

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

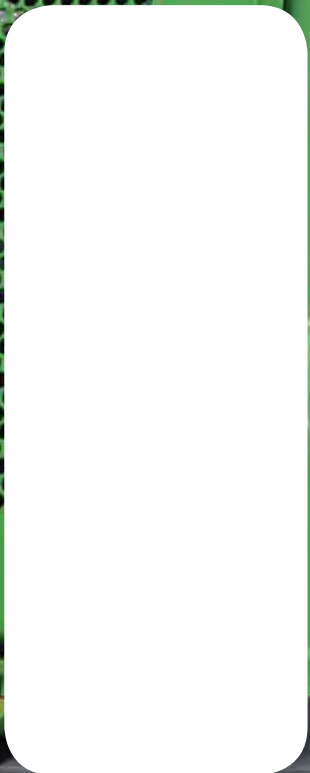
TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014

VOLUME 69

**Open-Minded -
Hettver Logging
North Star Expo
Returns to Bemidji**



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Volume 69
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Duluth, Minnesota

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ON THE COVER

The 61st North Star Expo was again a great opportunity to see the latest in logging equipment. For more on the Expo, please turn to page 14.

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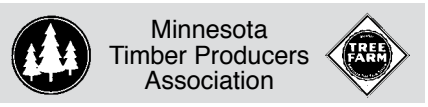
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Are you up to bat or are you warming the bench? It seems to me that this is the time when the industry needs to be lined up at the plate. The logging industry is constantly facing new and old challenges; weather, costs, supply and demand and don't forget the bat, just to name a few. We need

President's Column



to ask ourselves are we doing everything we can to help each other along. Without a strong logging infrastructure and a viable resource there is very little hope for expansion and new market

opportunities. I cannot stress the importance of being an active member in the Timber Producers Association, the voice of our industry. Along with being our voice I believe TPA keeps us informed so we can make timely decisions, it also helps build stronger management skills and has a big role in government affairs, so clean those cleats and step up to the plate.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Expo. I thought the Sanford Center was a nice fit. Thanks to the Expo committee for another great show, and all your hard work and dedication. It is a great way for our industry to be displayed.

Enjoy the fall and all it offers.

Executive Committee

Kit Hasbargen: 218-634-1628

Scott Pittack: 218-259-8148

Dave Berthiaume: 218-380-9783

Kurt Benson: 218-239-1001

Rod Enberg: 218-352-6175

TPA Staff

Ray Higgins: 218-722-5013

Wayne Brandt: 218-722-5013

Years Ago in the Bulletin

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

40 Years Ago

- George D. Fowler has been appointed to the newly created position of assistant executive secretary of TPA.
- St. Regis Paper Company announced the appointment of William Simmons to the position of assistant to the forest manager of the Company's mill at Sartell. He will be located in Bemidji.
- Blandin Woodlands announced the appointment of John McCoy as area procurement forester for their northeastern Minnesota region. McCoy will be located in Ely.

50 Years Ago

- 350 attend the Annual Logging Demonstration. The 11th annual event was held at the Cloquet Forest Research Center. Festivities included pulpwood weight guessing and tossing the pulpstick.
- TPA Resident Roy Hedstrom has recommended that members should immediately promote and practice safety 24 hours a day. He said, "we can no longer leave this vital matter up to another fellow. Workmen's compensation rates have increased to the point (\$14.25 per \$100 of payroll) where we must do something about it in order to survive."

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This year's *North Star Expo* at the Sanford Center in Bemidji blew me away. Bemidji is a great town and the Sanford Center facilities are outstanding, the best we've had for an *Expo*. The community support was also the best we've ever seen. Attendance was strong and the vendors support was great. Joan Pomp and the entire committee did a great job on the event. Thank you to them, to the vendors and to everyone who attended.



DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr has assembled a group to review the

**Executive Vice
President's
Column**



competitive position of the forest products industry in Minnesota

and to make recommendations on how to improve our competitive position. The MN Forest Resources Council is providing

staff support for this effort. The study and recommendations are expected to be released in early December followed by a two-day conference sponsored by the MN Forest Resources partnership.

This study is similar to others done in 2003, 2006 and 2007. Each of these studies actually helped support policy changes in our state that improved our position. That can be unusual for these types of undertakings, which frequently end up on shelves collecting dust.

Kit Hasbargen has been serving on the steering committee for the study and has been actively representing loggers. Stay tuned for results and recommendations from this group.



Speaking of the MN Forest Resources Council, it recently held a meeting in Grand Marais. This follows a long-standing practice of getting the council out and around the state. Last year's summer meeting was hosted by council member and former TPA President Dale Erickson in Baudette.

One thing some council members

learn, or are reminded of, is how big our state is. Dale and Howard Hedstrom can attest to this as they frequently drive many hours to get to where others start their drive to a meeting. It's this kind of dedication that helps make our industry better – for everyone.



