superior and Chippewa drew lots of interest. Superior NF supervisor Jim Sanders spoke of a three to five percent decrease in funding in the



**District 2 District Engineer Lynn Eaton.**

next several years, both regionally and nationally. "Timber funding regionally has been flat for the past several years. So we're trying to do what we can internally." Sanders went on to say they are working on what they can do to gain efficiencies regarding the forest plan. Norm Wagoner, supervisor of the Chippewa National Forest, added to that message, saying, "The forest supervisors in the region are having a discussion on how we can take advantage of the positive things we have."

The afternoon speakers began with MnDot District Two district engineer Lynn Eaton and District One planner Denny Johnson. Eaton presented the Pawlenty-Molnau funding proposal to the

membership, while Johnson addressed funding for specific projects. The Minnesota State Patrol's Training and Development Specialist, Howard Steele, then addressed the crowd. Steele spoke about load securement regulations and the raw forest products permit, as well as the differences in enforcement practices. He said that when it comes to commercial vehicle inspectors, the ratio of tickets to warnings is 15:1. But for troopers, it's 1:15. "I drove a truck; I've done a lot of things. Things break down all the time, we understand that, so we'll give you a warning."

Next on the agenda was the University of Minnesota's College of Natural Resources' Mike Kilgore. He spoke on the newly released logger certification study and trends on the Minnesota forestland markets. "So we have about 800 records of Minnesota Forestland sales since 1989," said Kilgore. "Back in 1989, you could have bought forestland for \$200/acre. Today, it's about \$1000/acre. Per month, forestland has appreciated over one percent, so a 13 percent increase a year on average since 1989."

Charlie Blinn of the U of M also spoke about a new study called YAMS. No, it has nothing to do with sweet potatoes; the abbreviated letters actually stand



**Tree Farm Annual Award presentation.**



Don Wagner wins the grand prize chainsaw!



Guests bid on items at the LAL auction.

for Yellow Activity Monitoring System, a program that can electronically measure logging equipment's rate of work. Small devices are placed inside logging equipment and measure the rate of activity throughout the day. YAMS was tested on a job recently done by Ron Beckman Logging and provided some interesting insight. "It's a fairly small system that measures the productive time that a machine is operating," said Blinn. Anyone interested in learning more about YAMS can contact Blinn or get ahold of the TPA office.

Following social hour and a lovely dinner, retired Executive Director of the Duluth-Superior Seaway Port Authority Davis Helberg entertained the group with a presentation on the newly published history of the ports



Davis Helberg's evening presentation on the Duluth-Superior Port.



Dick Walsh is one of many safety award winners.

titled, "Pride of the Inland Seas - An Illustrated History of the Port of Duluth-Superior." Members listened as Helberg told of how the port originated and grew to be the international venue it is today.

TPA would like to thank everyone who made the annual meeting such a success. We also want to hear your comments. Recently, a survey was mailed to TPA members regarding the annual meeting. We encourage you to fill out the forms and mail them back to the TPA office.

## Minnesota Timber Producers Association *Meet the Director*

**E**d Hedstrom has been a member of TPA since 1987, working in the family business that is Hedstrom Lumber.

Ed and his wife, Kris, have two children - Sam, 22, and Karel, 20. Ed is very active in his church and has been a member of the fire department for 28 years. He has served 15 years as fire chief of the Maple Hill Volunteer Fire Department, and as his church's financial secretary. His hobbies include woodworking, rustic and unique history, and of course, logging lumber.

Ed currently serves on the Expo committee. He says one of the best things TPA has done has been improve trucking issues,



especially weights and safety. "This past year proves that when a great bunch of people stick together, things get done." Well said, Ed.



## Kiln Drying Short Course

**T**he 28th Annual Kiln Drying Short Course will be held Aug. 15-18, 2005, at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus. The University of Minnesota's Department of Bio-based Products sponsors the course in cooperation with the University Wisconsin-Madison's Department of Forest Ecology and Management.

The course is designed to provide basic training for dry kiln operators and supervisors, but anyone desiring to learn more about kiln construction, kiln operation and wood-moisture relations is welcome and encouraged to attend. No previous drying experience or training is necessary.

