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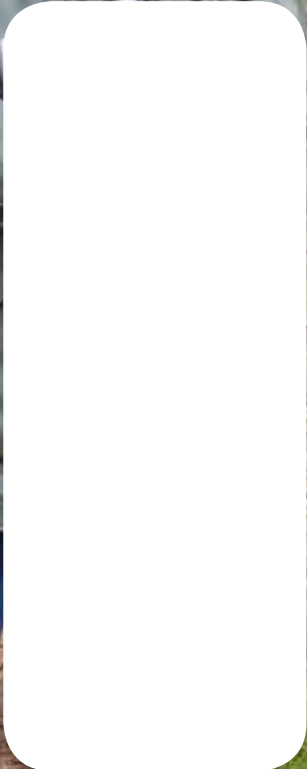
TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

MAY/JUNE 2015

VOLUME 70

This is Fun - Hustad Logging Highlights of TPA Annual Meeting



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TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 70
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Duluth, Minnesota

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L-R: John Rajala, Allison Rajala Ahcan, Jack Rajala, and Claire Rajala as Minnesota Power honors the Rajala Family. For more, please see page 14.

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The Guinness book of world records is not something that you would associate with the timber industry. Although 1,100 tree planters from the United States and Canada took a shot at a new record for the most trees planted in one hour. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative organized the

President's Column



event and reported that more than 200,000 trees were, in fact, planted. We should hear if a new record was set in about six weeks. Thanks to all that participated. Events like this improve the way the public perceives our industry. It reinforced that we don't just take from the land, but are continually working to improve our forests. Another good example of this is Minnesota Power which recently named its forest management initiative after Jack Rajala; this is a testament to Jack and his lifelong quest to enhance the forests of northern Minnesota.

The 78th annual membership meeting was held in Duluth June 5. Thanks to Forrest Boe (DNR) Dave Zumeta (MFRC) and Ann Belleman (U.S.F.W.S.) for their informative presentations. The charter fishing in the afternoon faced a stiff north wind which prevented most of the charter boats from reaching Lake Superior and left the ones that did make it out thinking they would join the others fishing on the St. Louis River. Despite the conditions there were still a few nice fish landed.

Have a safe summer

Scott Pittack

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The Fourth of July holiday is just ahead and may have passed by the time you read this issue of the *Timber Bulletin*. As we celebrate the birth of our nation we also recognize the dangers presented by the fireworks that are used in celebration. Knowing there is danger makes us more safety

Executive Vice President's Column



conscious. This is the same at work. When we recognize and know that we are encountering a dangerous situation we're more careful. That's good. But we also have to recognize the dangers in the routine things we do every day.

Let's be aware of safety whether it's in a dangerous or routine situation. You won't regret it.



The governor and State Legislature completed their work on the budget for the 2016-2017 Biennium with a one-day Special Session on June 12. Most of the issues that we worked on this year were addressed in two of the three bills that Governor Dayton had vetoed after the Regular Session adjourned.

TPA's effort to increase funding for DNR forest road maintenance was successful as \$500,000 was directed towards this activity. The additional maintenance was further directed to be done in conjunction with timber sales – so fire up the graders and dump trucks.

The Division of Forestry received an increase of \$6.7 million for the biennium. This comes on top of the \$11 million increase they were appropriated for the current biennium. In addition to road maintenance, these funds will be used for inventory, increased thinning and other silvicultural projects, and to fund other increased costs.

The MN Forest Resources Council received a badly needed increase of \$200,000 per year. This puts Council funding at approximately two-thirds of its peak funding over a decade ago.

In a major victory for the forest products industry overall, legislation was passed that allows papermills, sawmills, OSB manufacturers, other wood products manufacturers and the mines to negotiate electrical rates for presentation to the Public Utilities Commission for action. This legislation applies only to customers of Minnesota Power and Ottertail Power. Hopefully, this will result in more competitive electrical rates for our mills.

As usual, there were a host of other issues that we worked on which are covered elsewhere in this issue of the *Timber Bulletin*.



Congratulations to Dave Zumeta who is retiring as executive director of the MN Forest Resources Council. Dave held this position for a dozen years after a long career with the DNR. Dave did an outstanding job in this position. He was very supportive of logging and the forest products industry. I know he greatly valued the opinions of our TPA members who served on the Council and Council committees during his tenure.

Best wishes for a long and happy retirement Dave!



Have you looked up at the sky lately? I just did and it was still there. To listen to the environmental groups and some legislators I would have thought it was falling after the legislature passed in Special Session and the governor signed into law the Omnibus Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance bill.

The greens have tabbed it the "dirty water bill," "the worst environmental bill" etc. etc. etc. because of a few provisions. But, as Paul Harvey says, and now for the rest of the story.

So what are the issues that have them up in arms? The first is peer review of water quality standards. Peer review is a process of collecting the opinions of independent experts on a topic. The MPCA is directed to accept comments on peer reviews. If the MPCA decides not to utilize peer review, which it is allow to do,

it must publish the reasons for not doing so. Wow! The rivers could run black with that one.

The second issue directs the commissioner of Management and Budget, after consultation with the commissioner of the MPCA, to contract with a non-state entity for an engineering and cost analysis of water quality standards and rules. Incredible! We're going to know costs in advance?

I would note that peer review and economic analysis have been part of the process for establishing and modifying the MN Forest Resources Council's Voluntary Site Level Guidelines from the beginning. In fact, they are specified in the Sustainable Forest Resources Act, which was passed and signed into law in 1995.

The last big issue is the elimination of the Pollution Control Agency Board. The Board has been in place since 1967 and has final decision authority on various matters, including permits issued by the MPCA, certain EAW's and EIS's and other matters. The MPCA Board is comprised of lay people who are appointed by the governor. The MPCA Board wasn't a problem for our industry.

But, I can only imagine how the greens would have howled if the MPCA Board did not exist and the MN Chamber of Commerce proposed that a politically appointed board of non-scientific people be empowered to make the decisions described above. Now that would be the end of the state of Minnesota as we know it.

So now you have the rest of the story.



Congratulations to TPA Director of Operations Ray Higgins. He was recently presented with the ALS Kevin Kolquist MVP Award for his outstanding contributions to the ALS Foundation's annual fishing contest in Duluth. Ray is one of the key organizers of this event which has raised over \$2.7 million to combat ALS, a disease that has touched many families in our forestry community, in the past 20 years.

