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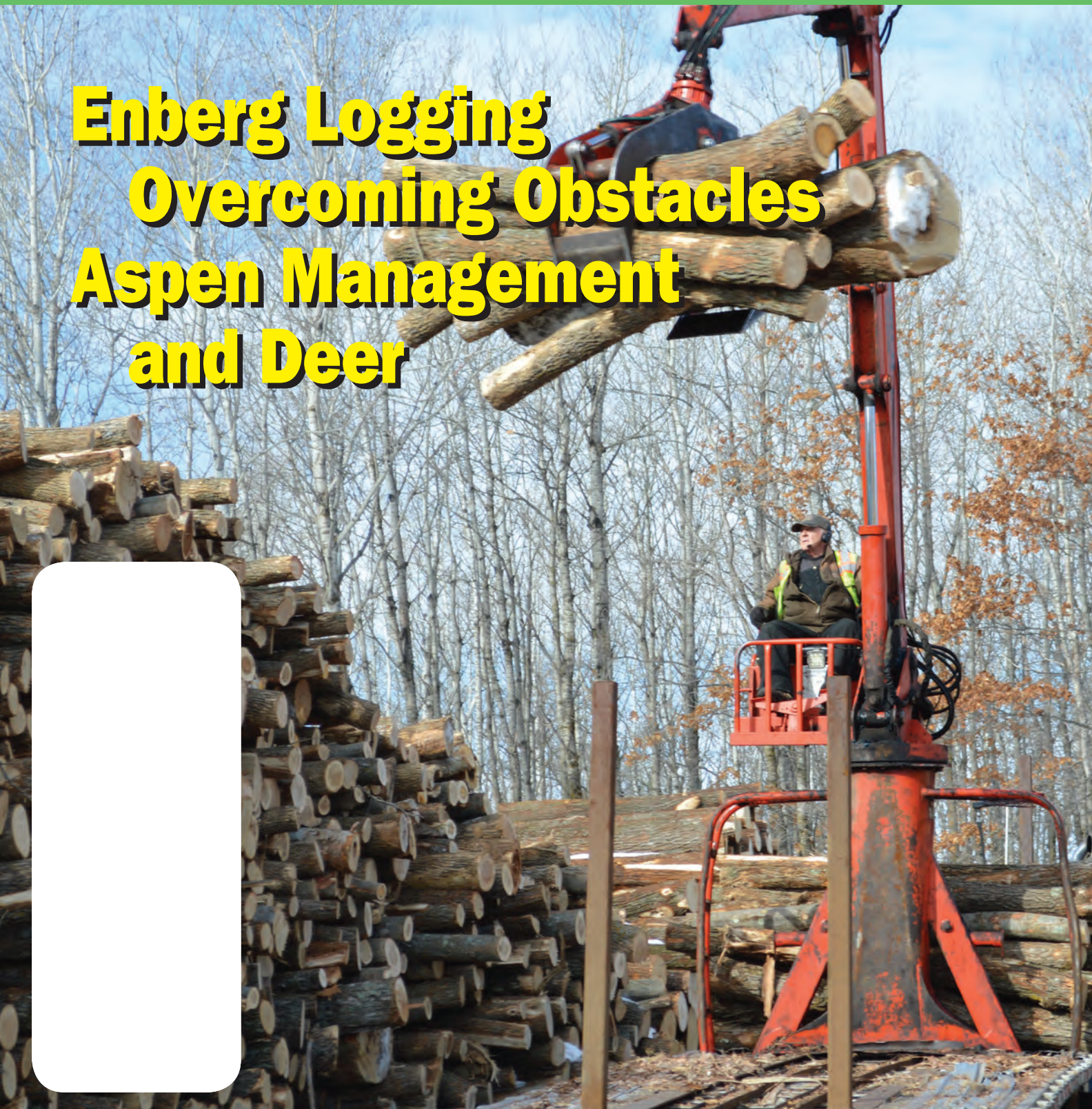
TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

MARCH/APRIL 2019

VOLUME 74

Enberg Logging Overcoming Obstacles Aspen Management and Deer





*Minnesota Timber
Producers Association*

2019 TPA Annual Meeting Banquet
Thursday, June 6th
Sugar Lake Lodge



Dick Beardsley
Guest Speaker

In addition to being one of the greatest in US Marathon history, making his mark from Grandma's Marathon to the world-famous Boston Marathon, Minnesota's own Dick Beardsley has also been a farmer and a fishing guide in the Bemidji area. His compelling life story of victory, tragedy, and redemption is much sought after by Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations, at conferences, conventions, corporate events, sporting events, fundraisers, galas, and more.

The Banquet caps a day full of events, including informative presentations at the TPA Annual Meeting, as well as the Golf and Fishing events.

We look forward to seeing you there!

TIMBER BULLETIN

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Duluth, Minnesota

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ON THE COVER

Rod Enberg uses a center mount loader to unload harvested oak at his shop just north of Motley. For more on Enberg Logging, please turn to page 8.

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With another winter “In the books”, it is nice to see some warm weather and sunshine to bring in summer! Being a beef farmer, as well as I know many of you are, it is, for most of us, calving time. Always nice to have some favorable weather for that. I guess another reason most of us love living “up North” we have a variety of jobs, and we enjoy four seasons that we never know what weather to expect!

With spring I know many of you are catching up on training: MLEP and log-safe. One thing I do hope, that they are working on is more on-line courses for us to take.

President's Column



As you will read in this magazine I am sure, the TPA has elected to go with a “self-insure” workers comp program. We are appreciative to Wayne Mann, the owner of Northern Capital, to have invited our group in. We are very optimistic that this will save you some money in your business’ work comp insurance. This is exclusive to TPA members. Feel free to contact Jay or Bill for more information.

Also, mark your calendars for the annual meeting on Thursday, June 6. We are fortunate to have secured Dick Beardsley for a guest speaker at the evening banquet. As many of you know, Dick is a running legend in the United States. His life was forever changed in a farming accident in the late 80’s. After a couple other accidents on his road to recovery he became addicted to pain medications. His eventual sobriety has led him to become a very interesting motivational speaker. It will be a very interesting evening. I hope you can attend! The membership meeting will take place in the morning and the golf and fishing outings in the afternoon.

As many are cleaning equipment from the winter season and fixing those items that need attention, getting ready for summer production, remember to be safe!

On a final note, as always, if you have questions or comments about the the TPA, or have an idea of what the TPA should be doing for the industry, please give Ray or Wayne a call. All good plans start with an idea, then conversations.!