Minnesota Forest Industries (MFI) has a couple of new educational products that have been newly produced. The first is a SmartBoard App for teachers and kids titled *Cycles of the Forest*. It's an interactive, multi-media look at forests. The second is an updated redesign of MFI's tried and true *Papermaking Kit*. Both of these, along with another app, can be found at www.treezydoesit.com. Each of these items also has a key for teachers on how they apply to and can be used with Minnesota's Grad Standards. Take a look at these great tools and pass them along to any schools, teachers or children that you know.



I was recently invited to speak to an economics class at UMD's Labovitz School of Business and Economics. They wanted to hear about Minnesota's forest-based economy and the forest products industry. I get to do this periodically and always enjoy interacting with students.

The class that I spoke to was in the evening and had an energetic group of students. They peppered me with questions during and after my presentation. It was great to see their interest and engagement. If this class was representative of college students today I think we have a great future!



DNR Division of Forestry Director Forrest Boe hosted the Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Foresters in St Paul a few weeks ago. The meeting had important speakers including USFS Chief Tom Tidwell and Sappi, Cloquet managing director Mike

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Schultz, who spoke about their recent pulp mill conversion.

Chief Tidwell gave the most positive presentation about active forest management that I have heard from any USFS Chief ever.

The Division of Forestry did a great job hosting this meeting. I was extremely impressed with the young foresters from the division that I had the chance to visit with. They were positive, energetic, and committed to their jobs, and committed to managing the forest and supporting the economy through timber harvest. It was great to hear them all and, like the college students mentioned above, gives me great hope for the future!



The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) continues its review of wetland replacement issues. I'm serving on their stakeholder group along with a number of other people. The basic issue being looked at is wetland replacement issues,

particularly in northern Minnesota counties that have more than 80% of their pre-settlement wetlands still intact.

BWSR has a pretty convoluted proposal that would allow wetland impacts to be mitigated outside of the greater than 80% counties with payments being made to BWSR in addition to or in lieu of current mitigation requirements. BWSR would then use the funds for activities in the uplands.

Since the uplands in northern and northeastern Minnesota mean forests, that means us. The last thing we need is another agency messing around in the forest.

There is a very simple solution to the problem of mitigation in the greater than 80% counties. BWSR should designate high-priority areas for replacement outside of the 80% counties and allow replacement projects in these areas on a 1:1 ratio when replacement options are not available in the greater than 80% counties.

This would produce more wetlands where they are needed most; would prevent replacement projects from buying up the few available uplands in our counties to be converted into wetlands; and would keep BWSR out of the forested uplands.

This is the simple solution. And the simple solution is nearly always the best solution.



I've been scatter gunning around a bit in this column. Maybe I've got a lot on my mind. When you're working or out hunting this fall don't do either. No scatter gunning when you're afield and keep your mind focused on your work. It's the only safe way to work and play.



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Member Feature...



L-R: Bill Hettver, John Osvold, and Shawn Tibbetts of Hettver Logging.

Open-Minded

Bill Hettver of Hettver Logging has found that keeping an open mind in a variety of ways has helped his business survive and thrive.

by Ray Higgins

With overcast skies spending another day hovering over the area surrounding Brainerd, Bill Hettver continues to slash timber. Soaking rains that have been hovering over Minnesota this week bypassed Hettver's logging job site for a change. He's currently working on private land with 700 cords of mostly aspen, with a truckload or two of jackpine, birch, and maple

mixed in. Sure, there has been a raindrop or two over the last day or so, but not nearly enough to stop production. That's a rare occurrence during the wet summer and fall of 2014.

"We had a wet June," Hettver says. "One of the wettest Junes, and even the middle of August. I've never seen water sitting like that. We didn't cut much wood because

of it."

Hettver isn't alone. Constant rain has kept many of Minnesota's logging workforce out of the woods this year, leaving a shortage of harvested timber for makers of paper, building products, and fire wood. As a result, high demand for a variety of species is keeping loggers like Hettver busy.

That's the way he likes it.



After slashing raw aspen into hundred-inch lengths, Bill Hettver piles the timber with a Serco 170-A slasher/loader so it can be easily loaded onto trucks for transport to market.

Growing up on a dairy farm not far from here taught Hettver how to work hard. When he graduated from Brainerd High School in 1983, he enlisted in the Marines. After four years of service, including substantial time on a ship in the Mediterranean Sea, he returned to the Brainerd area, looking for work. Fortunately, his neighbor's father was just getting into the logging business and was looking for help, so Bill joined him in the woods.

"I didn't know anything about logging before I got into it," Hettver says. "There weren't a lot of loggers around Brainerd at that time. I started out hand falling and limbing by hand."

After a couple of years of that, Hettver and a co-worker started their own logging business with a chainsaw and a Tree Farmer cable skidder. After a couple of years, Hettver split from his partner and continued on his own. Markets weren't hard to come by at that point. Hettver was able to sell his wood through a broker in the area.

"We always sold the wood through someone until probably the

mid-to-late '90s," Hettver says. "My first contract was with Trus Joist in Deerwood, and my second contract was with Potlatch."

