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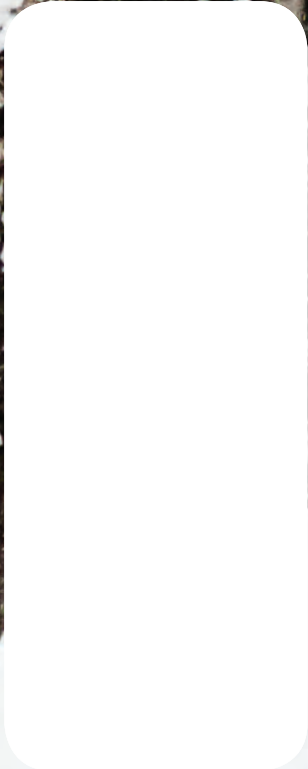
# TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

VOLUME 73

*Merry  
Christmas!*





# NOTHING COMPARES TO THE LEGEND.

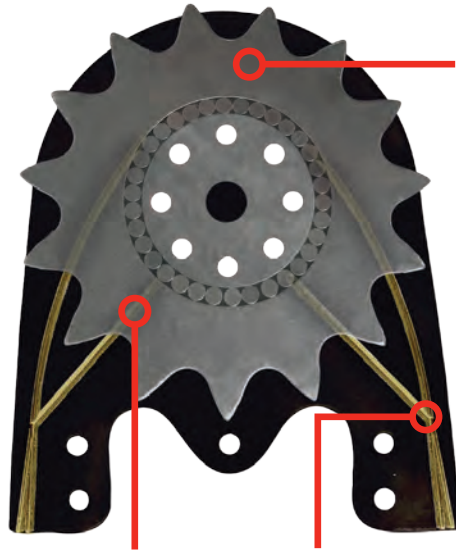
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# TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 73  
November/December 2018  
Duluth, Minnesota

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Cover photo by Lori Dobbs of Dobbs Logging in Littlefork. For more on Lori, please see page 22.

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**A**s November came, it looked as if winter may be earlier than usual. Early winter load increases were a welcome site and it seemed to be freezing up nicely! What happened? Weather pattern now looks like it will hold most of December a bit warmer than most loggers would like to see. One thing is for sure, we are going to have to take what we get. I'm looking forward to some cooler weather to stiffen up those low areas for production this winter season.

## President's Column



At the October Board meeting, the discussion was about what TPA could do to be a bit more responsive to issues that arise in our industry. I encourage all of our members to bring any issue that they encounter in day to day operations to the TPA staff for review. The current environment that we are in is very challenging, and the more input and ideas that are brought up can be very helpful. Ideas? The committee is also working on the agenda for the annual meeting to be held at Sugar Lake again this year. Any input is welcome for this event as well!

Wayne, along with the executive committee, has been working on a list of objectives for the upcoming legislative session, which, as we all know, Wayne is very active in. Thanks to Wayne for his continued commitment to the industry. It truly does take persistence, patience, and persuasiveness to be effective in legislative issues and the time that is spent in Saint Paul.

As always, and in particular this time of year, with ice and snow, please keep safety in your thoughts and actions at all times while working. An extra minute or two taken to be "safe" is well worth the time versus taking shortcuts.

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The November elections have come and gone and we have some new folks elected to some key roles and some old friends back in the mix. Congressman Tim Walz was elected to succeed Mark Dayton as Minnesota's next Governor. We met with Congressman Walz prior to the election to discuss a broad range of issues that are important to our members.

Governor-Elect Walz has been good on forestry and some other issues important to us during his time in Congress. Time will tell how he deals with our issues as Governor.

The biggest change from the elections saw the state House of Representatives switch from Republican to DFL control. Committee chairs have been designated and members are being assigned to them. Unlike in years past, the DFL gained control with very few rural seats. How this informs their actions as they assume the majority will have major implications for our industry.

Congratulations to Rep. Rob Ecklund of International Falls who has been named Chair of the new Veterans Affairs Committee. Congratulations also to Rep. Julie Sandstede of Hibbing who was elected as an Assistant Majority Leader.

On the federal side of things we saw our friend Pete Stauber elected to succeed Congressman Rick Nolan in the Eighth District. Senators Amy

Klobuchar and Tina Smith were re-elected/elected. Both of them have been supportive of many of our issues.

So time marches on in the legislative bodies with new people and factors at play. As always our challenge is to work with those who have been elected, no matter their party or geographical homes, to accomplish the goals of our members.

The Minnesota Legislature will convene on January 8, 2019 with a new Governor and a new majority in the House of Representatives. This will be a "long" Session as the legislature grapples with putting together the biannual budget and a host of other issues.

As always, I'm looking forward to the start of the legislative session, the challenges and opportunities that it will provide for us and being a part of, hopefully, making things better for our members.

A big thank you to Congressman Rick Nolan for his service in Washington. A tireless worker, Congressman Nolan focused on getting things done no matter how large or small. He knew our business and was always at the ready to help on every issue. If you're delivering a load and taking the Interstate around downtown Duluth and heading south you have Congressman Nolan to thank for not being on Superior Street instead. He got the exemption passed that allows us to use this route.

I wish Congressman Nolan the best in retirement and am grateful for his service.

## Executive Vice President's Column



Congress. Time will tell how he deals with our issues as Governor.

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I wish Congressman Nolan the best in retirement and am grateful for his service.

Congratulations to MN Forest Resources Council's DeAnn Stish for pulling off a real coup. Ms. Stish, the Council's Executive Director, through her perseverance and vision, was able to secure USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment Jim Hubbard for a day in Minnesota. Under Secretary Hubbard's role is very important as the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service reports to him. Ms. Stish arranged a series of meetings and briefings for the Under Secretary during his stop in Minnesota that we hope will prove very beneficial for forest management in our state.