Executive Committee

Kurt Benson: 218-835-4525
Rod Enberg: 218-352-6175
Corey Lovdahl: 218-244-4580
Dave Berthiaume: 218-380-9783
Kelly Kimball: 218-849-5222

TPA Staff

Ray Higgins: 218-722-5013
Wayne Brandt: 218-722-5013

Secretary Perdue Meets with Industry Leaders



TPA’s Ray Higgins (left) shakes hands with U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue at a meeting in Washington in April.

Sec. Perdue, whose agency oversees the U.S. Forest Service, was joined by Undersecretary Jim Hubbard at a meeting of timber industry leaders from around the country.

“It’s good to be among friends,” Sec. Perdue told the group. He said he’s working with the Trump administration to get more funding for the Forest Service from the Congress. “After we get the funding, I want you all to get those chainsaws rolling.”

The meeting with Sec. Perdue was in addition to several visits with Minnesota’s congressional delegation, including with Congressman Pete Stauber and his staff.



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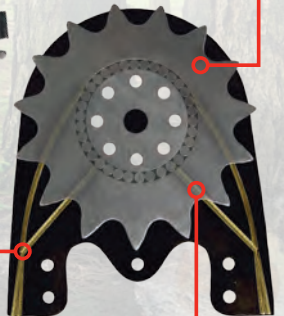
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Mark your calendars for the TPA Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 6 at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids. For the first time MLEP credit will be offered for meeting participants. We have a great line-up of educational and informative speakers lined up for this fun event. The Annual Meeting is also a great time to make new contacts within our industry and to renew old friendships.

Executive Vice President's Column * * *



I am very pleased that TPA is moving our Workers Compensation Safety Group to the Northern Capital Self-Insurance Fund. This represents a great opportunity

for our members to be part of a long-established fund that is offering lower rates and the potential for future dividends.

This move, which was reviewed by the TPA Board of Directors and the TPA Executive Committee, is the result of a lot hard work by our members and leaders through the years. Our program has had very good results over time because of the attention each of our members in our program have paid to safety. Safety is, and always will be, the cornerstone of competitive workers compensation rates. Whether it's safety meetings on the job, safety training, loss control or an overall emphasis on being aware on the job, safety is the key.

When LUA, which had underwritten our program for many years, went under several years ago we had discussions about joining the Northern Capital program but were not able to make it work at that time. This led us to Bitco which has been underwriting our program. Our relationship with Bitco has been mutually productive and we leave them on the best of terms. They provided us a market and program when we needed one.

In addition to lower rates the Northern Capital Self-Insurance Fund will provide the opportunity for our small members to be part of the program. This has not been the case for the past several years.

If you are currently part of our program you will be hearing from Northern Capital's Jay Eystad or Bill Dupont about our new program. If you're not part of our program currently, please get in touch with Jay or Bill to become part of this great new opportunity.

* * *

Congratulations to Doug Tillma of the DNR's Division of Forestry. Doug has been named the new Central Region Forester for the Division after serving for a number of years as the DNR's Timber Program Administrator in St. Paul. The Central Region includes important timber baskets such as the Sandstone and Little Falls Areas. Doug has done an outstanding job with the timber program and I know that he will do the same as Central Region Forester. We look forward to working with him in his new role.

* * *

As I write this column the State Legislature is on their Easter/Passover break. When they return it will be for the final weeks of the Session. Much work remains to be done including passing a new biennial budget for the State. The Senate, House of Representatives and Governor go into these final weeks some \$2 billion apart on the budget and with deep philosophical differences on their approaches for the budget and issues facing the State of Minnesota.

We've been working on a variety of issues at the Capitol as directed by the TPA Board of Directors and Executive Committee. As usually happens, these issues will be resolved in the final weeks along with the other issues facing our state.

* * *

As I discussed above, safety is the bedrock of competitive workers compensation rates. But it's more than that. It's the culture built in

operations that values preventing injuries and ensuring the health and well-being of our colleagues. It's the way we go about our daily work and our recreation.

I am very proud of our safety record and look forward to it continuing long into the future.

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Member Feature...



Enberg Logging: Tim Robben, Steve Wolpert, Rod Enberg, Travis Robben, and Joe Robben.

Overcoming Obstacles

Overcoming adversity has become a way of life for logger Rod Enberg.

Take today, for instance. Spring load restrictions are going into effect in a couple of days, so Enberg and the crew of his Motley-based company only have so much time to finish their current logging job. And wouldn't you know it: Enberg's skidder has a flat tire, so the crew has to run back to the shop to get a different machine. Plus, one of the guys on the crew has child care issues and another is out sick.

"Anything that's going to give you grief is going to do it," Enberg says. "This time of year you're running hard and you keep putting

off a lot of your maintenance, or you take care of the important stuff, but all of your weak spots start to show up. By the end of the winter you're working hard and heavy and road restrictions are four or five days away from you, so that's when things really start to fall apart on you."

And yet, flat tires and sick days are nothing compared to other obstacles life has thrown at Enberg over the years, like mill closures and the resulting loss of markets. Not to mention cancer. Or a life-threatening injury. Or a tour in Vietnam. Or alcoholism—he's now enjoying 37 years of sobriety. Or worst of all to Enberg, the tragic

loss of an employee to an on-the-job accident.

Through it all, Enberg has survived, and so has the business. And he's done it with a lot of help.

"Efficiency, and just a lot of determination, and most of all, having a really, really devoted and committed bunch of employees," Enberg says. "Every time we've been faced with a some of these obstacles, all I can say is that we've been through the fire before, and every time we have been, we've come away learning more. I don't know how else to say it."

Enberg grew up in Aitkin. His dad was a watchmaker and TV repairman, so he doesn't come from



Enberg Logging utilizes a TimberPro 725C feller buncher, operated by Travis Robben.

a logging family. Logging was on his radar, but just barely.

“One of my classmates, his uncle was a pulp cutter up in Littlefork,” Enberg recalls, “and we got to talking about cutting pulp. We were a couple of young bucks in high school. And we’d ride by the Chevy dealer on the school bus, and there was an old stub-nosed GMC truck sitting there. He and I had these fantasies that we were going to buy that truck and go cut pulpwood. We never did. When you’re young, you’re thinking about all different things.”

In fact, most of what Enberg was thinking about had little to do with logging, or work, or even school. He dropped out of high school in 1967 (earning his GED years later), as the war in Vietnam was raging.

“My teenage years were a bit colorful, you might say,” Enberg smiles. “Mysteriously, my name appeared close to the top of the draft list.”