That was when Potlatch still owned and operated the Cloquet paper mill, and Hettver supplied

aspen pulp. He also had hardwood markets for grade logs and fire wood.

At the time, Hettver had two employees and one piece of equipment: John Osvold worked full time running the Timberjack



Harvested aspen pulp at Hettver's job site southeast of Brainerd.



Hettver harvests jack pine with a John Deere 843H feller buncher.

cable skidder, and Shawn Tibbetts helped with limbing during the winter months. Hettver would hand fall and limb the timber, and buck the pile into 8-foot lengths. Eventually, Osvold decided to leave the company and start his own hauling business.

After Osvold left, Hettver

purchased a slasher and a hot saw. He hired Jim Stirewalt to operate the slasher and hot saw and Hettver continued to skid and delimb the timber. Stirewalt worked with Hettver for roughly 10 years before retiring.

At that point, Hettver had a decision to make. Business was

tough, with margins very tight. He decided that rather than replacing Stirewalt, he'd handle the falling and slashing himself, and asked Tibbetts to work with him full time to focus on skidding and delimiting. So now it's a two-man woods operation.

"That really kept me in the game the last few years when things were really tough," Hettver says. "Now I'll run the hot saw after work, or a lot of times on the weekends. I'll work early Saturday until 10 or 11 in the morning, early Sunday morning until 10 or 11, and then 3-4 days after work. So normally the buncher is sitting. In average wood, that buncher should only run about two hours a day, 10 or 15 hours a week total. If we're in a really nice patch of timber, or with a short skid, I can do the slashing and the bunching all in the same nine- or 10-hour period during the day and still maintain our four semi loads per day."

It's that creative thinking and the ability to be open minded when it comes to new ideas and concepts that has allowed Hettver Logging to succeed.

In fact, with a two-man operation, Hettver's business might be



Shawn Tibbetts of Hettver Logging hand limbs aspen.



After delimiting the tree-length aspen, Tibbetts uses a John Deere 648H skidder to bring the wood to the landing for slashing and hauling.

well-suited to convert from a conventional logging operation to a cut-to-length system with only a processor and forwarder to harvest and handle wood. It's certainly crossed his mind.

"I've been entertaining that idea," Hettver says. "That's still possible down the road. But the main thing I see on cut-to-length is that in order to handle those hardwood trees, those bigger hardwoods where they flip them over and limb them, it takes one really big machine, and that would require a huge investment."

Another option would be to grow the company and increase production, but Hettver has decided against that.

"I don't see the benefit to that," he says. "Right now I can stay small. I'm small enough where I could sell tomorrow if I had to, and go to work some place and not lose everything. When you get bigger, you're at everybody's mercy. There are a lot of benefits to it, but downsides, too."

Staying smaller keeps the business

more nimble, in that he can more easily adjust to meet changing market conditions. For example, in recent years Hettver has had a contract with Sappi, with Forester Patrick Galdonik, buying roughly 70 percent of Hettver's stumpage on behalf of Sappi. That wood is delivered to the mill's wood yards in Baxter and Cloquet. In addition, he's developed good markets producing hardwoods for Amish pallet mills in the area, as well as grade hardwoods for mills like Hawkins, and pine for Potlatch's Bemidji mill.

However, this year's brutally cold winter, followed by an unusually wet summer, as hampered production throughout Minnesota's north woods, so companies like Sappi are clamoring for as much timber as they can get from producers like Hettver. As a result, he's cutting as much aspen pulp as he can, while still accommodating his other markets.

"Now that the mills are running low on wood," Hettver says, "I'm almost all aspen. Otherwise I cut

about 70 percent aspen and then also take care of my other markets. The Amish treat me very well and I stick with them. They never forget who I am. That means a lot to me. We've been working with them for quite a few years now."

The shortage of harvested timber in the state is also affecting the state's firewood supply. Loggers who have had time to cut firewood in the past are now being asked to cut more aspen for consuming mills.

"Firewood is hot and heavy right now," Hettver says. "We get calls every day. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to get into the woods where these hardwood sales are. It's too wet."

Hettver has never found it necessary to invest in a stroke delimitter to round out his conventional logging operation. Tibbetts hand-limbs the timber, and that works just fine for them.

"If you're cutting decent aspen," Hettver says, "it isn't that bad limbing it. The delimitter's just an extra rig you have to move around, and as far as I'm concerned for my

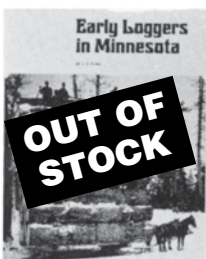


John Osvold heads for Sappi's Baxter yard with a full load of aspen harvested by Hettver Logging.

Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I



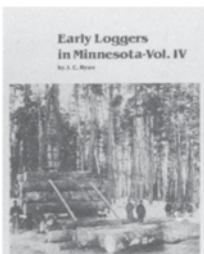
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production, it's not cost effective."