Look elsewhere in this issue of the *Timber Bulletin* for our response to a misguided opinion column on logging that ran in the *Duluth News-Tribune* recently. We couldn't, and don't, let the kind of misinformation in the writers opinion piece go unchallenged. The Duluth paper was very good to work with in this process.

Winter weights are on which marks one of the earliest starts we've seen in years. With the start of the winter logging season we all know the pressure to produce will be on. Let's make this a winter where the pressure to work safely is also on. You will never regret the injury that you prevent.

As we bring another year to a close we all have many things to be grateful for – family, friends, community and the many joys we have felt and challenges we have overcome during the past year. I am particularly grateful to the members and leaders of TPA who have allowed me to continue to serve this great organization. While our circumstances may change the contributions that we can all make continue.

I wish each of you a blessed and Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

Wayne E. Smith



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Gary Rasmussen

# At Home in the Woods

**H**aving grown up in Manitou, along the Rainy River, six miles east of Birchdale, logger Gary Rasmussen knows a thing or two about the woods adjacent to the Minnesota/Ontario border between Indus and International Falls to the east.

"See that stand of pine?" he points out as he drives his pick-up through a Koochiching County forest near Big Falls. "They've thinned it a couple of times. That's one of the nicest pine stands around here. It's gorgeous."

Rasmussen is right. The stand of red pine, as well as those of aspen, spruce, and balsam, is beautiful,

testament to the work he and other loggers like him have done in these parts. It's a vocation that started back while attending Indus High School in the early 1960s.

"I was cutting wood at between 15, 16 years old," he says. "I had a power saw, and my dad had a dray that you'd load on, and I had an Oliver 60 tractor that I'd pull it with. And then to haul it to town I had a neighbor that did that kind of work. He had a front-end loader on a tractor and he'd go around to the different farmers in those days and haul their wood to Boise in the Falls for them."

When Rasmussen graduated from

Indus in 1963, he moved about 25 miles to the east to Pelland to be closer to his high school sweetheart and future wife Deanna, and followed in his father's footsteps by taking a construction job in the summer months and cutting wood together in the winter.

"At that point in time, I was doing roadwork," he says. "I was a paver operator, but did other things, too."

Gary's brother Terry was nine years younger, and when he graduated from Indus, he headed to the woods as well. By 1976, Gary, Terry, and their father started a three-way partnership, cutting wood during the winter months and



delivering to Boise in the Falls.

The summer construction job entailed traveling around the region to work on various road projects, meaning Gary was away from home for days at a time, away from Deanna and their two children, Stacy and Sherri. That grew tiresome, so he decided to quit the construction work and log full-time.

“When you work fifteen years away from home like I did in construction,” he says, “when you have a family, that’s what enters in there. And it was a point in time when logging was good.”

By 1984, Terry had left the partnership to work construction full-time, and their father had retired, leaving Gary the last Rasmussen in the woods. That’s when the current version of Rasmussen Logging was born, with Gary as sole proprietor. He used a 450 John Deere as a feller buncher, bought a 664 Clark skidder, and delimbbed by hand with a chainsaw.

“The John Deere had an Allen head on it and knives,” he recalls, “so you had to walk into that tree and you’d pinch it off, then you’d back away and put it in the drag.”



Jon Balaski harvests aspen with a Timbco 425 feller buncher. Rasmussen Logging also utilizes a Timbco 415 buncher.



Walter Martins operates a John Deere 690 ELC delimeter with a Lim-mit 2000 boom for Rasmussen Logging.



Brent Horne heads to the PCA mill in International Falls with a load of aspen from one of Rasmussen Logging's harvests.

That's how a number of guys around this area got started with feller bunchers. I went quite a while with that 450 feller. There were a lot

of those around."

Rasmussen has since upgraded his equipment of course, utilizing two John Deere skidders, a John

Deere delimeter with a 2000 Limit boom, and two Timbco feller bunchers—a 425 and a 415.

"We run two bunchers because if



Rasmussen Logging utilizes two skidders, including this John Deere 748G-III.



Harvested aspen waits to be hauled to the mill.

one goes down, you need another one to take its place pretty fast," he says. "And I've got two skidders out there running around. They gobble up a lot of wood."

He's had these machines a long time, around twenty years or so, but they're well-taken care of, both with regular maintenance and end-of-the-season work. Rasmussen does a lot of his own work on the machines in his shop, but he also calls on Eric Hall, who has his own service truck, when necessary.

"One buncher is on its third motor," he says. "In the spring we always do something to them. If it needed a motor, we'd put it in. If it needed a turntable swing, it got one. If you're having trouble with it in the winter, correct it in the spring. And that's what we did."

In a typical year, Rasmussen's crew will be off from break-up until sometime in the fall. It can be difficult to find workers for only six to seven months out of the year, but Rasmussen has been able to make it work. For example, Walter Martins runs the delimeter, but

in the summer has a job working at a resort on Rainy Lake. Brent Horne has hauled for Rasmussen for the past twenty winters or so, and works construction for Ulland Brothers in the summer. And Jon Balaski has run skidder for Rasmussen over the years while serving customers as a fishing guide on Rainy Lake during the summer months.

There are others on the Rasmussen crew as well: Lance Mann runs woods equipment and Doug Stiltman drives truck. Gary's kids pitch in too: Stacy works full-time at the PCA mill in finishing and shipping, but takes six weeks off every winter to help out in the woods, while Sherri, a full-time banker, helps out with the payroll and other bookkeeping functions. Stacy's son Adam Rasmussen also lends a hand around his employment with the state.

