

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

MARCH/APRIL 2016

VOLUME 71

Chainsaws and a Lot of Ambition

Logging Trucks and Electronic Logs



North Star Expo
Itasca County
Fairgrounds
Grand Rapids
Sept. 16 and 17

2016 North Star Expo

September 16th and 17th

Itasca County Fairgrounds

Grand Rapids, MN

Free Admission!

More than 100 exhibitors and vendors!

Log Loader Contest!

Friday Night: Famous Dave's BBQ!

Saturday: Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Nortrax!

For more information: MN Timber Producers Association
218-722-5013



TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 71
March/April 2016
Duluth, Minnesota

IN THIS ISSUE

Chainsaws and a Lot of Ambition..... **8**

Feds Decide Against Designating
Bat Critical Habitat.....**16**

Timber Talk.....**18**

Logging Trucks and Electronic Logs.....**20**

Hasbargens Receive ‘Minnesota
Logger of the Year’ Award.....**22**

On the Markets**24**

Loggers of the Past.....**26**

Classifieds.....**30**

Advertisers Index**30**



TIMBER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

President
SCOTT PITTACK

Past President
KIT HASBARGEN

1st Vice President
DAVE BERTHIAUME

2nd Vice President
KURT BENSON

Secretary/Treasurer
ROD ENBERG

Editor-in-Chief
WAYNE E. BRANDT

Graphic Design, Editorial and Mechanical Production
STEWART-TAYLOR PRINTING

ON THE COVER

Harvested aspen is loaded on to a truck at the KDW harvest site. For more on Krueger, please see page 8.

The Timber Bulletin is published six times annually, in February, April, June, August, October and December by the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, located at 903 Medical Arts Bldg., 324 W. Superior St., Duluth, Minn. Minnesota Timber Producers Association members receive the Timber Bulletin at an annual subscription rate of \$25 which is included in their membership dues. Periodicals postage paid in Duluth, Minnesota. Advertising rates and data on request. The views expressed in the Timber Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association.

Postmaster: Please send address corrections to TIMBER BULLETIN, Minnesota Timber Producers Association, 903 Medical Arts Bldg., 324 W. Superior St., Duluth, Minnesota 55802, Phone 218-722-5013.
Issn: 10973532 – USPS: 016208

No articles may be reprinted without written permission from the Minnesota Timber Producers Association.



Minnesota
Timber Producers
Association



The weather always keeps us on our toes, doesn't it?

I think now is the time to start planning for next winter and for a winter more in line with 2014-2015 with an early freeze and not too much snow, more of a normal Minnesota winter if there is such a thing. I hope everyone was able to have a safe and productive winter despite the short season. Now that we are into breakup there is plenty to do, prepare equipment for summer, MLEP and Log Safe classes and get some projects done that we have been thinking about all winter. TPA staff, executive committee and members have

President's Column



been active this spring with a siding plant subsidy bill that was introduced. Although we were interested in the thought of new market opportunities, the executive committee voted unanimously not to support this bill unless enough wood for current and increased demand is on the market, fearful that an unbalanced supply of wood could drive stumpage costs to a level that would have a negative impact on our current markets.

Be sure to keep June 9 clear for TPA's annual meeting. The meeting will be held at Black Woods in Proctor followed by a dinner cruise on Lake Superior. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Scott Pittack

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

Famous Dave's Comes to the North Star Expo

Famous Dave's Barbecue is returning to the North Star Expo, catering the Friday night dinner at the 63rd Annual Expo.

The 2016 Expo will be held Friday and Saturday September 16 and 17 at the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids. It marks Famous Dave's return to the event, after bringing its popular ribs and all the fixins' to the 2013 Expo.

"We're excited to have Famous Dave's back at the Expo," said TPA Expo committee chair Corey Lovdahl. "Friday night at the Expo is always a great chance to socialize with everyone in the industry, and having the great barbecue from Famous Dave's will make the evening even more special."

The North Star Expo is Minnesota's largest logging equipment show, featuring over 100 vendors from all over the Upper Midwest, with the latest and greatest in logging equipment and accessories on display.



The Legend Returns.

Introducing the New **Titanium™-XV™**

The newly designed professional sawbar now comes with a 15 tooth nose sprocket, which allows for higher chain tensions that improve efficiency. The patented 15 tooth sprocket and unique oil feeder grooves work together to reduce friction and wear which extends the life of the tip.

- Ultra high strength Titanium alloy steel bar body reduces bending and has been proven to be the strongest sawbar available.
- Premium roller bearings provide longer life and resistance to nose spreading.
- Replaceable nose/tip for extended use of the bar.
- High tensile rivets.
- Internal oil feeder grooves (Patent Pending) force the lubrication direct to the bearings, keeping them cool which results in longer life.

TITANIUM TOUGH

New 15 tooth sprocket (Finland Utility Patent FI 10727 other patents pending), only available on XV sawbars, reduces its RPM resulting in less friction and wear.

www.wallingfords.com
800.323.3708 | info@wallingfords.com

Dealer Inquiries Invited. GB Bars are Exclusively Marketed in the U.S.A. by **WALLINGFORD'S INC.**



500 N.W. 3rd Street • P.O. Box 395 • Cohasset, MN 55721 • (218) 328-6203 • Fax (218) 328-6205

Nelson Wood Shims Is Seeking Basswood Logs!

Nelson Wood Shims has opened a sawmill for their ever- growing sales and is in need of BASSWOOD LOGS!!

Basswood ONLY

Length: must be 100"

Diameter: 8 inch minimum

Limbs: well trimmed, flush with bole

No Bells or Crotches

Crook: No more than 1" sweep in 100" log

Minimal Rot and Crack

Driver must be able to self unload!

**GOT
BASSWOOD??**



Have Questions?

Contact Crystal Lewins:

Office: 1-800-441-7390 ext.127

crystal.lewins@shims.com

BITCO has been serving the forest products industry for more than 70 years and is proud to partner with Northern Capital Insurance Group to serve the needs of TPA members.



Northern Capital has been serving the Forest Products Industry for over 20 years specializing in workers compensation, property, general liability and truck/auto insurance coverages.

For more information contact Northern Capital at 1-800-676-8818 or info@northerncapital-mn.com

April was a big month for Hasbargen Logging of Birchdale. First they were named "Logger of the Year" by the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee. This was followed a week later by receiving a Labovitz Award as "Mature Entrepreneur" of the year.

You won't find a more deserving group than Kit, Clarence, Denton

Executive Vice President's Column



and the rest of the family and crew. In their fourth generation of operation they show us

all how to do things right. Not only are they leaders in our industry with Kit currently serving as TPA Past President, but they give their

time and talents to make their community better.

The Labovitz Award is particularly prestigious. Hasbargen Logging is the first logging business to receive one of these regional awards that recognize excellence in business and community leadership.

We are very proud of the Hasbargens and proud that they have been leaders in TPA for many years.



Mark your calendars for the TPA Annual Meeting which will be held Thursday, June 9, at Blackwoods in Proctor. We've got a great program in the making with a panel of mill managers discussing issues, updates on the Northern Long-Eared Bat, state timber issues and more. This will be followed by a dinner cruise with the Vista Fleet with complimentary shuttle transportation to the dock and back. Get your reservations in for this fun and informative event.