Before long he’d completed Army training and served more than 13 months with the 82nd Airborne in Vietnam. Like many who served there, Enberg hasn’t shared much about his service over the past fifty years, and only recently revealed some of the details with his family and crew: In 1968 while on a reconnaissance mission in enemy territory, Enberg earned the Bronze Star for “calm professional performance,” and “personal courage and heroic actions,” while his platoon came under enemy fire. On another occasion later that year, Enberg’s unit was ambushed, and two were killed immediately. Two others were wounded, and Rod was able to pull them to safety while under heavy enemy fire, saving their lives. For this, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. On top of all of that,

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Randy Harvey leaves Enberg's jobsite with a load of harvested mixed hardwoods.

Enberg was wounded in action himself and was awarded the Purple Heart.

When his tour in Vietnam was over, Enberg enrolled in watchmaking school in the Twin Cities, and when he graduated, he opened a jewelry/watch repair shop in Aitkin. But he soon realized something was amiss.

"When I came home from the service, and tried to go to a business where I dealt with customers coming in and out of the door every day," he says, "It was too close to coming home from the service, and I wasn't fit for public use. It didn't work."

That's when he found his way to logging.

"I started building a little homemade sawmill, and I had a little tractor, and I started dragging out a few logs to kind of get my head straight," he says.

Making a living was difficult, so when he had the chance to go to Alaska and work on the pipeline for a couple of years, he jumped at the opportunity, knowing those jobs paid extremely well.

"When I came back," Enberg says, "I had a whole pocketful of money I didn't know what to do with."

He still had the homemade sawmill and a skidder, so in the summer of 1976, he moved to Verndale, and started building Enberg Logging around those pieces of equipment. Like many logging businesses just starting out at that time, markets were hard to come by.

"I was selling wood to whoever I

could," he says. "I could get rid of a load here or a load there, or try to saw a log now and then. I'd pick up the phone and I'd call these wood buyers, and was told we're not really interested in taking on new contractors."

Enberg knew he needed a break and that he had to make it happen on his own. Cass County had a 500-cord aspen permit for sale one fall, and despite the fact that he had no market, he bought it and cut it without knowing where the wood would end up.

"It kept ringing in my head when I'd call these wood buyers, they said they needed wood now. I'd say I

can go out and cut it, but they'd say that wouldn't do them any good because they needed it now. So I took every nickel that I had and I cut that permit and I put it in a pile. So here I have 500 cords of popple piled up, with no home. The phone rings, and it was the wood buyer from Potlatch in Cloquet, Tom Witkowski. He says, 'hey, I hear you have some aspen in a pile.' It was a really wet fall. Nobody was getting any wood out. There was only a little bit dribbling in. He says, 'I'll tell you what, I'll buy it all.'

"So I lined up a couple of trucks and away we went. We started hauling wood. And that's what got me in the door at Potlatch. That's what turned the corner.

"I like the saying: 'Even the mighty tortoise sticks out his neck to move forward,'" Enberg says. "That was the day the tortoise stuck out his neck. I was penniless. I had a pile of wood and no money. But that's what it took to get me a contract."

From there, Enberg Logging grew into a full conventional set of equipment, and the industry in Minnesota grew at the same time. He moved the business to Motley, and Potlatch continued to be a major market—not only the paper mill in Cloquet, but also the oriented strand board mills in Bemidji and Grand Rapids. That continued as those OSB mills were ultimately sold to Ainsworth. Right up until the time



Joe Robben drives the company's John Deere 748H skidder. This machine was at another harvest site, but was brought in on this day when Enberg's 848L skidder had a flat tire.

when the Ainsworth shut the mills down, without warning.

“That was a close call,” Enberg says. “That was a really close call. The day it happened, we had loaded the trucks, and I was slashing a load of wood, and I looked out on the road, and here I had three loads of wood that had gone to Bemidji that were sitting back on the road still loaded. They had gone and they came back. The drivers said the gate at Ainsworth was open, and I think there was a grocery bag on the window of the scale, written in magic marker, that said ‘We’re Closed Forever.’ That was our notice. We didn’t know what to do. We had some wood bought, basically stuff that would have gone to those guys.”

Enberg had few other markets, and even fewer answers of what to do next. It was a long-time employee who spoke up with the insight and direction Enberg and his company needed.

“A couple of months after that happened,” Enberg recalls, “we’re standing in the shop, and I just looked at all the guys and said boy, this is going to be a challenge. And I’ll always remember Jeff Fonteyn said, ‘well, we’re just going to work harder, we’re going to work longer, and we’re going to work smarter, and we’re going to make it through this.’”

“And we did. I had some money stuck away. I was trying to build a retirement fund, and I took every nickel I had in there and we bought a grinder, and that grinder got us into some land clearing jobs that we made some really good money at.”

Enberg survived and grew to thrive again by finding other markets, including Amish hardwood mills in the area surrounding Motley. And when a power plant that burned woody biomass for energy was built in Benson, Minnesota, Enberg began hauling chips there too.

“When we were able to get rid of a lot of chips, it was fantastic,” he says. “We could buy wood from private people because they like their land clean. They want it looking good. If it’s a rancher, they want it cleaned up. They want everything gone. It brought them good revenue, and it made us good money. So you go out there and



Harvested jack pine waits to be loaded and hauled to the mill.

all of a sudden you have a private piece of timber that has let’s say 2000 tons of chips on it, and maybe there’s only 250 cords of popple or 150 cords of pine. That’s wood that would never have hit the market. It would never be available, but it was because the chips made it profitable for both the landowner and the logger.”

Of course, the Benson plant closed a year ago, dealing another devastating blow, not only to Enberg Logging, but also to the six truck drivers who had previously hauled for Enberg but lost their jobs. In addition, several other logging businesses were affected adversely, as was the state’s timber industry as a whole. Fortunately, the Ainsworth closure taught Enberg to keep his business more diverse, more nimble. He still has some chip markets—in

fact, he’s a partner in a peat drying company that burns chips. He also uses chips to manufacture mulch on a small scale.

As devastating as the closures of Ainsworth and the Benson plant were, none of the business’s hardships compare to the loss of one of his employees. Fonteyn, the one who had the encouraging words after the Ainsworth closure, got tangled up in the conveyer of a grinder and was killed. He was 35. For Enberg, who treats his employees like family, it was like losing a son.

“It was a life changing event for me,” Enberg says. “Something you never get over.”

