

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

JULY/AUGUST 2014

VOLUME 69

One Day at a Time Beckman Trucking 61st North Star Expo Returns to Bemidji



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ON THE COVER

Ron Beckman, Jr. and his father Ron, Sr. have seen their ups and downs in logging. For more please turn to page 8.

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As I write this it is the first week of August and the first really dry week. Most of the lakes and rivers are finally or nearly back in their banks. I try to find the positives about all this water. Looking at seedlings I planted this spring I find them doing quite well and the yard is very plush and the garden is producing (thankful my wife, Lisa, enjoys mowing the grass). I hope this drier weather continues and everybody can have a productive rest of the summer. The mills need to build some inventory before the trees start to shed their leaves. This summer gave us a glimpse of how important summer harvest is for the industry. The TPA

President's Column



staff continues to work on the long-eared bat issue, which threatens our ability to harvest summer timber. A big thank you to Wayne and staff for their work with the DNR and some counties to either move up or set up additional summer timber permits.

I was glad to be able to attend Hedstrom Lumber Company's one hundred year anniversary in Grand Marias. They had a great lunch and tour of the mill operations. I found it very interesting to learn the history, the trials and successes that made the Hedstrom mill what it is today. I couldn't help but notice a lot of similarities between a family sawmill and a family logging company.

The North Star Expo is just around the corner. Thanks to all the vendors and the Expo committee that make this event possible. I look forward to seeing you at the Sanford Center in Bemidji Sept. 12 and 13.

Scott Pittack

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Years Ago in the Bulletin

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

40 Years Ago

- The logging show moved to its new location at the Buffalo House. The two day event drew nearly 2000 people.
- The pulp and paper industry will spend \$523 million for environmental protection in 1974, 52 percent (\$274 million) will go for air quality expenditures.

50 Years Ago

- The Hedstrom Lumber company celebrated its 50th anniversary Aug 20-21. This is a family corporation in which first, second, and third generation Hedstroms have successively taken part, currently operated by six of the Hedstrom brothers, with Roy serving as president.
- Dahlberg and Son move jack pine with a Michigan skidder. This machine, with a highly competent operator, can move an average of 60 cords per day and has done as much as 100 per day. The Dahlbergs, Carl and son Waldo, are currently harvesting jack pine at their Moose River job on the Echo Trail.

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Let's hope it stops raining sometime soon so that we can work and enjoy the summer. In the meantime let's work safely!

That's how I ended my column in the May/June issue of the *Timber Bulletin*. And the weather didn't listen to me, causing an unprecedented shortage of wood, particularly aspen, in Minnesota and around the Lake States.

We can debate other factors in this shortage besides the weather, but

Executive Vice President's that is for a different day.

Column We have approached the DNR, counties



and the U.S. Forest Service to help mitigate this crisis. Basically what we've been asking these agencies is to move any "summer chance" sales they have this year forward, to move sales they may have planned for 2015 forward and to look for other opportunities for "summer chance" wood to be offered this year.

Our effort is to provide more summer chances for "summer chance" wood to be harvested so that our members can have a chance work now and through the fall until freeze up and to prevent mills from running out of wood from now until freeze up comes. With inventories tight, the most vulnerable time will likely be this fall.

I am very pleased with the aggressive response by the Minn. DNR, St. Louis County and Itasca County; the Chippewa National Forest will hold an early October bid opening of summer chance sales that are being moved forward; Beltrami, Aitkin and Crow Wing counties are likewise moving planned sales forward for earlier auction. And to use a popular current phrase, most of the other public agencies, not so much. We're hopeful that these reluctant "partners" will pitch in at some point also.

These actions are really about

increasing the chances for "summer chance." Not every summer chance sale can be operated in the summer. By having more summer chance sales in our hands it will increase the likelihood that our members can work through the fall and decrease the chance that any mill will run out of wood.

The summer chance sales that aren't able to be operated will be there as a "summer chance" next year. We're not looking to over-harvest any part of the resource or have anyone "look the other way" as one land commissioner opined. We're just looking for more chances until freeze up.

The *North Star Expo* is right around the corner. We're excited to be back in Bemidji for the show on Sept. 12 and 13. For the first time since shows long ago at the DECC in Duluth, a lot of the show will be inside at the Sanford Center, with the remainder outside of their beautiful facility on the shores of Lake Bemidji.

There is a lot going on in Bemidji with new hotels, restaurants and shopping in this vibrant community. Make your plans for this fun and exciting event!

No other state has had the success that we've had in working with the USDA APHIS on how the new Gypsy Moth quarantine will be interested in Minnesota. In fact, no other state tried. In each case they have just gone along with what the USDA APHIS imposed on them.