Wayne E. Brant

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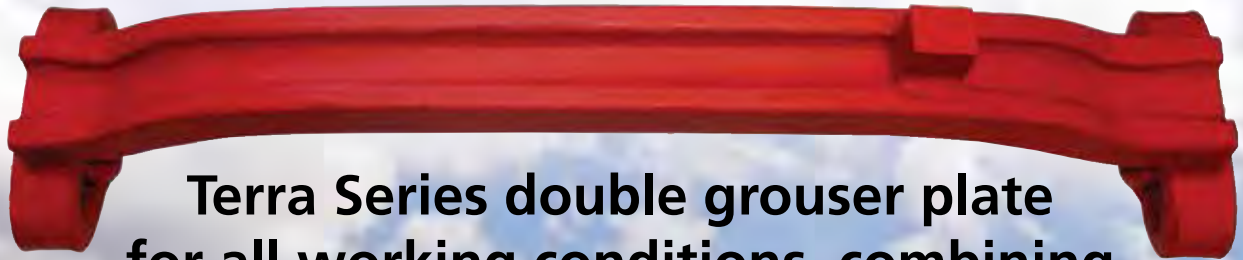
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Member Feature...



Doug Hustad

This is Fun

Over 30 years in the logging business, Doug Hustad has seen the industry's ups and downs, but still loves going to work each day.

by Ray Higgins

After a winter of little snowfall, and then excessively dry conditions in the spring, May in northeastern Minnesota finally saw some rain – and a lot of it. So much so that loggers in the region had two choices: either leave the woods and do some much-needed maintenance on their equipment, or find harvest sites on sandy ground – usually

predominantly pine stands – that can handle all of that moisture.

Doug Hustad is one of the lucky ones with the opportunity to work in dry, sandy soil. He and his crew had been in the midst of a 1500-cord aspen and birch harvest on state land when the rains came. Fortunately, a private landowner not too far away near Eveleth wanted

Hustad to cut the jackpine, red pine, and aspen on his forty.

"The only reason we're here is because it's been wet outside," Hustad says. "It's been so wet, other than ground like this that's basically pure sand, you can't do anything. It hasn't rained for a couple of days, but it's still wet over there, so we just came down the



Hustad harvests jack pine with a Tigercat 822 feller buncher.

road a couple of miles to this private sale. We'll be here about a week and once we're done here, if it dries out we'll probably go finish the state job."

It's something Hustad has learned in almost 30 years in the logging business: you have to be flexible, and it's good to have options.

Doug's exposure to timber came early. He grew up outside of Gilbert, so he spent a lot of time running around the woods nearby. His father was an electrician, plus his folks owned a portable sawmill, sawing logs when they had the chance.

In addition, Doug's grandparents were farmers in the Alexandria area, so frequent summertime visits exposed him to the farm's large equipment.

"We'd spend a lot of time on the farm," Hustad says. "We'd be driving tractors around and that kind of stuff. I liked that."

During his years at Biwabik High School, Hustad decided to get a chainsaw. While friends and classmates were earning spending money doing things like flipping burgers, Doug was cutting firewood.

"I knew people with private

land that needed firewood," he remembers. "They'd have me cut their wood for them."

After graduation, he headed off to tech school in Hibbing to become a mechanic. But in the summers he always found his way back to the woods around Gilbert and Biwabik. By the time he received his mechanics certificate, he'd found enough firewood customers to keep doing it.

It was hard work. Hustad had a skidder, but he processed the wood at the stump, slashed it at the landing, and threw it into his truck, all by hand. Then he'd unload the truck by hand too, once the firewood had reached its destination.

Still, the more Hustad logged, the more he liked it.

"I never thought about being a mechanic," he says. "Logging is fun. Just being outside, working in the woods. There's just something about it."

He eventually started cutting a little pulpwood – then a little more – and was able to market it to places like the OSB mill in Cook, owned by Potlatch at the time, and to Louisiana Pacific in Two Harbors.

These days, Hustad has a full

conventional logging operation, utilizing a feller buncher, delimeter, four skidders, and three slasher/loaders. In the wintertime, all of the skidders and loader slashers might be running at the same time – if the job is big enough and he has enough folks to run them. And sometimes they're all on the same job, while other times the equipment is spread between a handful of sites. But this time of year, Hustad is running just one skidder and one slasher/loader, and all the equipment is on one site.

"It depends on where you are and where you're going," he says. "We might leave one here, leave one there to finish a job or start another one, that sort of thing."

Once harvested, the wood from this job will head in several directions: Hedstrom's, Potlatch, and Verso will all get some pine; the aspen will head to Sappi and Louisiana Pacific; even UPM Blandin will get some softwoods when it's all said and done.

Having several markets has been helpful. Hustad's closest market was the Ainsworth OSB mill in Cook, and he brought a lot of wood there over the years, including back when Potlatch owned it. When the mill closed almost 10 years ago,



Bob Stecker drags harvested aspen to the landing with a Tigercat 610C skidder. It's one of four skidders Hustad utilizes on his logging sites.

he had to adjust and find other markets. His strategy during tough times: just keep moving forward.

Case in point: last winter the pump went out on Hustad's feller buncher, and he was faced with shutting down harvesting

operations.

"It was 16 days to get a new pump," Hustad says. "So I went and bought a new feller buncher. It's called a Husqvarna chainsaw. I hand-felled to keep the wood moving, and keep everyone on the

crew working.

"After 16 days of that," Hustad jokes, "I could take my shirt off at the beach again."

That's a testament to the work ethic of Hustad and his entire crew. "Yeah," he says, "I like to work."

In addition, Hustad has a crew full of versatile workers. Rather than having someone specialize in running the buncher and another one focus on skidding, each of the crew-members, including Cory Korba, Bob Stecker, Kyle Berg, Barry Nelson, and Hustad himself, can each run every piece of equipment. And that includes driving truck.

"We do whatever needs to be done," Hustad says. "That way, if someone's gone or sick, someone else can fill in. We all can do anything."

That's no surprise to those who do business with Hustad.

"Doug handles



Hustad's delimitter is a Hyundai ROBEX 210LC-7, operated by Kyle Berg.

challenges well," says Ross Korpela, wood procurement manager at Sappi's Cloquet mill. "He has a "we'll figure it out-type" attitude, which is refreshing. With Doug at the helm, Hustad Logging has great potential to log Minnesota Forest for years to come. He takes a flexible and cautious approach to his logging business."

Korpela also has high praise for Hustad's role as a business owner.

"His crew says Doug is a great boss," Korpela says. "And Doug is great with communication, he's never afraid to make a phone call."

Through 30 years in the business, Hustad has certainly seen the ups and downs of the logging business. But through it all, he still loves heading to the woods every



Harvested aspen is slashed and loaded by Cory Korba, with a Barko 295ML slasher.

day and getting his work done. "There's nothing bad about it," he says. "It's good most days. Some

days are tough. But that's just the way it is. This is fun."