Hettver has also seen the return of Osvold to help out in the woods, but this time as a contract trucker with his own company. Osvold now handles hauling the harvested timber either to Sappi's Baxter and Cloquet yards, Potlatch, Hawkins, the Amish or any other market.

So Hettver is optimistic with markets getting better over the past few months, and obviously he hopes business stays that way. He's not sure what the future holds, but he does know that as usual, he'll have to be open-minded about opportunities that may come his way.

"I expect I'll keep doing about the same thing I'm doing right now," Hettver says. "Maybe I'll update equipment as I go along, not really changing too much. But it's been tough out here until just recently. Some new markets have come online. Right now you can get rid of everything again. I've survived for 25 years, but you have to be open minded. You have to look at everything today. Things have changed so much out here."

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North Star Expo Returns to Bemidji

The 61st North Star Expo returned to a familiar location, but at a new venue.

The community of Bemidji – the home of Paul Bunyan – has a history of welcoming the Expo with open arms, and this time the event was held at the Sanford Center. Normally the venue is used for hockey games and concerts; with more than \$20 million in logging equipment on hand, the Sanford Center was converted into the center of the state’s timber industry, with parking lot, concourse, and arena floor filled with the latest and greatest in machines for the logging, trucking, and sawmill industries.

As usual, the Expo was again the place for those inside the logging and forest products industries to meet, greet, and compare notes. In addition, the Expo also gave the general public – including over 100 school kids from Bemidji – the opportunity to see first-hand the importance of logging to

Minnesota’s economy. That’s why we call the North Star Expo, “The Great Minnesota Logging Get-

together.”

Here’s a rundown of the events of the 61st Annual North Star Expo:



In the competition for **Best “Large Lot”** (aside from the large equipment vendors), Adam Sutherland of the TPA Expo Committee (R) presents Terry Pearson (L) and Brian Shaver of Pomp’s Tire with the blue ribbon. Rice Blacksmith was the runner-up, while Pit & Quarry’s display finished third.



In the **Best Display – Large Equipment** competition, Ponsse North America, with its location in the center of the Sanford Center’s arena floor, captured the blue ribbon. Nortrax took second place, while RDO Vermeer and Ziegler Cat tied for third.




In the **Best Indoor Booth** competition, Sam Evans of Don Evans Insurance (R) receives top honors from the Expo Committee’s Adam Sutherland. Promaxx and Mid States Equipment shared second place honors.



In the **Loader Contest**, call it a “6-peat” for Matt Lundberg (L) of Lundberg Forest Products in Solway. Lundberg posted the fastest time for the sixth year in a row, at 3:21.68. Finishing second was Jason Roach of Greg Cook Logging, while Matt’s father Dan Lundberg (R) wound up third. However, Dan’s time of 4:01.34 was good enough to win the **Master Loader Competition**, for “more seasoned” entrants.

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UPM Blandin Mill manager Joe Maher is certainly tough to beat in the **Celebrity Loader Competition**. Maher topped the field for the second straight year. This year's contestants included (L-R): Maher, Bemidji Mayor Rita Albrecht, meteorologist Dave Anderson of KBJR-6 and Range-11, and Minnesota DNR Forestry Director Forrest Boe.



would like to *Thank* everyone who stopped by our **Booth #40** at the *North Star Expo* held at Bemidji Sanford Center on *Sept 12 - 13, 2014!*

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Mike Rieger (L) and driver Paul Tjepkes of Rieger Logging with their winning entry in this year's **Best Load Competition**. The Rieger entry was sponsored by UPM Blandin. Fond du Lac Logging provided the second place entry, while Greg Cook Logging finished third. This year's best load competition featured a total of six entries!

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Pahtynn Glennie of International Falls (L) and Abrianna Hasbargen of Birchdale (R), show off their winning entries in the Expo Coloring Contest. For her entry in the Ages 6 and under division, Pahtynn received a blue ribbon and an art kit. Second place went to Joseph Wacholtz of Goodhue, while Isaac Whitefeather received third prize. Abrianna also received a blue ribbon and an art kit for her winning entry in the Ages 7-9 division, followed by Hunter Svaleson and Josie Wearne. In the category for kids aged 10 to 12, Jocelyn Klocek of Ranier earned the blue ribbon, followed by Jazlynn Svaleson and Isaniah Baker. The top three in each category received ribbons, while each winner was awarded an art kit.

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Again this year, local teachers brought their classes to the Expo to learn about the importance of logging in our state. More than 100 6th graders from Bemidji schools visited the Sanford Center to get an up-close look at a wide variety of the equipment Minnesota's logging professionals use to manage our state's forests, as well as learn about the important role loggers play in proper forest management.

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In the **Guess the Weight Competition**, Matt Lundberg of Solway's guess of 88,820 pounds was the closest to the actual weight of 89,620 to capture the \$50 prize.

In other competitions, the **Wood Identification Contest** was won on Friday by Shawn Linder and by Robert E. Morris of Duluth on Saturday. Each won \$25.