Not here in Minnesota! We've worked tirelessly to make sure that the quarantine is not onerous on loggers or mills. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has been tremendously helpful in this effort. We have worked closely with them on pest issues for many years and have a strong relationship with their professional staff and leadership.

USDA, after we got their attention, has shown flexibility that no other state has sought or received. Our

hats also go off to Hedstrom Lumber, which is conducting a research project on gypsy moth egg masses at their facility. We expect this research to show that virtually no gypsy moth eggs on trees survive the tree being harvested, de-limbed, slashed, loaded, trucked, debarked and hogged up through a hammer mill for fuel.

As previously mentioned in this column, they're back at it again. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) staff is working on wetland issues. Some folks have always sought to weaken or eliminate our wetlands exemptions. They've never liked them no matter what the data shows. TPA will continue to be vigilant on this important topic. We are not in the business of draining and filling wetlands. We only want to get in as efficiently as possible and harvest the trees so that they can grow again.

But, TPA is in the business of fighting for our members.

Our deepest condolences to the Rajala family over the tragic death of Nik and his wife Teresa and a friend in a plane crash. Nik, Jack's son, was a well-respected logger whose operations were featured in the *Timber Bulletin* several years ago. It's very sad to see a young, vibrant part of our community gone too soon.

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Member Feature...



L-R: Ron Beckman, Sr., Ron Beckman, Jr., and Travis Beckman.

One Day at a Time

That's the philosophy of many loggers who've been through the Great Recession, including the Beckmans of Itasca County

by Ray Higgins

Ron Beckman, Jr. sits in the cab of his Timberjack 1110D cut-to-length forwarder, collecting aspen pulp and bolts that had been harvested by his cousin Travis. They're working a 40-acre piece of Blandin land in Balsam Township, north of Grand Rapids.

Aspen isn't the only species here. There's also maple pulp and bolts,

basswood pulp, ash bolts, birch pulp and bolts, as well as some balsam and spruce. What doesn't go to Blandin will be marketed to Sappi, Savanna Pallets, or Potlatch; some will even be set aside to sell to Beckman's firewood customers.

Business has been good for the Beckmans, including Ron's dad Ron Sr. In fact, they recently

invested in a newer model cut-to-length harvester, a 2010 John Deere 1270E, a purchase that seemed unthinkable not long ago, during the depths of a Great Recession that hammered many Minnesota logging companies, including the Beckmans. What had been a company of three logging crews – two cut-to-length systems and a



Travis Beckman operates a John Deere 1270E harvester on a 40-acre piece of Blandin property in Balsam Township.

conventional operation, including employees to operate all of the iron – had been downsized to just one crew consisting of Ron Sr., Ron Jr., and Travis.

“We were never going to quit,” Ron Jr. says. “We thought about it, though.”

Beckmans have been logging in Minnesota for more than a century, going back to when P.O. Beckman – Ron Sr.’s grandfather – got his first contract with M&O Paper in International Falls, now Boise, in 1911. His father Bob joined the business, and eventually Ron did too, helping out by peeling popple as early as age 6. By the time he graduated from Bigfork High School, it was time to see if something else was a better fit.

“I went to Itasca Community College,” Ron Sr. says. “I got an AA in pulp and paper and went to work at Blandin for a year and a half.”

But the woods called, and Ron joined Bob and his brother Al in the family business in 1971. At that time, the Beckmans not only logged, but also had 150 head of

cattle on the family farm in Grattan township, north of Dora Lake, west of Bigfork.

“In ‘71,” Ron says, “we had one Timberjack skidder, and that year we bought our first John Deere 540A skidder. And we had power saws, and one truck. We didn’t get fully mechanized until 1974.”

Eventually the Beckmans got out of the farming business and focused on logging, selling their wood mostly to Blandin in Grand Rapids, but also some up the street to the Blandex OSB mill, and some tree length to Rajala Companies. When Ron Jr. came along, he started out in the woods much like his father

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Ron Beckman, Jr. watches as he loads aspen onto his Timberjack 1110D forwarder.

did, tagging along when he was too small to help, finally starting to limb trees at age 13. When he graduated from Bigfork in 1991, he followed in his dad's footsteps to Itasca, even playing football there, just like Ron Sr. did. But he injured a knee, quit school, and enlisted in the Navy, serving on the USS Detroit. There,

the knee was re-injured again, so he came back home and spent a couple of years working for Al Knaeble's logging operation. By 1994, it was time for a change for all of the Beckmans.

"My dad retired that year," Ron Sr. says. "I was going to Alaska to work on a fishing boat, and my

brother Al was going to take over the logging company. We had a conventional operation then. Ron Jr. had a job lined up with MnDOT in bridge construction."

