

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

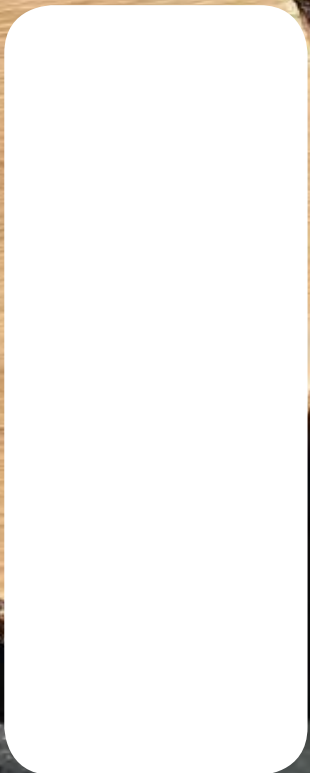
DULUTH, MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015

VOLUME 70



**Working Hard At It –
M&M Logging and Son, Inc.
North Star Expo
Returns to Bemidji**



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Duluth, Minnesota

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ON THE COVER

Hodgden Logging entered a beautiful load of oak bolts in the Best Load Competition at the 62nd North Star Expo. For more on the Expo, please turn to page 16.

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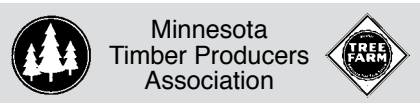
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The North Start Expo was a success again this year at the Sanford Center in Bemidji. It's always nice when the weather is on your side. The Expo is so much more than a trade and equipment show; it's also a social time where we can share a story or a laugh with friends in the industry. A big thank you to the TPA staff, Expo committee and the vendors for all your hard work to make the show possible.

As I was walking around the Expo this year I couldn't help but to think about how far

President's Column



the equipment and technologies have come in the past 20 years. Looking back to some of the first techy forest machines (ones running computer monitoring systems) all the talk was "that will never work, it won't hold up in our environment!" and today computers are monitoring everything from the engines to the high tech cab comforts we enjoy. I'm not saying these technologies are trouble-free but they have been improved and tested over time and today they perform remarkably well. It seems we are stepping into the next test, where emissions is on the hot seat and the topic at most coffee tables in the northland is, "that will never work, it won't hold up in our environment!" I guess the test of time will show us the answers again, hopefully it will all be for the better which includes our air and water quality.

Enjoy the fall and keep safety first whether hunting or on the job.

Kit Hasbargen

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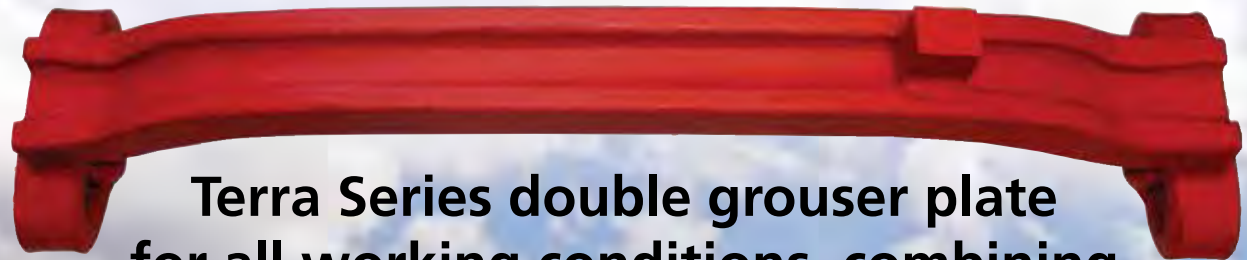
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Fall marks the time when so many people head to the woods for deer and grouse hunting. Everyone knows, or should know, firearm and hunting safety. And everyone knows, or should know, safety on their jobs. Whether you're a logger, truck driver, mill worker, forester or anyone, you should learn and teach safe practices. If you're a leader or owner, you really need to

Executive Vice President's Column



teach safety to the people that work for and with you. You will never regret taking the time to teach safety. And, you will always regret any injury that occurs. Let's all be safe in the woods this fall.



The *North Star Expo* was held September 18 and 19 at the Sanford Center in Bemidji. It was a great success! Thank you to all of the people who attended this year and special thanks to the vendors who took the time and went to the expense to be at this *Expo*. The *Expo* Committee is already hard at work on plans for next year's show. Many thanks to them for the hard work they put into making the *Expo* a success!



There are a lot of opinions about the state of the deer herd and grouse populations. One fact that doesn't get a lot of attention is the change in young forest habitats in our state. We all know that these habitats are particularly important for deer, grouse, moose and non-game species such as the Golden Winged Warbler and other migrant birds.