And of course there's Gary himself, who might operate the buncher one minute and find himself fueling the loader the next, "There's always something to do,"

he says.

One person missing from the crew is brother Terry. After leaving the partnership for the construction business back in '84, Terry found his way back to Rasmussen Logging and worked alongside Gary for years as his right-hand man. Last spring however, in fact on the last day of hauling, Terry had a heart attack and was gone at the age of 64.

"It was very hard," Gary says. "When you lose somebody like I did with Terry, that just takes the starch right out of you."

But the work continues. This winter's logging season is off to a decent start, with cold but not frigid temperatures so far, compelling MnDOT to implement winter load increases for hauling on November 30th, only the second time ever the extra weight has been allowed before the first of December. This morning is the coldest of the season, with the overnight low barely creeping above zero. Chilly, but not all that cold, at least not for northern Minnesota in December.

"This weather," Rasmussen says,

“is beautiful, really.”

Today the crew is starting on its third site of the year, just south of International Falls, west of Roger’s Corner, with roughly 2000 cords of aspen, balsam and a little bit of ash ready for harvest. The slasher is still at the job they just completed, finishing work on around 1800 cords of red pine, jack pine, and aspen that was all harvested in the last couple of weeks. Plus, Rasmussen has around 1000 cords of aspen and 600 cords of pine stockpiled at the season’s first logging site. Most of the wood from all three locations will be hauled to the PCA Boise mill in the Falls where he has a strong long-standing relationship. In addition, some of the softwoods will go to Verso in Duluth or the PotlatchDeltic mill at Bemidji. The work is going well, but a few more cold nights like last night would help.

“A couple of them anyway,” he says. “Overall, it’s a good start to the season. We don’t have a whole

bunch of snow yet. But you don’t know what’s going to happen. We could get a dump of snow, and then it’s lights out. Or we could get some cold weather like we did last year and end up with a perfect season.”

At age 73, how much longer Rasmussen stays in the logging business is anyone’s guess. It’s been hard work over the years, and it hasn’t always been easy. Lessons learned have been difficult, but invaluable.

“It’s not a job if you don’t make a mistake,” he chuckles. “You learn it all right in the field, doing what you were doing. It’s definitely hard work. And in the winter time, they’re definitely long hours. You have to work at it.”

Along with the lifetime of hard work and trees cut come a lifetime of stories, including one about his old high school classmate Dale Erickson.

“We used to run cable skidders years ago,” he recalls with a smile. “There was no protection from the

elements. You were wide open. You had a cab over your head, and you’d get off that skidder and pull those chokers out and find those trees that someone had gone in and hand-fell ahead of you. Dale was one of them. He had a 450 John Deere his dad had bought, and he ran that, and of course when it snows, you have a tree full of snow. And those 450s just had a cab on them, they were open. So you’d reverse the fan so you’d have that hot air blowing back at you, but sometimes that was a minus because your legs were warm, so when the snow out of that tree would hit, you’d be soaking wet.”

Rasmussen chuckles at the memory, but he wouldn’t have it any other way. He never considered living anywhere other than along the northern edge of the state.

“It’s the people that I like,” he says. “There aren’t a lot of them, and I like that, too.”

“I like being in the woods. It’s home.”



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# TPA Responds to Opinion Piece

*On December 2nd, the Duluth News Tribune published an opinion piece claiming timber harvests damaged wildlife habitat. The following Sunday, a response from TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt was published in the News Tribune:*

## **Thank modern timber harvesting for creating wildlife habitat**

*by Wayne Brandt*

**M**ike Ribich's column last Sunday (Hunter's View: "Modern timber harvesting is erasing wildlife habitat," Dec. 2) used statements about wildlife habitat and forest diversity like "my theory," "seemingly," and "there seems to be no evidence."

Unfortunately, it never used "solid data." There's actually plenty of evidence to refute claims that were both inaccurate and detrimental to an important part of Minnesota's heritage.

Minnesota's forests have never been more plentiful. The state has 20 million more large trees (of 19 inches or more in diameter) than it had 60 years ago. Less than 1 percent of Minnesota's forestland is harvested each year, and more than three times as much wood is grown each year to replace it. This information is from the U.S. Forest Service.

While Ribich claimed that "aspen growth is so rapid it out-competes other species of trees," the reality is that aspen timberland has declined by nearly 600,000 acres statewide during the past 40 years. In its place, spruce, balsam, and other species have grown to create diverse forest habitats.

As for very old aspen stands, the number of acres of aspen over 70 years of age statewide has more than doubled during those 40 years.

He stated that "deer numbers seemingly have plummeted." I can't speak for what he sees at his hunting spot in Itasca County, but the 2017 Minnesota deer harvest was up 14.2 percent over 2016 and up 41.8 percent since



2014, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Deer die in hard winters because of a lack of available food. However, thanks to food resources enhanced by modern logging techniques and young forest habitats, Minnesota's deer population is the highest it has been since 2010.

Yes, grouse numbers are down, just as they are in many nearby states. It might be, as Ribich mentioned, due to the West Nile virus. It might be from other causes. But it's not due to too much timber harvesting, as he also stated, as timber harvesting has decreased greatly. It's more likely due to too little harvesting. Minnesota wood usage since 2006 has declined from more than 4 million cords to 2.8 million cords annually.

No timber harvesting, by the way, comes from old-growth forests on state land, which the DNR has protected from harvest for more than 25 years.

