

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

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**Bruce Barker Retires
Johnson Logging, Inc.**

TIMBER BULLETIN

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ON THE COVER

Bruce Barker with a trophy walleye from one of his Canadian fishing trips.

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Minnesota Timber Producers Association



In the state legislature this session our main concern is DNR funding for forest management. To keep a healthy forest industry, we need a sustainable forest, which takes good forest management. All the planning in the world is useless if there is no money or personnel to carry out the plans.

As my term as TPA president winds down, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to

President's Column



have served as your president for the last two years and to thank all of you who helped make it an enjoyable experience. It seems like it is

over before it got started. The one constant I learned is there never will be a shortage of forest-related issues.

A constant that will change comes April 30 with Bruce Barker's retirement. Bruce has served us well over the years with his knowledge of the forest industry. The list of his accomplishments is too long for me to include here. The Annual Meeting will be a time to thank him for his years of service and wish him well in his retirement.

This is my last column and so it is time to get off the "soap box" and turn it over the Clarence Johnson of Blackduck, the incoming president of the TPA. When we all show him the support I have enjoyed, I'm sure his next two years will be just as memorable as my last two.

In closing, Remember Safety.

Bruce Barker

Coming Events

Community Meeting to Focus on Forests and You

What: The Cloquet Area Chamber of Commerce and the Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership are cosponsoring a free public meeting titled "Forests and You" to discuss how forest policy issues and forest-based industry impacts the economic and social health and vitality of our communities, businesses and schools in northeastern Minnesota.

When: Tuesday, April 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Where: Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, 2101 14th St., Cloquet, Minn.

Who: A panel of local experts has been assembled to address community-related forest issues that impact our schools, businesses and communities. Presentations will be provided by local business, academic and community leaders, including:

- Jack Rajala, chair, Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership
- David Oberstar, attorney, Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A., and secretary of the Minnesota Bar Association's section council on environmental and natural resources law.
- Jerrold Peterson, economics professor - University of Minnesota, Duluth.
- Milo Rasmussen, Carlton

- County land commissioner.
- Tom Murn, resource manager - Potlatch Corp.
- Del Prevost, president, Members Cooperative Credit Union

Meeting Note: Refreshments will be served.

First CTL Timber Harvester Class

Cut-to-length (CTL) metric system conversion, simulator training, hydraulics, electronics, preventative maintenance, safety, management, environmental control and bucking for grade are all part of the curriculum for students taking part in a special six-week course at M-TEC, the Michigan Technical Education Center in Escanaba, Mich.

Bill Nelson, an industrial trainer at M-TEC, said, "The shortage of operators is at an extreme. Our Harvester Simulator provides a student operator 'virtual reality' as close as technology allows to train without exposing them to the hazards of on the job training."

"There are many eyes watching our pilot program," he continued. "We are very confident the results will be positive for potential employers to support our future classes."

A participating student should be 30 to 40 percent efficient as an operator upon completion of the CTL training.

Reprinted from *Central Woodlands* magazine, Vol. 4, No. 4, 2000/2001.

Mark your calendars for the

Minnesota Timber Producers Association

Annual Membership Meeting

Friday, April 27, 2001

Spirit Mountain • Duluth, Minn.

Mark your calendars for Friday, April 27, and get your tickets early for the TPA Annual Meeting and banquet.

The banquet has the makings of one of the more memorable events in recent years. We will be honoring our retiring assistant vice president Bruce Barker for his career in the association and in forestry.

Executive Vice President's

Column



Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Patrick Moore. Dr.

Moore was a founder of Greenpeace and has some very interesting perspectives on forestry,

environmental organizations and where it all fits in the bigger scheme of the world. Dr. Moore's appearance is graciously being sponsored by our sister organization, Minnesota Forest Industries.

DNR Commissioner Allen Garber will make a presentation on his Forest Vision and the upcoming Forest Summit. Other speakers will include Rick Horton from the Roughed Grouse Society, a panel of speakers on bio-diesel, Tom Wagner, deputy supervisor of the Superior National Forest and others. All in all, a top notch lineup.



Congratulations to the Roughed Grouse Society and their local biologist Rick Horton on their recent conference on the ecology of young forests. A lineup of national speakers and over 200 attendees made this a very important event.

Interesting that a high level conference like this gets no coverage from the local media, including the Duluth News-Tribune. It makes you wonder what kind of coverage a conference about old forests would have garnered. We're not paranoid - but . . . ?



The budget news out of the DNR

Division of Forestry is brutal. They currently have 23 vacancies in their field staff and project that another 30 vacancies will occur under the current budget for a total of 53 positions.

The commissioner's office has announced that a number of Division of Forestry recreation programs will be transferred to other divisions but that the dollars will remain with forestry. This will help some but still leave a large hole. The department has also pledged that they will continue to offer their current level of timber sales and that timber management will be a top priority.

However, the timber sales program is 200,000 cords per year less than the DNR's own management plans. The statewide total of the timber sales volumes in the DNR's area plans is 820,000 cords per year. Last year they sold 620,000 cords, up from 535,000 cords the year before.

In addition to this annual shortfall, we estimate that there are over one million cords of backlog. This is made up of the annual shortfalls in recent years. Division of Forestry staff indicate that the backlog is around 800,000 cords. Anyway you look at it, both the backlog and the annual shortfalls are huge.

So what's the solution? Money! The DNR timber sale program makes a profit for the state. Some of this profit goes to the Permanent School Trust Fund, which helps fund our schools. The rest goes into the state General Fund. The only way it goes back into managing forest resources is if the legislature appropriates it to the DNR.

TPA is leading the charge to increase the DNR timber sale program and get the funding to do it. A number of legislators understand that the Division of Forestry is in a crisis. They also understand that there is a crisis in timber availability. Not trees growing in the forest, but timber on the market.