Next Year

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



Shortly before the opening of the 61st Annual North Star Expo, vendors on the arena floor of the Sanford Center get ready to greet visitors to Minnesota's largest logging equipment show.



Bemidji Schools Superintendent Jim Hess (with microphone) visited the Expo to show his appreciation for the role area loggers played in cleaning up blown-down timber in the district's school forests after the 2012 Beltrami County wind event. White Brothers Logging and Rieger Logging both were each presented plaques by Superintendent Hess at a news conference at the Expo. Lakeland Public TV covered the presentation and ran a story during its evening news.



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Governor Visits Expo

As part of the 61st North Star Expo, roughly 50 stakeholders from Minnesota's forest products industry gathered to discuss issues with Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton. The event was a joint meeting of the Bemidji Area Forestry Affairs Committee and the Grand Rapids Forestry Affairs Committee, which include loggers, mill personnel, state legislators, DNR foresters, and officials from county land departments and the U.S. Forest Service, as well as chamber of commerce representatives from both communities.

Gov. Dayton led the discussion on what state government can do to assist in ensuring the health of the timber industry.

Input from attendees was wide ranging. Among the most pointed comments was from Potlatch mill manager Pete Aube, who told the governor of the importance of logging companies to our state's economy as well as to the health of the forest.

"These loggers are the heroes of the forest," Aube told the Governor. "We need more of them and the state needs to do what it can to keep them healthy."

Governor Dayton vowed to stay engaged on issues affecting the industry, and also said he is looking forward to the report from the Industry Competitiveness Task Force, scheduled to be released later this year.



Among those attending the meeting with Governor Dayton at the North Star Expo was Potlatch mill manager Pete Aube, who told the group, "loggers are the heroes of the forest."



Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton discusses the health of the timber industry with industry stakeholders.



TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt (L) and Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton discuss the current health of the timber industry during the Governor's visit to the North Star Expo.

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



New this year at the Expo was a Friday night Reception on the Club Level of the Sanford Center. More than 200 attendees were treated to free hors d'oeuvres (chicken wings, homemade chips, and a mashed potato bar with all the toppings), and a cash bar, as well as dozens of door prizes donated by Expo vendors. The Expo received excellent support from several sponsors who helped underwrite the event:

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TPA would also like to thank Dave Chura for taking the Expo photos you see in this issue of the *Bulletin*.

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TPA Submits Comments on Northern Long-Eared Bat

In comments submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt argued against listing the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) as a threatened or endangered species. "Active forest management practices are essential for providing a variety of forest habitats for the northern long-eared bat," Brandt wrote in comments submitted in August. "Forest management benefits many wildlife species, including NLEBs. The likelihood of damaging a roost tree during forest management activities is small, while benefits of forest management are well documented."

The Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed listing the NLEB and received comments on the proposal through August 29, 2014. TPA and other forest industry groups oppose the listing because the proposed rule includes timber harvesting among the threats to the bat. That's because the bats roost in trees during the summer months. However, all sides agree that the major cause of reduction of northern long-eared bat populations is a fungus called "white-nose syndrome" which infects the bats and spreads while they hibernate in caves during the winter time. It has proven to be fatal up to 99% of the time in bats in other parts of the country. Still, because timber harvests affect the bat's summertime habitat, the USFWS says restricting timber harvest during summer months is among the steps it may take if the bat is listed as endangered.

Among the points made in TPAs comments:

- Standing dead/cull/cavity trees greater than 11 inches – where NLEB typically roost – throughout the NLEB range increased 17% in Minnesota between 2003 and 2013. A similar trend can be reported among live trees.
- Minnesota is among many states that have forest management



guidelines that mitigate the impacts of timber harvest on wildlife. Implementation of these guidelines is monitored by the Minnesota DNR, and compliance among loggers is strong.

- In addition to the guidelines, Minnesota has more than 8 million acres of forestland certified by third party groups such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).
- The amount of forestland in Minnesota has been increased 6 percent since 1977. Harvest rates are roughly one third of annual timberland growth. At current harvest levels, the number of trees in Minnesota will continue to increase.
- Based on harvest levels in Minnesota, the fact that less than one percent of our forestland is harvested each year, and that fewer trees are harvested in the summer months, "the probability of harvesting a NLEB roost tree is significantly small, less than one-tenth of a percent."

Brandt's comments also discussed the economic impact if summer

timber harvests are impacted by a potential NLEB listing.

"This recommendation in the guidance document is essentially asking the forests products industry, its employees, and loggers to take six months off during the year," Brandt wrote. "The economic impacts to the rural forest-based economies would be devastating. The forest products industry relies on a reliable year-round supply of timber resources. This recommendation, if in the final ruling, will eliminate the forest products industry in many of the states within the NLEB range."

A decision on whether to list the bat will be made by April 5, 2015.