Congressman Rick Nolan announced recently that he had met with Obama Administration officials and received assurances that they would not impose a ban on mining in areas of northern Minnesota around the BWCAW. Sounds like an odd announcement eh?

But, there is more to the story. A rumor had been circulating that

the Greens were advocating for and the Obama Administration was listening to a scheme that would attempt to shut down mining projects by creating a buffer around the BWCAW. As the rumor goes, the buffer might comprise the entire watershed that drains to and through the BWCAW.

Ludicrous you say; maybe not. This could be done with the stroke of President Obama's pen using authority under the "Antiquities Act" to create National Monuments. No hearings, no Congressional action, no opportunity for input, no nothing. Just like so many executive actions by this Administration.

So would it just impact mining? Doubtful. You can bet that logging would be off the table too if such an action were taken.

I'm glad that Congressman Nolan has been on top of this. It's the kind of issue that needs sunshine, not executive action as this Administration heads out of town after the election.



We are marking the one year anniversary of the transition of the TPA Workers Compensation program to Bitco from LUA. Thank you to all of our members who have made this transition a success. There is, and always has been, strength in numbers in our program. As a group we have more clout than any of us would as individuals.

The success of this program starts and ends with our members. Working safely is the key to preventing injuries and that is the key to affordable rates. If you're not in our program give it a look.

But, no matter who you have your insurance with, keep safety as job one every day.



The next round of the fight over the Northern Long-Eared Bat is underway. The Center for Biological Diversity and their Green allies have filed motions to modify their previously filed lawsuit. The modifications include challenging the 4d Rule that I wrote about in my last column as well as challenging the listing of the bat as Threatened instead of Endangered.



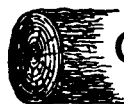
This year's session of the Minnesota Legislature has passed the halfway point. It's been a bit odd with the Capitol effectively shut down, except for the House Chamber, and the Senate meeting across the street in the new Minnesota Senate Building. All of the major bills will be tied together at the end of the session. Unlike last year when agreement on the state budget was required or there would be another state government shutdown, no bills have to pass. With a projected budget surplus, state government will continue to run for another year whether any major legislation is passed or not.

So the Transportation Bill is tied to the Tax Bill, is tied to the Bonding Bill and tied to the Supplemental Appropriations Bill. The way it looks, they'll either all pass or none will pass. We'll know by May 23, which is the constitutional deadline for adjournment.



Be safe out there and thanks again for giving me the opportunity to serve this great organization.

Wayne E. Beatty



CASS FOREST PRODUCTS INC.

BOX 1008 • CASS LAKE, MN 56633 • 218-335-2694

www.cassforest.com

Buying Fresh Logs: Red and White Pine

Pine Bolts: Jack, Red and White

For Specifications Call 218-335-2694

**TIRES
&
SERVICE**

Pomp's
TIRE SERVICE

24-Hour
EMERGENCY
Truck & Skidder
Service



- **Huge Inventory**
 - Passenger, light truck, truck, skidder & off-road tires
- **Delivery Routes Throughout Northern Minnesota**
- **The "Tire Professionals" since 1939**

BRIDGESTONE
Firestone

GENERAL TIRE
Continental

GOODYEAR
KELLY TIRES

MICHELIN
Landoll

116 Ogden Ave.
Superior, WI 54880
800.420.6216

Pomp's
TIRE SERVICE
www.pompstire.com

201 N. Hoover Road
Virginia, MN 55792
888.545.9803

NORTHERN TIMBERLINE EQUIPMENT, INC.

AUTHORIZED DEALER FOR

BARKO HYDRAULICS

BARKO 295ML TRAILER TRUCK MOUNT



- Used Equipment Sales
- New & Used Parts, Tires & Chains for Most Types of Logging Equipment
- Distributor for:

Aftermarket Parts

RUD CHAINS

HanFab Slashers

BABAC
TRACTION PRODUCTS

For More Information, Call:

CAM HARDWIG

Ph. (218) 278-6203

Fax (218) 278-6716

6000 County Rd. 8 • Littlefork, MN 56653



Clint Krueger

Chainsaws and a Lot of Ambition

That's all Clint Krueger says he had when he got into the logging business.

by Ray Higgins

In late January, a Minnesota logger like Clint Krueger can expect plenty of frozen ground and lots of sub-zero temperatures, perfect conditions for harvesting timber.

Not this year.

Talk about an abnormal winter. Despite overnight lows below zero for the better part of the last

couple of weeks, there's still no frost in the ground anywhere there's undisturbed snow on Krueger's job, situated west of Two Harbors.

"We got about a three-or-four-week later start than we normally do, because of the warm weather," Krueger says. "Normally, we're running six-day weeks right after

Thanksgiving; this season it was closer to Christmas before we were really able to get rolling. We had one job that we worked on right around Thanksgiving, a small one, a summer sale that we had. I opened that up. Once that was done, we spent the next two-and-a-half weeks or so in the shop going through



Allan Madson runs a John Deere 2154D stroke delimeter with a 2100C Lim-mit for KDW.

trucks, trailers, etc. On the bright side, it did allow us to take care of some punch-list items that we never seem to find time to do. By moving to a state sale in Holyoke, we were able to keep the feller buncher going

those few weeks. Using a Tigercat 822 with 30" grousers and adapting our cutting method to the ground conditions – those were the keys. We were able to keep him going the whole time, so he's been working

ahead of the rest of the crew."

Krueger says having the tracked buncher work ahead of the rest of the crew has been critical in getting frost into the ground. Just having operator Justin Nukala tracking

REDUCE COST. INCREASE PROFITS.

Nortrax & Morbark® can help you take your operation to the next level with:

- Forestry
- Biomass
- Recycling
- Construction & Land Clearing Waste



For over 50 years, Morbark has manufactured high-performance equipment that allows you to harvest and process wood and other materials and convert them into profitable products. Nortrax can help you match your requirements with the best in Morbark Chiparvestors™, whole tree chippers, grinders and more. Depend on Nortrax for excellent product support, as well as an extensive Morbark equipment and parts inventory.

Contact: Erik Lunemann

Nortrax Morbark Product Specialist - 218.244.7478



MORBARK
BUILDING EQUIPMENT THAT CREATES OPPORTUNITIES

NORTTRAX
www.nortrax.com

Grand Rapids 800.450.9427 • Duluth 800.450.7456 • Bemidji 888.450.1996



Krueger utilizes two Barko slasher/loaders to simultaneously load his trucks. Clint Krueger operates the 495ML Magnum, while Pete Klassen runs the 295ML.

around the site was enough to get the frost started. Now on the sale west of Two Harbors, this is the third large sale the Krueger crew has worked on this season, and by having that lead time, Nukala can get the trees felled and the sales all laid out. It was a huge help.

"In a normal year," Krueger says, "we have our buncher about a week ahead of Allan Madson in the delimeter, and we try to keep the delimeter about a week ahead of us. The way the weather's been this year, we broadened that gap by about two-and-a-half to three weeks ahead of us, so he can make some tracks across the ground and get some frost in. Right now, anywhere there's snow that you haven't disturbed, there's still no frost."

Krueger didn't find his way into the logging business the way most folks do. A 1999 graduate of Barnum High School, he doesn't come from a family of loggers. When he was growing up, his parents ran a dairy farm, and Clint helped out. When he was 16, the Kruegers sold the cows, and Clint went to work in the summer for his father's friend, who was a mason contractor. There, he laid block and learned a lot about cement. After graduating from Barnum and spending another season working for the mason contractor, Clint went

to work running the delimeter and skidder for Barnum logger John Palmer in the wintertime.