But that winter, Nortrax had sent the Beckmans a cut-to-length harvester to use as a demo. Ron Sr. ran it for the entire winter logging season. About a month before he was to leave for Alaska, he called Ron Jr.

"Dad said, 'this machine is cool. You should come see it,'" Ron Jr. recalls. "When I saw it I thought it was the coolest thing I'd ever seen. So we gave it a shot."

Ron Sr. never made it to Alaska, and Ron Jr. never worked for MnDOT. They purchased some of the first cut-to-length equipment in the state, Al stuck with the conventional operation, Blandin split the Beckman contract between Ron and Al, while Bob retired.

Business grew for the father and son. The cut-to-length operation worked great for harvesting on Blandin lands, as well as other wood that would eventually wind up in the Grand Rapids mill. And as

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Ron Beckman, Sr. uses the company's forwarder to load aspen on his truck to be delivered to the UPM Blandin mill in Grand Rapids.

business grew, so did the company. The Beckmans added a second cut-to-length operation, as well as a conventional set of equipment, allowing them to significantly ramp up production.

Demand for wood through the late 1990s and the early 2000s was strong enough that the Beckmans could keep all three logging operations humming. They not only had the contract at Blandin they'd always had, but had also contracted with the Ainsworth mill in Grand Rapids and with the Weyerhaeuser mill in Deerwood to provide significant volumes of wood. Their only worry was how they would provide their share of the wood the mills were seeking.

"At that time," Ron Jr. says, "we were just pouring everything back into the business all the time. We were always upgrading."

"We were constantly buying machines," Ron Sr. adds. "We never had a machine more than five years when we were rolling it over into

another one."

They weren't alone. That wasn't uncommon among Minnesota loggers. Business was great.

And then, the housing market crashed. The two million homes built in the U.S. prior to 2006 dropped to roughly a fourth of that. Companies like Ainsworth and Weyerhaeuser, whose products helped build those houses, floundered. Loggers like the Beckmans, who had invested in their own companies expecting demand to remain as it had been, were stuck with thousands of cords of harvested wood that suddenly no one wanted.

"How much wood did we have piled up in Squaw Lake?," Ron Sr. asks. "2500 cords?"

"I didn't even think about that," Ron Jr. responds. "I was thinking about that sale in McGrath. Five hundred cords down there."

"And all of a sudden they called and said, 'we don't want it.'" Ron Sr. says.

Soon, all three of Ainsworth's Minnesota OSB mills, including the one the Beckmans delivered to in Grand Rapids, had closed for good. So did Weyerhaeuser in Deerwood. Their timing couldn't have been worse.

"We had just bought more equipment, and we had cut a lot of wood we were going to take to Weyerhaeuser and the Ainsworth," Ron Sr. says, "and they were closed."

The Beckmans not only had the harvested wood they couldn't sell, but with the bottom dropping out of the markets, they'd paid for stumpage they didn't need. Also, they had no use for three logging operations, but of course still had payments to make on the machines with little opportunity to sell them in a depressed market. Frankly, they weren't sure the business would survive.

But the Beckmans stayed with it, taking challenges one day at a time. And they kept cutting wood.



Forty-year-old aspen waits to be loaded and transported to the mill.

"We always looked ahead," Ron Sr. says.

"That's what we do," Ron Jr. says. "That's logging. "It's a commodities business. When it's good, it's great. But when it's bad, it's horrible. But you always keep moving because eventually, there's a balance to it."

The Beckmans downsized the business and reorganized, cutting back to just the one cut-to-length system. Ron Jr. runs the forwarder, Travis operates the harvester, and Ron Sr. handles 90 percent of the trucking. They've also found ways to be as efficient in their operation as possible.

"Now we're real careful," Ron Jr. says. "Very methodical. We just try to be as economically sound as we can."

"And we focus on getting good sales," Ron Sr. says. "We don't take any sale we come across. We make sure they're good sales that we can make money at."

"That's a shift in making bad decision," Ron Jr. says, "trying to

make everybody happy. It used to be if someone asked us to cut something, we'd take it. We'd cut it. Not any more."

The measures they've taken are working. It took a while, but markets have rebounded for the Beckmans and business is good. The Blandin land they're working on now is great wood, 40-year-old aspen, optimum age for harvest. And it's right next door to the Balsam Township home of state Rep. Tom Anzels, who champions the timber industry at the state capitol and loves to stop by on his daily walks to see how the job is coming and pick the Beckmans' minds on the issues of the day, both those pertaining to logging and others.

In fact, the Beckmans recently invested in a different cut-to-length harvester, a 2010 John Deere 1270E. It isn't brand new, but it only has 5000 hours on it.