Instruction will include lectures, demonstrations and "hands-on" kiln drying experience. Conventional kiln drying of hardwood lumber will be emphasized; however, dehumidification drying, solar drying, and air-drying, will also be covered. Time will be available for group interaction and individual consultation.

For further information contact:

Harlan Petersen

Department of Bio-based Products

University of Minnesota

2004 Folwell Avenue

St. Paul, Minn. 55108

Phone: 612-624-3407 / Fax: 612-625-6286

E-mail: [harlan@umn.edu](mailto:harlan@umn.edu)

Website: <http://www.cnr.umn.edu/bp/extension/shortcourses/kdsc.php>

# Northwoods Log Homes

by Maureen Talarico

**A**longside the rolling hills and cattle farms that make the Laporte area of Hubbard County so scenic, you'll find Northwoods Log Homes, just outside of town. The family run business is a fixture in the area, and the history behind it is fascinating.

Burgess Bach was born in the hills of Kentucky, one of 11 children. His family moved to Ohio and that's when, as a teenager, he built his first log structure, a little cabin in the woods. After finishing high school, Burgess took a trip to Yellowstone National Park and was impressed by the log homes there; he knew what he wanted to do with his life. He found some land on Lake Kabekona in 1956, first using the site as a summer retreat before permanently moving the family in 1965. Now, 45 years later, Burgess' daughter, Julia, her husband, Ray, and their son, Bryan, have taken Northwoods Log Homes into the national market, and it all began with that little log cabin in Ohio and a summer retreat in Laporte.

With no formal teaching on the art of log structures, Burgess Bach not only built his family's home on Lake Kabekona, but began Northwoods Log Homes as a business. He even designed and built the piece of equipment that



The original home Burgess Bach built on Lake Kabekona.

transforms the cants into their round log state. "Originally it was driven by a tractor and dad went out in the field to build his own house," says Julia. "And it's almost the same today."

During the first several years the business grew, but then Burgess Bach decided to change the way in which he built log homes by precutting the logs – one of several features that sets Northwoods apart from other log home manufacturers. "We do more precutting than anybody else in the industry," says Bryan Kerby, Julia's son and co-owner of the business. "When most of our competitors

talk about pre-cut logs, they're talking about random length logs that have the saddle cut on one end and the horizontal joinery all determined. We pre-cut every spline cut, every bolt hole, every window notch, every rafter plunge; every cut that is made in the log structure is done before that log ever leaves our shop."

Pre-cut logs are not the only design feature that sets apart Northwoods Log Homes. Nearly 40 years ago the family decided to abandon spiking the logs and began using a segmented bolting system. Ray Kerby explains: "We

*(continued on page 14)*



Wood comes in as cants.



The cants go through the machine built by Burgess Bach.



Employees cut the logs to specific guidelines set forth by the plans.



A compression spring is part of the 14-course column that involves independent fasteners and thru-bolting.



A view of the pre-drilled bolt holes that help make Northwoods Log Home so stable.

*(continued from page 12)*

didn't want the contractor out there having to make the decision of how often to put fasteners and where to put fasteners, and how much settling to allow for. So in this system we can put each new course of log on with a new threaded rod, coupling nut and washer and independently plumb and manipulate that log into its ideal location in the wall and fasten it down into the stack."

The method works to alleviate the problem of logs settling and shrinking apart and then separating from one another. "In our system we create this 14-course column of these independent fasteners that are connected from top to bottom. Now we have, in essence, thru bolting. We can go to the top of that column, incorporate compression springs, load those springs prior to putting the roof on the structure; now we're compressing each of those bolt cuts throughout the wall all the way from top to bottom. So

it's capturing the best of thru bolting and the best of independent course fastening and yet taking care of the concerns that both of those have. It really is a fantastic system," says Ray.