"That," Krueger says, "began the love affair in the woods, I guess. I learned a lot working for John."

Krueger continued to work for Palmer for approximately two years, and spent his evenings and weekends throughout the summer on small construction jobs. The mason contractor Krueger had been working for retired, which left a void in the area for small residential mason contractors.

Although Krueger loved what he was doing in the woods, the construction business was presenting opportunities as well. The housing market was booming and homeowners were looking for all kinds of work. Krueger already had a dump truck, and he bought a rubber-tired backhoe and a skidsteer and started doing work on septic systems. Before he knew it, he had a full-fledged business called Krueger Dirtwerx. He also had a couple of trucks for hauling salt and coal. Business was so good, there was little time for logging.

"I didn't work in the woods for a couple of winters," Krueger says. "The first winter that I was doing construction, I helped John out a little bit. But housing was taking off really quick. There was a lot

of work, and I guess I just kind of hit it at the right time. We worked through the next two winters, all but about two weeks. We had ground thawers, and a fairly large crew, and we were doing all the foundations, excavating, and septic for about five different builders; mostly new home construction, and a few very light commercial projects."

Eventually, the housing market slowed down. The company continued doing construction work in the summer, but Krueger's crew needed something to do during the winter months. That led him back to the woods.

"I needed something to do to keep my guys busy in the wintertime," he says "and logging was something that I knew. Everybody on the crew was game for it. I mean, just about any guy that runs an excavator or drives a dump truck and works in construction loves the woods. And most of my guys, like Jeff Ballou, were farmers at one point, or they've been around the business. It takes a certain kind of person to want to do this."

Krueger bought a track buncher, another semi, and two van trailers. Krueger and his crew worked his first winter for a different logging contractor, but that didn't pan out.

Craig Ferguson, currently working for the Minnesota DNR



Bruce Stevens skids harvested timber with a John Deere 848H skidder. Krueger utilizes three skidders, including a 648H driven by Zach Gerard, and a John Deere 748H run by Jaxon Lind.

out of the Cloquet area, was a procurement forester at Sappi's Cloquet mill at the time. Ferguson told Krueger if he could cut a little wood, Sappi would buy it.

"We found a little bit of wood to cut," Krueger says, "and we cut a little for them that first winter. I

went and bought an old skidder, and we had a track buncher and a couple of semis. We didn't have any log trailers or a delimeter.

"All we had were chainsaws and a lot of ambition."

It wasn't easy, but they made a go of it. They pieced together a

couple log trailers, loaded with an excavator for a while, and eventually bought a used slasher to try to increase production.

"I remember the first day slashing," he says. "It took me like five hours to load that trailer. My first thought was this is not what I thought this was going to be. But we stuck with it."

Of course, it got better with experience. Krueger parked the logging equipment in the summertime in favor of construction work, but home construction markets weren't at all strong. After a while, Krueger wondered whether

Protection, Performance and Peace of Mind.

We are staffed to provide the following endorsed programs for members of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association:

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Group Health Insurance • Group Dental Insurance
Insurance Section 125 Plans • Group Life Insurance



Let Otis-Magie Help You Get There.

Daniel J. Zobel CIC
Certified Insurance Counselor

Duluth / 332 West Superior Street, Suite 700
218.722.7753 -or- 1.800.241.2425


OTIS-MAGIE
Insurance Agency, Inc.
www.otismagie.com

USED REPAIR PARTS

Wheel Loaders, Crawlers, Track Excavators
Loader Backhoes, Skidders, Skid-Steer
Loaders, Engines and Transmissions
"Rely on our experience—Est. 1967"



**Schaefer
Enterprises**

1-800-626-6046

www.sewlparts.com - parts@sewlparts.com



4535 State Route 3 N • PO Box 136
Wolf Lake, IL 62998



At times, Krueger uses seven trucks to haul timber to the mill during the winter months. This load is being driven by Tom Haluptzok.

he could do better just focusing on working in the woods.

Not that the logging business in Minnesota was setting the world on fire. It was a time when many loggers were getting out of it due to increasingly tight markets.

By 2009 Krueger's business was reaching a tipping point. His logging equipment was getting old and he was spending too much time and money keeping it operational and maintained. As a result, production suffered. He wound up purchasing newer woods equipment.

"I had some payments to make," Krueger says. "You'd work all summer doing construction work just to make payments on the logging equipment, and you'd work all winter with the logging equipment to make sure you could go back to work in the summer. It just seemed we were trading dollars from one side to the other side all the time."

With a keen eye on both markets, the business has transitioned from construction to mostly logging over the past few years.

"We're in the woods full time now," Krueger says. "As far as any kind of dirt work or construction any more, I do some township work—some gravel and some ditching—and I have all the dirt equipment that we need

for making our own roads. But we're basically a full-time logging operation."

Right now, business is good. Krueger has ten full-time employees, with a few more added in the winter. Most of the crew has been on this site for about five days, finishing the winter-only piece of a 3000-cord sale they started last summer. The site is 70 percent aspen, with balsam and birch making up the balance. Most of Krueger's production goes to Sappi, with Verso and Minnesota Power ending up with most of the rest.

Krueger currently has two other sales open in addition to this one. The buncher felled the timber on a site nine miles to the south and has now started work 25 miles to the west off the Three Lakes Road. At the end of the week, the delimber—a John Deere 2154D with a 2100C Lim-mit boom—and one of three skidders, operated by Zach Gerard, will head to the Three Lakes site. A second skidder will head to the site to the south, and the third skidder will stay put with the loaders to finish cleaning things up here. When the equipment is spread amongst three jobs, it's critical to have good, trustworthy operators and drivers.

"Our guys are great," Krueger says. "I've known Justin for a long time. He comes from a family of

loggers, so he knows what he's doing. Allan and Zach work very well together and are able to organize and delimb the sale before we get there with the slashers. When slashers arrive, we have four very experienced drivers to move it all to the mill. Jeff has been with me since the early construction days. Billy Meyer and Tom Haluptzok joined on a few years ago, and Jerome Madson, Allan's father, joined us full time this past fall. Jerome also oversees the regular PM schedules on the trucks. James Thell, our part-time truck mechanic keeps the fleet moving."

Krueger believes surrounding himself with the right people is what makes his company successful.

"I have a couple good buddies who jump in a piece of equipment from time to time to fill a void and help with roadwork. We also have a couple operators and truck drivers who work for pipeline or construction companies in the summer and come help us in the winter."

One thing Krueger does that's unique is he has two slasher/loaders working on loading trucks at once. When a truck arrives, it pulls between the two loaders and the timber is slashed and loaded from each side. It's slashed immediately before loading to reduce handling. Krueger runs one



Justin Nukala runs Krueger's Tigercat 822 tracked feller buncher. Nukala often works ahead of the rest of the crew so that much of the timber has already been harvested when they arrive at the jobsite.

of the loaders so he can monitor the movement of the wood from the landing, while Pete Klassen, a newer operator to Krueger, operates the other.