Using round numbers to make the arithmetic a little easier, we're harvesting about 1.5 million cords per year less than before the new home construction crash in 2006. At a statewide average of twenty cords per acre that amounts to 75,000 fewer harvested acres per year over the past ten years. That's 750,000 fewer acres from harvesting on the 0 - 10 year old age class.

While there are many factors

that influence the state of deer and grouse populations, that much less prime habitat has an impact.

I know I've written about this before. I'll probably write about it again until I see more attention being paid to these facts.



A big thank you goes out to Joan Pomp for outstanding leadership as chair of the *Expo* Committee. Joan stepped down as chair after this year's show. She worked tirelessly to make the *Expo* a success every year and was the key person in bringing the show to the beautiful Sanford Center in Bemidji. Joan's family has been strong and active supporters of TPA for many years. Her sister, Marilyn Fellows, served on the TPA Group Health Plan Board of Trustees and her father, Babe Fellows, was a long-time member of the TPA Board of Directors.

Again, thank you to Joan for her leadership, support, great ideas and boundless optimism!



The Federal Timber Purchasers Committee held its semi-annual meeting with the US Forest Service (USFS) in Whitefish, Mont., recently. While these meetings usually focus on more technical issues of federal timber sales, they also get into policy and accountability issues with the USFS.

In Fiscal Year 15 total USFS timber sales were 2.8 billion board feet (bbf). Their FY 15 target was 2.9 bbf.

Nationwide, 10% of the total sales were firewood. Firewood was only 3% of Region 9's program. Region 9 is the USFS region that includes the Superior and Chippewa national forests.

Stewardship contracts comprised 29% of the national program and 24% of Region 9's program.

USFS Timber Director Bryan Rice expressed disappointment that the agency did not meet their 2.9 bbf target this year. He stated that if there is an omnibus appropriations bill funding the agency that their FY 16 timber target would be 3.2 bbf. If the agency is funded at current levels through a continuing resolution the target will be 2.9 bbf.

By comparison total timber sales in the three preceding Fiscal Year's were: FY 12 - 2.6, FY 13 - 2.6 and FY 14 - 2.8 bbf.

Director Rice also said that the USFS's intention was to continue to incrementally increase timber sales in future years. He also said that the agency was identifying and working to replicate best practices in timber sales and NEPA analysis throughout their system.

I continue to be encouraged by the leadership and direction of Director Rice and his team.

Wayne E. Smith

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Member Feature...



Alex and Mark Michalek of M&M Logging and Son, Inc.

Working Hard At It

Mark and Gail Michalek are new logging company owners, but not new to the logging industry.

by Ray Higgins

Mark Michalek is on the landing of his logging job just west of Walker, scratching his head. What had been a nearly perfect fall day in the woods has hit a snag: the 8-foot metal pipe that carries hydraulic fluid to the loader on one of his log trucks has sprung a leak, and it's getting worse. It's fixable, but the closest place to get a new pipe is 60 miles away in Blackduck.

"It's just part of the deal," Michalek says. "Some mornings I

don't know which way I'm going to turn when I hit the end of the driveway. That's the way it goes."

These are the sorts of things he didn't have to deal with until a year ago when Michalek and his wife Gail purchased the business from Mark's employer, longtime logger Clarence Johnson.

"I approached Clarence about three years ago about buying one set of equipment when I knew he was getting ready to retire," Mark

says. "So I went to him one evening and talked to him a little bit, and about the second or third day that he thought about it, he came back to me and said he hated to split everything up, so he said, 'why don't you try running the whole works?'"

Mark had worked for the business, C.O. Johnson Logging, since 1997. The two worked through a variety of issues, which included talking through the



Alex Michalek operates M&M's John Deere 703JH Processor. The 703 has a larger cutting head which allows it to handle larger wood, and also offers more control in placing trees after they're harvested.

transition with banks and other lenders, as well as with UPM Blandin, where Johnson was a long-standing contract logger. They also went through a two-year trial,

during which Mark basically ran the company, with Johnson watching closely. When all of that went smoothly, the sale was completed, and the two sides closed in October

of last year. The business is now known as M&M Logging and Son, Inc.

"The M&M means Michalek and Michalek," Mark says, "meaning my

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Harvested oak on the landing at M&M Logging and Son's job site west of Walker.

wife and me, and the "Son" stands for our son Alex."

Alex was key to the purchase. After graduating from Blackduck

High, Alex moved to North Dakota to work in the Bakken, but came back to Minnesota to join his parents in the logging business. Now 23,

Alex operates one of the company's two cut-to-length processors, a John Deere 703.