Legislation is being considered this year at the State Capitol to deal with this funding crisis. In the Senate, SF 1151 is chief authored by Sen. Becky Lourey. Co-authors include Sens. Doug Johnson, Roger

Moe, Bob Lessard and Dennis Frederickson. The House companion for this legislation is HF 1235, whose chief author is Rep. Mark Holsten. Co-authors include Reps. Larry Howes, Tom Bakk, Loren Solberg and Jim Knoblach.

If you want to help, call or write these legislators and your local legislators and tell them how important this issue is. If you need names, addresses or telephone numbers, call the TPA office.



Spring break-up is here and we finally had a winter. It's about time. Logging conditions were as good as we've seen in a number of years. And, I'm proud to say, all reports indicate that we had a safe winter. The ongoing attention to safety by our members is the reason for this.



Finally, my hat goes off to the dozen DNR field staffers who took vacation time to go to St. Paul to talk to legislators about increasing timber sales and the staffing crisis in the Division of Forestry. They did it on their own time and their own dime. Thank you!

Forest's Lessons Touch Family, State; Forest Includes Millionth Acre in Stewardship Program

In the 1980s, Dan and Vicki Knapp of Sandstone never realized the impact that their purchase of hunting land would have on their lives or the state of Minnesota.

The Knapps' Sandstone hunting land included the one millionth acre of privately owned woods to be included in the Forest Stewardship Program in Minnesota. About 800 landowners and their foresters celebrated the millionth acre milestone of the Forest Stewardship Program

Saturday in Duluth.

"We thought we were buying land," Vicki Knapp said. "We have come to realize that we really have only bought the right to care for the land, because 100 years from now we won't be here. Land ownership really truly is stewardship."

For years the Knapps searched for forest management ideas for their land. Then they heard about the Forest Stewardship Program, a voluntary program that provides professional forestry advice to private landowners with 20 or more acres of land. Landowners work with private and public forestry experts to improve the recreational, wildlife and economic benefits of their land, while at the same time protecting natural

resources.

Through the Forest Stewardship Program, the Knapps learned about stewardship, how to provide for the wildlife on their land, and how to manage the land they had come to love. In the Knapps' case, a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) forester met them at their land, listened to their goals, and prepared a stewardship plan that combines the families goals with the capacity of the land.

"It was exactly what we were looking for," Dan Knapp said. "The DNR gave us a detailed plan and valuable resource materials that we could follow to properly manage the forest. Now, we are in the process of making that plan a reality. This plan makes us better landowners."

The Knapps' new appreciation for the land, the forest and its wildlife are being passed on to their grandchildren. They often take their grandchildren on trail walks through the forest. Vicki's grandchildren tug on her hand to explore the forest. During their adventures, they find bird nests, critter's homes and animal tracks. Much of the knowledge they pass on to their grandchildren they learned through the Forest Stewardship Program.

"It actually instills a sense of stewardship through the generations," Vicki Knapp said.

About 40 percent of the total forested land in Minnesota – that's 6.1 million acres – is in private ownership. "By providing technical advice and working with landowners, we can make a significant contribution to the conservation of natural resources in Minnesota," said Tom Kroll, DNR Forest Stewardship coordinator.

The Forest Stewardship Program in Minnesota is a cooperative effort between the Minnesota DNR and the USDA Forest Service. The program is enhanced by its partners, including University of Minnesota Extension Service, forestry consultants, forest industries, conservation groups and local units of government. For more information regarding the Forest Stewardship Program, call Tom Kroll at DNR Forestry 651-296-5970 or visit the DNR Web site at www.foreststeward.org.

North Star Expo

July 27 & 28, 2001

Ironworld Discovery Center

Chisholm, Minnesota

TPA Truck Driver Workshops – 2001

Our Truck Driver Workshops are presently underway. The one in Winona has been completed. There were 17 drivers in attendance. Dick Bahl, Root River Hardwoods, provided a truck for the workshop. Dave Amundson, Lumbermans Underwriters Alliance, and Dick Olson, Boise Cascade Corp., did an excellent job of putting on the workshop. This year we have two new participants providing part of the program. Dan O'Dowd, CATCO, has an excellent program on transmissions and shifting and brakes. The Minnesota Department of Transportation is presenting a program on Construction Zone Safety which was well received at the Winona workshop.

By the time you receive this issue the other two workshops at Hackensack and Grand Rapids will have been completed.



Winona truck driver workshop. Walk around inspection always stimulates discussion.

Barker Has Carved Out a Legacy During His Years with TPA

by Bill Beck
Lakeside Writers' Group

The fall of 1985 was a tough time in northern Minnesota. The taconite industry on the Mesabi Range was slowly recovering from one of its most difficult periods since the Great Depression, and the forest products industry was learning to live with society's increasingly strict interpretation of environmental regulations.

R. Bruce Barker came to Duluth from International Falls that October to lend his expertise to the staff of Minnesota Forest Industries and the Minnesota Timber Producers Association. For the past 15 plus years, Bruce Barker has been an effective voice for the Minnesota forest products industry, both on the logging sites across Minnesota and in the state office complex in St. Paul.

"Bruce has been my strong right arm for better than a decade now," says Wayne Brandt, executive vice president of the Association. "Even when we're stretched to the limit handling one crisis after another, Bruce is always optimistic about the outcome, always cheerful about the things he's working on."

Barker was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. and grew up on military bases around the world. He graduated from high school in Falls Church, Virginia and continued his education by graduating from the Forestry School at the University of West Virginia. He worked for the Wyoming Department of Forestry from 1964 to 1974 as the state's first district forester. Barker joined Boise Cascade in 1974 at Osage, Wyoming and transferred to Boise's International Falls mill five years later.