Northwoods buys red and white pine logs from independent loggers in the area. The logs usually arrive pre-cut as cants, 8x8 squares. After the logs are run through the machine built by Burgess, they are then cut to the specifications of each individual structure. Julia describes the process: "So we pre-cut all the pieces and parts of the log home, number it so you can ship it to a job site, and assemble it from that. We provide a complete package of materials, beginning with the floor system, and all of the structural materials above the floor for your house. Most of our buildings are custom designed."

Word of the unique design and quality constructing began to spread. In the 1980s, Northwoods Log Homes was honored as the

first log home company to receive the Log Home Guide Seal of Approval for quality construction, beating out 165 other companies. Now the company is regularly featured in national log home magazines. The May issue of *Cabin Life* featured a Northwoods Log Home on its cover.

"Most of our customers come to us via word of mouth," says Bryan. "We do some magazine articles obviously, since we've been featured in all the national publications. So usually they're coming to us having seen a home or photographs or something that has made them interested in our product." The first step for a potential client is to see the product. "We'll show my residence, we'll show my grandfather's home. And the first thing will be to make sure they like our product, our style. We certainly don't try to dissuade them from other forms of log construction, if it's handcrafted

*(continued on page 16)*





# TPA GOLF AND FISHING OUTING



Join us for a great day of fishing or golf June 30th.

This is a no-stress, no-skill required event open to anyone!

Prizes for best and worst scores...biggest and  
smallest fish!

Rental clubs and boats are available.

**Fair Hills Resort in Detroit Lakes on Beautiful  
Pelican Lake  
June 30th**

10am registration/ 11 am start (golf: 2 person scramble)

Golf: \$50: 18 holes, cart, prizes and dinner

Fishing: \$30: fishing, prizes and dinner

(Participants must choose golf or fishing, not both)

Contact the TPA office at 722-5013 for

Details, Directions and Lodging!



The exterior of Bryan and Michelle's home is used to show prospective customers.

*(continued from page 14)*

or a different size log." It's important to the family that clients like the style of log, the roof system and trim method. After a site visit to a home, Northwoods will sit down and work with the client on specifically what they want. They have a library of over 900 plans, and can work off those, or completely create a unique design – basically whatever the client wants. "At that point we'll ask them to enter into a preliminary design with us, where we finalize a plan. It may go through three or four or ten revisions, and then we'll cost it, and enter into contract with them."

Depending on the size and complexity of a structure, Northwoods can complete a home in a matter of weeks or months. The largest structure they ever built was a YMCA in Pennsylvania that ran about 6000 square feet. They also built a dining hall for Camp Courage in Lake George. "We have incorporated log into as many areas of the house as we can. For example, right now we're working with an engineering firm out of Grand Forks to evaluate three or four truss configurations for our buildings. And yes, we have some parameters to work with spanwise, pitchwise, spacing – more so in our roof than in our log wall system. We're a custom designer; if someone can draw it and think it up, and have some degree of flexibility, we can make

it work."

Northwoods also has to take into account many different aspects when constructing a home, such as the location. For example, in California there are seismic codes; in Florida, hurricane codes; and closer to home, snow load and cold weather codes. It's one reason the company is so appealing to engineers. Because the logs are pre-cut, everything is laid out before one log ever arrives on site. "The fact that we can show them exactly what it is ... we are given high praise from the local inspectors and engineers because they have not seen a system like this with so much detail and

attention that was given to the precutting stage," says Bryan. "We can look at a set of drawings and say this is where every single bolt hole is, and they can do their engineering analysis on that basis."

One thing many people find surprising is the cost factor. While custom-built homes seem like something only the rich can afford, Northwoods is willing to work with clients no matter the size of their budget. "One of my favorite stories is about a pastor who lives across the lake here on Kabekona. They had a 1960s vintage cabin, and they walked into our office one day in tears," says Bryan. "Their home had burned down and the first words out of their mouths were, 'We know we can't afford you, but we owe it to ourselves to at least talk to you.' And we were able to take them through a complete turnkey process, come right in on their budget, and they have a beautiful, beautiful home across the lake now. That's the satisfaction part."

Twenty-five years ago, when the Baptist church in town needed replacing, Northwoods opened up its shop to the congregation to help produce a log church. Now the church is an example of the variety and uniqueness the company can achieve for its clients.