"I wouldn't have taken the



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M&M Logging and Son utilizes two cut-to-length forwarders. Here, Dean Nestberg offloads harvested timber on the landing with a Timberjack 1110D.

challenge if Alex hadn't come with me," Mark says. "He can run just about anything. He's in the forwarder right now and he'll be in the processor a little later."

The purchase allowed the Michaleks to realize a longtime goal of owning their own business.

"I didn't know if we could swing it financially," he says. "It's a lot to take on. It's worked out pretty darn good so far."

But Michalek says he wouldn't have considered buying a logging business five or ten years ago when markets were tight, due to the industry downturn. Now that the industry – and the economy – have rebounded, he jumped at the opportunity.

"The timing was good," he says. "I've asked a few people that have been in it a while and they said if you can get the financial backing, I don't think there's any better time to jump in. But to get that, I have good bankers on my side and I wouldn't be here without them. That was very important."

Michalek got hooked on the logging business like so many

others did in Minnesota, through family. He grew up in Blackduck, where his father farmed and cut some private wood when possible during the winter. Eventually, Mark's brother Andy – he's eight years older – started his own logging business and Mark started helping out there.

"We started when we were old enough to pull levers on the equipment," he says. "Then when we were old enough to run a chainsaw, we did that too. We peeled wood a lot of times in the summer and spring break. Starting in high school every chance we got – holidays, summertime – we worked in the woods.

When Mark graduated from Blackduck in 1980, he went right to work for Andy, running the slasher.

After 17 years working for Andy, Mark decided it was time for something different and went to work for C.O. Johnson Logging Inc. and owners Clarence and Carol Johnson. Carol is Mark's sister. Seventeen years later, he and Gail bought the company.

The Michaleks utilize two sets of

cut-to-length equipment: Mark runs a Deere 1270, while Alex operates the 703. In addition, Dean Nestberg runs a Timberjack 1110D forwarder, while in the wintertime, Timmy Swedberg runs the company's other forwarder. Jake Grundmeier also helps out operating whatever is needed, and Jeff Krueth drives truck.

Mark and Dean have worked together since high school. They were classmates at Blackduck, graduated together, and both went to work for Andy. About a year after Mark went to work for C.O. Johnson, Dean went, too. When

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Mark bought the business, Dean stayed on.

"We've worked together all our lives," Mark says. "He's a good guy. He's always there, always shows up and you don't have to worry about him. He just goes to work."

On this fall day, logging conditions at this site west of Walker are nearly perfect. For one thing, the fall is Michalek's favorite time of the year to be in the woods.

"The best time of the year is when you can put a flannel shirt on and

go to work," he says. "Winter time is alright too, but boy you can hit some cold snaps, with 30 below in the spruce swamp. That's most productive, but that's pretty cold. This is a good time to be out in the woods, I know that."

In addition to the great weather, this site in the Paul Bunyan State Forest is excellent. While it's a little on the hilly side, the soil is gravel so it drains well. The tract includes 4000 cords, mostly of aspen, but there's also some birch, and around

800 cords of red oak, too. There's also red pine, white pine, and white oak, which won't be harvested. All of the aspen will go to UPM in Grand Rapids, while the birch will go to Futurewood in Hayward, and the red oak will go to Savanna Pallets.

"We're actually going to cut this sale in half and save half for next year," Michalek says. "We have a lot of oak to cut, so it takes a little bit longer. The sale is accessible in the summer time and since we're not having a wet fall, it's a perfect idea to save this ground for next year. Maybe late June."

The Michaleks often have logging operations underway on two different sites with the equipment split between them. Not this time.

"This one has a lot of nice aspen," Mark says, "so we have them both here."

The company still has some conventional logging equipment, too, including a feller buncher with a Barko 775 hot saw, a slasher, and a skidder. They'll use it from time-to-time in frozen ground conditions to ramp up production.

"We'll use the hot saw to pre-fall a lot of wood in the wintertime," Michalek says. "Just about all the swamp spruce, we pre-fall it, put it all in rows, then come in with a processor and cut it up and forward it. It speeds things up. I'm not scared to jump into old equipment and run it once in a while."

Clarence also continues to help out, still running the Cat when it's time to build logging roads, in addition to offering guidance based on his decades in the logging business. And Michalek appreciates that.

"He loves making roads, Mark says. "He's a good idol. I'm not afraid to ask him questions and he's not afraid to tell me things. He's an honest man, an excellent role model."

The business continues to be a family affair. Gail is the bookkeeper, having learned the ropes from Carol, who was happy to help out her sister-in-law. Mark and Gail have two sons: Alex, and Adam, who lives in Otsego near the Twin Cities with his wife Katie and their son Marek.