Russ Allen hired Barker in 1985. "Bruce represented Boise on the MFI Legislative Committee," Allen recalls. "We needed someone who was both a good forester and a good people person. He was the logical guy."

Allen adds that Barker "was



Bruce with Dave Epperly, St. Louis County land commissioner, and TPA President Ray Killmer.

always very competent with timber sale laws and regulations. He was a sharp guy and related very well to the loggers."

Over the years, Allen learned to lean on "Bruce's ability to handle details of very technical subjects. I thought quite highly of him. He was a tremendous asset to the Association. And Wayne immediately recognized Bruce's value when he succeeded me."

'He Knew Everybody in the Industry'

Tom McCabe, Sr. was elected president of MTPA several months after Barker came aboard. McCabe remembers being impressed both by Barker's knowledge of timber law and his easy familiarity with most of TPA's members.

"Bruce has spent a lot of time since the beginning visiting the loggers," McCabe says. "He got out into the field, wrote those articles for the *Bulletin*, and met the loggers in the woods. I think Bruce knew everybody in the industry."

McCabe also pays tribute to

Barker's sometimes encyclopedic knowledge of state and federal timber law. "Actually, one of his biggest contributions was that he just had a lot of knowledge about timber laws," McCabe notes. "We were always dealing with the U.S. Forest Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and Bruce was very knowledgeable and very helpful in those areas."

Current TPA President Ray Killmer has known Barker for 20 years, dating back to the days in the early 1980s when Barker was a government affairs representative for Boise Cascade in International Falls. "The DNR was going to preserve peatlands in Koochiching and Beltrami Counties back in the early 1980s," Killmer says. "That's where I first met Bruce."

Killmer echoes many of McCabe's sentiments about Barker's knowledge of the industry and contacts with those who work in the woods. "He's always been a good go-between," Killmer explains. "He's just pretty knowledgeable all the way around



Getting ready for a new legislative session.

on forestry issues. And everybody in the logging industry knew Bruce and understood him. He has this full understanding of all the logging systems in use today.”

But Killmer adds that Barker brought far more than forestry knowledge and logger friendships to the table for the Association. “Bruce is a guy who wore a lot of hats over the years,” Killmer points out. “He’s been our truck regulations guy forever. He’s got a real good working relationship with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He could talk to them anytime, and they’d listen to him.”

Killmer adds that Barker has been a critical component to the success of any number of TPA programs over the years, including the truck drivers’ workshops, the

Association’s drug testing program, and the annual North Star Expo.

“He’s trained an awful lot of our truckers over the years,” agrees Russ Allen. “You have to be around awhile to understand trucking regulation and hauling laws the way that Bruce does.”

The Brewster

Bruce Barker’s friendships go well beyond the forest products industry. He’s an avid black powder practitioner and hunter and has made friends who are devotees of that arcane science all over the Midwest and Canada. He has always loved the outdoors, whether hunting elk in the mountains of Wyoming or trying his luck with Lake Trout in the Canadian wilderness 500 miles north of Duluth.

Jim Roberts has been going fishing with Barker – who he affectionately calls the Brewster – for most of the past 15 years. Roberts, now the vice president for corporate relations at Allete in Duluth, says Barker is “just a great guy.” Roberts can talk for hours about the fly-in trips he, Barker and four other local power company and industrial executives take north at least once a year.

There’s the story about Barker’s famous zip-off trouser/shorts, and the tale of Bruce’s battle last year on a Manitoba lake with a monster Lake Trout that snapped the rod in two and left Bruce laughing and holding the reel, reel



Bruce and a fishing buddy showing off their catch-of-the-day.

seat and little else.

Roberts remembers the time that he and Bruce were headed back across a portage in the Canadian bush ahead of threatening weather, only to be stopped in their tracks by a cow moose guarding the portage trail and her two calves. Roberts and Barker waited for 90 minutes for the three moose to move on, and by that time the storm had unleashed thunder, lightning, driving rain and five-foot waves.

“Bruce just shrugged, pulled on his rain gear, found a relatively dry spot under a couple of big spruce trees and promptly fell asleep,” Roberts laughs. “I did the same thing and just had the most restful nap in the pouring rain.”

Dr. David Hoffman, retired vice president of environmental affairs for Plainfield, Indiana-based PSI Energy, is another longtime fishing buddy. “I always look forward to the week with Bruce because he’s such an interesting guy,” Hoffman says. “Plus, he makes the best jerky in the world.”

Allete’s Jim Roberts seconds Hoffman’s observations. “A lot of people don’t know it,” he says, “but Bruce is an international kind of guy. He lived in Japan. He’s been everywhere. We’ll be talking about the best bait for Lake Trout, and all of a sudden, Bruce will be telling us a story about Pericles and Ancient Greece.”

Bruce Barker’s retirement leaves a pair of shoes that the Association will find hard to fill. “I can truthfully say that Bruce will be greatly missed,” says Wayne Brandt.



Bruce handing out door prizes at the North Star Expo.

DaimlerChrysler and Ponsse Start Cooperation

DaimlerChrysler and Ponsse have made an agreement on supplying engines for Ponsse forest machines. Powertrain Unit, a part of DaimlerChrysler Group, will deliver Mercedes-Benz engines for all Ponsse machines starting in January 2001.

The Powertrain unit ranks with

its 20,000 employees and a turnover of U.S. \$3.5 million among the leading manufacturers in the global component business. Its modular product concept meets widely differing application profiles from engines to axles, standard transmissions and steering systems. The biggest customer of the unit is Mercedes-Benz.

"In forest harvesting, the importance of the engine will become more crucial in the future," foresees Jouko Rosenlund, marketing director of Telva Oy, importer of MB engines in Finland. "Supplying a forest machine manufacturer with our engines is a natural choice for DaimlerChrysler even though the company does not manufacture forest machines itself," comments Rosenlund on DaimlerChrysler's appearance in forest machine markets.