"We weren't sure we'd ever be able to buy different equipment,"

Ron Jr. says. "We waited two years to buy this thing, but you get really gun shy, because what if the mill shuts down for two months and now you have another half million dollar debt?"

"But you hire accountants for a reason. You don't say, 'hey I bought this, now what?' We realized if we're going to make it, we needed to start listening to them."

Ron Jr. still lives on the same piece a land in Grattan Township where he and his father grew up. Grandpa Bob is still there, too, and Travis isn't far away, either. Ron Sr. has a place closer to Grand Rapids, and he's got his eye on retirement in another three years or so. They'll keep going, learning lessons as they come, looking for those efficiencies, and try to keep getting better.

"You're always looking at it like it may not work," Ron Sr. says. But you always have to be thinking ahead and planning ahead to make it work. To keep ahead of the game."



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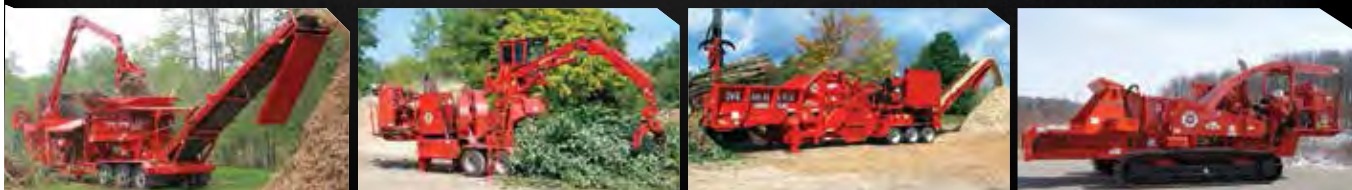
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Hedstrom Lumber Centennial



Howard Hedstrom, president of Hedstrom Lumber, addresses banquet attendees at the company's Centennial Celebration.

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton was among those traveling to Grand Marais to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Hedstrom Lumber Company in July.

Founded on the shores of the Devil Track River in 1914, Hedstrom Lumber is Cook County's largest private employer. The centennial celebration lasted more than a week and included open houses for loggers, for employees and their families, and the Cook County community as well. The events culminated in a banquet in the mill's maintenance garage for 500 people, including Governor Dayton, Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk, and State Rep. David Dill.

Several generations of Hedstroms attended, ranging from 97-year-old Herb Hedstrom to 11-month-old Rabina Kahn.

In thanking those attending the banquet, company president Howard Hedstrom said, "It's amazing to think that all of you have been touched in some way by our family."



Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton speaks to the media while attending the 100th Anniversary banquet at Hedstrom Lumber in Grand Marais.

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NORTH STAR EXPO

61st Annual North Star Expo Schedule of Events Sanford Center – Bemidji, MN

Friday, September 12

9:00 am	Equipment Displays Open
9:30 am	Display Contest Judging
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Loader Contest (sign up at site)
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Celebrity/Media Loader Contest
12:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Loader Contest (sign up at site)
5:00 pm	Equipment displays close
5:00 pm-7:00 pm	Reception/ Cash Bar with hors d'oeuvres

Saturday, September 13

9:00 am	Equipment displays open
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Loader Contest (sign up at site)
11:30 am	Coloring contest winners announced
1:00 pm	Winners announced for Loader, Master Loader, and Best Load contests
1:30 pm	Winners announced for Guess the Weight, Big Cookie, Vendor Drawing, Wood I.D. and Big Cookie contests
2:00 pm	Equipment displays close

CONTESTS

Guess the Weight – Guess the weight of a fully loaded truck

Wood Identification – See how many tree species you can identify

Loader – Test your skills against the clock

Masters Division Loader – Loader contest for those 50 and over – sign up at site

Best Load – Come and see the Best Loads of Wood on Display

Big Cookie – Enter to see if your wood cookie is the biggest of its species.

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61st North Star Expo Returns to Bemidji

For the first time since 2008, Minnesota's largest logging equipment show is returning to Bemidji.

The 61st Annual North Star Expo will be Friday, Sept. 12 and Saturday, Sept. 13 at Bemidji's Sanford Center, on the shore of Lake Bemidji. The Expo will utilize the spacious Sanford Center parking lot, as well as the Sanford Center's arena floor with large equipment displays' throughout.

The Expo had been held in Grand Rapids the previous five years.

"We're excited to bring the Expo back to Bemidji," said TPA Expo Committee Chair Joan Pomp. "The great people of Grand Rapids and Itasca County were wonderful hosts to our event over the past five years, and we'll be back there. But we're

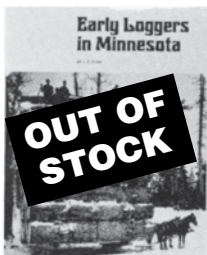


Bemidji's Sanford Center, site of the 2014 North Star Expo.

Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I



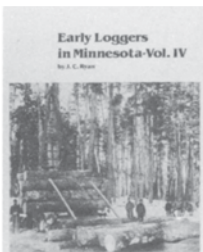
VOL. III



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VOL. IV



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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Did you know some of Minnesota's finest artists display their work at the Expo? Last year Nashwauk's Jazlyn Svalesen earned top honors in the Expo Coloring Contest for the third consecutive year – this time in the Ages 7-9 Division – and received a Blue Ribbon and an art kit for her efforts. Again this year, the top three in each of three age divisions will receive prizes.



FleetPride Truck and Trailer Parts won the Blue Ribbon for Best Indoor Booth at last year's Expo, and they'll be among the roughly 100 vendors showing their stuff at this year's Expo at Bemidji's Sanford Center.



The North Star Expo is always a great place to see beautiful loads of harvested timber. Here, Tom Kruschek (C) of Great Northern Logging in Pierz accepts the Blue Ribbon in the 2013 Best Load competition from Expo Committee Chair Joan Pomp and committee member Jim Gabriel. Kruschek's entry was sponsored by Sappi Fine Paper.

excited to be back in the home of Paul Bunyan. Response from our vendors who want to show their stuff in Bemidji has been terrific."

In addition, the Expo will host a Friday night reception on the Club Level of the Sanford Center, with free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar from 5-7 p.m. Admission to the reception is free, as is to the Expo itself, as well as parking at the Sanford Center.

Like at any Expo, there will be plenty of competitions:

The Best Load contest is taking place again this year. Only the wood will be judged, not the truck it is hauled on. Points will be scored on the timber quality, product quality, product manufacturing, load appearance, and load securement. Monetary prizes are awarded to the top finishers.

The Loader Contest will also be held again this year, as well as the Master Loader Contest. In addition, kids will have a chance to try their hand at a Mini-Log Loader.

The Coloring Contest will take place this year as well. In the May/June issue of the *Timber Bulletin*, there was a pull-out poster for the little ones to enter. Just have them color the poster and either bring it to the Expo or mail it to the TPA office. Entries will be posted at the Expo for all to enjoy.

Don't forget to bring in your wood cookies for the Big Cookie Contest. Remember to attach a list indicating species, where taken, and company name.

Test your visual skills and Guess the Weight! Entry forms will be available near one of the Best Load trucks.

We'll have fun for the whole family. See you Sept. 12 and 13 in Bemidji!

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B10 Increase Effective July 1st

As of July 1, Minnesota's diesel fuel now contains a 10 percent blend of biodiesel (B10) during summer months.

The biodiesel content will remain at five percent during the colder months of October through March. Off-road logging equipment

Timber Talk

continues to be exempt from the biodiesel requirement between these same months, and #1 diesel is exempt from the biodiesel mandate year round.

The B10 mandate was scheduled to go into effect in May 2012, but the state determined that certain regulatory and supply issues hadn't been resolved and delayed the implantation of B10 until this year.

Please contact the TPA office if you experience any problems with using biodiesel in your vehicles.

Bignall Promoted

In June, Potlatch announced it has promoted Brian Bignall to the position of wood procurement manager of the Bemidji sawmill.



A native of Grand Rapids, Bignall joined Potlatch in October 2000 as a procurement forester. He will now oversee all procurement for the Bemidji mill.

Bignall graduated from Grand Rapids High School, and attended Itasca Community College before receiving a degree in forestry from Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1999. Before joining Potlatch, he briefly worked at UPM Blandin, with the U.S. Forest Service, and for Niesen Logging in Onamia.

Truck Weight Compliance Training Offered

Minnesota's popular Truck-Weight Compliance Training with instructor Greg Hayes will again be offered several times over the next eight months.

In the training, explanations are provided concerning road weights during various times of the year, including the winter load increase and spring load restrictions. The program promotes voluntary compliance to reduce damage to public roads and highways from overweight vehicles. The goal is to provide information and explanations to attendees on how to haul the most legal weight, without violating the truck-weight laws. How you configure your truck, with proper axle spacing and tire size, makes a difference.

Hayes developed the workshop in 2001 to help anyone understand the technical criteria of the truck-weight laws in Minnesota. Greg's career in law enforcement was continually focused on the truck-weight issues and the need to work with the industry to share the knowledge necessary to get the most possible legal weight from various truck configurations.

Timber haulers can receive MLEP credit for completing the training. Among the sessions scheduled for northern Minnesota are:

- September 24, 2014 – MnDOT District 2A, Bemidji, Minn.
- January 27, 2015 – Northern Resources Cooperative, Roseau, Minn.
- March 26, 2015 – MnDOT District 4, Detroit Lakes, Minn.
- April 22, 2015 – Holiday Inn, Duluth, Minn.