"We decided to use two loaders

just for the extra production," Krueger says. "At times, when hot loading, that can be a bottleneck. So we added a second one, and it's not like it doubles your production by any means. We only have so many

trucks. But typically we can get the trucks out 10 minutes quicker by loading one truck at a time with both loaders. At the end of the day, that could mean a couple more loads making the mill before

**25 Years of Commitment to Excellence!
Leading the way in Innovation & Design!**



8450 County R
Suring WI 54174
www.greatlakesmfg.com
**For Pricing Call
Toll Free:
1-877-248-5677**



STEEL - ALUMINUM COMBO DROP DECK CRIB TRAILER

Our Patented Gusseted Steel Bunks, GLT Alum-A-Log Stakes and All Aluminum Headboards.

**Designed &
Custom Built
to meet your
needs.**



BOLT-ON BUNK SYSTEM W/ 2 AXLE CRIB PUP



closing time.”

Krueger says having Bruce Stevens, an operator with years of experience and knowledge of the woods, is one of the biggest assets. Bruce’s abilities allow him to continually feed two slashers simultaneously.

Having two loaders also helps if either one of them breaks down or is out of service for any reason.

“There’s always something that pops up, or if another piece of equipment breaks down, I have to run and work on that, whatever it might be,” Krueger says. “Or if there’s a load or two to clean up here, and we want to get started on another landing, we can split them up for part of the day. It just makes us a little more versatile.”

The one downside of this particular site is it’s roughly 55 miles from the mill, which is about as far north as Krueger likes to go. As a result, they’re trucking 21 loads per day, which is below their maximum output.

“What limits us right now,” Krueger says, “is waiting for trucks to return from the mill. We hit higher load numbers most of the time when things are going right. We try to stay within an hour of

home in the winter, and this is about an hour and a half. The reason we’re here now is we took this summer job and we’re here to finish up the winter part. In the summertime we sometimes go a little further. Sometimes you just have to. And that can limit production.”

“In the summertime our production is about half of what it is here, which is still good,” he says. “But we’re doing it with fewer guys, too. Typically four truck drivers and usually only running one loader. Most of my guys are pretty versatile. Pete and Justin are both good skidder operators. Allan Madson, our delimeter operator, has his CDL, so any chance he has to jump in a semi, he loves it. Most all of the operators are proficient in at least two machines.”

Logging is a family industry. Krueger’s mom, Elise, is the CFO and has been managing the office since the beginning, and his father oftentimes saves the day by making parts runs and also takes care of the majority of the work on their family farm. Clint’s very soon-to-be wife, Tera, assists with office duties, payroll, and brings a home-cooked meal out to the woods every

weekend in the winter for the crew.

“I hope that in 10 years, when my kids are old enough to get involved, the logging industry is still a viable option for them.”

Going forward, Krueger likes the size of his company, so he doesn’t anticipate getting any bigger. Despite the fact that they’re doing a lot less construction, he’s keeping the “Krueger Dirtwerx” name because that’s the name they’ve established and he sees no reason to change it.

Once the winter logging season ended in March, Krueger was able to look back with satisfaction.

“We had a really good winter,” he says. “It took a little bit of preplanning because we knew it was going to be really wet. Having the buncher quite a ways ahead of us was key. You never know for sure when the ground’s going to freeze, and he had a month’s worth of wood on the ground. We were able to cut most everything we planned and were able to get everything out. We put dual tires on our skidders, which helped us on the softer ground. For the winter being about a month shorter than normal, we had a really good winter.”

Wanted:

Good Hardwood Grade Logs

- Red oak, white oak, birch, ash, maple, basswood
- We have center-mount trailers, or you can deliver
- Paying top dollar the same day
- 8’-10’-12’ lengths
- Stick scaling

Call or Email Ben:

952-442-5988

pineproben@embarqmail.com

Pine Products, Inc.

11780 County Road 32

Waconia, MN 55387



Rice Blacksmith Saw & Machine &

SIMONDS®

are proud to feature

SIMONDS®

THE FUTURE 2000™

U.S. Patent # 4,765,217

For an efficient, economical and dependable slashing operation

Why settle for anything but the BEST

GET ON BOARD with SIMONDS

and join with the hundreds of mills using this proven advanced design for lower production costs

Simonds Future 2000™ Cut-off Tooth offers you increased production, reduced power consumption, reduced maintenance and inventory costs!

Simonds Future 2000™ is currently in use at hundreds of installations

- Self aligning tips can be brazed onto teeth without removing teeth from saw
- Center tracking reduces crack causing vibration
- Eliminates need for left and right hand teeth
- Available in Jumbo and 2 1/2 Cut-off style

SIMONDS® Simonds Industries Inc. • Michigan Knife • Weston-Philbrick
Quality Endures • Simonds Since 1832

Simonds Industries Inc.
P.O. Box 500
Intervale Road
Fitchburg, MA 01520
Tel: (508) 343-2212
Fax: (508) 343-1418
OUT OF STATE
Tel: 1-800-343-2116
Fax: 1-800-541-6154

Rice Blacksmith Saw & Machine &

SIMONDS®

are proud to feature

Michigan Knife KNIVES

*A complete line of knife products
Popular sizes in stock
Ready for immediate delivery*

SIMONDS®

Future 2000™

U.S. Patent No. 4,765,217

*For an efficient, economical
and dependable slashing
operation.*

SAWS • TEETH • TIPS IN STOCK!
*Why settle for anything
but the BEST?*

Offering complete professional saw repair service—call now!

Rice Blacksmith Saw & Machine

Main Street, Rice, MN 56367 • Phone 612-393-2169 • Fax 612-393-2847
Contact: Jim, Joe or Al Voigt

SIMONDS®

RED STREAK

Make Simonds your source for the highest quality and best value in cutting tools. Choose from the industry's broadest selection of narrow kerf bandsaw blades for all applications and types of equipment.

Simonds manufactures high quality wood cutting bandsaws for every application.

- Resaws
- Multi-Heads
- Portable Sawmills
- Pallet Mills
- Band Edgers
- Plywood Trimmers
- Veneer Saws
- Line Bars
- Headrigs

SIMONDS Industries Inc.
Fitchburg, MA USA

*Since 1832 . . . Simonds Supplies,
THE RIGHT BLADE FOR THE JOB!*

Offering complete professional saw repair service—call now!

Rice Blacksmith Saw & Machine

Main Street, Rice, MN 56367 • Phone 320-393-2169 • Fax 320-393-2164

Contact: Jim or Al Voigt

Feds Decide Against Designating Bat Critical Habitat

Decision seen as positive for Timber Industry

Given the nature of the primary threats facing the species and the potential harm of publishing its hibernation locations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has determined that designating critical habitat for the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is not prudent.

The Service's determination does not affect the bat's threatened status, which it received in 2015 due to white-nose syndrome, a deadly fungal disease impacting cave-dwelling bats.

The decision is seen as a positive for the timber industry. When the USFWS began discussing listing the NLEB under the Endangered Species Act in 2013, the service talked about the potential need for the critical habitat determination. The service again stated that position in April of last year when it announced the threatened listing for the bat. TPA—along with other timber industry groups across the nation—has long argued that since the main threat to the bat is the white-nose syndrome fungus, designating critical habitat is unnecessary and potentially counterproductive. This latest decision by USFWS indicates the Service now agrees with TPA's position.

Critical habitat is a designation under the ESA for lands that contain habitat features that are essential for the survival and recovery of a listed species, which may require special management considerations or protections. The ESA requires the Service to consider which areas are needed for a species' recovery and to designate critical habitat accordingly, unless it determines that doing so is not prudent for the species.