"The size of Ponsse as a company, its know-how in IT-business, production capacity, financial development and product range were equal with the properties that DaimlerChrysler wishes for from its partner companies. DaimlerChrysler sees the forest harvesting as a branch with growing capacity," states Rosenlund.

"The control system for Ponsse machines, Opticontrol, requires components whose steering properties are technically demanding. Mercedes-Benz was the only manufacturer to be able to fulfill these requirements according to the time schedule Ponsse needed," states Ponsse factory manager, Heikki Ojala.

"One significant factor was the emission regulations. Since the emission regulations become stricter, it was considered important that the engines succeed in meeting the new standards. Mercedes-Benz had strong experience in this field," Ojala adds.

Mercedes-Benz also gets appreciation due to its product range. The wide range of engines made it possible for Ponsse to find suitable engines from one supplier for all its models. This, in turn, will bring benefits to the customer as well as to the After-Sales operations of the company.

Chippewa National Forest Sales Fall Off the Table

Timber sales on the Chippewa National Forest through the end of March totaled 2.4 million board feet (4,800 cords). An additional 1.4 million board feet are ready to be sold and 14.9 feet have an outside chance of being sold before the fiscal year ends on September 30.

The *Timber Bulletin* reported in the November/December 2000 issue that the Chippewa National Forest intended to offer only 25 million board feet for sale this fiscal year. The latest figures indicate that the Chippewa will be lucky to sell 10 million board feet this year.

"Ten million feet – twenty thousand cords for a whole year means that the Chippewa has shut the doors on its timber management program," said TPA President Ray Killmer. "If they're not going to manage the forest and sell timber, it makes you wonder what their 130 employees are going to do. It doesn't take 130 people to operate the campgrounds and boat launches."

TPA staff has been meeting with the local forest, USFS Region 9 staff and key personnel in the USFS Washington office.

"We have some hope that between the forest supervisor, the region and the Washington office that the Chippewa can get back on track," said TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt. "We have been assured that a plan to turn the Chippewa around will be forthcoming soon. Frankly, this will decide TPA's future course of actions on the Chippewa."

In contrast to the Chippewa, the Superior National Forest has sold over 50 percent of its target volume for the year and has twice the volume necessary to achieve its target in the pipeline.

Johnson Logging, Inc.



Conrad (Connie) Johnson, Johnson Logging, Inc.

use chainsaws for felling and cable skidders to harvest timber. The types of trees they harvest have a much higher value because of their end use as veneer or lumber used for making cabinets and furniture. Conrad is fond of telling other TPA members from northern Minnesota that one or two of his logs are worth more than a truckload of wood from northern Minnesota.

By the first part of April this year there wasn't much logging going on. The mill yard was quite wet and the only logs that were being moved were those that had been

landed close to a main road. With the ground soft there was no opportunity to haul across the farm fields unless you had a death wish.

Last fall Conrad decided to try something new in the woods for his part of the country. He acquired a Timberjack 608L feller buncher with a Timbco head with a 33-inch bar saw. This particular model is the one equipped with the tilt cab which enables the machine to operate on steep slopes while keeping the cab horizontal when felling and bunching the trees. It wasn't long after they started



Carol Johnson, bookkeeper and "boss." Her husband is Connie.

Longtime TPA board member Conrad Johnson, from Cannon Falls, Minn. has been an active participant in various issues addressed by the association, including the development of the logger education program. He is the owner of Johnson Logging, Inc., which along with the logging operation includes a hardwood sawmill that is run by his son Danny. Johnson Logging is involved in all the operations from finding and purchasing the timber to marketing veneer logs and hardwood lumber. As with most operations in southeast Minnesota, they produce several species of hardwood including red oak, white oak, hard and soft maple, walnut and an assortment of other lumber grown in the area.

Most all logging operations in the southern part of the state still



Timberjack 360 grapple skidder with cable winch.



Timberjack 608L hydraulic tilt cab.

operating the machine that Conrad realized that this feller buncher was producing more than they could skid with a cable skidder. The next logical thing to do was to get a skidder that could move the bunched trees faster. They acquired a Timberjack 360 grapple skidder which corrected the problem.

Things were going pretty well until the feller buncher broke down and it took three weeks before it was back in operation. In the meantime they went back to felling with chainsaws. You guessed it. The grapple skidder had no more bunched trees. Not a problem, the skidder was also equipped with a winch and cable. It took a little more time but the logs could be bunched with chokers and the cable winch.

With the increased volume being moved to the landing, bucking became a problem. Normal procedure in southern Minnesota is to skid the trees to the landing and leave them spread out so they can be bucked into the proper log lengths. After trying several different things they settled on using a slasher. This particular one is a CTR Slasher with a 55-inch bar saw in combination with a Prentice loader.

Conrad thinks this operation will work well in southern Minnesota with a three-man crew. He qualified this with the following comments:

- small tracks that are harvested quickly cause excessive moving. This can be minimized if several harvest areas can be located in the same area
- substantial increase in diesel fuel usage over conventional harvest method for this area should be offset by the reduction in number of employees and employee costs
- will require more time to purchase stumpage in order to acquire larger tracts or small tracts that are closer together and to increase volume required.

“ I have not had a chance to put a pencil to this past winter’s operation to really see if this is a better way to go,” said Conrad.



CRT slasher with 55-inch bar saw. Carriage is marked to cut 10-, 12- and 14-foot logs with the bang board horizontal.

Dr. Patrick Moore Keynotes Annual Meeting

Dr. Patrick Moore will be the keynote speaker at the TPA Annual Meeting. The event will take place Friday evening, April 27, at the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area in Duluth.

Dr. Moore has been a leader in the international environmental field for over 25 years. He is a founding member of Greenpeace and served for nine years as president of Greenpeace Canada and seven years as a director of Greenpeace International.