For more info – including additional dates and locations – and to register, visit: <http://www.mnltap.umn.edu/training/topic/customized/truck-weight/index.html>

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Nik Rajala: 1973-2014

Teresa Rajala: 1974-2014

Nik and Teresa Rajala, co-owners of Pohl Creek Logging and members of one of most prominent families in Minnesota's timber industry, died in a plane crash on August 8 while on a fishing trip near Kenora, Ontario.



Nik Rajala started Pohl Creek Logging in 1998, named after the creek that was near his Cohasset home. Rajala was a staunch proponent of cut-to-length equipment, and was known for his tireless attention to detail and his commitment to proper sustainable forest management practices. He also served on the TPA Board of Directors.

In a 2009 feature in *The Timber Bulletin*, Rajala said logging, "is in my blood. When you spend your childhood, when you're out grouse hunting, deer hunting, fishing, regardless of what you're doing to spend time in the outdoors, and you realize by the time you're about 15, 16 years old that you and your father and your brothers are all fooling yourselves that you're actually doing any of those activities – you're actually just looking at timber all the time and you happen to have a shotgun or a rifle or a fishing pole in your hand."

The Rajala family of course is known for the Rajala

Companies of Bigfork and Deer River, where Nik's brother John is the general manager and their father Jack is the CEO.

"It's an interesting thing growing up in a family business," Rajala said in 2009. "Many people in the logging industry have been in that situation. It doesn't have the best reputation in the world, but at the same time that's outsiders looking in. When you're on the inside of a family situation, obviously there's going to be some rubs and it's difficult, but at the same time it's a wonderful experience from the standpoint that generally associated with it is a lifetime's worth of learning and I would say that's certainly true in my case."

"The unique thing about the relationship that I personally have with my father is that I've done more logging in my life – he's observed and managed a lot of logging, but he hasn't done a lot of logging himself. So we've learned a lot from each other. But regardless of where my father's coming from or where I'm coming from, it all always comes back to the forest."

Nik and Teresa Rajala's friend Lynn Bohanon also died in the accident.

TPA extends its deepest sympathies to the Rajala and Bohanon families.

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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

Hubbard County

July 7 – Oral Auction

Aspen Mixed	\$33.63	NA
Birch Pulp	\$12.70	NA
Jack Pine Mixed	\$38.49	NA
Balsam Fir Mixed	\$15.39	NA

17 of the 19 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Warroad Area

July 15 – Sealed Bid

Aspen Species (WC)	\$17.15	NA
Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$34.44	NA
Jack Pine (WMP)	\$32.25	NA
Pine Species (WMP)	\$38.36	NA

13 of the 15 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Warroad Area

July 16 – Oral Auction

Aspen Species (WC)	NA	\$10.60
Jack Pine (WMP)	NA	\$32.43
Black Spruce (WMP)	NA	\$13.82
Trembling Aspen (WC)	NA	\$24.80

29 of the 33 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Lake County

July 17 – Sealed Bid

Aspen P&B	\$24.27	NA
Birch P&B	\$13.59	NA
Spruce P&B	\$23.78	NA

8 of the 28 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Cass County

July 31 – Oral Auction

Aspen	\$25.63	\$31.60
Birch	\$16.89	\$21.47
Red Oak	\$22.49	\$34.31

All 9 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Beltrami County

August 5 – Sealed Bid

Aspen Pulp	\$29.93	NA
Black Spruce	\$27.31	NA
Red Pine P&B	\$ 4.52	NA

All 7 of the tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Koochiching County

August 6 – Oral Auction

Aspen P/B	\$31.61	\$34.67
Balsam P/B	\$ 7.76	\$11.15
Spruce P/B	\$37.55	\$18.45
Jackpine P/B	\$28.69	\$19.84

All 28 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Beltrami County

August 7 – Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp	\$35.02	NA
Jack Pine P&B	\$42.31	NA
Red Pine P&B	\$16.05	NA

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

Products:

PB = Pulp and Bolts
WMP = Woodsrun mixed Products
WC = Woodsrun cordwood
ST = Sawtimber
WST = Woodsrun Sawtimber
PW = Pulpwood

FY2014 DNR Timber Auction Data Released

Stumpage prices rose for aspen, birch, jack pine, and red pine on DNR lands since FY2012, according to statistics released by the DNR.