"Hopefully Alex takes the reins of it before too long," Mark says, "so I can make roads, and put the sales



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Jeff Krueth uses a center mount loader to load his truck with oak for transport to Savanna Pallets.

together, and do paperwork. That's a lot right there."

That's off in the future. For now,

business is going well, and of course he'd like to see it stay that way for as long as possible.

"The mills want wood," he says. "Markets are good. It's working out. We're working hard at it."



Mark Michalek runs the Timberjack 1270D processor.

MnDOT Installs Conflict Warning Systems

Drivers will see intersection conflict warning systems at more rural intersections in Minnesota as MnDOT uses technology at some high-risk locations to give motorists real-time warnings about traffic conditions. The warning systems are expected to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes on Minnesota roads.

The signs will advise drivers on major roads with flashing lights and the language “Entering Traffic When

Flashing.”

Motorists on minor roads will see the flashing lights and the message “Traffic

Timber Talk

Approaching When Flashing.”

Among the locations in northern Minnesota where these signs are being installed are:

- Aitkin County at Highway 210 and CR 12
- Aitkin County at Highway 169 and CR 28
- Crow Wing County at Highway 210 and CR 59
- Itasca County at Highway 6 and Highway 286
- St. Louis County at Highway 1/169 and CR 77
- St. Louis County at Highway 53 and Hat Trick Ave.
- St. Louis County at Highway 2 and CR 98
- St. Louis County at Highway 169 and CR 21

MnDOT says the signs will help reduce personal injury, reduce property damage, and save lives.

Ferguson Leaves Sappi for DNR

Longtime Sappi forester Craig Ferguson has accepted the position area forest supervisor in the Minnesota DNR’s Cloquet Area.

Ferguson earned a forestry degree at the University of Minnesota and also holds a master’s in business administration



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from the College of St. Scholastica. He worked for Sappi in wood procurement for 11 years and was involved in a variety of industry activities, including serving on TPA's Expo Committee.



"I enjoyed my years working at Sappi and appreciate the support and friendships that developed over the years with both the logging and mill community," Ferguson said. "I am excited to start my new role with the MN DNR and look forward to working with the same people and the opportunities that this change will bring."

Al Lupa 1924-2015

Longtime forester Aloise "Al" Lupa of Two Harbors, passed away in September at the age of 91.



A graduate of Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, with a master's in forestry from Yale, Lupa worked all over the U.S. as a forester, sawmill superintendent, sawmill manager, and lumber company president. His last position was as president of JC Campbell Company near Two Harbors, retiring in 1986.

Lupa was also served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific during World War II.

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North Star Expo Returns to Bemidji

The 62nd North Star Expo returned to the home of Paul Bunyan and saw more vendors and more visitors than in 2014.

The 2015 Expo returned to Bemidji's Sanford Center, and the community again gave the event a warm welcome. Members of the region's logging community, local residents, and school kids all flocked to see the vendor displays in the facility's parking lot and on the arena floor. In all, more than \$20 million in logging equipment was on hand, including the latest and greatest in logging equipment – both conventional and cut-to-length – as well as the trucks, trailers, firewood processors, tires, you name it.

In addition, industry stakeholders, including Minnesota Lt. Governor Tina Smith and state Representative Dan Fabian (R-Roseau), as well as policy makers from DNR Forestry, county land departments, the U.S. Forest Service, local chambers of commerce, and others, met to discuss the pressing issues of the state's forest products industry. It made for a great mix of folks who care about our industry to meet, greet, and compare notes. It's yet another example of why the Expo is annually the place to be for those in the logging community. That's why we call the North Star Expo, "The Great Minnesota Logging Get-together."

Here's a rundown of the events of the 62nd Annual North Star Expo:



The Minnesota Timber
Producers Association
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at the 62nd Annual North Star Expo

Great Job!



In the **Best Display – Large Equipment** competition, Ziegler Cat's Dave Walter accepts the blue ribbon and plaque from Expo Committee Chair Joan Pomp. Nortrax took second place, while Ponsse finished third.



In the competition for **Best "Large Lot"** (aside from the large equipment vendors), Expo Committee Chair Joan Pomp presents Pomp's tire with the blue ribbon. Laona Machine was the runner-up, while Pit & Quarry display was third.

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In the **Best Indoor Booth** competition, Rice Blacksmith's Jim (Hank) Voight (L) and Allen Voight receive top honors from Expo Committee Chair Joan Pomp. Cardey4everoil finished second, followed by Total Track in third place.

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The **Loader Contest** was again a family affair for the Lundbergs of Solway. For the 7th straight year, Matt Lundberg (back right) took top honors, while father Dan Lundberg (back left) captured the **Master Loader Competition**. They accepted their awards with Matt's kids Gena and Paul.