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TPA Editorial on Bat Carried by State Newspapers

TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt wrote the following opinion piece on the northern long-eared bat issue and its potential effects on the state's forest products industry. The piece, or versions of it, ran in several newspapers statewide, including the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Duluth News Tribune, and the Mesabi Daily News.

If you contracted a disease that had a 99 percent mortality rate every winter, what would you rather have experts do: immediately find a treatment for it, or remodel where you might reside next summer, even though it's unlikely you'd still be alive?

If you think there's just one logical choice, be glad you're not a Northern Long-Eared Bat.

These bats now die in great numbers every winter, and there's no disagreement about how and where: from a disease discovered in caves only as recently as 2006. But rather than focusing on disease prevention and treatment, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeks to make ill-conceived changes to the bats' summertime habitat as part of a proposal to list the Northern Long-Eared Bat as an endangered species ("Devastating bat fungus could fell timber industry," Aug. 19).

Such action would do nothing to address what ails these bats, but it would harm a forest-products industry that provides excellent products and employment across America, including 30,000 jobs in Minnesota.

More than 5.5 million bats have died during the past eight years in 25 states and five

Canadian provinces. This isn't due to farming, wind turbines, forest management or other reasons, but to white-nose syndrome. This fungal disease, which thrives in the low temperatures and high humidity common in caves where bats hibernate, has killed 99 percent of bat populations in parts of the Northeast, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service's own data.

So what does the Northern Long-Eared Bat's summer habitat, which includes forest land in Minnesota and elsewhere, have to do with fungus in wintertime caves? While the Fish and Wildlife Service acknowledges that white-nose syndrome, for which there is yet no cure, is the cause of the bats' diminishing population, it wants to create ways to enhance the population in non-hibernating months.

And since Northern Long-Eared Bats like to roost underneath bark or in crevices of both live and dead trees during the summer, the Fish and Wildlife Service's preliminary guidance to federal agencies identifies regulation of forest practices as a way to accomplish this.

Among its recommendations are to prohibit summertime forest-management activities within a 5-mile radius of "hibernacula" (the caves in which bats hibernate) and within a 1.5-mile radius of actual and potential roost trees that are 3 inches in diameter or larger.

If you drew 1.5-mile-radius circles around Minnesota trees larger than 3 inches in diameter, you'd find very little of the state left outside of those circles.

If these recommendations are imposed, Minnesota timber-

harvesting activities could occur only during the winter while bats are hibernating, effectively shutting down the forest-products industry.

Are such drastic steps necessary? Of course not. In Minnesota, less than 1 percent of forest land is harvested each year, so bat habitat will always remain plentiful. In fact, our state's effective forest-management techniques actually provide new habitat opportunities for these bats.

There's no question that bats are important to our ecosystem. They disperse seeds and consume damaging agricultural pests, helping keep our crops healthy. A single bat can eat up to 1,200 mosquitoes in an hour. We need bats.

The solution is not to handcuff the forest-products industry; it's to find a cure for white-nose syndrome. Just last month, Bat Conservation International and the Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy were the latest to take up this challenge, awarding \$97,000 in grants for research into the disease. The Fish and Wildlife Service needs to quickly explore and help fund additional efforts to eliminate white-nose syndrome.

Because right now, no matter what happens in the summer, up to 99 percent of Northern Long-Eared Bat populations will continue to succumb to white-nose syndrome in the winter. If the Fish and Wildlife Service wants to keep this bat from being further imperiled, its focus should be on the disease, not the trees.

Legislative Auditor Completes Report on DNR Forestry

The Minnesota DNR's Division of Forestry "operates within a framework that supports the division's responsibility to manage state forest land sustainably and for multiple uses," according to a report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor in August.

In April 2013, Minnesota's Legislative Audit Commission directed the Legislative Auditor to evaluate DNR forest management. The process began in November of last year, focusing on the Division of Forestry's management of state-owned lands.

Among the report's findings:

- Direct appropriations to the Forestry Division, excluding those for land and easement acquisition, dropped between 2008 and 2012 and remain below their 2008 level.
- Interdisciplinary forest resource management planning by the DNR divisions of Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, and Ecological and Water Resources contributes to management that satisfies multiple uses sustainably.
- Independent, third-party forest management certification and use of best-practice guidelines also support management for multiple uses over the long term.
- The Forestry Division's forest management database is inadequate to support some on-the-ground activities and fully monitor progress toward achieving forest management goals.

As a result, the report recommends:

- DNR should accelerate implementation of changes to forest management policies only when it is essential.
- DNR should prioritize resources to improve monitoring of forest resource management plans.
- The Forestry Division should determine criteria for identifying underperforming loggers and expand options to



penalize them. The report also acknowledges the multiple uses of our state's forests and the importance of forest health, not only to the environment and for recreation, but also to the health of our state's economy.

"Forest management includes activities undertaken to affect the health and growth of forests to achieve a desired outcome," the report says. "These activities can contribute to the economy, create habitat for wildlife, support diverse plant and animal life, lessen fire risk, and promote forest health. For example, an aspen timber harvest may provide employment for a logger, raw material for a paper mill, and make room for young forest that provides habitat for ruffed grouse and golden-winged warblers."