The figures compare average price per cord for six major species on DNR lands between fiscal year 2012 and FY2014, which ended on June 30:

	FY2014	FY2013	FY2012
Aspen	\$26.95	\$24.72	\$23.00
Birch	\$13.62	\$10.36	\$ 9.70
Jack Pine	\$29.91	\$27.24	\$20.68

Red Pine	\$50.80	\$28.85	\$27.28
Balsam Fir	\$12.40	\$13.97	\$18.26
Black Spruce	\$19.61	\$16.96	\$23.24

The report lumped together similar products under these broader species. For instance, “aspen” included trembling aspen, largetooth aspen, etc., and also combined volume sold as “woodsrun cordwood,” “woodsrun mixed products,” and others.

The figures show:

- The average price of aspen on DNR lands rose 17% between FY2012 and FY2014
- The average price of jack pine on DNR lands rose 44% during the same period
- Red pine showed an 86% increase during those years
- The average prices of balsam and black spruce fell, 32% and 16% respectively

In addition, while prices went up on aspen, the volume sold on state lands also rose, from roughly 387,200 cords in FY2012, to approximately 406,600 cord in FY2014. Volumes sold for birch and black spruce also rose during the last two years, volumes sold fell for jack pine and red pine, and stayed relatively flat for balsam fir over the same period.

Additionally, final DNR timber sale program totals for FY2014 show:

- The DNR offered 805,810 cords of new volume (all species), surpassing its goal of 800,000 cords
- The DNR also re-offered 109,453 cords, for a total volume of 915,262 cords offered in FY2014
- Of the 915,262 cords offered, 815,884 sold during the year, and 799,601 cords were scaled.



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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

"Come and Get It"

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*



There probably were no sweeter words to the ears of the old-time lumberjack than the cook's "come and get it"—or the ringing of the dinner bell or horn.

One thing the old-time lumberjack demanded and got was good food.

My first trip to a lumber camp was with my father, in about 1907. I sat at the head of the table and ate with the men; I was amazed at the good food that was piled before me. The camp foreman, "Big Otto," sat across the table from me and kept saying, "Have some more pie, son," or "How about some more beans, or potatoes and gravy, or some good stewed prunes?"

As I was consuming my second piece of

pie, he said to my dad, "More logs have been put in with beans, sowbelly and pea soup than there have been with pie, ain't that right, Jim?" My dad replied, "Yes that's right, but it's prunes that keep all the jacks on the job each day."

I grew up with the logging industry and soon learned that if you wanted to do a good job of logging you had to keep good food on the table. Nothing caused so much grumbling or quitting as did poor food or a poor cook. Lumberjacks just had to have good food, if nothing else.

In the early days of logging—late 1870s to early 1880s—pea soup, sowbelly (pickled salt pork) and beans made up a good part of the lumberjacks' food. A late

camp cook, John Neary of Northome, told me that in the 1880s he did most of his cooking on drives over an open fire; and the food consisted mostly of sowbelly, pea soup, baked or boiled beans, baking powder biscuits, dried apples and prunes.

In the early days, there was no canned food. All the fruit—apples, prunes, peaches or apricots—was dried. Other dried food included peas, rice, beans, barley, macaroni and tapioca. However, fresh rutabagas, potatoes, cabbage and carrots were plentiful. Syrup came in barrels and was served with flapjacks or pancakes.

The only fresh meat available to lumberjacks was sold to the camps by



Some cooks played several tunes on 6-foot-long horns . . .

Indians. The meat included caribou, moose and deer.

By the early 1890s, canned foods, mostly in one-gallon cans, began to appear in the camps; and today, one can find a pile of old rusted cans at the site of any old lumber camp. Canned milk was one of the first items available, followed by apples, tomatoes, etc. And during the summer, canned corned beef was used.

At the camps in this early period, bacon and sometimes ham was on hand during the summer months; and beef was brought in by the quarter and kept frozen in an outdoor room in the winter months.

Some camps that stayed several years in a location raised pigs during the summer and butchered them in the fall. These camps usually had pork for dinner each Sunday. But I knew one logger who went to Montana and bought a lot of sheep and brought them to camp in a hayrack. He piled the frozen sheep like cordwood behind the cook camp and served mutton every day all winter; by mid-winter, he had a hard time keeping a crew. Lumberjacks just didn't like mutton.

By 1917, canned foods of all kinds were plentiful in all lumber camps. Canned fruits replaced dried fruit to a great extent. However, dried prunes remained; and very few meals in the camps were eaten without prunes on the table. Prunes

were like a tonic to the lumberjacks.

Raisins were plentiful and were served with rice and in other puddings. In the old days, currants were used a lot in the summer; and in the darkened cook camps, one could not tell currants from flies, and many a fly was eaten.

Cheese for some reason was seldom seen in the camps and only served on special occasions such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Very few camps served butter, and the familiar oleomargarine signs were always on display.