In making its determination, the Service conducted an in-depth analysis of the bat's seasonal habitat needs, which include mines and caves for hibernation in winter and forested areas for roosting and



raising young in summer. Because designating critical habitat requires identification of specific tracts of land, the Service determined it is not prudent to designate hibernation sites as critical habitat. Doing so would increase the risk of vandalism and disturbance to bats at hibernation sites and could hasten the spread of white-nose syndrome.

For the bat's summer habitat, the Service determined that designating critical habitat would not benefit the species. Northern long-eared bats use a wide variety of forested areas in summer to find food and raise their young and are highly flexible in how they meet these needs. As such, there are no specific physical habitat features essential to its conservation. In addition, the bat's summer habitat is not limited or in short supply, habitat loss is not a predominant threat, and there are no areas that meet the definition of critical habitat.

"While critical habitat has a fundamental role to play in recovering many of our nation's most imperiled species, in the case of the northern long-eared bat, whose habitat is not a limiting factor in its survival, designating it could do more harm than good," UFWFS Midwest Regional Director Tom Melius said in a statement. In

addition, the finding, "enables the Service and our partners to focus our efforts where they clearly can do the most good, finding a solution to the primary threat of white-nose syndrome."

Bat Survey

In other NLEB-related news, researchers will again be looking for bat hibernacula and occupied maternity roost trees across Minnesota this summer.

The bat's threatened listing and associated "4(d) rule" forbids tree removal either within a hibernaculum or within a quarter-mile of the entrance to a known occupied hibernaculum. In addition, tree removal within 150 feet of a known, occupied maternity roost tree is forbidden during the months of June and July. However, removal of trees in this zone is allowed the other ten months of the year.

During previous studies, a total of 34 "occupied hibernacula" have been found in Minnesota, and 230 "known maternity roost trees" have been identified in the state.

According to the DNR, during 2015, 24 female northern long-eared bats were outfitted with radio transmitters and tracked. During last year's research, 71

“known maternity roost trees” were identified. These trees represented 17 different tree species. Last year’s survey revealed that female NLEBs showed no obvious preference of tree species, most roost trees were in an “advanced state of decay,” and the females used an average of 3.2 roost trees while collared.

The DNR expects to find another 200 or more “known maternity roost trees” in the coming years. To determine whether a hibernaculum or known maternity roost tree is located on a timber sale, consult your local agency forester, the Natural Heritage Information System, or call the TPA office for assistance.


White Nose Syndrome found Out West

Researchers have found White Nose Syndrome (WNS), the fungus that kills NLEB in the state of Washington. It’s the first time WNS has been found in a far-western state. Previously, the furthest west in the U.S. the fungus had been found had been in Nebraska.

WNS Treatment Success

Researchers from a variety of groups continue to conduct research, hoping to uncover a treatment for WNS. In May 2015, bats that previously had white-nose syndrome were released in Missouri. These bats had received treatments that appeared to be successful. Among those taking part in the research are the USFWS, U.S. Forest Service, Bat Conservation International, the Nature Conservancy, Georgia State University, and others. These groups and others are continuing research designed to find a cure for WNS, and reduce the mortality of bats.

WHEN DOING
WHAT’S RIGHT IS JUST
**GOOD
BUSINESS.**

 **FRYBERGER, BUCHANAN,
SMITH & FREDERICK, P.A.**

We have an attorney for you.

◦ BUSINESS/CORPORATE LAW ◦

» Michael Donovan » John Gasele » Robert Kanuit
» Dexter Larsen » Daniel Maddy

fryberger.com

Don Dens Sales

(218) 384-3734 CARLTON, MN

www.dondenssales.com • www.galvstartrailers.com



In Stock – Escanaba!

53' – 7 axles – Michigan Special

6 bunks, empty weight 22,500 lbs, (2) FA Lifts and (2) RA Lifts, 445 Michelin tires on aluminum wheels **\$94,500 w/FET**



Complete 5 Bunk Kits with
Aluminum Stake and End Gates
For Flatbed or Rail Trailers

Kit includes: 10 Galvanized Bunk Bottoms, (20) Alum. 8' Stakes, Alum. Front and Rear Gates, Mounting Kit.....**\$7750**
Galvanized Bunk Bottom w/ (2) 8' Aluminum Stakes and Hardware.....**\$600**
Alum. Stake, 8'6.....**\$140**
Alum. Stake, 8'**\$125**



20 bunk trailers in stock
ready to go!

\$46,500 w/FET Painted Black

New 2016 Galvanized 47' 3 Axle
5 Bunk Log Trailer

All Alum. Wheels, Front and Rear Axles Lift, 30K Axles and Suspension, LED Lights, Empty Weight: 13,500# Painted, 13,800# Galvanized.



Custom built galvanized truck
racks for loader trucks.
Call for customized quote.



Galvanized - Never Repaint Again!
High Strength Lightweight T1 Steel

\$48,500 w/FET Galvanized

LEED now recognizes more certification systems

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) has changed its LEED rating system for wood products and paper. LEED now recognizes all forest certification systems, including the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Tree Farm, and other PEFC-endorsed standards.

Previously only Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified materials received credit under the LEED rating system for wood

Timber Talk

products used during construction and paper products used during the operation and maintenance of

the building. This is a major change by USGBC, which had maintained a FSC-only policy since the inception of the LEED rating system.



LEED is considered the premier green building standard and is often cited by the environmental community as the most progressive on forest management certification issues. The fact that the USGBC has decided to treat all credible forest management certification systems as equally acceptable could be cited in discussions regarding which sustainable forest management certification programs are acceptable for paper-based products.

"This is a milestone victory for tree farmers, state committee leaders, our state forestry partners, state foresters and many more who care for our nation's forests," the American Tree Farm System said in

a statement. "This will help provide market recognition for wood from land certified through ATFS, as well as from SFI, PEFC, and FSC. What's more, this is a win for wood. This path will allow a significantly larger portion of sustainable wood products to qualify for the LEED standard, allowing more wood to be used in green buildings, thus creating more markets for family woodland owners."

Cramer Retires from Nortrax; Miska Joins Company

Chip Cramer, general manager of the Nortrax store in Grand Rapids, has elected to retire following a successful fifteen-year career.

Cramer is a 26-year veteran of the construction and forestry industry following a four-year tour of duty in the Air Force. Chip's deep commitment to his values and his loyalty, friendship, and professionalism have led him from a territory manager to an inside sales associate and finally general manager. His good nature, calm demeanor, and caring attitude, coupled with his insight, wisdom, and integrity, made him a trusted and reliable teammate to all at Nortrax. He will be missed as he and his wife begin traveling and enjoying their retirement.

As a result, Nortrax proudly introduces Rich Miska as our next general manager in Grand Rapids. Rich joins Nortrax following a career as senior financial



services executive at AgStar Financial Services. He has held the positions of land buyer and market development for a home builder. He's a graduate of the University of Minnesota, has been an active

associate member of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, has provided educational workshops for loggers through MLEP (Minnesota Loggers Education Program), is a current board member for the Minnesota chapter of Log-A-Load for Kids, and served on the board of trustees for AgStar's Fund for Rural America.

Outside of work, Rich and his wife Deb are active in their church and enjoy hunting, fishing, and attending the sporting events and extracurricular activities with their children.