The 32,000 men and women in Minnesota's forest-products industry share Ribich's desire to have abundant forests and wildlife populations. Our state is a national leader in sustainable forestry. Wood harvested following stringent guidelines is certified by independent third parties as sustainable. This means our state forestlands are being carefully managed to balance the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees with the long-term protection and production of wildlife, plants, soil, and water quality.

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industries don't operate in a vacuum. We closely follow guidelines set by experts charged with protecting the environment. Those experts include the Minnesota Forest Resources Council, a governor-appointed body that oversees sustainable forest-resource policies. The council developed site-level forest management guidelines used by landowners, land managers, and loggers on all lands in our state. They help ensure sustainability in Minnesota's forests. The guidelines are comprehensive, addressing a wide variety of forest-resource issues, and are updated on a consistent basis, grounded in the best available scientific information.

Ribich concluded his commentary by inviting people to walk through the forest with him. Our state's loggers and foresters take that walk every day. I think anyone who takes similar walks will be pleasantly surprised to see how effective forest management across Minnesota creates and maintains a healthy balance of forest age classes and timber types that provide excellent habitat for wildlife — now and in the future.

*The initial anti-harvest opinion piece subsequently appeared in the Outdoor News. Brandt submitted the above response for publication as well.*



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# Forest Service Chief Reduces NEPA Complexity

In a series of memos to Regional Foresters, U.S. Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen took steps to reduce the complexity of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance faced by the National Forests. Taken together, these memos should streamline NEPA

**Timber Talk** analysis and keep decision making closer to the ground where it belongs. These include:

- Clarifying that the term "significance" has different meanings in the Endangered Species Act (ESA) than it does under NEPA. ESA "significance" is only one of ten factors used in



determining whether to prepare an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement.

- Eliminating all regional, forest,

or district supplements to the Forest Service Manual and Handbook regarding NEPA immediately, with limited exceptions. Also eliminating all other supplemental direction pertaining to NEPA procedures at the regional, forest, or district levels as of December 14, 2018, with limited exceptions. These supplements, "add analysis and decision-making requirements not necessary to comply with the law."

- Delegating authority to approve exceptions to the 2001 Roadless Rule from the Chief directly to Regional Foresters. The memo states, "In light of the well understood implementation of the Roadless Rule, project by project oversight by the Washington Office is no longer necessary."

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## Removal of EAB Quarantine Proposed

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is proposing to remove the domestic quarantine regulations for the emerald ash borer (EAB). Eliminating this



regulation is in keeping with USDA's goal of reducing regulations that have outlived their usefulness. The proposal would end APHIS' domestic regulatory activities, which include actions such as issuing permits, certificates and compliance agreements, making site visits, and conducting investigations of suspected violations, and instead direct all available resources toward managing the pest.

APHIS says it remains committed to controlling the invasive pest and wants to conduct more research and release a greater number of biological control agents — tiny stingless wasps that are natural predators of the EAB — since biocontrol has shown the most promise for stopping EAB's spread.

If the federal quarantine is lifted, management of EAB will fall on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). MDA staff is consulting with stakeholders, including TPA, on their options regarding EAB oversight, provided APHIS drops the quarantine. These include:

- Maintain the EAB quarantine as it currently exists, but under state regulations.
- Continue to regulate EAB but with changes to the current regulations (e.g., modify "firewood" to ash-only, broaden the definition of ash wood, modify quarantine boundaries, etc.).
- Complete deregulation.

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# USDA Under Secretary Meets with Minnesota Forestry Leaders

In a meeting organized by Minnesota Forest Resources Executive Director Deann Stish, U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Natural Resources Jim Hubbard traveled to St. Paul in November to meet with leaders in our state's forest products community.

Among those attending the meeting on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota were Superior National Forest Supervisor Connie Cummins, Chippewa National Forest Supervisor Darla Lenz, DNR Division of Forestry Director Forrest Boe, St. Louis County Land Commissioner Mark Weber, TPA Vice President for Operations Ray Higgins, among others.

In his role with the USDA, Under Secretary Hubbard has direct oversight of the U.S. Forest Service. He previously served for 35 years with the Colorado Forest Service, including as Colorado State Forester for 20 years. Hubbard then served within the U.S. Department of the Interior before becoming USDA Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry in 2006.



USDA Under Secretary Jim Hubbard (center) talks to timber forestry leaders at a meeting in November.

In his remarks to the gathering of Minnesota forestry leaders, Hubbard said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue's clear priority is more active management of the Federal Forests, including in Minnesota.

"The forests will get pressed on delivering (more volume)," Under Secretary Hubbard said, "because there's an expectation from both the (Trump) Administration and Congress that we the Forest Service shows that it can deliver on that expectation and that we are achieving more active management."

During the meeting, the group discussed the USDA's Shared Stewardship initiative of working amongst various public agencies to achieve common goals. Boe and Cummins described progress made between DNR and the Superior National Forest utilizing Good Neighbor Authority to improve and increase management. They also talked about the new collaborative project in Northeastern Minnesota, the "Arrowhead Pilot Project", where managers are working together to plan and coordinate vegetation management on a cross boundary basis on a 500,000 acre mixed land ownership area in northwestern St. Louis County. This project will help in treating more acres as well as more efficient use

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of forest resources in this area. The Minnesota Forest Resources Council is also playing a role, is coordinating alongside State, Federal, and County lands managers.

The group also talked about opportunities we have in Minnesota for investment in our forests and partnerships to achieve this balanced approach to “all land” management. Increasing pace and scale of forest management has a very important value for economics, habitat, water quality, and the many important benefits our forests provide us each day. In wrapping up the session, the Under Secretary remarked on the great progress that the Minnesota forestry community has made over the past two decades on developing and implementing landscape scale approaches.