"Dr. Patrick Moore is an important international figure. I think our members will find his ideas very interesting," said TPA President Ray Killmer. "His appearance continues a tradition of high quality keynote speeches at the annual meeting."

Dr. Moore is a provocative speaker whose views have spawned outcries from some in the

international environmental activist organizations.

As chair of the Forest Practices Committee of the Forest Alliance of BC, Dr. Moore leads the process of developing the "Principles of Sustainable Forestry" which have been adopted by a majority of the industry.

In 1995 Dr. Moore published "Pacific Spirit-The Forest Reborn," a photo book that explores the beauty, biodiversity and health of new forests growing back after logging in British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest.

In 1991 Dr. Moore founded Greenspirit, a consultancy focusing on environmental policy and public involvement in the resource and energy sectors.

He holds an Honours B.Sc. in forest biology from the University of British Columbia; a Ph.D. in ecology from the Institute of Resource Ecology at the University of British Columbia in 1972; and a Ford Foundation Fellowship from 1969-1972.

Dr. Moore's appearance at the TPA Annual Meeting is being

sponsored by Minnesota Forest Industries. Arrangements for his speech were made through the Global Speakers Agency.

Nortrax Midwest Receives "Partners in Excellence" Award

Recently John Deere announced Nortrax Equipment Company's Midwest Region as a recipient of the 2000 "Partners in Excellence" Award. Each year dealers from around the world who have achieved market-leading performance in sales and product support are honored by John Deere as "Partners In Excellence." Nortrax has achieved recognition in both categories.

"In order to be recognized as a 'Partner in Excellence,' the dealership must rank in the top of all John Deere Dealers," stated John Deere's commercial operations manager, John Steed. "Nortrax Midwest should be proud of the hard work and effort that went into winning these awards. This is quite an accomplishment!" Tim Murphy, VP/general manager of Nortrax - Midwest commented, "Being selected as a 'Partner in Excellence' winner by John Deere is truly an honor for our company. This level of achievement never could've been attained without the hard work and dedication of our employees to our customers, seven days a week, 365 days a year."

Nortrax Equipment Co. is a leading distributor of John Deere construction and forestry equipment with regional operations in the Upper Midwest, Northeast, and southern Florida. The Midwest Region's office, based in Eau Claire, Wis., coordinates the operation of nine service centers in Bemidji, Duluth, and Grand Rapids, Minn.; Ashland, Eau Claire, Monico, and Schofield, Wis.; and Escanaba and Iron River, Mich. The locations offer sales, parts, and service for John Deere, Hitachi, Timberjack, Fabtek, and Timbco products.

Years Ago

20 YEARS AGO

- Interior Secretary James G. Watt announced in February he will abolish the office he once held, the old Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, now known as the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. In an outline of what he called "deep cuts and funding shifts," Watt also declared a moratorium on further federal land purchases. Most of the Heritage programs will be transferred to a separate departmental entity, outline said.
- The DNR regional headquarters offices at Grand Rapids became fully operational in early March. When fully completed, the site will provide office space for all Grand Rapids DNR employees – the main objective of the legislative appropriation of 1978.
- Starting this fall, sawtimber sales by the 14 national forests in the Eastern Region of the U.S. Forest Service will again be offered in units of 1,000 board feet. Products other than sawtimber will continue to be offered in cubic feet, but the term "cunit" will be discontinued. Further mill scale studies are needed before cubic measure could be adopted in the western states.

30 YEARS AGO

- Superior National Forest Supervisor Craig W. Rupp has been reassigned as assistant to the deputy chief in charge of the National Forest System, in Washington, D. C., headquarters of the U. S. Forest Service.
- Duluth Area Institute of Technology will graduate its second class to successfully complete the forest harvesting technology program.

Alert: Reflective Marking Retrofit Required on Trailers Manufactured before December 1, 1993

The federal Department of Transportation (DOT) is requiring that truck trailers manufactured before Dec. 1, 1993, be retrofitted with reflective tape or reflectors by June 1, 2001.

What Trailers are Covered?

Pole trailers are exempt from this requirement. All other trailers having an overall width of 80 inches+ and a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000+ pounds must comply with this requirement. Many trailers commonly used by the forest products industry (low-

boys, chip vans, rail, frame “two-bunk,” and flatbed trailers) to haul equipment or logs/pulpwood/lumber are covered by these DOT regulations.

Trailers manufactured after Dec. 1, 1993, should already meet the reflective marking standard. However, trailers manufactured before Dec. 1, 1993, and still in use must be retrofitted with either reflective tape or reflectors meeting the following requirements:

For Reflective Tape:

Reflective tape must be at least two (2) inches (50mm) wide and trailers should be marked using a red and white* alternating pattern. Trailers are to be marked in the following manner:

- **Sides** – Place reflective tape horizontally between 15 and 60 inches above the road surface and running the entire length of the trailer (as closely as possible). The tape does not need to be continuous, but must cover at least half of the length of the trailer with evenly spaced gaps between each segment of reflective tape.
- **Lower rear** – Place reflective tape horizontally between 15 and 60 inches above the road surface and running the entire width of the trailer (as closely as possible).
- **Upper rear** – For chip vans, place two strips of white reflective tape, each strip at least 12 inches long, horizontally and vertically on the right and left upper corners of each trailer. For other trailers (not square or rectangular as viewed from the rear), place the reflective tape along the perimeter as close as possible to the upper right and left portion of the trailer.

For Reflex Reflectors:

The same regulations exist for applying reflective tape to trailers with the following modification for reflectors: the center of each reflector shall not be more than four (4) inches (100mm) from the center of each adjacent reflector in the segment of reflective markings.