These days, Enberg has seven employees, many of whom are related to each other, and some who have been working for the company



Enberg has several different species stockpiled back at his shop north of Motley. This enables him to better sort by product and species for his different markets, including small sawmills in the area.

for decades: Tim Robben is Enberg's foreman, and has been with Rod for 35 years; Tim's son Travis runs a TimberPro 725C feller buncher; Tim's brother Joe drives skidder, Tim and Joe's brother Chris Robben runs the loader truck and has taken over a lot of the equipment maintenance; Chris' son Kenny operates the slasher; while Steve Wolpert runs the delimeter and Randy Harvey drives truck. It's these seven men that Enberg credits for his success and longevity in the logging business. And as they've stayed committed to Enberg, he's been committed to them, and despite the seasonal nature of the industry, keeps them working year round.

"When load limits go on in the spring," Enberg says, "I don't care if they're sweeping the floor or if they're counting bolts. Just come to work. Come get your paycheck. Take it home and feed your family. And if I have to, I'll go to the bank and borrow money so I can give you a paycheck. I've done that. That's probably the most valuable thing you can do is build a committed crew, pay them good fair wages, and if you look in your workforce and you see faces that have been with you 20-30-35 years, you're going to have a pretty sound operation."

Without the market at Benson, Enberg sells wood to Sappi in Cloquet, Norbord in Solway, and sends saw logs to the Potlatch stud mill in Bemidji, in addition to the Amish hardwood mills in the area.

"Those smaller mills have been lifesavers for me now twice," he says. "From now on, we're going to try to accommodate more of those mills with round wood, so we're going to do a better job of sorting."

Enberg also had a couple of near-misses with his health, surviving prostate cancer, as well as a nearly-fatal fall from a horse. But he's made a full recovery from both. Over the years, Enberg has been active in the logging community in ways beyond running his business. He's helped with the school forest program at nearby Pillager High School, where he's harvested the timber and turned the proceeds over to the school. He's also been active on the Minnesota Logger Education Program board—serving a term as MLEP president, and also serves on TPA's Executive Committee. On top of all that, he has invented a handful of products over the year, including some that have been patented, and

has ownership in other small businesses, too. That's quite a full plate for a guy who just turned 71 and is in the process of changing the structure of Enberg Logging, so that it becomes an employee owned business, while he continues to work.

"Hopefully these guys that have helped me build this business over the years will have the opportunity to become partners or shareholders. We have a really good business going here. We're proud of it, we have a good reputation, and I'd really like to see it continue on."

Creativity Leads to Inventions

While running a logging business is certainly a full-time job and then some, some of Rod Enberg's ideas to better run his business have led to inventions he hopes to some day see on the market.

Years ago, he created a hay bale moving wagon that he says he "made a little money on." Currently he's marketing "Iron Nitey," a winter blanket for logging equipment. Made from heavy canvas and Thinsulate, the blankets can be custom fit and placed on a machine overnight, so that in extreme cold, the machine doesn't take so long to warm up in the morning.

"When we go to work in the morning after it's been covered up with our winter blankets, the hydraulic oil is still relatively warm," Enberg says. "It shortens up your warm up time so you're ready to start working way, way faster. The productivity you're going to gain from it on a 20 below morning, it isn't going to take too many mornings until you have your money back. It's all about production."

Then there's a product called "Safety Flate," which includes a cage, air compressor, dual pressures and more to help loggers quickly and safely inflate truck tires. He's still working on perfecting the design, but hopes to have something ready to market in the future.

"That's probably the most exiting thing I've done over the years," he says, "mainly because of the safety benefits of it."



Kenny Robben loads a trailer with 100-inch sticks of oak.



The crew at Enberg logging measures the company's skidder to make a pattern for a "Iron Nitey," to keep the machine warmer in extremely cold overnight temperatures.

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Yearly Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Info Released

The Minnesota DNR has released its annual Northern Long-Eared Bat Township map, which includes the locations of the bat's maternity roost trees and hibernacula.

The map is updated each year and is released on April 1st. This year's map is substantially the same as the 2018 version. There are no

Timber Talk

new townships with maternity roost trees, and one additional township with hibernacula in Cook County, with one less township in Fillmore County near the Minnesota-Iowa border.

The northern long-eared bat was listed as threatened in 2015 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

issuing guidance under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act that there can be no tree removal within a quarter-mile of an entrance of a known hibernaculum, or within 150 feet of a known occupied maternity roost tree during the months of June and July.

Northern long-eared bat populations have been declining due to white nose syndrome. According to the DNR, recently completed bat surveys have recorded declines up to 94 percent in affected locations across the state, compared to counts prior to March 2015 when the DNR first confirmed the presence of the disease in Minnesota.

For harvests within a township shown on the map, you can determine more precisely where in the township the 4(d) Rule

restrictions apply by requesting from the DNR a data printout or a data license to access additional details on the location of the feature within the township. Find more information on these options at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/nhnrp/nhis.html#datarequest>.

EAB Discovered in Stearns County

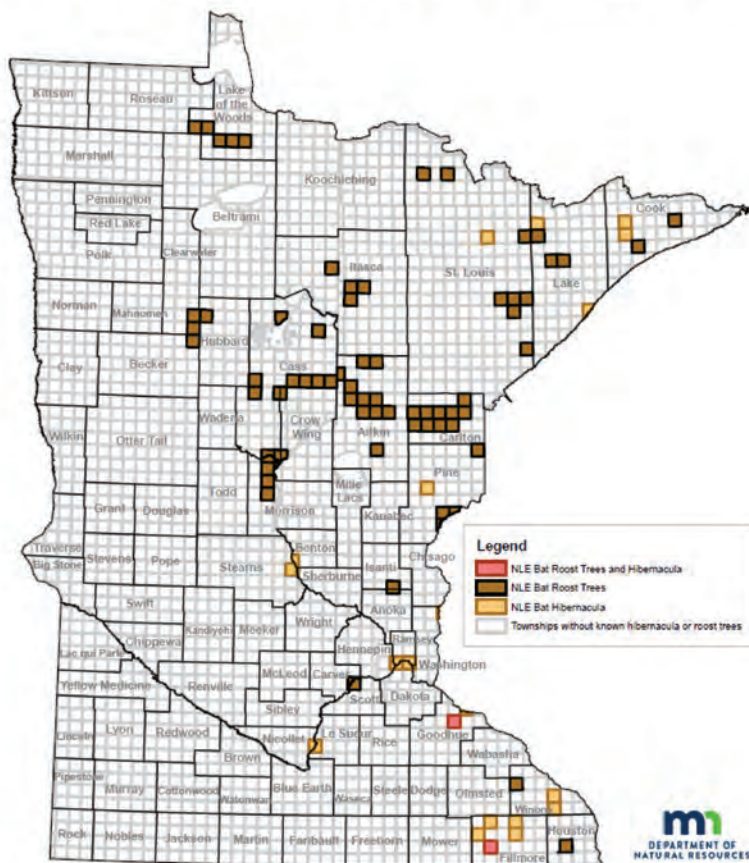
The Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Sauk Centre, MN, in Stearns County. As a result, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has placed Stearns County under an emergency quarantine.