Hubbard also said Secretary Perdue would like to see the federal forests collaborate with the states on their decision making processes.

“Having been governor of Georgia, “Hubbard said,” (Secretary Perdue) also thinks the National Forests are hosted by states, and ought to not forget that. Therefore



L-R: USDA Under Secretary Jim Hubbard, TPA’s Ray Higgins, Superior National Forest Supervisor Connie Cummins, and DNR Forestry Deputy Director Craig Schmid.

to him, striking bargains on what is most important on the land and what are our priorities should be a joint decision.”

Hubbard said in his view, the Minnesota Forest Resources Council and its members should play a big role in those decisions.

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# Allen and McCabe Featured in News Tribune



*Photo re-printed with permission from the Duluth News-Tribune*

Retired TPA Executive Vice President Russ Allen (left) and former TPA President Tom McCabe, Sr. were featured in the Duluth News Tribune in November.

Allen and McCabe have been hunting together for 63 years. The article by John Myers talks about their friendship that was formed through their association with TPA, and the deer hunting traditions that have resulted.

Allen is 92 years old, while McCabe is 87. Both continue to reside in the Duluth area.

To read the article, visit: <http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/sports/outdoors/4524046-deer-huntings-about-tradition-these-two-friends-its-tradition-spanning-63>. There's also a link at TPA's website: [MNTimberProducers.com](http://MNTimberProducers.com).



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# Dobbs Again Featured on Bulletin Cover



In 2013, the Timber Bulletin began a tradition of featuring the work of photographer Lori Dobbs on the cover of its November-December issue. That tradition continues for the 6th time in 2018.

Dobbs is a resident of Littlefork, and is the wife of TPA board member Gordy Dobbs. Her work captures the essence of northern Minnesota forests during the winter time. This year's cover selection is titled, "Logger's Commute" and depicts a Dobbs Logging slasher driving down a woods road on the way to the landing.

To see more of Lori's work, and to purchase some of this beautiful art for your home, including "Logger's Commute," visit: [lori-dobbs.pixels.com](http://lori-dobbs.pixels.com).

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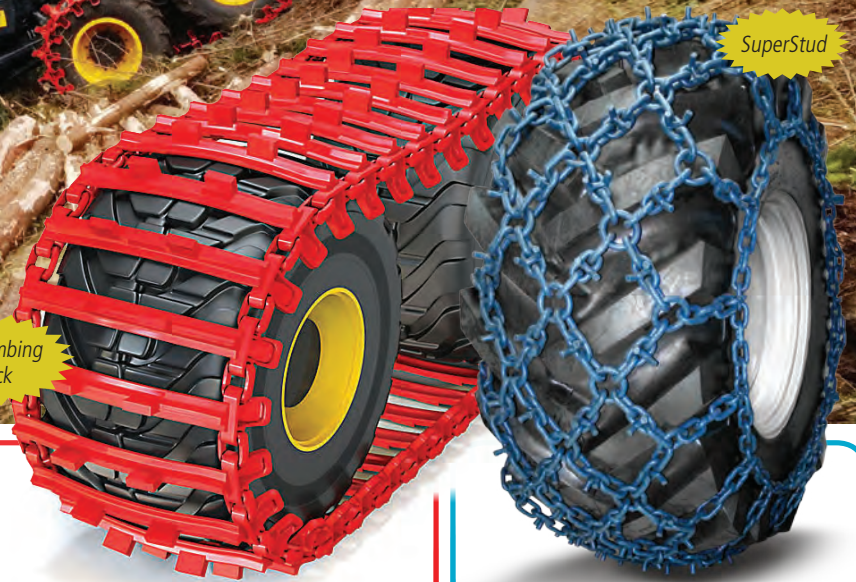
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# On the Markets

The *Timber Bulletin* publishes information regarding results of a sampling of recent timber sales and other market indicators, as well as other market-related news items.

## National Forest Volumes Expected to Rise

The U.S. Forest Service has released regional timber allocations for FY2019. In Region 9 which includes the Superior and Chippewa National Forests, the FY2019 program is 660 MMBF, compared to the FY18 program of 576.9 MMBF (actual). That's the highest volume increase of any of the Forest Service's ten regions.

On a percentage basis, Region 9's increase of 14% is the second highest of any region.

While no specific volumes were available for Minnesota's federal forests, the Superior National Forest is expected to increase outputs accordingly, but the Chippewa National Forest will likely be held steady until they complete their mandated consultation with the Leech Lake Band.

## Forecasted Demand for Softwood Lumber Strong

U.S. softwood lumber demand is expected to continue its upward trajectory from the lows of the global financial crisis of 2008-2009, reaching an all-time high by mid 2020s, according to a newly released U.S. Lumber Outlook Study by ForestEdge LLC and Wood Resources International LLC

In the study's base case scenario, lumber consumption in the end-use category "Non-Residential Construction" is forecasted to grow the fastest and increase its share of softwood lumber consumption from 11 per cent in 2016 to 14 per cent by 2030. The biggest end-use market will continue to be the residential

housing sector, including repair and remodeling, at a total share of about 70 per cent of the total lumber consumption by 2030.