Camps had no refrigeration and fresh meat was hard to keep in the summer months. All camps had a screened house for hanging the hams and bacon. In later years, eggs were furnished for cooking but were only served in the spring for special occasions.

Most pastry was made without eggs in the early days. However, pies, doughnuts, drop cakes and cakes both light and dark were always on hand. Some hardtack, which came in barrels, and dry toast was served in most camps. Most cooks were good bread and roll makers, and fresh bread was made each day.

By the time lumber camps began closing in the late 1920s and early 1930s, transportation was much better; and fresh fruit began showing up in most camps to some extent.

Prior to the first World War, most

camps had about 100 men and the kitchen could be handled by a cook and four cookees, or a cook and three cookees.

If camps were over 100 men, there was an extra cookee for each 20 men, and camps over 200 men would have a cook, a meat cook, a pastry cook, a second cook and cookee for each 20 men. However, there were few camps with over 200 men.

The cookees set tables, peeled potatoes, washed dishes, waited on tables and kept the kitchen clean. Kitchen help was generally plentiful, and cooks could usually be ordered at any time from the employment office. Many a cook was fired if he got lazy and did not put on the quality food the foreman wanted. However, most cooks were quite independent, and often up and quit at a moment's notice leaving the second cook to handle the job.

In small camps, 30 to 40 men, sometimes a man from the crew had to be picked to feed the men until a new cook arrived.

In the old days, the "Bull cook" would stick his head into the bunkhouse at 5 a.m. and yell "Roll out." Breakfast was usually served about 6 a.m.

The cook would announce mealtime by blowing a horn or pounding on a triangle iron or piece of railroad iron hung by the kitchen door. Dinner horns in the camps were about 6 feet long, and some of the



... and the lumberjacks would come running to chow.

cooks, the first class ones, took pride in playing several tunes on them. On a frosty morning, these dinner horns could be heard for several miles. I have stood outside on a cold morning and heard up to six dinner horns from camps within five miles of ours.

In smaller camps, the cook would open the kitchen door and yell, "Come and get it."

The lumbercamp cooks were a special breed of lumberjack and, as a rule, "cranky." They were kings of the kitchen and had considerable leeway in running the kitchen as long as they made good food. The "no talking" rule at the tables was strictly enforced, and it was the cook's job to see that it was. Cooks were paid more than the average lumberjack, stayed longer in the camps, made bigger stakes and drank more whiskey when in town.

It took a lumberjack an average of about 12 minutes to eat, and I have seen a crew of 200 men file in and out of a cook camp in 25 minutes. Bunkhouses were always full of stories of good cooks and where they were cooking.

Jacks always wanted to work where the good cooks were.

Most companies had their favorite cooks and tried to keep them from year to year. I have known many of the cooks of the International Lumber Co., Virginia & Rainy Lake Lumber Co., the Crookston Lumber Co. and the combined Cloquet Northern camps.

During the winter of 1922, while I worked as a log and cutting inspector for the combined Weyerhaeuser Companies of Cloquet, I visited over 70 camps and ate and slept in them as well as in a number of jobber camps. I never found a camp that did not have food on the table equal to the food served in our leading hotels!

Some of the lumber camp cooks that I remember as good ones were Ed Thomas, the "Brainerd Kid," "Pug" O'Brien, Joe Edwards, "Mustache" McDonald, "Johnnie on the Spot" Segorski, Ole Hagen, Bob Plante, Jimmie White, Chet Lawson, "Crooked-neck Paddy" Haley, Jack Dewar, Jack Donahue, Martin Hall, Jerry Dahlquist, "Shag" Dunbar, "Root House Pete" Johnson, Jude McDermit and others.

But in the Cloquet Valley District, where the combined Cloquet Northern camps were located during the 1920s, the

camps were the largest of any I have known and some of their later camps were equipped with electric lights and quite modern.

The Cloquet Northern companies had a group of cooks over a number of years that really were outstanding. They included Mose Paquette, Pete Olson, Ben Melankin, Joe LaCourse, Joe Glen, Charley Norum, Jerry Dahlquist, George Romans, Ed Seivert, "Slim" Cassiday among others.

If I were to pick out one cook as being the best, I would have to choose Tom Burns. He cooked for the Oliver for many years and later cooked for the Great Northern Power Co. when they built their dams at Island Lake, Boulder Lake and Whiteface.

Although during the early days of logging our great pine stands, the jacks' food may have consisted more or less of pea soup, sowbelly and beans, the food furnished them was always the best available. And as the companies and the foremen soon found out, a well-fed man made them the most money and did the best job—and our lumberjacks were some of the best-fed people in the United States.



Inside early lumbercamp mess hall.

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