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Zumeta Retires

Dave Zumeta, executive director of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council since 2001, has retired from the position.



Zumeta previously spent 20 years with the Minnesota DNR in various managerial, supervisory, and senior staff capacities, including

13 years as forest planning supervisor. Before that he worked as a forest planner for the state of Indiana,

Timber Talk

a research planner for the U.S. Forest Service in California, and a wildlife ecologist for a private consulting firm in Pennsylvania. He also holds a Ph.D. in forest policy from the University of Minnesota, a master's in forestry from the University of California, Berkeley, and an undergraduate degree in environmental studies from Haverford College in Pennsylvania.

Often a speaker at various TPA meetings, Zumeta was a strong advocate for the forest products industry during his tenure with the MFRC.

A search for a new executive director is currently underway.

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Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan



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Minnesota Power Names Forestry Initiative after Jack Rajala

In recognition of former ALLETE, Inc. board member Jack Rajala's dedication to Minnesota forests and the iconic white pine, Minnesota Power has created the "Rajala Woods," a forest management initiative initially located on five parcels of Minnesota Power property.

Under the "Rajala Woods" initiative, white pine and other conifers will be restored or enhanced to a higher percentage of total tree species through professional forest management practices that will ensure the sustainable use of the forest, improve biodiversity, conserve aquatic resources and enhance wildlife habitat and recreation.

Minnesota Power expects to plant up to three million white pine, red pine, jack pine and spruce tree seedlings over the next 10 years across approximately 3,000 acres of company-owned land near the Minnesota communities of Royalton, Pillager, Duluth, Cohasset, Winton, Hoyt Lakes, and Schroeder and will use the "Rajala Woods" initiative as a catalyst with other collaborators to restore and enhance forest management across the Northern Minnesota landscape.

Minnesota Power owns about 30,000 acres of land in northeastern Minnesota, most of which is located at water storage reservoirs designed to support renewable hydroelectric power generation.

Company officials unveiled one of the five forest properties that will highlight "Rajala Woods," near the town of Schroeder along the North Shore of Lake Superior. White pine trees and seedlings were planted on the property, located on acreage associated with Minnesota Power's Taconite Harbor Energy Center.

"Minnesota Power's "Rajala Woods" Initiative is another example of ALLETE's focus on providing sustainable solutions to



Jack Rajala (R) is honored for his lifetime of work on white pine by ALLETE CEO Al Hodnik at the Rajala Woods announcement ceremony near Schroeder.



Jack Rajala helps a Birch Grove Community School student plant a white pine seedling.



Jack Rajala (back right) joins ALLETE CEO Al Hodnik and school kids from nearby Birch Grove Community School in planting white pine seedlings on Minnesota Power property in Schroeder.


our customers, our host communities and the region. We are excited to begin reforestation on the North Shore and continue across the region to connect with the Itasca County area where Jack has already built a legacy for forestry excellence. We hope our leadership, modeled after Jack's efforts, will encourage others in the region who share a similar environmental stewardship vision for our forests to take similar action to improve the health and quality of our forests," said Al Hodnik, ALLETE CEO.

Rajala is a lifelong resident of Itasca County and chief executive of the Rajala Companies of Deer River, family businesses that produce lumber for furniture, homes, cabinetry, veneers and other wood products. He has also been active in the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, the American Forest Council, American Lumber Standards Committee, and the National Forest Products Association. Rajala has developed a deep understanding and love for native northern Minnesota forests, especially white pine and birch.

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April Fire Burns State Forest Near Warroad

Fire investigators have determined an April wild fire in Roseau County originated from a slash pile the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) burned last fall.

Named the “Palsburg Fire,” 4,550 acres of mostly pine were burned. No structures were lost or injuries reported. Nearly all the land was DNR-administered forest land; a small portion was tribal land.

“This shows us, that under current conditions, you can’t be too cautious,” said DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr. “The state is very dry and we need to take extraordinary precautions with fire.”

Some of the burned acres contained timber that had already been purchased by area loggers. The DNR developed a turn-back policy for those who didn’t want to harvest the burned cords. Auctions for the timber have been held, with another scheduled.

Left by the logging operation in November, the DNR burned the slash pile Nov. 25 while the ground was snow-covered. DNR foresters checked the burned pile in December, found some embers inside but determined they didn’t pose a problem because it was early winter. Foresters again checked the slash pile during the week of March 16 and determined the fire was cold. Almost five months after the pile was originally burned, on April 15, smoke was spotted in the area during a fire-detection flight. Due to warm temperatures, low humidity and strong winds, the fire spread quickly.

Fire investigators determined that an ember that stayed hot two feet underground in the original slash fire caused the wildfire. An extremely dry spring due to below normal snowfall and lack of rain added to the problem.

The DNR’s Forestry Division will pay the cost of putting out the Palsburg Fire, said the division’s director, Forrest Boe.

“After fire investigations, parties responsible for starting a fire are held responsible for paying for fire



More than 4500 acres of forest were burned by the Palsburg Fire in April, including this stand of red pine.

suppression efforts. The responsible party here is the Division of Forestry,” Boe said.

A final cost has yet to be determined.

The DNR plans to ask an independent government agency, with relevant forestry expertise, to

conduct a review of this incident. The independent reviewer hasn’t been determined yet.

Burned timber was available at auction in May. Just over 20,000 cords were sold at two auctions held in May. A third salvage auction will be held July 16.



Some logging operations continued after the Palsburg Fire. Other sales were turned back and re-offered by the DNR at reduced base prices.



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Variety of Presentations Highlight TPA Annual Meeting

The 2015 TPA Annual Membership Meeting continued the organization's long-standing tradition of securing speakers and presentations that provide "insider information" about key issues facing the logging industry, as well as the chance to discuss topics with key policy makers in either a group setting or on a one-on-one basis.

The agenda for this year's session at Inn on Lake Superior in Duluth included Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt's annual presentation on the association's accomplishments over the past 12 months; DNR Division of Forestry Director Forrest Boe on current issues pertaining to the state forests; and Ann Belleman of the US Fish and Wildlife Service on the "threatened" listing of the northern long-eared bat and its implications on timber harvesting activities in Minnesota.

Annual Report of Association Activities

Wayne Brandt reviewed the activities and accomplishments of TPA staff over the past 12 months. The report included details of the association's efforts during the recently completed legislative session, which included work on:

- DNR Funding
- MN Forest Resources Council Funding
- Forest Road Maintenance
- Riparian Buffers

A complete recap of these activities appears elsewhere in this issue of *The Timber Bulletin*.