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UPM Blandin Mill Manager Joe Maher continued his dominance of the **Celebrity Loader Competition**, winning for the third straight year. Competing this year were (L-R): Maher, Potlatch Mill Manager Pete Aube, Minnesota Lt. Governor Tina Smith, Kristi Coughlin of the Minnesota DNR, state Representative Dan Fabian, and DeAnn Stish of the Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities Initiative.

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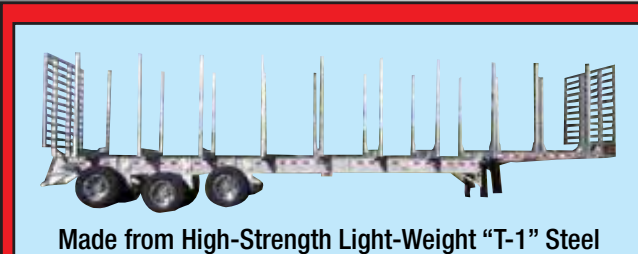
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The Blue Ribbon in this year's **Best Load Competition** went to Erickson Timber, with (L-R) Grant Erickson, Brandie Erickson, and Cameron Erickson accepting the award with their winning entry, sponsored by Potlatch Land and Lumber. Hodgden Logging provided the second place entry, while Berthiaume Logging finished third. This year's best load competition featured a total of eight entries!

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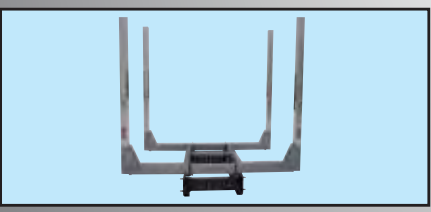
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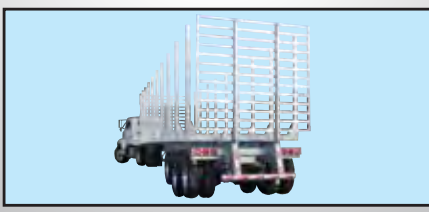


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Jazlynn Scaleson of Nashwauk showed her artistic flair in winning the Age 10-12 division of the **Expo Coloring Contest**, receiving both the blue ribbon and an art kit for her efforts. Kya Scholler of International Falls finished second, and Rachel Laird of Cornell, Wis., finished third. In the Ages 6 and under division, Jack Venhuizen McConaghay from all the way in Westbrooke, N.Y., captured the blue ribbon, with Claire Lucking of Pierz finishing second and Bristol Binkley of Hines finishing third. Top honors in the category for kids aged 7 to 9 went to Pahtynn Glennie of International Falls, followed by Ella of Little Falls and Auttum Pifher of Taconite. The top three in each category received ribbons, while each winner was awarded an art kit.



In the **Guess the Weight Competition**, Jason Nelson had the winning guess of 89,235, which was the closest to the actual weight of 89,625 to capture the \$50 prize. In addition, Cory Kimball of Park Rapids (and the Minnesota DNR) took first place in the **Wood ID Contest**.

Next Year

The TPA Expo committee is already working on plans for next year, and we look forward to seeing you there!

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Over the years, Minnesota teachers have found that the Expo is a great place to teach their students about logging, and this year was no exception. Several teachers from the Bemidji school district brought their kids to the Sanford Center to learn about the forest products industry. More than 100 students came to the Expo to see a wide variety of the equipment Minnesota's logging professionals use to manage our state's forests, as well as learn about the important role loggers play in proper forest management.



After a one-year hiatus, the Saturday Morning Logger's Breakfast made a return in 2015. Expo attendees got their days started right with hundreds of flapjacks, not to mention plenty of sausage, coffee, and juice, all free of charge, thanks to the great folks at Nortrax. What a great way to get Saturday started off on the right foot!

Friday Night at the Expo: Great Food, Drink, and Stories



Another Expo tradition is getting together after Day 1 for good food and drink and good stories. Again this year, the Club Level of the Sanford Center was the scene of a fun evening of renewing old acquaintances and meeting new friends, while

more than 200 attendees were treated to free hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar, as well as dozens of door prizes donated by Expo vendors. The Expo received excellent support from several sponsors who helped underwrite the event:

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Potlatch
Savanna Pallets



What do kids love about the Expo? The big machines, of course! Here, one future logger climbed into a Ponsse forwarder to check out the view from up there.

Thank You!

The Minnesota Timber Producers Association would like to thank the following companies and organizations for their donations toward making the 62nd Annual North Star Expo a huge success:

North Star Expo Sponsors:

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Golf Cart courtesy of Land O Lakes Wood Preserving

TPA would also like to thank Norbord for providing the OSB used in positioning equipment and protecting the surfaces at the Sanford Center.