For More Information:

Please contact FRA’s Steve Jarvis at 301-838-9385 or sjarvis@forestresources.org to obtain a copy of DOT’s requirements for retrofitting trailers with reflective markings. Internet users may retrieve a copy of the Final Rule from the Federal Register’s home page at www.nara.gov/fedreg by accessing volume 64, no. 61, pages 15587-15606, published on March 31, 1999. Requests for clarification should be directed to Mr. Larry W. Minor of DOT’s Office of Motor Carrier Research and Standards at 202-366-1354.

**Log-hauling and other trailers previously retrofitted with reflective markings in other color combinations, but otherwise complying with these DOT regulations, will be permitted until June 1, 2009, when the red and white pattern will be required.*

DNR Commissioner Revises Forest Vision

Editors Note: In the last issue of the Timber Bulletin we published DNR Commissioner Alan Garber's Forest Vision. Since that time a revised vision document has been released by the DNR. Careful readers of the Timber Bulletin will note some significant changes in the vision relating to aspen, even-aged management and final regeneration harvests.

A Vision for Minnesota Forests

*by Allen Garber, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Natural
Resources
February 1, 2001*

Introduction

Over the past year and one-half, I have made a conscious effort to gain a better understanding of the complex issues involved in the management of forest lands in

Minnesota. Through numerous meetings, forums and field tours, my exposure to forestry practices and issues has helped me better understand the current state of forest management in Minnesota and provided a foundation from which I began to develop a future vision for the state's forests. A recent trip to Finland helped solidify some of my convictions about the direction forest management needs to take in our state to shape a better economic and environmental future for our forests. What follows is an overview of what my vision entails. It is fairly simple and straightforward. As such, it is not intended to address all of the technical details involved with its application. The concepts are not scientifically new. However, their application at a significant scale in Minnesota will present a basic change from how we have managed forest lands in this state over the past 20 to 30 years. I ask that you approach this vision with an open mind and consider the possibilities it presents for

consensus and long-term solutions.

Greater diversity and balance in forest management

My vision is to focus greater attention on the management of forests for conifers and mixed species/mixed age forests. For some very good reasons, forest management in Minnesota over the past 20 years has been dominated by the management of aspen forests, primarily through clear-cut harvesting. Aspens are the predominant species and forest type in Minnesota, comprising over 35 percent of forest type acreage and over 30 percent of total growing stock volume. Aspen species also comprise 65 percent of the total timber volume harvested in the state. Aspen forests will certainly continue as a dominant forest type managed primarily through clear cutting to provide important forest habitat, products and values. However, I believe there are substantial opportunities to diversify our forest management
(continued on page 24)

(continued from page 22)

on ecologically appropriate sites to provide a greater diversity of forest types, products and values; create a more diverse and reliable supply of quality wood; and help create a more certain future for a diverse forest industry in Minnesota.

Greater presence of longer-lived conifers

Longer-lived conifers, such as pine and spruce, were more abundant in Minnesota forests prior to end of the 1800s. Turn-of-the-century logging, followed by extensive wildfires, substantially reduced the presence of these species in the state, with a resulting increase in aspen/birch forests. Longer-lived conifer species in pure or mixed forest stands are well suited to multiple-entry, intermediate thinnings, longer rotations, and saw-timber management. We can increase the presence of conifer species on ecologically appropriate sites over time primarily through introduction in existing forests (e.g., planting and seeding) and through selective harvesting to encourage conifer species in mixed species/mixed age forests. Greater management attention to longer-lived conifers will help increase the diversity of the state's forests and forest industry.

Greater proportion of harvest volume from thinning and selective harvesting

Eighty-six percent of timber harvesting in Minnesota comes from some form of clear-cut harvesting. My vision of the future is to reduce the proportion of timber harvesting that occurs through clear-cutting with a respective increase in harvest volume from thinning and selective harvesting. Increased thinning would occur over time from longer-lived tree species suited to multiple entry thinning and saw-timber management. Thinning would also occur in suitable aspen forests. Increased selective harvesting would occur in quality hardwood stands and other stands to increase the amount of mixed species and mixed aged forests. Increased volume from thinning/selective harvesting and management of

longer-lived species will decrease clear-cutting in the long run.

Greater proportion of harvest volume from saw timber

Nearly 77 percent of timber harvest volume in Minnesota is in the form of pulpwood. Only 11 percent is saw timber. Thinning, selective harvesting, reduced reliance on aspen, and increased presence of longer-lived species will increase the proportion of Minnesota timber harvesting in the form of saw timber. A greater proportion of saw timber will help improve the diversity of Minnesota's forest industries, provide more large tree/older forest habitat, and capture more economic value from our forests.

Hybrid poplar to help supplement wood supply

People involved in forest management in Minnesota have known for some time now that there would be a temporary (i.e., 10-20 years) shortage of mature aspen available for harvest beginning sometime in this decade. To help fill this pending gap in aspen timber supply and ease the transition toward greater use of thinning and selection harvesting, I believe we need to more aggressively explore additional opportunities to establish hybrid poplars on suitable agricultural lands across the state.

Greater cooperation and consensus

One of my greatest concerns is the lack of trust, cooperation and agreement on how Minnesota's forest should be managed to best address future environmental and

economic needs. I believe that this inability to reach agreement is one of the greatest impediments to shaping and achieving a desired future for Minnesota's forests for the long-term benefit of all Minnesotans. I encourage all interests to enter into renewed dialogue with an open mind around the concepts I have laid out above and the possibility for innovative solutions to overcome long-standing barriers to agreement.