Brandt also reviewed TPA's interactions with county, state, and federal policy makers on a variety of topics. Chief among TPA's activities were its efforts regarding the proposed listing of the northern long-eared bat as a threatened or endangered species. Dozens of contacts with regulators at all levels were held, including letters, conference calls, personal phone calls, face-to-face



TPA Members listen to informative presentations, including Wayne Brandt's annual Report on Association Activities and report from TPA's various committees at the 2015 Annual Membership Meeting.

meetings, and formal comments to the proposed listing, all in an attempt to point out the importance of forest management to improving bat habitat, as well as to mitigate any impacts on timber harvesting in Minnesota. Participation in national coalitions with like-minded

stakeholder groups was also critical in making our case to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The ultimate "threatened" listing and accompanying 4(d) rule – while not perfect – was a positive outcome for TPA members, and all loggers in our state.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Biologist Ann Belleman gives TPA members an update on the agency's listing of the northern long-eared bat and the 4(d) rule. Meeting attendees were able to ask Belleman questions on the listing and its impacts on logging operations in Minnesota.

Brandt also spent considerable time outlining the change in TPA's workers' compensation program and the decision to select BITCO as our association's insurance partner. Other topics included the latest on the state's gypsy moth quarantine, efforts on more favorable timber sale programs in a variety of agencies, including the DNR and counties, and participation in the latest study on industry competitiveness, conducted by the Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership, that identified several issues and potential areas of improvement for our industry. This study was helpful to legislators and state administration in making improvements to the industry's economic climate in Minnesota.

Along with legislative activities at the Capitol in St. Paul, TPA hosted one of the state's top lawmakers on a tour of logging and the timber industry for the second straight year. Current Lt. Governor Tina Smith visited the harvest sites of Pittack Logging and Lovdahl and Sons during her two-day trek to northern Minnesota, led by Wayne Brandt. In addition, she toured several forest products manufacturing mills. The previous year, then-Speaker of the House Paul Thiessen also toured logging sites and paper and OSB mills.

Featured Speakers

DNR Division of Forestry Director **Forrest Boe** again joined TPA members at the annual meeting, providing an overview of the DNR's timber sales program, including an historical look at volumes sold and harvested.

Boe also touched on legislative accomplishments – thanking TPA for supporting additional funding for forest management – and talked about the division's efforts to influence the decision making on the listing of the northern long-eared bat. The DNR provided comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the proposed listing, supporting the arguments of TPA and others regarding the importance of timber harvest to bat habitat. Boe added that harvesting restrictions in the listing and its 4(d) shouldn't be a problem in Minnesota this year because there are no state permits within a quarter-mile radius of any known maternity roost trees or



DNR Division of Forestry Director Forrest Boe gives TPA members an update on the state's timber sale program and what he sees in the future in terms of timber availability. Members were able to ask Boe questions, as well as provide input on the state of the DNR timber sale program.

hibernaculum.

"We need to maintain the ability to harvest trees in the summer," Boe said regarding the northern long-eared bat listing. "It's vitally important to you, and thus it's important to us."

Boe also discussed the DNR's management efforts in red pine plantations on permanent school trust fund lands. The DNR has moved to a 60- to 70-year rotation on plantation red pine on school trust lands to meet the fiduciary responsibility for the school trust fund, all the while practicing sound conservation management. Boe said

the DNR will be looking at about 800 acres a year for the next few years – there are about 2,400 acres over rotation age. Then there will be a gap until the next wave of pine acres hits final harvest age.

"We will continue to thin stands up to final harvest," Boe said. "We believe this is good forestry – good for the forest, good for the trust, and good for the economy."

Boe also talked about DNR's desire to improve the technology used to manage the state's forests. The Division of Forestry is working to create an online logger registration system so that

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Minnesota Forest Resources Council Executive Director Dave Zumeta (R) is presented with various gifts, including a North Star Expo cap, by TPA Executive Director Wayne Brandt in appreciation for his years of service to the state's forest products industry. Zumeta is retiring this summer.

loggers can register online instead of mailing a hard copy, as well as check on their status regarding being able to bid on state wood. The plan is to keep building on this logger portal, adding functions like allowing loggers to check details of their state permits, even offer online invoicing and payment. DNR hopes it will be an effective way to

communicate with loggers

Boe said DNR would also like to experiment offering stumpage via online auctions. The state already has a website (minnbid.org) where it sells old vehicles, computers, etc. He said training would be provided before the system is tried, but that such a system may be more convenient for loggers because

bidders wouldn't have to travel to the auction site, but theoretically could bid from home or even the truck or cab of the buncher.

"Think eBay for loggers," Boe said. "We'd start small. We'd start with a pilot project to find what works and what doesn't."

In her presentation on the northern long-eared bat, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist **Ann Belleman** outlined the decision-making process on the bat's listing, and explained in what ways the interim 4(d) rule impacts timber harvest as well as how the rule helps protect the bat.

Belleman also stressed that white nose syndrome is the reason bat populations are declining, not timber harvest. She also went over the agency's efforts to find a treatment for white nose syndrome.

Finally, outgoing Minnesota Forest Resources Council executive director **Dave Zumeta** thanked members for TPA's support of the council over the years, including the participation of people like Wayne Brandt, Dale Erickson, Al Knaeble, Tom McCabe, all of whom have had seats on the council over the years. Zumeta is retiring from the MFRC later this summer.

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TPA Members Ride the Rails

After a day of meetings and fishing on Lake Superior, the day was capped with a ride on the North Shore Scenic Railroad. Members boarded the train in Canal Park, enjoyed great food and drink, the terrific scenery of the Lake Superior shore line and, of course, each other's company, as they rode the train to Knife River and back. It was a the perfect ending to a fun and informative day for TPA members and their guests.



(L-R): Kyra Briggs and Brady Hasbargen of Whitefish Creek Logging, and Scott and Leah DeLack of DeLack Logging.



(L-R): Katie Vivant of Woodline Sawmills and Leslie and Joe Dukek of Dukek Logging.

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Charter Boats in TPA's Lake Superior Fishing Outing head under the Aerial Lift Bridge. An east wind made for plenty of white caps on the Big Lake.



Due to the high seas on Lake Superior, some boats spent much of their time in the harbor fishing for walleyes. Corey Lovdahl displays the success his boat had.



Peter Hall of Lutsen reels in a fish during TPA's Charter Fishing Outing.



Sappi's Ross Korpela shows off the 18-inch Coho he landed.



It was a northern pike for Joe Habisch out on the Big Lake.