City workers noticed several trees that showed signs of EAB damage and alerted the MDA. Department of Agriculture staff then examined the trees and collected samples of emerald ash borer larvae for confirmation.

Because this is the first time EAB has been identified in Stearns County, the MDA is enacting an emergency quarantine to limit the movement of firewood and ash material out of the county. This will reduce the risk of further spreading the tree-killing insect. A total of 18 Minnesota counties, including Stearns County, are now under a full or partial quarantine to prevent the spread of this highly destructive tree pest.

"Given the location of this find, we can be certain that emerald ash borer was brought into Stearns County by someone moving EAB-infested ash," said Mark Abrahamson, Director of MDA's Plant Protection Division. "This highlights the importance of quarantines and the need to limit the movement of firewood and other ash products around the state to protect our ash trees."

TOWNSHIPS CONTAINING DOCUMENTED NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT MATERNITY ROOST TREES AND/OR HIBERNACULA ENTRANCES



U.S. plans to lift protections for gray wolves in Lower 48

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) plans to remove federal Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in the lower 48 states. A final decision is expected later this year.

"The facts are clear and indisputable—the gray wolf no longer meets the definition of a threatened or endangered species," said David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior. "Today the wolf is thriving on its vast range and it is reasonable to conclude it will continue to do so in the future. Today's action puts us one step closer to transitioning the extraordinary effort that we have invested in gray wolf recovery to other species who actually need the protections of the Endangered Species Act, leaving the states to carry on the legacy of wolf conservation."

The gray wolf has already been delisted in the Northern Rocky Mountains. According to a USFWS

news release, wolf populations in Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington are healthy and sustainable, while populations in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota are also strong. In total, the range-wide gray wolf population stands at more than 6,000, exceeding the combined recovery goals for the Northern Rocky Mountains and Western Great Lakes populations.

The law mandates that the Service delist species once they have recovered and turn management back to the states. Every species kept on the Endangered Species List beyond its point of recovery takes valuable resources away from

those species still in need of the act's protections.

If the wolf is delisted, the Service will continue to monitor the species for five years. Should numbers decline to perilous levels or regulatory mechanisms prove insufficient to safeguard its future, the Service can relist the species and assume gray wolf management again.

The Service's proposal to delist the gray wolf throughout the contiguous United States is open for public comment in the Federal Register through May 14, 2019. All comments will be posted on <http://www.regulations.gov>.



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JATCO is State Logger of the Year

The Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) State Implementation Committee (SIC) named JATCO, a 20-year logging operation owned by Jeremy Stecker, as its 2019 Logger of the Year. The award was given during the Minnesota Logger Education Program Conference held in Duluth, Minnesota.

“Jeremy Stecker and the JATCO crew exemplify the high standards set forth by the Minnesota SFI State Implementation Committee (SIC),” according to SIC Chair Mary Perala. “Their attention to safety, best management practices, and communication with the landowner were among the qualities highlighted in testimonies of support the SIC received. It’s an honor to present this award to such a highly respected logging operation that promotes the ideals of sustainable forestry and employs sound business practices, ensuring the health of the forest and its employees for years to come”.

Stecker, 37, has been involved in logging since his junior year in high school when his father Tom and he began a custom operation with a feller-buncher in 1999. Jeremy took over the business in 2014, upgraded the equipment, and started buying and administering his own timber sales rather than serving as a subcontractor. He is known for his modern business practices, thanks in part to a Business Administration Degree from the College of St. Scholastica. He is known for excellent communications with landowners and contractors, utilizing detailed timber sale contracts on every sale, using the latest accounting programs, and going above minimum requirements for insurance coverage.

JATCO employs three other machine operators besides Stecker - Ryan Weidendorf, Jeff Sandnas, and Nick Wehmanen. The SFI Standard requires one Qualified Logging Professional (QLP) per crew, but 3 out of 4 of JATCO’s staff are QLP-Trained and the fourth is in the process! Firm believers in the value



(L-R): Minnesota SIC Past Chair Jason Evans, and Jeremy Stecker of JATCO, Inc., Minnesota’s 2019 Logger of the Year.

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of operating new, safe, efficient, and properly maintained equipment, JATCO uses all John Deere logging equipment: a 2019 803MH processor with a HTH622B head, a 2018 748L skidder, a 2017 1210G forwarder, and a new 2018 853M feller-buncher.

The company stresses the importance of safety, ensuring its employees are trained in safety practices. Employees annually attend Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP) workshops to keep abreast of new developments in the areas of sustainable forestry practices, responsible business practices and workplace safety. As Amanda Skot of the USDA Forest Service noted, "During the recent cold snap Jeremy was my 'on the ground' safety plan". She was without communications during -35 degree weather, but made a plan with him, knowing that if she didn't return at the appointed hour he would come looking for her.

Stecker and JATCO routinely give back to Minnesota's logging industry and area organizations; several examples include being an active member of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association,

donating firewood to Bentleyville, and currently serving on the Board of the Minnesota Logger Education Program. In the past, Jeremy was interviewed by a local TV channel on a logging site about lumber tariffs, was featured in the Customer Spotlight in Nortrax Magazine in 2016, was interviewed by WDIO-TV at the 2018 Northstar Expo in Grand Rapids, and he was highlighted in an article in the November 2018 Timber Bulletin Magazine.

Kalin Kvittek of McCoy Construction & Forestry says about Stecker, "He takes a great deal of pride in planning, executing, and closing each timber sale properly and professionally. As a result, he has established an excellent reputation for 'doing the job right' and is truly a positive reflection on Minnesota's entire logging community." Jeremy lives in Duluth, MN with his wife Ellie and children Soren, Svea, and Elin.

Jeremy says, "We are honored to have received the nominations from area landowners and other people in the wood fiber supply chain. The positive support this industry has provided us, and

presenting this award to our company are humbling. Our crew, subcontractors, and I consider ourselves lucky to be part of this industry. We take great pride in sustainably harvesting the timber products of northern MN, and plan to do so for years to come."