"The one thing we strive for is to develop a relationship with people. We are out-marketed by every large

*(continued on page 18)*



The Baptist Church in LaPorte – rebuilt with help from the Kerby family.



The quality of construction is apparent inside and out.



An example of the interior of one of Northwoods Log Homes.

(continued from page 16)

log home manufacturer. Our marketing is happy clients." And happy they are. On the company's website potential clients can read testimonials from satisfied homeowners, contractors, and tough critics:

*"I was prepared for excellence...but not to the degree that I found. To be honest, I must say that I have never seen a finer precut log home." – Doris Muir, former publisher Log Home Guide*

The Kerbys also have many NWLH owners stop by the office just to brag about their home and tell the family how much they enjoy the structures.

As Ray describes it, "It's easy when you have good clients; it's easy when you have a good product. A house is probably the most complicated thing that anyone will ever do. It's very gratifying to take someone from start to finish."

Northwoods Log Homes has buildings in 24 states and in Canada. They have their own trucks for hauling, but contract out for long hauls. Currently, they're working on restructuring a truss system for their roof lines, but the basic product they sell – the quality of construction, materials, and service, remains the same, as it has for 45 years. "We do what we do because we do it very well. We don't have the largest variety or most number of options, but what we do has been developed and refined extensively over this period of time."

## TIMBER BULLETIN Subscription Order

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

1 year \$20     2 years \$35     3 years \$50

Please type or print clearly.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Make checks payable to:

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

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



## Governor Pawlenty Visits Ainsworth Cook OSB Mill



Left to right: Todd Smrekar, Rich Schimenek, Catherine Ainsworth, Gov. Pawlenty, Kent Jacobson and Terry Brennan.

**G**overnor Tim Pawlenty toured the Ainsworth Cook OSB Mill as part of his swing through northern Minnesota for the Governor's annual fishing opener May 13. The Friday preceding the opener the Governor spent a portion of the day in Cook, first giving his radio address, then heading to the mill.

The Governor met for a round table discussion on the forest products industry's health in the State with Chief Operating Officer Catherine Ainsworth; Todd Smrekar, the Cook Mill site plant manager; Vice President of OSB Manufacturing Terry Brennan; Minnesota Woodlands Manager Kent Jacobson; Rich Schimenek, Engineering Manager; and Wayne Brandt, Executive Vice President. Topics included the business climate for forest products within the state. Those present asked the Governor to support the Department of Natural Resources through budget funding so the DNR can fully implement management of state timberlands.

After the discussion, the Governor toured the forming line and press, the saw line and shipping warehouse. After the mill tour, the Governor traveled onto the Tower area for his fishing opener events.

Ainsworth also hosted a tour of



Governor Pawlenty visits with employees of Ainsworth at the Cook OSB Mill.

outdoor sports writers on the 13th. The Ainsworth OSB Mill in Cook is the fourth largest mill in the state

(based on wood consumption). The mill completed a \$90 million modernization in 2001.

LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

## “Supplying the Camps”

by J. C. Ryan

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



Whenever the discussion of old lumber camps comes up, one of the questions is “Where did these camps get their supplies, and how did they get the supplies into the camps?”

The supplying of the camps was a major problem, for the purchasing of the supplies as well as the transportation of the supplies to the camps.

In the very early days of logging when the camps were more or less along rivers, much of the supplies would be taken into the planned campsites by boat or raft during the summer months or when the rivers were open. Sometimes a whole winter’s supply would be taken in at one time. Most of the food supplies in the early days were flour, beans, peas, oatmeal, prunes, sugar, baking powder, spices, etc. These could be stored and kept for a year or more if in a dry place. However, there were other supplies like belts and irons for

sleighs, chains, blacksmith coal, files, saws, axes, and iron for making tools, etc. which also had to be transported to the camps.

In the early days when oxen were used, very little if any feed was used other than hay. A crew would be sent into the camp area during the summer and wild hay would be cut and stacked along the creek and river bottoms near the camp and then hauled to the camps during the winter months. Hay was about all the feed oxen needed and they could work all winter on hay alone.