## Recent Timber Sales

Average prices, as reported by each agency

Agency                      Regular    Intermediate

### Cass County

October 25—Oral Auction

Aspen	\$35.48	\$21.17
Red Oak	\$26.56	\$36.61
Birch	\$17.45	\$11.14
Red Pine P/B	\$44.00	\$40.00

All 9 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Cleewater County

October 30—Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp	\$24.86	NA
Oak Pulp	\$17.45	NA
Tamarack Pulp	\$11.55	NA
Maple Pulp	\$11.39	NA

All 7 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Koochiching County

November 14—Oral Auction

Aspen P/B	\$23.59	\$29.83
Spruce P/B	\$19.82	\$25.29
Balsam P/B	\$ 7.28	\$10.01
Ash P/B	\$ 5.81	\$ 5.93
Tamarack P/B	\$ 6.43	\$ 6.33

29 of the 31 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Cass County

November 29—Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$40.64	\$35.87
Red Oak	\$18.88	\$52.10
Ash	\$14.32	NA

All 9 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### DNR—Hibbing Area

November 29—Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (PW)	\$32.53	\$38.02
Trembling Aspen (PB)	NA	\$28.94
Aspen Species (PW)	NA	\$26.22
Balsam Fir (PW)	\$23.36	\$19.23

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

### DNR—Aitkin Area

December 3—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PW)	\$30.24	\$25.30
Aspen Species (PB)	\$26.40	\$27.68
Paper Birch		

(PB) \$17.05 \$12.55  
13 of the 20 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Aitkin County

December 3—Oral Auction

Aspen P/B	\$21.16	NA
Mixed Hdwd P/B	\$13.40	NA
Maple P/B	\$10.05	NA
Ash P/B	\$12.39	NA

All 19 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Beltrami County

December 4—Sealed bid

Aspen Pulp	\$16.54	NA
Mixed Conifer	\$ 5.00	NA

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

### DNR—Tower Area

December 4—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PW)	\$32.97	\$28.38
Trembling Aspen (PW)	\$36.79	\$29.62
Mixed Spruce (PB)	\$41.47	\$32.88
Black Spruce (PW)	NA	\$23.26

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

### DNR—Deer River Area

December 5—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PW)	\$23.83	\$38.78
Trembling Aspen (PW)	\$34.78	\$34.11
Mixed Spruce (PW)	NA	\$35.74
Norway Pine (PB)	\$33.49	\$20.35

10 of the 12 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### DNR—Baudette Area

December 5—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PW)	\$22.17	\$25.11
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Aspen Species (PB)	\$38.69	\$23.40
Black Spruce (PB)	\$32.08	NA
White Spruce (PB)	\$27.91	\$20.85
Ash (PB)	\$10.97	\$ 9.80

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

**DNR—Littlefork Area**  
December 6—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PW)	\$28.86	\$32.43
Balsam Fir (PW)	\$21.37	\$17.48
Black Spruce (PB)	\$41.20	\$29.26
Nrthn Hdwds (PW)	\$13.47	\$10.87
Ash (PB)	\$10.97	\$ 9.80

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

**Beltrami County**  
December 6—Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp	\$35.64	NA
Tamarack Pulp	\$ 3.00	NA
Red Pine Pulp	\$11.77	NA
Red Pine P/B	\$13.49	NA

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

**DNR—Warroad Area**  
December 11—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PW)	\$24.11	\$13.44
Aspen Species (WC)	\$ 9.09	\$ 3.91
Jack Pine (PB)	\$29.11	\$29.47
Norway Pine (PB)	\$23.10	\$29.68

25 of the 48 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**Itasca County**  
December 11—Oral Auction

Aspen	\$28.18	\$27.34
Red Pine	\$41.38	\$28.11
Birch	\$11.49	\$11.64
Spruce	\$19.73	\$18.58

37 of the 44 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**DNR—Cloquet Area**  
December 13—Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (PB)	\$24.00	NA
Aspen Species (PB)	NA	\$ 3.91
White Spruce (PB)	NA	\$33.90

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

**DNR—Bemidji Area**  
December 13—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PW)	\$38.49	\$34.14
Pine Species (PB)	\$57.57	\$45.87
Norway Pine (WMP)	\$19.88	\$43.76
Tamarack (PW)	\$ 6.00	\$ 5.52

24 of the 27 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

**Carlton County**  
December 13—Oral Auction

Aspen	\$31.26	NA
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Red Pine Bolts \$44.38 NA  
Red Pine Pulp \$ 2.35 NA  
7 of the 8 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

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PB= Pulp and Bolts  
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WC= Woodsrun cordwood  
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WST=Woodsrun Sawtimber  
PW=Pulpwood  
SLV=Sawlogs/Veneer

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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

# The Civilian Conservation Corps

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*



Forty years ago—on March 31, 1933, to be exact—the United States launched the greatest program of natural resource conservation coupled with unemployment relief ever undertaken in America up to that time. Franklin D. Roosevelt that day approved an Act of Congress that in part set up the Civilian Conservation Corps.

A recent article by Henry Clepper in the “American Forest” magazine, “The Birth of the CCC,” has stirred many fond memories of my work with the CCC. The following article describes the CCC in the Cloquet Valley Forest, typical of many throughout the land.

\* \* \*

Soon after President Roosevelt took office in the spring of 1933, legislation was passed setting up the Civilian Conservation Corps. This was President Roosevelt’s pet program and no time was lost in getting it under way. This year of 1973 is the fortieth anniversary and an appropriate time to recapitulate what it did for forestry in Minnesota.

After the original stands of timber were logged and the large fires that followed were past, personnel of the Division of Forestry often dreamed and hoped that some day they might have at their disposal an organized crew of fire fighters that could be mustered at a moment’s notice to take action on fires as soon as they were reported.

The rangers and patrolmen of the Forest Service depended on lumber camps and settlers to fight the fires and it often took a day or more to get a firefighting crew together. We who were worrying about where the fire fighters would come from, once the camps were shut down, had no way of knowing that help would soon be coming from the Civilian Conservation Corps and its well organized firefighting crews.