The Minnesota SIC includes representatives from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Forest Industries, the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Logger Education Program, Minnesota Timber Producers Association, Minnesota Tree Farm Program, Society of American Foresters, American Bird Conservancy, and SFI-certified county land departments.

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TPA Annual Meeting - Thursday, June 6 Offers MLEP Credit

Member events are June 6 at Sugar Lake Lodge

TPA members who attend the 2019 Annual Membership meeting will receive three hours of credit toward their annual MLEP requirement. It's the first time training credit will be earned by attending the TPA meeting.

This year's events will be held Thursday, June 6 at Sugar Lake Lodge just south of Grand Rapids.

Dick Beardsley, one of the greatest runners in U.S. marathon history, and two-time Grandma's Marathon champion will be the featured speaker at TPA's 2019 Annual Meeting Banquet. Now a fishing guide in Bemidji, Beardsley will talk about what it took to become a champion, as well as overcome devastating injuries during his career.

The Banquet caps off a full day of activities for TPA members: The morning Annual Meeting and presentations feature information to help members run their businesses:

- The TPA Report on Association Activities
- Election of Board members
- TPA Committee Reports
- Presentation by DNR Director of Forestry Forrest Boe
- Presentation by the DNR's Doug Tillma on annual timber outputs
- Presentation by representatives of the Minnesota State Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division.

All of the morning's presentations will include opportunities for members to ask questions.

In the afternoon, attendees will be able to play golf on Sugar Lake Lodge's beautiful Sugarbrooke Golf Course, or fish on clear blue Sugar Lake.

Registration forms for the 2019 Annual Meeting, and Golf and Fishing Event have been mailed. Call the TPA Office for more information. We hope you'll join



The DNR's Forrest Boe will again speak at TPA's Annual Membership Meeting. Attendees this year will receive 3 hours of MLEP credit. The meeting will be June 6 at Sugar Lake Lodge.

us for these great events!

Schedule

Thursday, June 6

Morning—Annual Meeting

Afternoon—Golf and Fishing Event

Evening—Social Hour and Banquet

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TPA Workers Comp Program to be Self Insured

TPA's Workers Compensation Program is moving to a self-insured fund, which should lower rates for program participants.

Northern Capital Insurance Group, TPA's insurance partner since 2012, gave a presentation on the self-insurance program at a Board of Directors meeting in February. Board members present voted to pursue the self-insurance fund, and TPA's Executive committee subsequently voted to approve the move, as well.

Wayne Mann, President of Northern Capital, stated that the move to the fund will result in lower premiums. In addition, the potential of dividends to each policy holder will exist after three years.

Northern Capital has had a Forest Products Self-Insured Fund since 2003, so the program has an established track record. Because the total combined premium of TPA's workers comp group far exceeds the minimum to participate in the Forest Products Fund, TPA was invited to join.

Aside from lower rates and the potential for a dividend, other advantages of the program include:

- Self-insurance groups are heavily regulated in MN, and there's never been a failure of a self-insurance group in MN.
- Re-insurance is purchased from the Workers Compensation Reinsurance Association (WCRA), a state-owned re-insurance provider. This means the fund has a reliable and stable reinsurer.
- Northern Capital completes all underwriting and rating of specific accounts.
- Claims handled by Meadowbrook Insurance Group.
- TPA will be treated as one large group/account.

Bill Dupont and Jay Eystad of Northern Capital will continue to service TPA accounts, as they have in the past. They will be



L-R: Northern Capital's Jim Leroy, TPA Past President Dave Berthiaume, TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt, and TPA Board member Scott DeLack discuss the proposed re-insurance program at February's Board meeting.

contacting members about renewals this spring. For more information on TPA's Workers Comp Insurance

Program through Northern Capital, contact Bill at (952) 913-6950 or Jay at (218) 255-0446.

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Silent Guns of November – Aspen Management and Deer

By Rick Horton

Rick Horton is Director of Forest Policy for Minnesota Forest Industries and a wildlife biologist. He's previously worked for the Ruffed Grouse Society and the National Wild Turkey Federation. He provides this look back at the harsh winter of 1971, its effect on Minnesota's deer populations, and the role logging and the timber industry played in their rebound.

Saturday, November 13, 1971 dawned cold and clear, with a nearly full moon. The crisp air was perfect for a deer opener, where a buck's stealthy footfalls could easily be heard through the flaps of a wool cap. Chilled fingers would ease the trusty .30-30 to the shoulder while the hunter's heart skips with anticipation....

But it never happened. There was no deer season in 1971 and legions of deer hunters stayed home, missing a tradition nearly as old as statehood.

Why? There simply were no deer. A deadly combination of a lack of young forests and a series of good old Minnesota winters had virtually wiped them out. It seems nearly impossible today, with our excellent habitat and abundant deer. But this should serve as a stark reminder of what can happen without a healthy and vibrant logging community and forest products industry.

Instead of hunting on the opener, the Wildlife Society and the Minnesota DNR Section of Wildlife held a symposium entitled, "The White-Tailed Deer in Minnesota", the proceedings of which form the basis of much of the following. Those 400 professional biologists, foresters, and researchers joined forces that day to try to ensure that this would never happen again.

First a little background on deer and forests in Minnesota: When the first European explorers arrived in Minnesota the southern and western portions of the state were all prairies teeming with bison, elk,



Photo courtesy MN DNR

deer and other game. The prairies were routinely burned either by lightning strikes or intentionally by Native Americans to improve forage to attract game. These fires usually died down a bit when they hit the oak savannas and Big Woods forests of the central part of the state, but occasionally they roared through the pine forests of the north, leaving young aspen and pine in their wake. Nonetheless, there were few deer reported in the northern part of the state in the early years because the vast old forests that dominated the landscape couldn't support them.

Deer populations in southern Minnesota dwindled throughout the

1800s as unregulated hunting and shooting deer to sell in markets took their toll. By the latter half of the century they were considered rare. Logging in the north started in 1821 and reached a peak around 1890-95 before winding down around 1915. Deer followed the logging and subsequent land clearing for farming. After the big wildfires before WWI, young forests sprung up from the ashes, creating ideal conditions for deer to thrive. The elimination of market hunting and advent of hunting regulations during this time marked the beginning of modern deer hunting traditions.