The report also found that independent, third-party forest certification validates what DNR's forest management considers multiple uses and sustainability, and that the DNR's commitment

to follow best-practice guidelines developed by the Minnesota Forest Resources Council further supports its sustainable forest management.

The report also addresses concerns from some DNR staff that "underperforming loggers" create inefficiency. The report says, "Forestry Division staff indicated that the vast majority of loggers who operate on state forest land comply with guidelines and timber sale specifications and leave the harvest site in good condition. However, several staff indicated that the small number of loggers who do not operate to these standards require significantly more supervision and guidance than others."

The report also points out that direct appropriations to the Division of Forestry were lower in 2014 than they were in 2008, presumably making its missions of managing Minnesota's forests more difficult. The complete report can be found online at <http://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/ped/2014/forestmgmt.htm>.

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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.

St. Louis County

August 21 – Sealed Bid

Aspen pulpwood	\$37.81	NA
Birch pulpwood	\$22.28	NA
Balsam fir pulpwood	\$12.17	NA
Tamarack pulpwood	\$ 4.22	NA
Black Spruce pulpwood	\$32.91	NA

18 of the 21 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Cass County

August 28 – Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$26.96	\$27.27
Jackpine	\$32.40	\$44.36
Red Oak	\$27.71	\$33.33

All 8 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Little Falls Area

September 3 – Sealed Bid

Aspen Species (WC)	\$22.26	NA
Norway Pine (WMP)	\$32.85	NA
Paper Birch (WC)	\$ 8.50	NA

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

Koochiching County

September 8 – Oral Auction

Aspen P&B	\$87.32	\$50.30
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All 7 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Little Falls Area

September 11 – Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$27.33	\$13.91
Oak Species (WMP)	\$17.20	\$30.05
Basswood (WMP)	\$ 7.98	\$ 7.59
Aspen Species (WC)	\$14.15	\$15.19

16 of the 38 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Little Falls Area

September 16 & 17 – Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$46.11	\$38.53
Pine Species (WMP)	\$40.57	\$39.23
Spruce-Balsam (WMP)	NA	\$32.07
Aspen Species (WC)	NA	\$32.12

24 of the 25 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Statewide

September 18 – Sealed Bid

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$50.17	NA
Aspen Species (WC)	\$34.26	NA
Paper Birch (WC)	\$ 8.90	NA
Red Oak (WMP)	\$21.63	NA
Balsam Fir (WC)	\$ 9.49	NA

54 of the 58 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Itasca County

September 18 – Oral Auction

Aspen	\$47.15	NA
Red Pine	\$81.09	NA
Paper Birch	\$19.37	NA

All 10 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Cass County

September 25 – Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$28.37	\$24.02
Ash	NA	\$12.25
Red Oak	\$28.36	\$40.83

6 of 7 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Crow Wing County

September 26 – Oral Auction

Aspen	\$20.77	NA
Oak	\$18.81	NA
Birch	\$13.73	NA
Maple	\$13.61	NA

11 of the 16 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Beltrami County

October 7 – Sealed Bid

Aspen Pulp	\$43.96	NA
Jack Pine P&B	\$44.01	NA
Birch Pulp	\$19.97	NA

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

Hubbard County

October 13 – Oral Auction

Aspen Mixed	NA	\$36.11
Oak Mixed	NA	\$32.12
Aspen Pulp	NA	\$43.63
Birch Pulp	NA	\$14.06

All 9 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

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Becker County

October 10 – Oral Auction

Aspen Mixed \$35.48 NA

Birch Mixed \$16.31 NA

Jack Pine \$22.56 NA

All 10 of the tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

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PB = Pulp and Bolts

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WC = Woodsrun cordwood

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Becker County Board Supports Timber Harvesting

Loggers, foresters, conservation groups, and concerned citizens overflowed the Becker County board room in Detroit Lakes in September to show support for the county timber program.

The attendance by these groups, including TPA, was in response to three activists in the county who

were urging the board to impose a moratorium on further harvesting.

Several county residents spoke in favor of continued forest management on county lands, including TPA board member Kelly Kimball. In addition, the county board was reminded that the state of Minnesota actually holds the deed to forestlands in all counties, including in Becker County, and a decision to cease in timber harvests could result in the DNR taking over management activities. In fact, this has happened in Becker County once previously.

In the end, the County Board signaled its support for the forest management without a vote, directing Land Commissioner Marty Wiley to proceed with the October timber auction. The board also said it would hire a new land commissioner when Wiley retires. Wiley also spoke in favor of continued management.

Also among those attending the meeting were TPA board members Dan Lundberg, and Lyle Hodgden.

Hedstrom Lumber Installs Optical Scanner

Hedstrom Lumber in Grand Marais started its second hundred years in business by installing a new optical scanner, allowing the mill to produce more lumber and also remain a strong market for loggers along the North Shore for years to come.