Soon after the corps were organized, we began getting letters from the Director of Forestry asking us to pick sites for a possible camp. While no one knew anything about how large a camp might be or how long a period to plan for, we went ahead and picked out sites of old lumber camps that had water supplies and good

roads to the site. Each week came further word from St. Paul on leases for the proposed camp sites, inspection of water supplies, etc., by the Army.

I had contacted the Cloquet and Northern Lumber companies that owned much of the land in the newly established Cloquet Valley Forest and they informed me that they would give a lease on their land any place I picked for a camp, so the lease matter was easily taken care of. About the 15th of May 1933, an Army officer called and we inspected the several sites that I had picked. I had picked one site at the old camp clearing just south of the ranger station, known as the Gravel Pit Camp, and another at old Camp Six on the south shore of Sullivan Lake in Sec. 24-55-14 on the Kelsey Brimson Road.

I was informed by the Army officer who inspected the sites that there would be some camps assigned to the U.S. Forest Service and some to the Minnesota Forest Service, but he did not know how many or where these would be located as it was up to the Forest Service to pick the sites. During the following two weeks we were informed from our St. Paul office that we would probably get a camp, but that we were well down the list as several sites would be considered before Cloquet Valley.

However, on the night of the 8th of June 1933, I had a call from G. M. Conzet, our Commissioner of Forestry, who told me that the first company of CCC men were ready to be shipped out of Fort Snelling, and his plan was to send them to Cusson, north of Orr, Minnesota, and house them in the headquarters building of the old Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company supply camp.

He told me that some question had come up about the lease and he would have to send them somewhere else. He asked if my leases were in order and if my water supply had been approved by the Army. I told him that both had been taken care of, and he said OK, we will send you the first CCC company of the Minnesota Forest Service.

I had been in bed when he called and I went back to bed, but could not sleep, thinking of the problem that had been

presented to me. The next morning I had another call from Conzet telling me to hire trucks and make arrangements for transporting the men from Brimson to the camp site. I asked him if he had funds set up for hiring trucks; he said no, but we will have to find some, and get at least 10 trucks ready to meet the train at Brimson early in the morning of June 11.

I gathered up whatever logging trucks and school busses I could, and at 6:00 a.m. on the morning of June 11, 1933, the special train arrived at Brimson with a company of 194 enrollees, their officers, camping equipment and supplies. The men rolled out of the train and into a little Fred Ault store that stood near the depot. Fred had opened up early to see the special train arrive. In a matter of 30 minutes, Fred had sold every candy bar, bottle of pop, cakes and cookies that he had in the store. The enrollees had been given their first pay envelope just before they left Fort Snelling the evening before.

After a short talk with the company commander, Captain A.M. Sherer, to whom I explained the layout, he called the boys together and we started unloading the cars and hauling to the camp site 11 miles west. By 9:00 p.m., June 11, we had all of the boys and equipment moved, tents set up, kitchen set up and everyone fed a hot supper and bedded down for the night. Thus my first day with CCC.

This being the first State Forest Service camp, it was numbered S.51, as the State Camps started at 50. The Army number for the CCC company was 719. The camp was also given the name of Camp Charles in honor of the first company commander, who had been replaced by Capt. A.M. Sherer shortly before leaving Fort Snelling.

The next two weeks were put in getting the camp in order and cleaning up the site. By June 24, 24 local men known as LEM (local experienced men) were enrolled by myself from the men and boys of the nearby towns of Markham, Makinen and Brimson. These men were to serve as leaders to teach the boys how to do woods work. These LEM were picked with great care as to ability and personality.

We had been taken so by surprise in



getting a camp so soon that we did not have our foreman picked until a week or so after the company arrived. The first foreman to show up was A.I. Coolidge of Knife River, an ex-camp foreman and timber cruiser for the Alger Smith Lumber Company. Frank Donnley of St. Paul as superintendent, Zena Hathaway of St. Paul as forester, Swan Carson of Duluth as foreman and William LeFever as foreman and blacksmith all joined in a week. Other foremen joined within a month and by July 4, we were pretty well organized.

Our first fire fighting by CCC was done on July 4 and 5. The boys had almost all been given leave to go to town on July 4. A fire started the afternoon of the 4th on the Comstock Lake Road and I was at camp to gather up the boys as they returned from their Fourth of July leave and start them out on the fire. While they had but little training in fire fighting, it was sure nice to have a crew available in a hurry and we soon had the fire under control.

As a result of this first fire, a program was set up to give every boy 16 hours training before he could be sent on a fire. By 1936, every CCC camp had a well organized and trained fire fighting crew.



Top photo shows the Sullivan Lake CCC Camp S.51, Company 719, in 1935. In operation from June 1933 to November 1941, it was Minnesota's first and last State CCC camp. Planting trees was a major part of CCC work: photo at left shows a crew near Pine Island, and the bottom photo a crew planting near Big Lake, in the Fond du Lac Forest.



Shortly after August 1, we were assured that we would have a camp during the winter months and we started in to get timber cut and hauled for the camp. The buildings were all the palisade type log buildings and neatly made. The barracks were in the form of a quadrangle, six 20' x 40' barracks on each side with 18 men to a barrack. On one end of the quadrangle were the Army office and supply room, and on the other end the mess hall. Around the quadrangle were the hospital, modern baths (showers and latrines), a 40' x 120' recreation hall, power houses, pump houses and laundry.

Out in front was the Army quarters. Off at the side were the Forestry or work agency buildings, consisting of foreman quarters, office, blacksmith shop, tool shop and eight garages for trucks and equipment. Capt. Davis of Kansas City took charge of the company shortly after the permanent barracks were built, and by 1936 this camp became the show place of the Superior sub-district, which had headquarters at Two Harbors.