Lawmakers Smith and Fabian Visit the Expo

Two key Minnesota lawmakers, Lt. Governor Tina Smith (DFL) and state Rep. Dan Fabian (R-Roseau) attended this year's North Star Expo, talking to loggers and vendors about the state of the industry and attending the joint meeting of the Bemidji and Grand Rapids Forestry Affairs Committees with a variety of other industry stakeholders. Lt. Gov. Smith and Rep. Fabian also participated in the Expo's

Celebrity Loader competition.

Lt. Gov. Smith was elected last year and is a key adviser on a variety of issues in Governor Mark Dayton's administration. Rep. Fabian is vice chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Agriculture Finance Committee, which addresses issues involving forestry and the DNR at the legislature.



Lt. Gov. Tina Smith speaks to the Bemidji media while at this year's Expo.



L-R: State Rep. Dan Fabian, loggers Jim and Dave Scheff, and Lt. Gov. Tina Smith discuss the state of the timber industry at this year's Expo. Lt. Gov. Smith and Rep. Fabian spoke with several loggers and vendors while visiting this year's event.

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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

St. Louis County

August 20 – Oral Auction

Aspen pulp	NA	\$34.11
Black Spruce pulp	NA	\$22.61
Balsam Fir pulp	NA	\$ 7.83
Birch pulp	NA	\$ 7.79

This was the county's experimental Intermediate-only auction. 31 of the 35 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Cass County

August 27 – Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$36.20	\$21.80
-------	---------	---------

Red Oak \$22.98 \$27.10
5 of the 7 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Backus Area Salvage

July 15 and 16

Northern Hdws (WMP)	\$10.76	NA
Pine Species (WMP)	\$ 3.56	NA
Aspen Species (WC)	\$ 0.68	NA
Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$21.57	NA

9 of the 11 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Little Falls Area

September 9 – Sealed Bid

Aspen Species (WC)	\$21.78	NA
Jack Pine (WMP)	\$36.35	NA
Norway Pine (WMP)	\$44.86	NA

All 5 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Park Rapids Area

September 15 – Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$47.63	\$37.34
----------------------	---------	---------

Aspen Species (WC)	\$43.83	\$22.45
Pine Species (WMP)	NA	\$27.80
Jack Pine (WMP)	NA	\$40.31

23 of the 24 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Little Falls Area

September 17 – Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$38.35	\$21.88
Aspen Species (WC)	\$26.72	\$17.24
Red Oak (WMP)	\$22.92	\$12.78
Basswood (WMP)	\$ 8.71	\$ 7.90

20 of the 29 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Cass County

September 24 – Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$34.51	\$24.47
Jackpine	NA	\$21.12
Red Oak	\$39.22	NA

5 of the 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Crow Wing County

September 25 – Oral Auction

Aspen	\$29.81	NA
Oak	\$20.46	NA
Birch	\$14.95	NA
Maple	\$12.60	NA

All 13 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Hubbard County

October 12 – Oral Auction

Aspen Mixed	\$45.14	NA
Birch Mixed	\$16.43	NA
Misc. Hdws Mixed	\$ 8.57	NA
Oak Mixed	\$33.06	NA

13 of the 14 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

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Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

First-hand recollections by storyteller "Buzz" Ryan of the loggers, loaders, swampers, wood butchers and bull cooks who ruled the woods in the heyday of the pioneer lumberjacks—with dozens of historical photographs.

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Lake States Welcomes Healthy Forests Healthy Communities Group

In May, a new group was formed in the Lake States in support of Congressional action on solutions to restore the health of our federal forests and rural forested communities. Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities (HFHC) hit the ground running as Congress was very active on legislation this year that would address both catastrophic wildfires funding and forest management reform that would address both the effect (catastrophic wildfire) and the cause (dense, aging trees on our national forests).

HFHC quickly built its support in the Lake States to over 3,000 participants who supported the House passed bill, HR 2647 that addressed the issues facing the Lake States national forests. The fires out West dominated the news this year and HFHC's efforts were dedicated to raising awareness about the way we pay for wildfire fighting and that it takes away resources for all regions of the country to manage our forests – right here in our own region. Additionally, HFHC supports efforts that provide tools for the USFS in our region to address catastrophic event response,



more focus on creating early successional forests and larger scale forest health projects that provide habitat for wildlife and forest resilience to pests and fire. These goals support more fiber supply for industry, better habitat for our wildlife and the values that make our forests the economic drivers for communities across the Lake States. Our counties and schools depend on the revenue derived from forest management and there has been great support from both local, state and allied groups representing deer

hunters, education, county, grouse, and many economic development interests.