Demonstration forest

As a first, tangible step in changing the direction of forest management in the state, I want to work with other forest landowners to establish a substantial (i.e., tens of thousands of acres) demonstration forest area(s) to implement and showcase management principles I have described above. A basic requirement of the demonstration forest area(s) will be that multiple forest ownerships are involved (i.e., state, federal, counties, forest industry, not-for-profit organizations, tribal lands) and that all agree to work together to implement these alternative management approaches. Ideally, the area will contain established forest types and conditions suitable for immediate implementation of thinning/selective harvesting practices. Monitoring will be an essential component of a demonstration forest to track the effects over time on important forest attributes, such as timber production, wildlife game species, song birds, plant species, water quality and aesthetics.

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American Tree Farm System Conducts 3rd Party Review of its Forest Certification Process for Private, Non-Industrial Landowners

Report to Provide an Independent Analysis of the Strengths and Weaknesses of Tree Farm Certification and its Compliance with Criteria for International Mutual Recognition

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is currently conducting a Certification Process Review of the American Tree Farm System at the national, state and field levels. This management review is a precursor to a full 3rd-party audit. It is designed to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the System so that the Tree Farm Program can continue to improve, grow and gain international acceptance.

Forest certification, i.e. identification of a forest that is well managed and sustainable, is a means of promoting better forest management. It also assures the public that forest managers are carrying out environmentally sound plans and practices. In recent years, certification has become an increasingly hot topic, driven largely by rising demand for certified wood and paper products worldwide. The American Tree Farm System is the oldest and largest certifier of private non-industrial forestlands in the United States, with 65,000 certified Tree Farms covering 25 million acres.

"The Tree Farm Program was

founded 60 years ago to recognize and encourage good management of private forest properties," said Bob Simpson, national director of the American Tree Farm System. "Our mission has always been to get more good forestry on more acres and to keep it there. The American Tree Farm System was not created in response to market pressures, as some current certification systems have been, but Tree Farm has been certifying the practice of sustainable forestry since it was founded in 1941."

"With the growing globalization of forest product markets and increasing pressure on private lands to satisfy world demand, we have responded by developing an initiative that will enable Tree Farm to play an even stronger role in verifying the practice of sustainable forestry on small, non-industrial ownerships," said Stephanie Brown, deputy director of the American Tree Farm System. "This certification readiness initiative is designed to grow, improve and strengthen the Tree Farm Program to support its core mission. It will also pave the way to Tree Farm becoming accepted internationally as a credible forest certification option for non-industrial, private landowners," she said.

Since 1997, the American Tree Farm System has been working to improve the quality of its certification and reinspection process. During this time the Tree Farm System has modernized its standards and guidelines for Tree Farm certification; established minimum education and experience requirements for certifying foresters and forest technicians; and developed a national standardized training curriculum that qualifies inspectors to inspect forestland on behalf of the American Tree Farm System.

As a result of these endeavors, Tree Farm entered into a mutual recognition agreement with the American Forest & Paper

Association's (AF&PA) Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)SM program in May 2000. In the agreement, SFI recognizes wood sourced from Tree Farms as certified, and vice versa. As part of the agreement, the American Tree Farm System agreed to an independent 3rd-party audit to contribute to Tree Farm's course of continuous improvement.

Approximately 58 percent of all productive forestland in the U.S. is owned by non-industrial, private landowners. They produce more than half the nation's wood supply. Tree Farm provides AF&PA member companies with a source of certified wood from non-industrial private forestlands. As such, wood procured from certified Tree Farms may be counted as part of a mill's SFI certified inventory. In addition, AF&PA member companies can count stronger active participation in the Tree Farm program toward SFI's requirement of broadening sustainable forestry practices among non-industrial private landowners.

The 3rd-party audit will be conducted in two phases. The first phase is the Certification Process Review by PricewaterhouseCoopers that began in January with a review of documentation at the national office and observation of a Tree Farm State Leadership meeting and a "Train-the-Trainer" workshop. It continues through May with reviews of four states, their organization and administration of the Tree Farm program in their state, and the process of certifying Tree Farms in the field. A final report from this internal management review is expected by the end of July. The second phase will be a full, across-the-board audit that is expected to begin in 2002.

The 3rd-party audit is an audit of the Tree Farm System's certification process, not an audit of its standards. The goals of the audit are: to verify that the American Tree Farm System is organized with the necessary internal systems and

procedures to properly carry out independent verification of the American Forest Foundation's standards of forest sustainability; that national staff, volunteer state leadership and volunteer field verifiers are adequately qualified and trained to do a professional and consistent job; that the program delivers replicable and consistent results and that it is compatible with internationally accepted standards of mutual recognition.

Forest certification is the independent verification of the practice of sustainable forestry, as measured against a particular set of standards and performance measures. The American Tree Farm System, sponsored by the American Forest Foundation, is one of several certification programs available to forest landowners in the U.S. Others include AF&PA's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and the National Forestry Association's Green Tag programs. Each program has its own set of criteria used to verify whether a forested

property is eligible for certification.

"The forest certification movement is moving toward global mutual recognition and Tree Farm is at the table," said Simpson.

"Tree Farm's certification readiness initiative will advance the Tree Farm program as a well-known standard for verifying the practice of sustainable forestry on private, non-industrial forestlands. It is through these efforts that retail outlets for wood products, such as 84 Lumber, are beginning to formally recognize Tree Farm as a source of certified wood," he said.

Private forest landowners who wish to become certified Tree Farmers allow their properties to be inspected by one of 6,500 qualified professional foresters who volunteer their time to the Tree Farm program. Those landowners willing to meet the strict criteria necessary to display the Tree Farm sign of good forestry demonstrate a strong stewardship ethic. To qualify as a member of the American Tree Farm System, a landowner must have at least 10 contiguous acres of forestland; they

must maintain a set of 10 standards set by the American Forest Foundation and verified by the American Tree Farm System; and they must actively follow a written forest management plan that addresses how the landowner will provide for wildlife, recreation, water and soil conservation while producing renewable forestry products. A landowner's property must be reinspected every five years to maintain Tree Farm status.