Some of the early camps had packers who carried supplies many miles in a pack-sack on their back. The supplies packed in would be as a rule lighter items such as tobacco, tea, files and clothing that the camp had run short of, such as socks, mits, etc. However, some camps had several packers who made weekly trips

from small towns or points on the river where supplies would be unloaded from boats.

Many of the very early camps received their meat supply from hunters and fishermen who regularly hunted for them. Some deer and moose meat was purchased from Indians or traded for flour and other supplies the Indians needed. Some of the early settlers along the rivers raised potatoes and other vegetables that would be sold to the camps.

Much planning had to be done in supplying the camps for six to eight months. The job of supplying the camps was probably just as big a task as the cutting, skidding and hauling of the logs in the early days of logging along the rivers and lakes.

On the Mississippi River much of the riverboat cargo going upriver from the Twin Cities was headed for the lumber camps. This would be unloaded at points along the river where it would then be taken by smaller boats such as canoe or by pole teams to the camps.

Potatoes and other vegetables would be purchased from local settlers whenever possible. However, there were few settlers in the logging areas, so many of the potatoes had to be brought in from outside. In the winter, potatoes were sometimes frozen until used. This would result in a sweet taste added to the potatoes. In various camps on a lake or river, the potatoes were kept in the water with a rope or wire fastened to each sack. A hole would then be cut through the ice and a sack taken out as needed. Potatoes kept very well under the ice for several months. As most camps had root cellars, potatoes and other vegetables were usually transported before freezing weather or kept well covered during winter months.

In later years, when horses took the place of oxen, many of the logging companies had camps where horses would be pastured for the summer on some of the outover land that had been slightly improved. Often part of this land would be plowed, with a crop of potatoes put in.

As a rule, several older lumberjacks

The kitchen crew of a logging camp posed for this picture in 1912. There are fresh doughnuts, cakes and bread on the breadboard and large flour barrels below.





would be kept at "camp farms" to look after the horses in addition to raising a crop of potatoes and vegetables for the camps. Many of these camp farms grew to be quite large and were in use a number of years. The Whitten and Can farm at Blackduck and the Bakley Brothers farm at Farley, Minn. were good examples of large camp farms, which were later developed as cattle and sheep farms. The J.C. Campbell farm at Island Lake, the Virginia Rainy Lake farm out of Cusson, and the Cloquet Lumber Company camp 26 were also prime examples.

Most logging companies that operated for a number of years had a camp which grew potatoes. Also, pigs were raised at various camp farms. The logging companies were not farmers, but grew potatoes only where a camp watchman was stationed to keep him busy. While these little potato fields did furnish some potatoes for the camps, they were a small part of the potatoes the camps used.

The supply of hay and feed for the horses was a major problem for camps that were located back in the woods. Some horses had to be moved into a camp area by barge across a lake or river early in the fall. Hay and feed would have to be taken the same way with the bulk of it toled in during the winter. Hay and feed would be shipped to the nearest railroad point and carried out by four or six-horse tote teams to the camps.

The St. Croix Lumber Company operating out of Winton was noted for its long tote roads and amiable tote teams. Many of their supplies were transported over 20 to 30 mile tote roads. A number of the logging companies had buyers who would purchase feed, hay and farm vegetables for them and arrange for shipment to the camps or to a distribution point. Most of the potatoes and vegetables used by the Virginia Rainy Lake Lumber Company were raised on the Beuke farms south of Hibach.

Many of the larger logging companies had large warehouses or stores of their own that purchased and distributed supplies for their family use. The company stores were usually located where the sawmills were and where a number of families lived.

At Cloquet, the St. Louis River Mercantile Company was formed to purchase and distribute all supplies to the combined Weyerhaeuser camps. Included were clothing and tobacco used and sold in the camp wagons. They had their own grain elevator, handling flour and feeds in large quantities, large hardware department dealing in all camp tools and a clothing department handling the finest of wool work clothes and boots.