The ball is in the Senate's court now. As the clock ticks towards the end of the calendar year, Congress must come to agreement on how to fund the federal government through a likely omnibus bill. The priority has been to address the dysfunctional way we spend and borrow to pay for wildfires, but attached to that priority are forest management tools to help other regions maintain their forest health. More than 50% of the USFS budget is dedicated to simply suppressing fires. This year was the worst fire season on record. We need to address both the fires themselves and prevention as well. HFHC's "action alerts" help those in our region engage with up-to-date information on how to send messages of support to our congressional delegations in Washington.

Help us send Congress a message that we value both forest management and a fix to the way we pay for wildfire management by joining HFHC's coalition. You can log on to our website at www.healthyforests.org or "like" us on our facebook page at [healthyforestshealthycommunities](https://www.facebook.com/healthyforestshealthycommunities). We need to ensure that Congress does the right thing this year and addresses both the symptoms and the illness of our national forests!

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Greg Cook Logging Named Regional Logger of the Year

The Forest Resources Association and STIHL Incorporated honored Clinton Cook, owner of Greg Cook Logging in Bigfork as the Lakes States Region 2015 Outstanding Logger at FRA's Lakes States Region Awards Luncheon in Rhinelander, Wis. FRA's Lake States Region Chairman John Lamy presented Clinton Cook with a wooden crosscut-saw plaque along with a STIHL MS 461 chain saw and a \$250 check provided by STIHL.

The company has a unique approach to forest management as compared to other logging companies in that Cook Logging employs a forester who has over 30 years of experience. This forester designs all of the timber harvests, not only following Minnesota's Forest Management Guidelines, but is also able to tailor the harvests to the landowner's needs, such as planning and constructing landings, roads, designing the harvest with wildlife management in mind, or taking into account a wide variety of other considerations.

When dealing with private landowners, Cook provides information to assist in their decision making process. He regularly distributes Minnesota's Landowners Manual, produced by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, to help guide the landowner through the timber harvesting process.



(L-R): Lake States Region Chair Jon Lamy, Clinton & Tracy Cook of Greg Cook Logging, and Boise Woodlands Manager Tim O'Hara.

Cook Logging takes safety seriously and makes it an important business goal. Employees utilize personal protective equipment and crew leaders are trained in CPR and First Aide. Personnel receive training through the Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP).

In April 2015, Greg Cook Logging was named "Logger of the Year" by the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee (SIC).

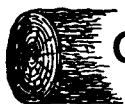
Clinton not only runs a successful logging company, he is also active in his community, serving as vice president of the Bigfork Youth Basketball Association, and

contributing to the program that provides basketball shoes to those who need them. He is also heavily involved in his church, River of God, in Big Falls, Minn., and is a leader in the youth group there and has also led a fly-in trip to northern Ontario, bringing basketballs and bibles to an Ojibwe community.

FRA's Outstanding Logger Award program is designed to raise the visibility of professional logging contractors and to encourage other loggers to adopt the performance of the award winners. The regional award winner becomes a nominee for FRA's National Outstanding Logger recognition.

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

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



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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

"The Camp Watchman"

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 my series of articles, I have described the duties and important responsibilities of each job or position so as to give readers a better picture of how a logging camp was run. Each job had its importance in bringing the logs to market and to say just what job was of greatest importance would be hard to do. There was one job that seemed of little importance to some people, but because of its character and responsibilities was very important. That was the job of logging camp watchman.

Now there were several kinds of watchmen. There was the one at a camp known as the landing or supply camp

watchman. Still others were in charge of animals, like those in charge of horses pastured during the summer months, or those in charge of raising pigs, or those in charge of oxen and cattle. It was also necessary to have a watchman for the summer vegetable and potato gardens which were used to supply camps during the winter months. Each of these required a different type of person.

In the very early days of logging in Minnesota camps that were used for more than one winter, many times a lone watchman would be left in charge. He would be held responsible for all the tools and

equipment left in camp, in addition to grazing the cattle. If a large swamp grass area was near the camp, a few men were usually sent in from outside to cut and make hay to be used in the camp the following winter. In this case, the watchman was sometimes required to cook for the hay crew while they were there, which was usually about two to three weeks. As a rule, enough supplies would be left when the spring drive was over to keep the watchman all summer.

These early camps were usually 40 or more miles from the nearest town or supply center. Often the camp watchman would not see anyone from the outside all summer. During the early days of logging, it was sort of a tradition when a camp was through operating to leave a small building intact on the site. This was for those lumberjacks who might walk in to the camp looking for work and find the crew had gone. They would at least have shelter for the night. Occasionally a stray lumberjack stopped at the camp during the summer and found a watchman there to spend

Hank Marshall was an ex-camp foreman and watchman at Camp 113 near Taft.