TPA Safety Awards

Over the past year, TPA members again showed their leadership in safety issues through the annual TPA Safety Contest. Each quarter, members report whether they had lost-time accidents, and at each Annual Membership meeting, those who remained accident-free over the previous 12 months receive plaques for their company's achievement. The following is a list of TPA members with no lost-time accidents from April 2014 through March of this year:

2015 SAFETY CONTEST WINNERS

Logging Division

- C. O. Johnson Logging, Inc., Blackduck
- Dick Walsh Forest Products, LLP, Park Rapids

- Dukek Logging, Inc., Bemidji
- Erickson Timber Products, Inc., Baudette
- Great Northern Logging, Inc., Pierz
- Johnson Logging, Inc., Cannon Falls
- Kelliher Forest Products, Kelliher
- Kimball's Logging, Inc., Park Rapids
- Lundberg Forest Products, Inc., Solway
- M & R Chips, Inc., Grand Rapids
- McCabe Forest Products, Inc., Duluth
- Northwoods Chipping, Inc., Int'l Falls
- Page & Hill Forest Products, Inc., Big Falls
- Palmer Logging, Barnum
- Pittack Logging, Inc., Bovey
- Root River Hardwoods, Inc., Preston
- Shuster Logging, Gheen
- Third Generation Logging, Bigfork
- Weijo Logging, Ely

Trucking Division

- C. O. Johnson Logging, Inc., Blackduck
- DeMenge Trucking & Forest Products, LLC, McGregor
- Dick Walsh Forest Products, LLP, Park Rapids
- Dukek Trucking, Inc., Bemidji
- Erickson Timber Products, Inc., Baudette
- Greg Cook Logging, Inc. Bigfork
- Johnson Logging, Inc., Cannon Falls
- Killmer Bros., Inc., Big Falls
- Lake Nebagamon Trucking Corp., Lake Nebagamon, Wis.
- Lundberg Forest Products, Inc., Solway
- M & R Chips, Inc., Grand Rapids
- McCabe Forest Products, Inc., Duluth
- Northwoods Chipping, Inc., Int'l Falls
- Page & Hill Forest Products, Inc., Big Falls
- Palmer Logging, Barnum
- Pittack Logging, Inc., Bovey
- Root River Hardwoods, Inc., Preston
- Two Inlets Mill, Park Rapids

Sawmill Division

- Cass Forest Products, Cass Lake
- Erickson Timber Products, Inc., Baudette
- Johnson Logging Inc., Cannon Falls
- Kelliher Forest Products, Kelliher
- Land O Lakes Wood Preserving, Tenstrike
- Root River Hardwoods, Inc., Preston
- Two Inlets Mill, Park Rapids



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2015 Session Goes Overtime

State lawmakers needed overtime, but several measures passed the legislature and were signed into law by Gov. Dayton that will help loggers and the forest products industry as a whole during the 2015 legislative session.

Among the helpful provisions from the regular session that finished in May, as well as the special session that didn't end until the early morning hours of June 13, were supplemental funding for DNR Forestry, a plan that improves forest road maintenance while helping loggers at the same time, and funding to continue the work of the forest resources council.

The following is a rundown of actions taken during the 2015 Legislative session that pertain to our industry, as well as a handful of others of interest.

DNR Funding: The DNR Division of Forestry saw an increase of funding from the General Fund of \$2 million in FY2016 (beginning July 1, 2015) and an increase of \$1.5 million in FY2017. In addition, funding to DNR Forestry from the Forest Management Investment Account (FMIA) is increased by \$500,000 per year. Finally, DNR Forestry was provided with a 1.8% increase from the General Fund and from FMIA in each year of the next biennium, totaling \$2.204 million, in order to cover increased employee compensation costs.

State Forest Roads: Of the appropriation for FY2016, \$500,000 of it is allocated to a pilot project that awards forest road maintenance contracts to owners of state timber sales. This is a result of discussion at TPA Board of Directors meetings, and then meetings with DNR staff and several legislators.

MFRC Funding: The Minnesota Forest Resources Council received an extra \$200,000 for its base budget. Over the years, the council's budget, which once topped \$1.2 million,



had been cut in half. The Council's budget will now be \$780,000 per year.

Biofuel Subsidy Program: Creates a subsidy program for the establishment of certain "Advanced Biofuels," bio-based chemicals and thermal energy. The production of these products from forest material is provided for. Language that would have restricted eligibility for one provision only to Certified Master Loggers was broadened to include loggers who have completed MLEP biomass harvesting training. Incentive payments of \$500,000 for FY '16 and \$1.5 million for FY '17 were appropriated.

Riparian Buffers: Governor Dayton had proposed a 50 foot buffer of perennial vegetation along waterbodies in the state. This provision was passed by the Legislature and was signed into law. The waters on which buffers are required are to be identified by July 1, 2017. Because the Voluntary Site-Level Forest Management Guidelines already provide for

riparian buffers around harvest sites, this proposal is not expected to impact forestry.

Electrical Rates: Legislation establishing rates for Energy Intensive Trade Exposed (EITE) industries was passed and signed into law. The legislation provides the ability for defined customers, including paper mills, sawmills, OSB manufacturers, taconite plants, and others to negotiate an EITE rate with their utility for review and approval by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The statute also provides the opportunity for other trade-exposed industries to seek an EITE rate. This could apply to new, large wood-based bio-products facilities that may be proposed for Minnesota. EITE rates are only available to customers of Minnesota Power and Ottertail Power.

DNR Timber Sale

Permits: The interest that the DNR Division of Forestry is allowed to charge on timber permit extensions was decreased from 8% to 5%. According to the fiscal note generated by Senate staff, this is estimated to save all permit holders a total of \$1,000 per year. In addition, the amount of bid up on timber sales for which the additional 15% bid guarantee payment is required was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Other legislative topics of note:

- The Citizens Board of the MN Pollution Control Agency was abolished.
- No transportation funding package passed, and no changes in fuel or other transportation taxes were enacted.
- Efforts were made by a coalition of shippers to obtain the same provisions for truck weights and configurations – i.e. 90,000 pounds with a 6th axle – as the forest products and agricultural industries have. These efforts were not successful.