Dean Rajala 1936-2016

AArthur "Dean" Rajala, 79, 7th Cavalry, United States Army, was called home to his Savior on Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016.

Dean was born in Effie and graduated from Bigfork High. After earning his degree at St. Olaf College, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving three tours in Vietnam.

Upon his return, Dean and his wife, JoAnn, moved north to Deer River, where he settled into the lumberjack life. He loved working for his father, Art, and with all the loggers and truckers who supplied his sawmill with the finest timber in northern Minnesota. He worked alongside his younger brothers, Jack and Randy.

Dean was preceded in death by his mother and father and wife JoAnn. He is survived by daughter Anna, son Arthur, siblings Jack, Randy, Delores, and Lois (Ron) Hanson, as well as his 10 grandchildren and numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

Email: auction@wausauauctioneers.com
www.wausauauctioneers.com

WAUSAU AUCTIONEERS
SALES CORP / P.O. BOX 1311 • WAUSAU, WI • 54402-1311
PH: (715) 536-1955 • (800) 432-1922



*Minnesota Timber
Producers Association*

TPA Annual Meeting & Lake Superior Harbor Dinner Cruise



Join us for a great evening on Lake Superior

Thursday June 9th!

Schedule of Events

11:00AM	TPA Annual Meeting—Black Woods, Proctor
Noon	Lunch
4PM	Meeting Adjourns
5:30PM	Vista Star Dinner Cruise Departs DECC Dock

Contact the TPA office at 722-5013 for meeting, hotel, and cruise information

Logging Trucks and Electronic Logs: Minnesota Loggers Exempt in Certain Situations

While new federal regulations require most U.S. commercial trucks and passenger buses to be equipped with Electronic Log Devices (ELDs) by the end of 2017, most Minnesota logging trucks are exempt from the provision, thanks to state statute.

An ELD automatically records driving time, and monitors engine hours, vehicle movement, miles driven, and location information. The device replaces paper logs long used by truck drivers.

However, Minnesota law has long exempted the transportation of "pulpwood, cordwood, mining timber, poles, posts, decorator evergreens, wood chips, sawdust, shavings, and bark from the place where the products are produced to the point where they are to be used or shipped," from hours of service regulations. The exemption applies only for truck travel within Minnesota (INTRA-state commerce).



If a logging truck leaves Minnesota and enters into INTER-state commerce, different

regulations apply. Federal statute allows exemptions from hours of service for log trucks that include staying within a 100 air-mile radius, and working no more than 12 hours. However, other federal requirements kick in when hauling from Minnesota into another state, including unified carrier registration (UCR), fuel tax payments, etc. For more information on hauling into one of our neighboring states or Canada, contact the TPA office.

According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), on the days a driver leaves the state and exceeds 100 miles or 12 hours, a paper log will suffice and be required as it has in the past. If the paper log is needed more than eight times in any 30-day period, an ELD will be required.

Though not required for logging trucks in INTRA-state commerce, some truck owners may find ELDs useful, including for fleet management reasons. The federal rule regarding ELDs strictly prohibits "commercial driver harassment," by including both procedural and technical provisions designed to protect commercial truck and bus drivers from harassment resulting from information generated by ELDs.




**Let us
help you
complete
the job.**

AgStar Financial Services understands both loan and lease options for the timber industry. That's why our team of timber experts can help provide you with a financing package that is best for your operation. AgStar Financial Services is a partner you can trust.

**Visit us online at AgStar.com
or call Rich Miska
at 218-838-7202.**



 AgStar Financial Services is an equal opportunity employer, lender and provider.
© 2014 All rights reserved.

Hedstrom Lumber Co., Inc.

1504 Gunflint Trail
Grand Marais, Minnesota



BUYING LOGS:

White, Red and Jack Pine,
Spruce, Balsam and Aspen

Deliveries accepted at:

Mill Site
Grand Marais, Minn.
FutureWood
South Range, Wis.
Kirscher Transport Yard
Virginia, Minn.

For specifications and a contract call:

Howard Hedstrom
218-387-2995, ext. 12

Doug Magee
218-834-5151 or 218-349-9241

Visit our website:
www.hedstromlumber.com

DULUTH SIGN

Truck Graphics of any kind.
"We have you covered!"

116 W. Superior St, Duluth, MN 55802
218-722-2569 • duluthsign.com

RK

RIHM KENWORTH

**Toward the Best
Customer Service**

St. Paul, MN
651.646.7833 • 800.988.8235

Sauk Centre, MN
320.352.8540 • 855.704.9211

Albert Lea, MN
507.552.1340 • 877.744.6591

Duluth/Superior
715.395.5350 • 800.341.1666

Lake Elmo, MN
651.272.4480 • 844.220.2633

1932 - 2015
CELEBRATING 83 YEARS IN BUSINESS

www.rihmkenworth.com

Hasbargens Receive 'Minnesota Logger of the Year' Award

The Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® State Implementation Committee (SIC) has named Hasbargen Logging as "Logger of the Year," in recognition of outstanding independent logging contractor performance.

The award was presented to Kit, Clarence, and Denton Hasbargen, the three brothers who own and operate the Birchdale-based company, at the Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP) conference April 12 in Tower, Minnesota.

The company has its roots with the brothers' great-grandfather near Menasha in central Minnesota. In the mid-1930s, the family moved to the Birchdale area, along the banks of the Rainy River on the Canadian border. Kit, Clarence, and Denton purchased the company in 1986 from their father.

The brothers represent the fourth generation involved in the logging industry; members of the family's fifth generation currently work for the company.

"The Hasbargen Logging operations not only 'talk the talk,' but 'walk the walk' of the standards set forth by Minnesota's logging profession and the SIC," said Ben Bagdon, coordinator of the Duluth-based Minnesota SIC and director of forest policy with Minnesota Forest Industries.

Sustainable forestry practices have been a hallmark of Hasbargen Logging for its decades of existence, long before the term even became a buzzword for practices that preserve ecological diversity in the woods – and even before Minnesota established its Voluntary Site-Level Forest Management Guidelines in 1999. The company has been diligent in conducting its timber harvests with sensitivity to forested areas along lakes and rivers, wildlife habitat, historic and cultural resources, and soil productivity.

The brothers' commitment to the land is evidenced by the number of private landowners, consulting foresters, and forestry agencies alike



Kit Hasbargen (left), of Hasbargen Logging in Birchdale, accepts the Logger of the Year Award from Roger Johnson, chair of the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® State Implementation Committee.

requesting Hasbargen Logging to conduct their forest harvest activities. It is not unusual for the company to return to a private landowner woodland to assist with building hiking trails or habitat for deer and other wildlife, when requested.

The company operates a variety of logging equipment, including three feller bunchers, three stroke delimiters, as well as several grapple skidders and loader/sliders. The right mix of equipment, combined with the experience and expertise of the company's woods crew enables Hasbargen Logging to carry out the right harvest prescription for each harvest job, balancing high production with a keen eye on sustainability.

Hasbargen Logging is not only committed to sustainable forestry practices; it is committed to the business world of timber harvesting and to the local communities in which it does business. The company is a member of the MLEP, which promotes excellence in logger training and practices; Kit has served as the organization's president and on its board of directors.