"Dad" Price was an early lumberjack who watched camp near Johnson Lake. He never wore shoes in the summer.





Above: A small logging camp around 1892. Below: A deserted camp in 1929. This camp had no watchman.



Even the camp cook had his pet deer.



a night or two with him. This would not happen very often as a rule, and the watchman was always glad to see someone from the outside.

The job of watchman then was a lonely one and required a special kind of person. Many times they were a little on the cranky side and were not talkative or friendly. Often, the watchmen were picked by the walking boss with this in mind, to keep wandering jacks from spending much time at the camp. Many of the watchmen were older men who liked to be alone. The walking boss would probably visit the camp a time or two during the summer, or send a party in to check to see that all was well. The only thing that many of the watchmen had to pass the hours was a collection of "Western Story" or "Argosy" magazines that had gathered in the camp while it was running. However, many of these old men could not read and enjoyed having a few animals to keep them company. Most camp watchmen were very dependable.

Speaking of not being able to read, we had a little Frenchman watching camp for my dad's company northwest of Gemmell in 1918. My dad sent me in on one occasion to see how he was getting along and if he needed anything. I walked in to the camp over a wet muskeg trail about seven miles and arrived about noon. This Frenchman, whose name was Gabriel Pyette, had the nickname "Old Gabe." He made me a nice lunch of salt pork and fried potatoes and told me that everything was going OK, but the next time anyone came in, they should bring some canned milk, as he liked milk on his oatmeal in the morning.

I was sure that there was some already there in the root house, but he insisted there wasn't. So, we walked to the root house and sure enough, over 50 cans of Rose brand condensed milk was still on the shelf. I handed him a can and told him there was lots of milk. He only said, "Gee Christ, that's milk? How come no cow picture on the can?" He could not read much English and identified the cans by the pictures.

The camp watchmen who were picked to take care of pastured horses were those who liked them and knew how to take care of them. They were responsible for their food and health and were expected to know how to take care of any problems related to sickness or accidents. Sometimes if a larger number of horses was pastured at a camp, two men were used, but this did not always work out too well. It seemed when one man did the cooking, the other would kick if the food was not to his liking and they would not get along. One man alone with his horses was best. Ed Day of the Northern Lumber Company was one of these horse camp watchmen.

Now the camp watchman at a landing or supply point camp had to still be a dif-

ferent type as he had to take in supplies and watch so they didn't go to the wrong camp when the tote teams arrived for them. It was his job to be more of a diplomat, since he had to get along with the tote teamsters and lumberjacks who were coming and going.

John Daly watched the supply camp at Palmers and Shields for the Northern Lumber Company. He had been a camp foreman in his younger days and knew how to handle the men. John Body watched the landing camp at Rollins. John liked his drinks, but had strict orders for no drinking on the job. So, when one of the jacks walked in with a bottle and offered him a drink, he would say, "No, but put some in a cup for me and I'll drink it later." Sometimes when there were new men arriving daily on their way to camps, John would have a dozen or more cups waiting for him by the end of the day.

Still another watchman was needed in camps where they raised pigs. Big Bill Molslinger did just that for the Cloquet Lumber Company at Camp 26 and Stroud. He would start out in the spring with five or six sows and end up in the fall with 50 two-hundred pound hogs. He loved hogs and talked to them like humans. I visited his camp a few times and always found him carrying two large pails of swill from a barrel with a yoke over his shoulders. Bill was good-natured and would always invite you to have lunch with him.

Old Martin Judd was one of the watchman farmers. With a horse or two he would raise several hundred bushels of potatoes for the camps. He watched several camps for the Cloquet Lumber Company.

Besides the logging camp watchman, there was the driving dam watchman who I will cover in another article.

Most of these watchmen worked at watching camp for a number of years and would not do any other type of work. Some of the watchmen that I recall include: Bill Jameson, who watched Camp 6 near Markham and later Camp 27 for the Cloquet Lumber Company; Fibian LaBlanc, who worked for the Oliver Mining Company near Brimson; Gene Estes, who watched several Northern Lumber Company camps; Paul King, who watched for the Northern Lumber Company; Jack Horigan, who watched for the J.C. Campbell Co.; Al Hodges, who watched camps for several companies in the Duluth area; George Massie, who watched camp for the Page and Hill Co. near Gemmell; and Jim Cornell, who worked for the International Lumber Co.

All of these men had the responsibility of keeping the camps and equipment in good shape and ready for the crew to move in as soon as the logging season started. Along with all the other lumberjacks, the watchmen playing a large part in bringing our vast virgin timber stands to market.



A railroad camp around 1890. "Old Lizzie" was one of the early Shay engines used in the woods.

A couple of sawyers from the Mizpah area about 1922.



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