Years Ago in the Bulletin

A sampling of stories and topics from the archives of the Timber Bulletin

25 Years Ago

- **Tomlinson Named First DNR Metro Forest Manager:** Bob Tomlinson has been appointed the new metro regional forest manager of the Department of Natural Resources, according to Jerry Rose, director of the Division of Forestry. "The job will be challenging," Tomlinson says, "because metro residents demand a high quality of life which includes a large population of trees and many green spaces."
- **USFS Chief: 'Most Controversial' Time:** Speaking before the National Forest Product Association's spring conference in Washington, DC, Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson seemed to have more troubles than Mikhail Gorbachev. "Many things are happening to timber all at once," was his succinct and unarguable summary of woe. "The Endangered Species Act is becoming a dominant use act," Robertson said. If the spotted owl is listed as threatened or endangered, said the chief, "basically the ballgame is over." Robertson went on to say, "The momentum is clearly not with us," noting that clearcutting is "clearly back on the agenda" for both private and public lands, multiple-use forestry is under "heavy attack," and new definitions of biodiversity will keep his agency in court. Below-cost sale disputes will ensure the agency spends more time in court than in the woods. "We've got to send virtually every timber sale through the courts." He added, "We're in the most controversial period of time in the history of the Forest Service. We have to approach every issue as if we're going to court."
- **Potlatch to acquire Blandin Board Plant:** An agreement in principle has been reached between Blandin Paper Company and Potlatch Corporation on the sale of the Blandin Wood Products Company OSB plant for an undisclosed amount. The boards of directors of the two companies, in separate meetings, gave approval June 4 to finalize details of the sale of the Grand Rapids facility. "In spite of the excellent progress the company has made, it was determined that OSB did not fit into Blandin Paper Company's strategic long-term plan," said Blandin President and CEO Al Wallace. "We believe the employees and the plant will be better served through ownership by a company whose mission includes a stronger role for OSB." The Blandin plant began operations in 1972. Potlatch has operated OSB plants in Bemidji and Cook since the early 1980s.

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USDOT Releases Truck Weight Technical Reports

Report blasted by Trucking Industry Group

In a June letter to the chair of the House Transportation Committee, The U.S. Department of Transportation advised that no change should be made to current truck size and weight laws, including on federal interstates.

The letter coincided with USDOT's release of the technical reports of the Federal Highway Administration's Truck Size and Weight Study.

In the letter, USDOT Undersecretary Peter Rogoff says relevant crash data such as a vehicle's weight at the time of an accident, doesn't exist. In addition, Rogoff says the agency couldn't determine by the available data whether trucks, prior to a crash, were fully loaded, running overweight, at legal capacity for their axle configurations, or had unevenly distributed weight.

That finding was criticized by The American Trucking Association. ATA President and CEO Bill Graves said in a statement, "Given the timing of the release of this study, it is an obvious attempt to promote administration policy, rather than give Congress the unbiased information it requested. It is appalling that after years of saying the study would not make recommendations, DOT officials would release this report – and recommend no change in current law – just days after the White House came out opposing truck



productivity increases."

The Coalition of Transportation Productivity (CTP), a group formed in 2011 consisting of shippers and allied associations – including TPA – dedicated to safely and responsibly increasing the federal vehicle weight limit on interstate highways, found several positives in the technical reports.

In a statement, CTP Executive Director John Runyan said, "The USDOT findings can be added to the growing list of state, federal, international and academic research confirming the safety and efficiency benefits of the Safe and Efficient Transportation Act. In fact, this DOT data debunks several major points of opposition to six-axle truck weight reform, affirming that the Safe and Efficient Transportation

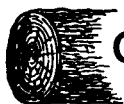
Act configuration is safe, more productive and would reduce vehicle miles traveled without any significant shift of freight from rail."

The Safe and Efficient Transportation Act, introduced into Congress in 2013, would allow states to increase legal weights on federal interstates up to 97,000 pounds with a sixth axle.

According to CTP, the technical reports cite significant conclusions regarding heavier six-axle trucks:

- Total logistics costs for transporting freight would decline.
- More productive trucks lower congestion costs, fuel costs, and carbon and other emissions.
- Truck weight reform would yield considerable pavement cost reductions.
- Vehicle stability and control virtually are unchanged on heavier six-axle vehicles.
- Bridge impacts could be addressed through posting, modest investment or fees.

The Federal Highway Administration will consider comments from a peer review of the technical reports as well as from the public and is scheduled to deliver its final report to Congress by the end of 2015.



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USFS Releases Bats Treated for White-Nose Syndrome



Hannibal, MO – U.S. Forest Service scientists, collaborators, and supporters expressed cautious optimism in May about a possible treatment for white-nose syndrome (WNS). The USFS released bats that had WNS last fall but were successfully treated during a field trial over the past winter. A successful treatment could affect the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s threatened listing of the northern long-eared bat.

“While more research is needed before we know if our current discovery is an effective and environmentally safe treatment for White-nose Syndrome, we are very encouraged,” said Michael T. Rains, director of the Northern Research Station and the Forest Products Laboratory.

White-nose Syndrome is caused by a cold-loving fungus which is deadly to hibernating bats. WNS penetrates tissues of the nose and mouth as well as the wings, which are vital to bats’ ability to avoid dehydration and maintain body temperature. In affected hibernacula, 78 to 100 percent of bat populations have died; total overall deaths so far are estimated at between 5 and 6 million bats.

In partnership with universities and state and federal wildlife agencies, scientists conducted field trials last fall in which diseased bats in the laboratory were treated with compounds produced by the bacteria in the laboratory. Many of the bats in those trials experienced increased health and survival.

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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

Clearwater County

April 17 – Oral Auction

Aspen	NA	\$34.89
Tamarack Pulp	NA	\$15.00
Basswood	NA	\$ 8.90

All 10 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Cass County

April 30 – Oral Auction

Aspen	\$22.63	\$20.96
Red Oak	\$36.61	\$21.17
Birch	\$14.79	\$10.42
Maple	\$24.51	\$14.59

All 11 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Backus Area

April 30 – Oral Auction

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$22.28	\$26.92
Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$37.36	\$20.85
Northern Hdwds		
(WMP)	\$16.59	\$18.22
Norway		
Pine (WMP)	\$97.40	\$48.64

All 28 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Koochiching County

May 6 – Oral Auction

Aspen		
pulp/bolts	\$42.61	\$39.17
Spruce		
pulp/bolts	\$23.49	\$21.12
Balsam		
pulp/bolts	\$12.19	\$11.81
Jackpine		
pulp/bolts	\$59.58	\$49.72

All 31 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Lewiston Area

April 6 – Oral Auction

Red Oak (SLV)	\$377.81	NA
Black Oak (ST)	\$155.09	NA
White Oak (ST)	\$189.04	NA

Price averages for this area are figured using MBF. 10 of the 11 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

St. Louis County

May 14 – Oral Auction

Aspen		
Pulpwood	\$44.98	NA
Birch		
pulpwood	\$16.35	NA
Balsam		
pulpwood	\$13.84	NA
Red Maple		
pulpwood	\$ 8.93	NA

18 or the 23 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Warroad Area Salvage