For 60 years, the American Tree Farm System (www.treefarmssystem.org) has been providing assistance to and recognizing private landowners for their commitment to conservation and sustainable forest management. It is the oldest and largest conservation, education, advocacy, and certification program for private forest landowners in the United States, with 65,000 certified Tree Farms covering 25 million acres. The American Tree Farm System is a program of the American Forest Foundation, a non-profit organization that develops, funds and administers programs which encourage the long-term stewardship of our natural resources.

LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

Skidding by Horse and Ox

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*



After watching various rubber-tired skidders demonstrated at the annual TPA logging demonstration and having seen the many types of power skidders entering the north woods in recent years, one may wonder how the vast stands of virgin pine in northern Minnesota were ever logged, considering that loggers had to skid mostly with horses and oxen.

In the early days, when logs were skidded to the rivers and lakes, quite a few men were used. They were slow and powerful, moved well in the brush, ate less than horses, were less expensive and needed less care. The oxen were generally paired, but it was not uncommon to see four or six oxen skidding a large log.

In Minnesota, oxen were used mostly in the southern part of the pine range along the St. Croix River, the Rush River and up along the Mississippi River to Grand Rapids or to a short distance west. Very few were used in the northern part of the pine range.

Throughout the northern half of the pine range, horses were used for most of the log skidding. Two horses were used most often but with a small run of timber, sometimes a single horse was used.

When a large butt log was too much for a single team, it was left until all the skidding nearby was done. Then four horses would go in and skid all the log butt logs that had been left on a certain tract. This was usually done late in the spring as a cleanup.

I remember one spring at one of the Northern Lumber Co. camps near by Fort Hendricks, an unusual number of pine butt logs were skidded. Early in April, they were left two and three on a skidway all along the railroad track in Section 30-63-12. Dan McCloud was seeing them as we happened along. We were estimating the number of board feet in each log. These ran from 900 to 1,200 board feet per log. They were all loaded at one time and made eight cuts of the finest pine logs I ever saw.

Skidding tongs were used on most logs and they were skidded most at a time. However, when the logs ran small, a skidding chain was used and then two, three or even four logs were skidded at a time. Skidding usually was confined to about 40 rods from the skidway or about half way across a forty—logging roads usually went through the center of a forty if the terrain was level.

When skidding had to be done for any distance, a single-link drag with spikes along the tops of the bunk was used. The butt end of the log was then rolled onto the drag and the top end left dragging on the ground. Two or three logs could be hauled in this manner. With the front end of the log on the drag, pulling was much easier for the horses.

Ties, pulp, jacks and other short products were skidded with a two-bank drag usually pulled with a team of horses—and about a cord was taken out

each trip. Here skidding was confined to less than one-fourth of a mile.

Some large logs were peeled or bucked on one side and then rolled and skidded with the smooth side down to make the pulling easier for the horses.

Cedar poles, mining poles and long timbers were skidded similarly to logs, with the angle bunk drag used for longer distance skidding.

A team of horses and one man would skid up to 150 logs per day. There was usually one “swamper” cutting trails for each skidding team. Often, as many horses skidded as hauled logs in a camp. However, plans were to have most of the skidding done early in January before the snow got deep. Most sleigh butt logs were derived in the woods so a whole load could be loaded in one spot and the sleigh or moved with half a load or several times while being loaded.

Only one company used the steam skidder with any success in Minnesota. That was the Crookston Lumber Co. of Bemidji, which did steam skidding in the Kellöner, Mizpah, Northome and Blackduck areas from 1910 to 1920. Several other companies tried this high-line cable skidding but had little success. The Cloquet Lumber Co. tried it in the Cloquet Valley Forest area.

The cost of log skidding was one of the factors a lumber camp foreman watched very closely. As he always tried to get a good straw-boss to handle the crews,



DNR Sends Wolf Management Plan to USFWS

The future of wolf management in Minnesota is now in the hands of federal officials. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has delivered Minnesota's wolf management plan to Bill Hartwig, regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The federal agency will now decide whether the management outlined by the plan will ensure the long-term survival of wolves in Minnesota.

The Minnesota wolf management plan, based on a wolf management bill passed by the 2000 Minnesota Legislature, incorporates many of the recommendations of a Gray Wolf Roundtable citizens group convened in 1998. The plan's goal is to ensure the long-term survival of the gray wolf in Minnesota while minimizing inevitable conflicts that occur when wolves and people live in the same area. It also addresses concerns by farmers and ranchers about wolf depredation and wolf range expansion into agricultural areas.

"We believe this plan is biologically sound and will ensure the long-term survival of the gray wolf in Minnesota," said DNR Commissioner Allen Garber. "We also believe it represents a reasonable balance between the competing and diverse public attitudes toward wolves."

Under the plan, two wolf management zones would be established. In the northern zone, encompassing the state's Arrowhead Region, wolves would be protected except for government-sponsored depredation control. In the southern zone, property owners could kill wolves to protect their property. Other provisions of the plan would continue to allow wolves to be killed in defense of human life, would establish additional state penalties for illegal wolf killing, and impose a five-year delay on public trapping and hunting seasons. Garber said the agency developed a plan it believes will be acceptable to the USFWS.

According to Hartwig, the federal agency's wolf recovery team will now review and evaluate the plan to see how well it ensures the species' survival in Minnesota. Afterwards, the director of the USFWS will determine whether to remove the gray wolf in Minnesota from the federal endangered species list, which would revert control and management of the animal to the Minnesota DNR.

"To fulfill our obligations under the Endangered Species Act," said Hartwig, "we must now determine whether the plan provides assurances for the long-term viability of wolves in Minnesota."

Copies of the Minnesota wolf management plan are available by calling the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157 in the Twin Cities metro area or toll free 1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367). The plan is also posted on the DNR web site at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

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