At Cusson, the Virginia Rainy Lake Company also maintained a warehouse of supplies for their camps. At Kellshee, the Crookston Lumber Company maintained a



Logging camp about 1892. Most camps of this era were made of logs



The tote team above is bringing horse feed to camp, packed, as always, in bulwag sacks. One, such as the nice team skidding a large log below, would stay fat all winter on good hay alone.





warehouse and company store. The International Lumber Company had a warehouse at International Falls.

Most companies had a headquarters from which supplies were distributed to the camps. While many of the camps' supplies were distributed from various points, there also were many supplies shipped direct from the wholesale houses to the camps, or to small towns near the camps where they were picked up by tote team and taken to the camps.

The western part of the state received its supplies from wholesale houses in the Twin Cities, while the eastern part of the state was supplied from the Duluth Superior area.

Salesmen from the wholesale grocery houses called on the logging camp headquarters and took orders just as they did for the stores. Armour & Co. and Swift packing plants carried a special type of meats for sale to lumber camps that was packed to withstand the trips over the tote roads to camp.

Besides the wholesale grocery houses, the wholesale hardware companies sold direct to the camps. Janney, Seiple Hill and Osman Kirk companies of the Twin Cities had salesmen who called on the lumber companies and handled a full line of all logging camp tools. In Duluth, the Kelley Howe Thompson Co. and the Marshall Wells Co. were the outstanding suppliers for all types of logging tools and equipment in the United States. They furnished the supplies to camps in Minnesota, Wisconsin, upper Michigan and part of Canada. While most of the wood work was done in the camps, all sleighs as well as iron, chain, etc. were obtained from these companies. For camps that did not build their own sleighs, they handled complete sleighs, rut cutters, etc. Many of the sleighs handled by the two Duluth hardware companies were built in Eau Claire, Wis.

Stamp hammers were made by the Clyde and National Iron Works of Duluth and heavy iron casting was done by National Iron and also the Staver Foundry in Virginia.

Snuff and tobacco were obtained through the wholesale grocery houses. The heavy wool pants and jackets of the Sox Woolen Co. and the McMullen and the Malone companies that were sold to the men in the camps, were obtained through some jobber or direct from the factory.

All types of logging camp cooking dishes were handled by the Marshall Wells and Kelley Howe Thompson Co., as were camp cooking ranges and heaters.

The job of supplying the lumber camps was a big part of the logging operation. It was only by the best of planning that the logging companies were able to get the logs to the mills and the lumber to the settlers who were building the great Northwest.



A nice load of logs for a single team.



Loading logs onto Russell cars using a steam jammer.



These logs were skidded to the river bank with a two-bank dory, then rolled off onto the bank. This type of dory could be used up to a half-mile haul.

# NORTHSTAR EXPO

## **BIGGEST COOKIE CONTEST**

Submit your biggest wood cookie for each species at the North Star Expo this Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Please include where the wood was cut, what source the sale is (federal, state, county, or private), name, and phone number.



# 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.

## USED EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

### FOR SALE

1991 International with a 1997 Serco loader on a Great Lakes trailer .....\$24,000  
 Simcoe & Habisch Logging  
 23693 Kestrel Ave.  
 McGrath, Minn. 56350  
 Call 1-218-658-4609

### FOR SALE

**CABLE SKIDDERS**  
 1991 JD 640E, new tires .....35,500  
 1969 TF C4 .....P.O.R.  
 1970 JD 440A .....10,500  
 640 JD rebuilt engine and transmission .....14,500

**GRAPPLE SKIDDERS**  
 1991 TJ 450B, Cummins eng...18,000  
 1982 JD 540B w/studded chains .....21,000  
 1998 JD 648G II, single function, enc. cab with A/C .....55,000  
 1980 TF C6, with 23.1x26 tires..9,000

**CRAWLERS**  
 1997 D5MLGP .....P.O.R.  
 1995 D3CLGP Cat, new undercarriage, very clean ...33,000  
 1975 450C, 6-way blade .....12,500  
 1990 650G, 6-way blade .....32,000  
 1977 D6D LGP .....27,000  
 1987 D4H LGP, 6-way blade, encl. cab .....27,000