The scanner, manufactured by Nelson Brothers Engineering, uses a laser to examine each log as it enters the mill. The scanner will determine how many pieces of lumber can be produced from each stick, increasing the yield of lumber from those logs.

The mill was down for roughly a week during the installation process and was back in production on October 14.

Company President Howard Hedstrom says the scanner will not only enable the mill to produce more lumber, but he expects the company to see at least a slight increase in the amount of wood it purchases from area loggers. Hedstrom Lumber should also be able to provide its customers with higher quality lumber thanks to the



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new scanner.

"We've made a significant investment in our mill," Hedstrom said. "But it's one that improves the efficiency of our mill, and our profitability. It's good news for Cook County because it helps ensure the mill's viability for years to come. We look forward to continuing to provide high quality products to our customers as our company begins its second hundred years in business.

Hedstrom Lumber celebrated, its 100th anniversary in business in July.

Itasca Community College Focuses on Renewable Biomass Energy

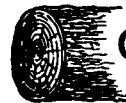
A project that began six years ago with a vision to use forest residue to heat its campus, Itasca Community College is one step closer to making this a reality. For many years the existing wood boiler had been sitting idle. In 2008 and 2009 a pilot study was conducted, using funding from IRRRB and the Blandin Foundation, to identify the feasibility of using woody biomass to reliably heat the campus. Using the wood boiler installed on campus in the 1980s, several area logging companies – M&R Chips, Dick Walsh Forest Products, and Haley Logging – contributed materials for the college to test. Additional biomass materials were supplied to provide a sample of the array of materials generated from the forest from loggers Jim Scheff, Mike Hill, and Kris Anderson.

While the tests proved that woody materials can be a cost-effective alternative to natural gas, the college found that its current boiler was not adequate to handle the array of biomass materials generated directly from the forest.

With a commitment to growing the biofuel industry in Minnesota, the ICC began to seek funding to upgrade its boiler. Since the campus has nearly 200,000 square feet of buildings spread out over 12 acres, it functions much like a small community. This commitment, and the work from Senator Tom Saxhaug (DFL-Grand Rapids) and Representative Tom Anzlec (DFL-Balsam Township), persuaded funding agencies to provide monies to install a new boiler and utilize Itasca Community College as a demonstration site for utilization of forest residue in district heating. While the heat needs of ICC and its use of forest biomass won't substantially affect regional demands for forest residue, it will serve as a model for other

entities, as they look to upgrade heating plants. This will certainly become a showcase for locally produced power and a commitment to support the community that sustains itself.

Based on the current construction schedule, by fall 2015 ICC will begin to heat its campus with "direct from the forest" woody biomass. Currently, the college is seeking loggers who may be interested in supplying biomass fuels. This winter, the college will continue to assist interested suppliers in characterizing the fuels they produce, in terms of size of materials and heat value. If you are interested in more information about this, feel free to contact Brad Jones or Bart Johnson at Itasca Community College.



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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

"Before First Aid Kits Came to Camp"

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*



Today with all the logging companies and loggers setting rigid accident prevention and control programs, I can't help but look back to woods safety in the old days.

Accidents were rare then. I can recall clerking in a 175-man lumber camp where I didn't report an accident during an entire year. In the many years I was associated with my father's logging jobs, I only remember reporting two lost-time accidents.

One was when a group of men were trying to lift a sick horse to its feet and it struggled and fell back on one of the men's feet, breaking it at the ankle. And this was not really a lost-time accident, as the man was back in camp with a cast on his foot within 24 hours. He spent the rest of a winter as night fireman.

The other accident occurred when a top loader slipped on the frost atop a load and fell on a man's shoulder, breaking his upper arm. It was nearly spring, and he was unable to return to work for several months.

Axe cuts as well as saw cuts were rare. And head injuries due to falling limbs or dry tops were very few. Most injuries came during loading or breaking down skidways or decked logs—occasionally a man would be caught by a fast rolling log as high-decked logs were broken down.

Prior to 1919, a first aid kit was never found in a lumber camp. It was only after workmen's insurance laws were passed that insurance companies insisted first aid kits be in every camp. If a man got a scratch or cut, he would apply balsam pitch or a chew of Peerless tobacco to it, and it would heal in a few days. The only medicines sold in the camp commissary were Hinkleys bone liniment, Davis Vegetable pain killer, castor oil, Prunia, Vaseline, Jamaica Ginger, Cascara pills, carbolic salve, and in later years, aspirin tablets. Most camps had more medicine on hand for the horses than they had for the men.

Why there were fewer accidents in the old days, I do not know. But it was probably because men were better trained. It was a bad mark against a man if he allowed himself to get hurt. No one

wanted to hire a careless man, and no one wanted to work with a careless man. Men

took great pride in being able to do a job without having or causing an accident.



Woods workers performed many dangerous jobs, dressed for cold weather and recorded remarkably good "no-lost-time" records.



Classifieds

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

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