This camp remained in first place during its entire life. Each year new buildings and improvements were made, and it was the only camp that boasted a six-hole golf course, modern baseball fields, outdoor boxing ring, etc. Besides the Army officers and doctor, an educational adviser and helper were added, a modern school room was constructed and all types of educational classes were held. Movies were shown at least one night a week, boxing matches held one night a week, and both baseball and softball were played between this and other CCC camps each weekend during season.

Dances were held at camp one night each month and girls were brought in by bus from Duluth, Two Harbors and surrounding country. Boys were transported to dances outside the camp each weekend by company trucks, and an officer and educational adviser was always in charge.

New enrollment periods were each 3-months, but during the first few years we had but little turnover, as the boys liked the camp, the commander and the foreman. Later on, in the late 30's, the turnover was much greater. Many of our boys came from the Twin Cities, from the farming country in the southern and western parts of Minnesota, and we had two large groups of boys from Kansas and Nebraska. Camp S.51 Company 719 could always boast of their high caliber boys—not only in their conduct but in their work accomplishments, their sports and overall behavior. For the entire life of the camp, it was an outstanding operation.

Some of the first officers were regular Army, but were replaced by reserves as soon as they were available. The Army job was to house, clothe, feed and doctor the boys while in camp, and it was the

Forestry job to work them and give them on-the-job training. The Forestry part consisted of a camp superintendent, four general foremen, an engineer, one or two trained foresters, a game manager, and sometimes a carpenter or other specialist, depending on the work. Boys were trained at mechanics, truck and tractor operators, clerks, supply and tool clerks, etc. The Army set up leaders and assistant leaders to keep discipline while in camp, and these boys were often used as crew leaders in the field.

When a new group of boys arrived, they were kept in camp for two or three weeks while they were getting their shots and basic training. And when this was over they were turned over each morning to Forestry for field work. The Army generally had about 30 men on detail as cooks, orderlies, hospital attendants, clerks, mail drivers, supply truck drivers, and special detail. When the company was at full strength of 200 boys there were usually 170 men turned over for field work each day.

We in the Division of Forestry soon realized that in case of cutback in number of camps, the ones that would remain would be the camps with the best work plans, etc., so realizing this, I got on the ball and always had a well laid out work plan that could function both winter and summer and this really paid off, as camp No. S.51 was the first camp to come in and the last State camp to be closed down.

The Forestry, or work agency, of the camp was known as ECW, or emergency conservation work, and funds for its operation were separate from the funds used by the Army.

I believe that at the peak of activity we had 30 State Forest Camps in Minnesota and 30 Federal Forest Service camps, besides a few soil erosion camps that were under the Department of Interior. The Army sub-district headquarters for eastern Minnesota was at Two Harbors, and consisted of an office force and inspectors who made regular trips to the camps to check on the Army end of the program. All Army orders worked through the sub-district office.

For the first few years the ECW part worked out of our St. Paul office, but in later years the ECW central office and supply and repair shops were set up at Grand Rapids. Before the program came to a close because of the war, we had a very well staffed and equipped organization to carry on any forestry job. As far as work accomplishments, the following were some of the outstanding:

Built 135 miles of telephone line, built 40 miles of truck trails, planted 10 million trees, built 3 dams, built 30 bridges, built 16 Forest Service buildings, 200 miles of foot trails, roadside clean-up on all the roads in the forest, felled snags and reduced fire hazards over the entire Cloquet Valley district. We carried on

game counts, deer kill surveys, stream improvement, lake surveys, and sort of game management work, built fire towers, made timber type maps of the entire forest, cultural and timber stand work throughout the forest and many jobs too numerous to mention. We put in days and days fighting fires, including the big Pequaywan Lake and Palo Markham fires.

Besides our regular work, we searched for many lost hunters, berry pickers, etc. Because of our fire organization of CCC men who were trained to go in the woods, we were called on by sheriffs each time parties were lost, and we could get a crew out and lined up to make a search in a hurry.

The turnover of boys became greater during the years of 1939 through 1941, and with the Second World War getting under way, Camp S.51 was finally closed in late November 1941. A watchman was kept at the site for a couple of years, but the camp was finally turned over to the Corp of Engineers, who called for bids and the building were sold to contractors and torn down for the material.

The buildings were completely gone by 1945. The camp clearing was planted with trees and the only things remaining today are several stone and concrete fire places standing among the planted trees that are now 10 feet tall—all that remains of a flourishing organization that operated from June 11, 1933 to late November 1941.

However, the many stands of planted trees now 40 to 50 feet high and the many truck trails and dams will always remain as a symbol of the first good boost that conservation had in Minnesota.

As mentioned above, the boys stayed longer in the camp the first two or three years and I got to know them all better than I did the boys in the later years of the camp. Some of the boys the last few years were younger and only stayed about three months. It was the boys of the first two or three years of CCC life that made the program as good as it was.

I continued to enlist LEM and most of the local men who wished to serve in the camp for a while. I believe that during the life of the camp about 6,000 boys passed through and I believe that each and every one derived some good from it.

It is now 40 years since this camp opened and 32 years since it closed, and each year there are several of the boys—now grown men and some grandfathers—who stop to show their children or grandchildren the location of the CCC camp they served in. Most all of these stop to see if old Buzz Ryan, the Ranger is still around. And I can say that I really get a kick when they tell me of their successes: some are doctors, some attorneys, ministers, successful businessmen and the like, and it makes me feel good that I played a little part in helping them on their way.



Above: CCC-built forest road in Cloquet Valley Forest. Below: Side Lake CCC Camp, north of Hibbing.

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