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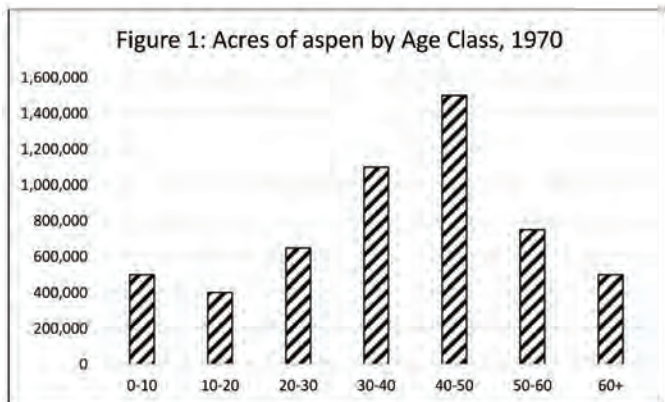
The deer population gradually increased in the north, despite some severe winters and increasing hunting pressure thanks to an abundance of forage in the vigorously growing aspen forests. During the 1950s there was a string of mild winters and the deer herd boomed. Minnesota DNR data shows that deer hunter numbers hit 300,000 in the 1960s, with 127,000 deer taken in '65.

Then winter came back. Five out of seven years from 1964-1971 were severe. By now, the aspen stands that started around WWI were 50-60 years old. And managers had unfortunately allowed the herd to grow so big that they overbrowsed the range. There was little to no food at ground height for the deer and they starved en masse during winter. The future looked bleak. As one participant from the 1971 symposium put it, "Perhaps our increasing hunter numbers, and greatly increased possibilities for hunting access have surpassed the dwindling capabilities of a habitat to produce and protect its targets".

The value of young aspen forests for deer is not in the trees themselves. It's in the abundance of other vegetation at deer height that grows in the relative sunlight of a young, vigorously growing stand of trees. Aspen happens to be the type most prevalently harvested by clearcutting, thus allowing more sunlight to reach the forest floor. When these stands hit about 25 years of age, the canopy closes and the understory dies back considerably. This condition is exacerbated when shade tolerant conifers like balsam fir and white spruce appear in the stand and steal the last remaining sunlight and nutrients, a term the symposium called the "Balsam Fir Invasion".

When the report on the 1971 symposium was completed, participants concluded that having an abundance of young aspen forest was even more important than having an abundance of conifer thermal cover. It not only contributed to survival, but also to the following year's fawn production. To quote the report, "A doe going into winter in good condition from good quality summer range is more apt to bear strong fawns than is a doe going into winter from poor summer range".

In the 1960s and early 1970s about 60,000 acres of aspen were clear-cut in Minnesota annually for the paper industry, which was about 1% of the total acres of aspen per year. As a result, the aspen age class in 1970 showed the significant lack of young forest (Figure 1). To maintain a balanced age class with a 50-year rotation we would need to double the harvest



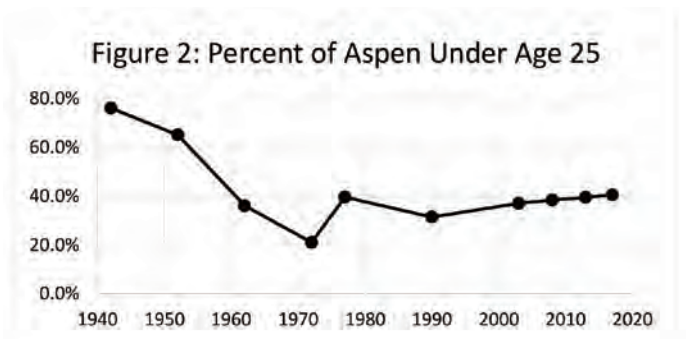
to around 2% per year. Unfortunately, at that time the predictions of that occurring were dire. The industry was only growing capacity at a rate of about 20,000 cords per year. Unless capacity greatly increased, the authors projected that over 30% of the aspen would soon be over 60 years of age.

The impacts of the aspen age class imbalance on deer was exacerbated by the fact that the young forest that did exist was not spread evenly across the landscape. At the time mills were located in Grand Rapids, Brainerd, Cloquet, Duluth, International Falls, Sartell, and Little Falls. With an abundance of raw materials and a need to keep transportation costs down, it was natural for logging to occur near the mills and near the roads. The farther the forest was from these mills, the more likely it was that the deer would be at risk.

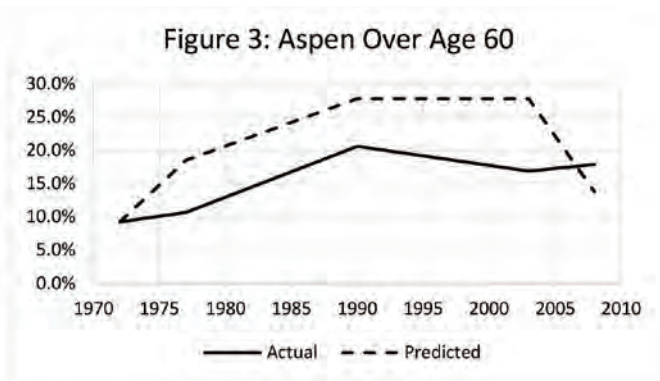
The 400 concerned citizens and professionals at the 1971 symposium came up with several recommendations to ensure that deer habitat improved and the herd could rebound: Create wildlife openings, maintain winter cover, cut more balsam fir, create a deer census and survey method, and become politically engaged to ensure agencies have adequate funding. But by far the main recommendation was that we needed to increase the amount of young aspen. They knew that the current harvest of 1% per year needed to be at least doubled to maintain enough aspen in the 0-25 year old age class to support the deer herd.

The report's authors also knew the only way to accomplish it was with the help of loggers and the forest products industry. To quote the report, "Fortunately, a substantial amount of deer habitat management can, is, and must be accomplished as a by-product of the timber industry in aspen types in the Great Lakes Region." Minnesota simply had to encourage investments into current mills and attract new industry. In the short term, money was appropriated to simply bulldoze aspen stands to create new forest. But that was wasteful, expensive, and unsustainable. Fortunately, Oriented Strand Board (OSB) facilities were being built in Grand Rapids, Cook, and Bemidji, and other mills were investing in new technology.