## KNUCKLE BOOM LOADERS

1998 210E Prentice w/60" slasher .....45,000  
 1987 210C 6 cyl JD slasher pkg .....27,000  
 1995 1000B Morbark self-prop. carrier, pull thru delimeter, 60" circular slasher .....55,000  
 1987 XL 175 Husky, on truck..17,500

## TRUCKS

1978 GMC 2-ton w/hydr hoist, flatbed dump ..... 4,500

## DELIMITERS

1981 JD 743 .....14,500  
 1995 320 Cat w/3500 DM Denbarco .....75,000  
 Siiro delimeter/slasher .....7,000

## EXCAVATORS

1990 JD 490D .....27,000  
 Hitachi EX50URG mini excavator .....10,000  
 1996 Yanmar B6U mini excavator .....13,750

## FELLER-BUNCHERS AND SHEARS

2002 570 Hydro-Ax, 20" sawhead .....102,000  
 1979 Drott 40, shearhead .....17,000  
 1978 Drott 40, JD eng .....13,000  
 1993 JD 590D w/18' Roto saw .....27,000  
 1997 Timbco T415, 8600 hrs., w/2001 AFM #60 3 dr. roller processor head, 3000 hrs. on head .....95,000  
 1993 Risley Black Magic w/Risley sawhead .....65,000  
 1976 JD 544B .....17,000  
 1976 JD 544, 20" shear .....21,000  
 1988 910 Cat, 17" shearhead, rebuilt trans .....32,000  
 1984 411B Hydro-Ax .....15,000  
 1987 411B Hydro-Ax .....20,000  
 1986 511B Hydro-Ax, 6 BT Cummins .....27,000  
 1984 170 Franklin w/28" Timbco bar saw .....25,000

## WHEEL LOADERS

JD 410 Backhoe, cab .....13,000  
 1979 JD 544B .....18,500  
 1984 JD 544C, new JD eng. ....23,000  
 1981 JD 644C .....25,000

## MISCELLANEOUS

1988 534B. Gradall, 8,000 lb. lift .....24,000  
 1991 853 Bobcat, w/forks and broom .....8,500  
 1999 ASV Posi-track skidsteer, rubber tracks .....21,000  
 1979 731 Bobcat Skidsteer loader .....6,700  
 Cat V80D 8,000# forklift .....6,500  
 60" slasher w/power unit .....14,500

20" Koehring sawhead to fit 643 JD .....9,000  
 New Hanfab slasher, 60" .....P.O.R.  
 1994 Featherlite flatbed semi trailer; aluminum .....9,500  
 New Hanfab slasher, 72" .....P.O.R.  
 Gafner Iron Mule Prehailer ...12,000

## WE ARE A NEW DEALER FOR BARKO HYDRAULICS

We have other equipment not listed. New and used parts, new and used tires and chains. Something you're looking for? Give us a call. We may have it or be able to locate it for you!!!

We are distributors for Aftermarket Parts, Rud Chains and Hanfab Slashers

## NORTHERN TIMBERLINE EQUIPMENT, INC.

6000 County Road 8  
 Littlefork, Minn. 56653-9132  
 Phone 218-278-6203  
 nte1@frontiernet.net  
 Fax 218-278-6716  
 Richard or Cam Hardwig

## ADVERTISERS INDEX

American Interstate Insurance .....	10
Boyer Trucks.....	10
Cass Forest Products.....	20
Corporate 4.....	7
Don Evans Insurance Agency.....	19
Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A.....	21
Great Lakes Trailers.....	19
Greater Insurance Service.....	18
Hedstrom Lumber Co.....	21
Industrial Lubricant .....	13
Itasca Greenhouse.....	17
LM Products.....	17
Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance.....	11
Northern Engine & Supply .....	11
Nortrax.....	27
Otis-Magie Insurance Agency .....	4
Pomp's Tire .....	13
Rapids Hydraulic.....	21
Rice Blacksmith Saw & Machine.....	5
Road Machinery & Supplies.....	28
Rux Strapping .....	26
Schaefer Enterprises.....	26
Wausau Sales Corp.....	7