May 18 – Oral Auction

Pine Species		
(Bolts)	\$22.00	NA
Pine Species		
(WMP)	\$ 4.00	NA

This was the first salvage auction as a result of the Palsburg Fire. All 9 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Aitkin County

May 18 – Oral Auction

Aspen P/B	\$49.04	NA
Oak P/B	\$26.68	NA
Paper Birch		
P/B	\$20.52	NA
Mxd Hwd	\$14.89	NA

All 19 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Park Rapids Area

May 19 – Sealed Bid

Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$52.94	NA
Pine Species		
(WMP)	\$59.59	NA
Northern Hdwds		
(WMP)	\$18.87	NA

All 8 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Park Rapids Area

May 20 – Oral Auction

Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	NA	\$33.93
Pine Species		
(WMP)	NA	\$30.91
Paper Birch		
(WC)	NA	\$14.12
Norway Pine		
(WMPP)	NA	\$53.81

All 25 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Baudette Area

May 27 – Sealed Bid

Aspen Species		
(WC)	\$32.40	\$30.26
Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$22.74	\$34.03
Black Spruce		
(WC)	\$18.14	\$11.90




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Norway Pine (WMP) \$38.48 \$25.26
 Jack Pine (WMP) \$26.43 \$17.75
 21 of the 22 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Warroad Area Salvage
 May 27 – Oral Auction
 Pine Species (Bolts) \$ 7.75 NA
 Pine Species (WMP) \$16.20 NA
 This was the 2nd salvage auction as a result of the Palsburg Fire. All 7 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Cass County
 May 28 – Sealed Bid
 Aspen \$20.65 \$41.11
 Red Oak \$25.76 \$36.51
 Birch \$18.04 \$14.56
 All 10 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Itasca County
 May 29 – Oral Auction
 Aspen \$32.40 NA
 Red Pine \$54.07 NA
 Paper Birch \$15.56 NA
 White Spruce \$17.32 NA
 Black Spruce \$21.14 NA
 When reporting results, the county combines the regular and intermediate auctions. All 49 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Blackduck Area
 June 1 – Sealed Bid
 Aspen Species (WC) NA \$50.73
 Norway Pine (WMP) NA \$78.73
 Pine Species (WMP) NA \$49.13
 All 3 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Blackduck Area
 June 2 – Oral Auction
 Aspen Species (WC) \$35.28 \$37.67
 Tamarack (WC) \$18.48 \$ 8.20
 Pine Species (WMP) \$43.75 \$34.87
 Black Spruce (WMP) NA \$23.19
 13 of the 15 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Sandstone Area
 June 2 – Oral Auction
 Aspen Species (WC) \$74.17 \$48.86
 Trembling Aspen (WC) \$57.04 \$25.11
 Maple Species (WC) \$31.86 \$48.29

Norway Pine (WMP) \$37.57 \$104.52
 21 of the 31 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Aitkin Area
 June 5 – Sealed Bid
 Aspen Species (WC) \$33.64 NA
 Trembling Aspen (WC) \$63.34 NA
 Northern Hdws (WMP) \$17.49 NA
 Aspen Species (WMP) \$38.29 NA
 17 of the 18 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Aitkin Area
 June 8 – Oral Auction
 Aspen Species (WC) \$34.40 \$31.57
 Norway Pine (WMP) \$50.16 \$35.68
 White Spruce (WMP) \$47.04 \$13.60
 Northern Hdws (WMP) \$26.86 \$11.59
 17 of the 18 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Backus/Deer River Areas
 June 8 – Sealed Bid
 Aspen Species (WC) \$44.87 NA
 Trembling Aspen (WC) \$36.86 NA
 Balsam Fir (WC) \$25.85 NA
 4 of the 5 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Backus/Deer River Areas
 June 9 – Oral Auction
 Aspen Species (WC) \$40.01 \$46.19
 Trembling Aspen (WC) \$51.58 \$42.81
 Northern Hdws (WMP) \$11.40 \$11.31
 19 of the 20 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Park Rapids Area Salvage
 May 27 – Oral Auction
 Pine Species (WMP) \$43.20 NA
 Both tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Littlefork Area
 June 9 – Sealed Bid
 Aspen Species (WC) \$59.63 NA
 Trembling Aspen (WC) \$61.40 NA
 Black Spruce (WMP) \$43.04 NA
 Black Spruce (WC) \$34.14 NA
 Tamarack (WC) \$11.61 NA
 All 9 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Littlefork Area
 June 10 – Oral Auction
 Aspen Species (WC) \$42.10 \$38.77
 Trembling Aspen (WC) \$28.45 \$51.78
 Black Spruce (WC) \$17.49 \$23.50
 Tamarack (WC) \$ 5.35 \$ 9.03
 All 29 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

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DNR – Cloquet Area
 June 10 – Sealed Bid
 White Spruce
 (WMP) \$15.91 NA
 Tamarack (WC) \$ 4.57 NA
All 3 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Cloquet Area
 June 11 – Oral Auction
 Aspen Species
 (WC) \$25.36 \$37.14
 Trembling
 Aspen (WC) \$20.46 \$52.03
 Norway Pine
 (WMP) NA \$77.16
 Tamarack (WC) \$ 5.10 \$ 8.25
9 of the 14 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Carlton County
 June 11 – Oral Auction
 Aspen \$40.40 NA
 Northern
 Hdwds \$17.51 NA
All 9 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Hibbing Area
 June 11 – Sealed Bid
 Trembling Aspen
 (WC) \$23.36 NA
 Northern
 Hdwds (WC) \$10.24 NA
 Black Spruce

(WC) \$13.60 NA
 Pine Species
 (WMP) \$61.14 NA
All 7 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Bemidji Area
 June 11 – Oral Auction
 Aspen Species
 (WC) \$21.17 \$24.64
 Trembling
 Aspen (WC) \$35.96 \$40.67
 Pine Species
 (WMP) \$85.64 \$25.96
 Tamarack (WC) \$11.04 \$26.26
20 of the 24 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Hibbing Area
 June 12 – Oral Auction
 Trembling
 Aspen (WC) \$39.91 \$43.66
 Pine Species
 (WMP) \$62.46 \$39.28
 Northern Hdwds
 (WC) \$12.78 \$12.47
15 of the 21 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Tower Area
 June 15 – Sealed Bid
 Aspen Species
 (WC) \$56.80 NA
 Trembling
 Aspen (WC) \$65.28 NA

Mixed Spruce
 (WMP) \$10.27 NA
 Balsam Fir
 (WC) \$24.21 NA
All 5 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Tower Area
 June 16 – Oral Auction
 Aspen Species (WC)
 \$32.57 \$27.34
 Trembling Aspen (WC)
 \$14.10 \$57.96
 Pine Species (WMP)
 \$34.06 \$24.48
 Black Spruce (WC)
 \$37.40 \$19.74
18 of the 29 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Cass County
 June 25 – Sealed Bid
 Aspen \$36.43 \$29.56
 Red Oak \$27.85 \$33.37
 Birch \$23.85 \$25.43
All 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

"Big Wheel Logging"

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*



When writing about the history of the early logging in Minnesota, much is said about the logging camps and the lumber-

jacks. Stories revolve around their lives in the camps and the problems of supplying and feeding them as well as delivering the

logs to the mills.