MLEP Executive Director Rachel Peterson lauded the company's operations and commitment to public and private forests. "Hasbargen Logging's attention to sustainable harvest practices, to the safety of its employees, and to the people of the communities in which they work and live are testimony to the brothers' commitment to Minnesota's woodlands," said Peterson.

Kit Hasbargen is also a member of the Minnesota Timber Producers' Association, serving on its board of directors, executive committee, and as president. The brothers also represented Minnesota loggers on the committee that generated the 2014 Report on the *Competitiveness of Minnesota's Primary Forest Products Industry* which is being used by the governor, state Legislature, and state agencies to guide their decision-making in regards to forest policy.

All three brothers have served on the local volunteer fire department and are active in local business community affairs, including speaking to the general public about forestry and logging, and to school groups. The company hosts students at its logging sites.

TURN around

Turnaround™ provides significant improvements in operator ergonomics and visibility. And combined with Tigercat's exclusive hydrostatic drive technology, Turnaround renders the very concepts of forward and reverse obsolete.



With Turnaround, the operator can comfortably drive the skidder blade-forward or grapple-forward while controlling all machine functions. In addition, the full infinite range of travel speeds and full maximum tractive effort are available in either direction at any engine speed, including low idle. No other skidder has these performance capabilities.

Call Titan Machinery today to discover many more benefits of Turnaround and Tigercat's hydrostatic drive technology.

TITAN
MACHINERY
DULUTH, MN
800.795.0117
www.titanmachinery.com

519.753.2000
comments@tigercat.com
www.tigercat.com
www.facebook.com/Tigercat 

Tigercat[®]
Tough • Reliable • Productive

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

Cass County

February 25 — Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$20.36	\$22.54
Red Oak	\$24.18	\$44.77
Birch	\$11.50	\$25.09

All 5 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Cass County

March 31 — Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$24.70	\$36.90
Ash	\$ 7.80	\$20.78
Red Oak	\$24.79	\$45.01
Birch	\$16.16	\$24.04

All 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Crow Wing County

April 1 — Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$32.86	NA
Oak	\$18.42	NA
Birch	\$16.91	NA
Maple	\$11.75	NA

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

Hubbard County

April 4 — Oral Auction

Aspen Mixed	\$49.35	NA
Aspen Pulp	\$48.91	NA
Birch Pulp	\$17.04	NA
Jack Pine Mixed	\$50.54	NA

All 14 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Beltrami County

April 5 — Sealed Bid

Aspen Pulp	\$49.68	NA
Balsam P&B	\$26.07	NA
Maple Pulp	\$16.28	NA
Ash	\$10.55	NA

All 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Beltrami County

April 7 — Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp	\$67.25	NA
Red Pine P&B	\$59.20	NA
Balm Pulp	\$24.34	NA
Balsam Pulp	\$25.41	NA

All 11 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Clearwater County

April 21 — Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp	\$49.98	NA
Birch Pulp	\$26.13	NA
Oak Pulp	\$31.94	NA
Maple Pulp	\$23.27	NA

All 8 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

TIMBER BULLETIN Subscription Order

Please ENTER my subscription to the Minnesota Timber Bulletin (six issues per year). Payment is enclosed for:

1 year \$25 2 years \$40 3 years \$55

Please type or print clearly.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COMPANY/ORGANIZATION _____

Please send my GIFT SUBSCRIPTION to the Minnesota Timber Bulletin (six issues per year) to be sent to the name below. Payment is enclosed for:

1 year \$20 2 years \$33 3 years \$45

Please type or print clearly.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Make checks payable to:

TPA Services, Inc., 903 Medical Arts Bldg., 324 W. Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802

Note: Existing subscriptions will continue at their current rate until they expire.



Mid-States
EQUIPMENT, INC.
HYDRAULICS

**TRUSTED PRODUCTS.
EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE.
NOW ALL IN THE
CONVENIENCE
OF THE WEB.**



**CHECK US OUT
TODAY AT:**
midstateshydraulics.com















**SERVING THE TIMBER
INDUSTRY SINCE 1960**

CORPORATE OFFICE:
Medford, WI • 715-748-5565

BRANCH OFFICE:
Appleton, WI • 920-687-9750

CLARK TRACKS

high performance for maximum work life

Terra Plate - The Ultimate Multi-Terrain Track

- Mud
- Snow
- Rock
- Ice
- Steep Slope

FX95
Terra Plate

TL85
Terra Plate

Rocky Grouzer Terra-X Combi Terra-X TXL Flotation

Clark Tracks offers a full line of plate options for specific ground conditions as well as customized spike patterns.

To learn more about Clark Tracks,
call **800.323.3708** or visit
www.clarktracksusa.com



WALLINGFORD'S INC.

Exclusive Distributor of Clark Tracks in the USA.

www.wallingfords.com

LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

"The Swampers"

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*



The swamper in a lumber camp did not have the task of cleaning up the bunkhouse, as the name might imply, but a very important job in getting the logs out of the woods.

Very few men starting out to spend a winter in camp ever hired out as a swamper. As Paddy McLoughlin, an old camp foreman, would say, "If a jack ever walked into camp and applied for a

swamper job I would drop dead." When a new man arrived in camp looking for work he always wanted to be a top loader, a cant hook man or a four-horse teamster. Paddy would size him up and reply, "Oh yes, we have a few openings for cant hook men or teamsters coming along in a few days, but better let me try you out as a swamper until these jobs open up." And this was the way most swampers were hired.

However, there were men who would do nothing else but swamper jobs, and, as I mentioned, a good swamper was a very important man in keeping the logs moving. Quite often swamping was done by older men who had slowed down some but knew how to handle and plan a good swamping job.

Now, swamping meant two things—the cutting off of the limbs from the sawed logs and the making of skidding trails in to the logs for the horses and oxen. The greatest distance logs would be skidded to a skidway was probably about 300 feet. As a rule, two skidding teams would be skidding onto one skidway at a time. However, more teams might be used



Nice, large white pine like the one above would need little swamping. Oxen (below) could work skidding jobs in quite heavy brush.



when working over longer distances—and sometimes when starting a new skidway just one team would move the logs close in, with other teams put on as the skidding distance increased.

The swampers started on the skidway with the skidders in most cases, but if there was heavy limbing to be done, they sometimes worked a day ahead of the skidders. As a rule, a good swamper could handle two skidding teams, but there were times when two swampers were needed.

The skidders hooked onto the butt log of the tree with a pair of skidding tongs and pulled it with a team to the skidway, where they unhitched the tongs and the decking crew took over. Then the skidding team returned for the next log of the tree. While the skidding team was moving the first log to the skidway, the swamper was clearing the way so the team could get to the next log. This continued on up the tree until they got to the top logs, which were too small to be held by the skidding tongs. Then the swamper fastened two or sometimes three small logs with a chain and they were pulled out together to the skidway. Sometimes all the tong logs were taken out first and all the chained logs later.

When the snow was deep, it took considerable tramping of snow in order to get the skidding teams in to the logs, and it was quite a job getting chains onto the top logs that would be pretty well buried in the snow. It was the policy of most loggers to have the skidders work as close behind the sawing crews as possible to avoid logs being covered with snow. However, during winters of deep snow and heavy snow falls, logs sometimes were missed. Some of these logs have been found by cruisers or foresters many years after the logging operation.