The transportation of logs by rivers, lakes and logging railroads has been told. And, the hauling of logs over the ice roads is given a lot of attention. There is nothing that interests our present-day citizens more than a picture of a large load of logs hauled over an ice road by four horses. Much of our logging history is centered around skidding logs, the river drives, the loading of logs by cross-haul, horse and steam jammers, and hauling the large loads. The ox and the horse came in for their fair share of importance in the transportation of the logs to market, as did the steam hauler.

However, there is one method of log transportation that was used to a limited extent with very little mention of it in logging history and that is "big wheel" logging. While it did not play a very large part, it did, however, fill in where other methods failed. Big wheel logging had been carried on considerably in Michigan and Wisconsin during the summer months. The big wheels were developed by Syllas C. Overpack of Manistee, Mich. in the early 1890s.

The wheels used measured 10 feet in diameter with steel tires six inches wide or wider and 16-foot long tongues. The axles and wheels were built strong to withstand the beating they took over rough ground.

Big wheels were used by running them astride three to five logs that had been skidded into a pile. The tongue would then be raised to a vertical position letting the part of the tongue that ran in back of the wheels to lower. A chain would be slipped around the logs and fastened to hooks back and on top of the axle and the back end of the tongue. When the tongue was pulled down by the horses, the logs would rise from the ground and then be fastened by another chain. The logs would then ride under the axle high enough to clear stumps, etc.

The driver usually sat on a board or seat of some sort above and in back of the axle. Much of the time the teamster walked alongside as it was rough riding when the wheels bounded from stump to stump. As a rule one team of horses was used, but sometimes four were needed. Oxen were



The set of big wheels above was used near Akeley, Minn. Below: Dinner for Minnesota lumberjacks. It took good food to hold good men in the camps.



Small groups of logs such as those at right could be moved during summer months with big wheels. Used more in Wisconsin, the big wheels were at least 10 feet in diameter. The set in the bottom photograph is now on display at a museum in Wisconsin.

used if it was hard going. Much of the big wheel logging was confined to sandy soil areas and was usually done during the summer months when the ground was fairly dry.

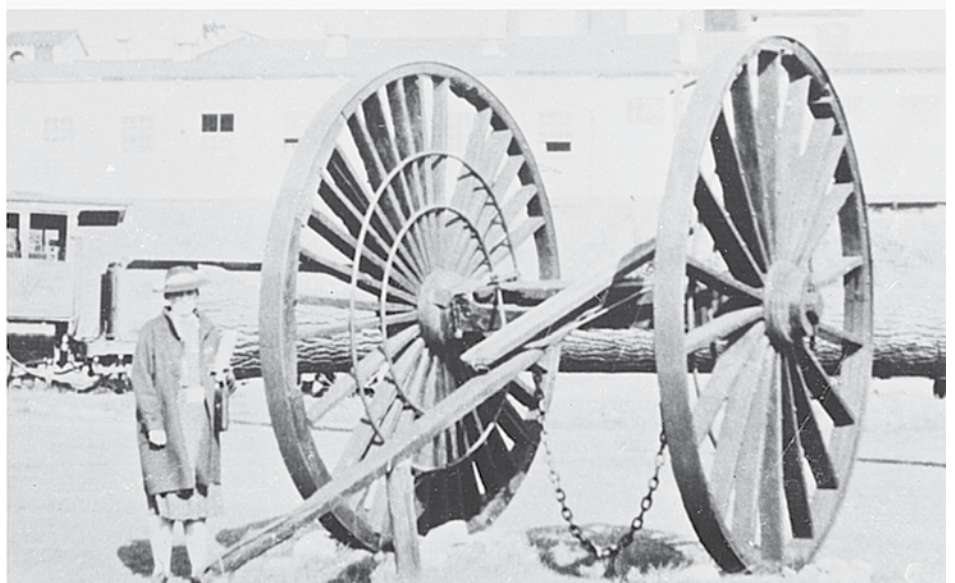
To my knowledge big wheels were only used on special occasions in Minnesota. However, they were often used around sawmills to move decked logs to the mill or to the water instead of dragging or skidding them through the mud or sand where logs could pick up small stones and gravel in bark or cracks that would be hard on the saws.

Big wheels were used by the Gull River Logging Company near Brainerd and also the Cross Lake Logging Company at different points along their railroad line. They were also used near Bena and at Cass lake by J. Neils Co. These big wheels were not used as regular summer logging equipment, but mostly used when logs could not be taken out during the winter due to deep snow, early break-up, or other reasons that prevented logs from being taken out before worms would get into them or they were burned by slash fires.

I have never seen big wheels being used, but have seen a number of sets of them. There was one set of big wheels standing on a hill near the Turtle River Mill in Turtle River, Minn., when I was a boy. We would climb up on them while playing, and I remember being told that these wheels had been used to haul logs to Turtle River Lake by the Burlington Lumber Company contractors Blakely and Farley and later used around the Turtle River Lumber Co. mill. A large set of these wheels has been on display near the Birchmount Beach Motel near Bemidji for a number of years.

I have known several men who drove teams hauling logs with the big wheels. Jack Van House of Kelliher and Turtle River was one of these men. Another man by the name of Russell Hieth, but better known as "Old Sandy," told me that he drove four horses hauling logs with big wheels near Cass Lake. During the summer of 1900, Oz Gray, who was logging for the Walker Timber Company near Wilton, Minn., used big wheels to pick up logs on several scattered forties very successfully.

The skidding or hauling of logs from the woods by these big wheels was a slow and expensive method of getting logs out of the woods. At its best, nevertheless, it could be done when other methods failed. While the big wheels played but a very small part in logging our original timber stands, they did do their part and are worthy of mention in any history of logging in Minnesota.



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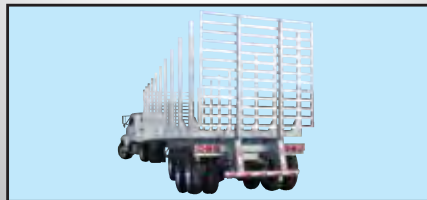


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