The swamper's main tool was a double-bitted axe, which he used in limbing the log and clearing the trail. When chaining small logs, he sometimes used a cant hook to roll the log, but more often a handmade, hardwood "hand spike," about two inches thick and four feet long, was used to move the log so he could get the chain around it.

Sometimes a large log heavy enough to be a problem for one skidding team was rolled onto a one-bunk dray, with the back end of the log dragging on the ground so it could be skidded more easily. In this case, the swamper helped roll the log onto the dray.

The main job of the swampers, however, was to clear the skidding trails from the skidway to where the trees were felled. There were many tricks in making these trails so the logs would come out easily and without getting hung up on stumps, and a foreman walking in to look over a skidding job could tell in a minute if the swamper knew his stuff.

Swampers were at the bottom of the

Most logs were skidded to skidway one at a time by a single team using skidding tongs (top). Small logs were skidded by a single horse or team with two or more logs at a time fastened with a chain.



pay scale, but this was mostly because this is where the foreman started most new men to see if they would make lumberjacks. I knew one old lumberjack who had spent most of his life in the camps on the Minnesota and International Railroad and who would not take any other job. When I asked him why he always took a job swamping, he would say, "It only takes me an hour to figure out my trails and I get a little more time to smoke my pipe—which you can't do if you're working on the skidway." Another old jack I knew to take a swamping job all the time said he liked swamping because you kept busy and kept warm and the time went very fast.

The average 150-man camp with 20 saw gangs and 10 skidding teams would have 20 to 25 swampers. Besides swamping out the skidding trails from the skidways to where the logs lay, sometimes a crew of swampers would be assigned the job of cutting out a new work trail from camp to the work area or from one work area to another—or any trail that men or horses might need in carrying out their work. And the swampers, being the common labor of the camps, might be assigned any special job that came up for a short period of time, such as tramping snow or helping set up a dinnering out grounds.

But the swampers, in their primary task of limbing and making trails from the woods to the skidways, surely did a very important job in logging off our vast virgin pine stands in Minnesota.



The white pine logs above have been swamped and await the skidders. The swamper below (at left with axe) probably had an easy job working in good timber like this.





Cat® Forestry Solutions

Ziegler can help you be more profitable from the beginning to the end of the wood flow process. Whether you're road building, harvesting, loading, trucking, milling or reforestation, we'll partner with you to match the right equipment for your needs.



Ziegler Forestry Locations

BRAINERD

3311 Liberty Lane
Brainerd, MN 56401
218.829.9800

BUHL

10081 East Hwy 169
Buhl, MN 55713
218.258.3232

CROOKSTON

720 3rd Ave SW
Crookston, MN 56716
218.281.4245

DULUTH

210 Garfield Ave
Duluth, MN 55802
218.722.6628

ZIEGLER 

www.zieglercat.com

**SMALL-TOWN
VALUES.
BIG-TIME
EXPERIENCE.**

With more than 70 years of experience, we're a leading provider of value-added lubrication products and services for the timber and logging industry. Keep your equipment running at peak performance with Industrial Lubricant.

▶ IndustrialLubricant.com



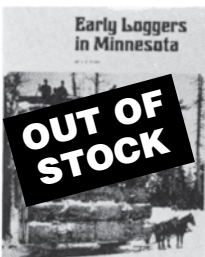
MINING | RAILROAD | CONSTRUCTION | INDUSTRIAL AND ENERGY
TIMBER AND LOGGING | AGRICULTURE



Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I



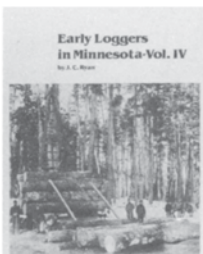
VOL. III



VOL. II



VOL. IV



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

Enclosed is \$ _____ for

_____ copies "Early Loggers in Minnesota" Vol. I at \$8.50 each.

_____ copies "Early Loggers in Minnesota" Vol. II at \$8.50 each.

_____ copies "Early Loggers in Minnesota" Vol. III at \$8.50 each.

_____ copies "Early Loggers in Minnesota" Vol. IV at \$8.50 each.

Prices include sales taxes, postage and handling.

Please make check or money order payable to "TPA Services"

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: **Minnesota Timber Producers Assn.**
903 Medical Arts Bldg., 324 W. Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802

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.

FOR SALE

648 E John Deer Skidder, dual action booms, 35.5 x 32 tires with chains, rebuilt transmission.

Jerry Shuster
11613 Willow River Rd.
Gheen, Minn 55771
218-787-2264

HELP WANTED

Truck driver, full time, year around, hauling tree length wood in Southeast Texas, experience preferred. 409-489-0113

WANTED

Barrel stave logs – White Oak and Burr Oak butt cuts 12-inch diameter and up – random lengths
For more information call
Robert Staggemeier at
Staggemeier Stave Co. Inc.
Caledonia, MN 55921
Office: 507-724-3395
Cell: 608-792-7598

ADVERTISERS INDEX

AgStar	20
Bitco Insurance Companies	5
Cass Forest Products.....	6
Don Dens Sales	17
Duluth Sign	21
Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A.....	17
Great Lakes Trailers	13
Hedstrom Lumber Co.....	21
Industrial Lubricant Company	30
Mid-States Equipment.....	24
Nelson Wood Shims.....	5
Northern Timberline Equipment.....	7
Nortrax.....	9, 31
Otis-Magie Insurance Agency	11
Pine Products, Inc.....	14
Pomp's Tire	7
Rice Blacksmith Saw & Machine.....	15
Rihm Kenworth.....	21
Road Machinery & Supplies.....	32
Schaefer Enterprises.....	11
Titan Machinery	23
Wallingford's.....	4, 25
Wausau Sales Corp.....	18
Ziegler	29



CONSIDER THE GAME OFFICIALLY CHANGED.

We're changing the logging game. Loggers like you asked for more efficiency, more productivity, and less operator fatigue. Thousands of testing hours later, we're happy to say our new 800M Series Tracked Feller Bunchers and Harvesters deliver all three. Using one easy-to-operate joystick, our exclusive new Rapid Cycle System (RCS) combines automated felling-head arm cycling with simple boom control. The RCS can also be tailored to individual skill levels and specific harvesting conditions. That's game-changing performance — because at John Deere, We're For Loggers.

See your Nortrax representative for more information.



JOHN DEERE

NORTRAX
www.nortrax.com

Bemidji, MN **888.450.1996**

Duluth, MN **800.450.7456**

Grand Rapids, MN **800.450.9427**

Monico, WI **800.472.7202**

Ashland, WI **800.472.6685**

Chippewa Falls, WI **800.691.2924**

Escanaba, MI **800.562.6174**

Mosinee, WI **866.312.8414**

THE NEW C SERIES



THE NEW C SERIES FEATURES: Hydrostatic swing, improved cab with taller windows, new style joystick pods, improved serviceability



**BUILT BY LOGGERS
FOR LOGGERS.**

PP453 DELIMBER



PP453 FEATURES: Versatile & durable, use with any type of topping system: twin topping knives, bar saw or circular saw



**QUALITY FORESTRY
ATTACHMENTS**

RMS
ROAD MACHINERY
& SUPPLIES CO.

Road Machinery & Supplies Co.
has proudly served its customers since 1926.
WWW.RMSEQUIPMENT.COM

RMS Duluth, MN
218-727-8611
Wade Stromgren

RMS Virginia, MN
218-741-9011
Shawn Mitchell