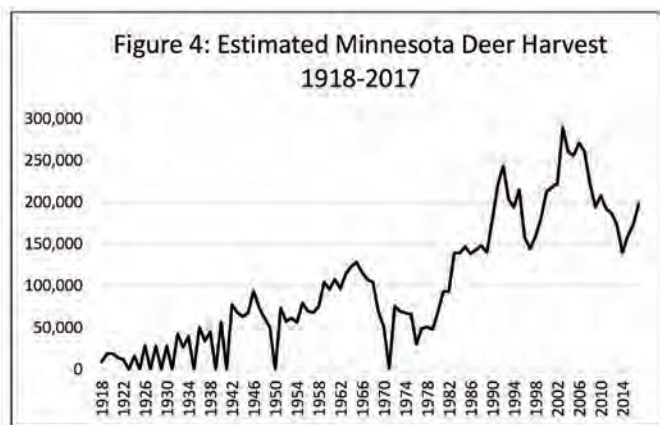
So, how did we do? The bulldozing effort ended pretty quickly as mills added capacity. The OSB mills came online, paper machines were added to existing mills, and aspen harvesting rapidly increased. By the late 1980s, Minnesota was harvesting nearly 4 million cords per year of all timber types. As a result, the trend of declining acres of aspen under 25 years of age was reversed and we have maintained 30-40% since 1977 (Figure 2). In addition, dire predictions of vast amounts



of aspen over age 60 did not materialize, maxing out at 20% in 1990 (Figure 3).

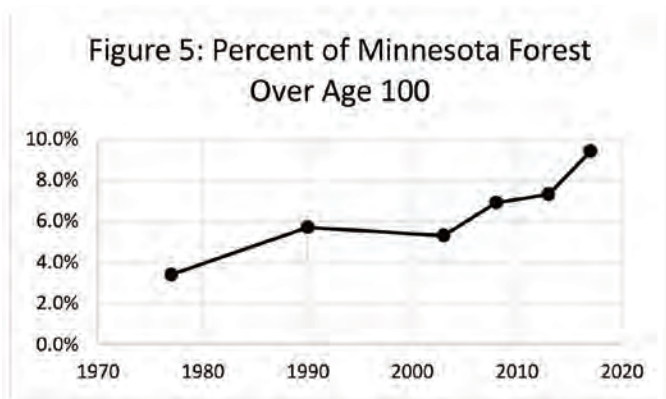


Deer populations grew steadily after 1971 with improved habitat and a string of less severe winters and harvest was back to pre-crash levels by 1981 (Figure 4). Two severe winters in 1995-1997 killed deer, but not to the extent of previous hard winters. And thanks to vastly improved habitat the herd recovered within just 3 years. The annual harvest exceeded 150,000 in 1998, 200,000 by the year 2000, and an all-time peak of 290,525 in 2003. DNR at the time actively encouraged folks to take more antlerless deer in order to reduce the population. Over time, they reduced the herd to manageable levels, with help from a hard winter in 2014.

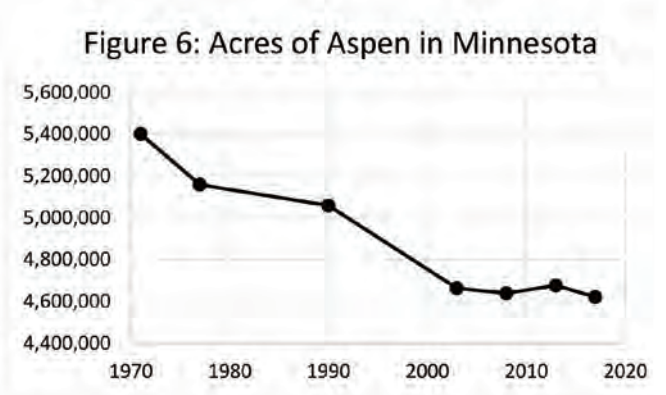


One has to wonder, could habitat loss and degradation cause the deer herd to crash again to the point that the season has to be closed? Because young forest habitat is so important for deer survival, and young forest is dependent upon a healthy logging and forest products industry, it could certainly happen. Consider what has happened in the Minnesota timber industry over the past 20 years: Weyerhaeuser shut down its Deerwood TrusJoist facility in 2007. The US housing market crash contributed to the shuttering of the Ainsworth Cook, Bemidji and Grand Rapids OSB mills in 2008. Blandin removed old paper machines in 2003 and 2018, and the company is now down to one machine. The Verso mill in Sartell and Georgia Pacific mill in Duluth both closed in 2012. These days, housing markets are improving and increasing demand for building materials, but the electronic age has greatly reduced demand for paper products.

Timber harvest in Minnesota averaged over 4 million cords per year for 20 years from 1987-2007 but is now down to 2.8 million cords per year. A million cords of that was from reduced aspen harvest. As a result, Minnesota's forests are once again getting older (Figure 5), the annual net growth is triple what is harvested, and mortality exceeds harvest by 62%.



In addition, Minnesota has lost 780,000 acres of aspen since 1971 (Figure 6). Some was due to neglect – we simply couldn't get to it before it converted to other forest types less valuable for wildlife. In other cases, aspen is being intentionally converted to other forest types. For example, the Chippewa National Forest Plan calls for converting 50,000 acres of aspen by 2025.



In summary, timber harvesting is down, there is less aspen on the landscape, overall the forests are getting older, and the winters don't seem to be getting any milder. If we hope to continue to hold good deer numbers through the winter, Minnesota needs to support the forest products industry. Without that economic driver to create abundant, nutritious, and available food for deer on the summer range, we risk another silent November.





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Drug and Alcohol Testing for Commercial Drivers – Overview

Federal Regulations mandate that all with a commercial drivers license (CDL) are to participate in a drug and alcohol testing program. The fines for not having a drug and alcohol testing program have been as high as \$15,000. Companies can be cited during a DOT audit, or on a roadside compliance check.

TPA administers a drug and alcohol testing program for its members who employ truckers to help them comply with the federal regulations and keep our roadways safe for all users. The following is an overview of current law and the obligations of drivers and trucking company owners.

Who is Affected? Federal Regulations require employers to conduct drug and alcohol testing of all employees who operate a commercial motor vehicle in the performance of their job duties. The term “commercial motor vehicle” includes vehicles that hold 16 or more passengers, including the driver, have a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds, have a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds (inclusive of a towed unit with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds), or any size vehicle that transports a placardable amount of hazardous materials. An employer is covered by the regulations even if it employs a single employee who operates a commercial motor vehicle, even



if the only driver is an owner/operator. In other words, **the trucking/logging company owner is required to be in a drug and alcohol testing program**, if he/she drives truck.

Testing. The rules law requires pre-employment drug testing, random drug and alcohol testing, reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol testing and post-accident drug and alcohol testing. If an employee tests positive, the employer must remove the employee from driving and provide the employee with a list of Substance Abuse Professionals. In addition, before the employee returns to duty, he or she must be evaluated by a Substance Abuse Professional and must pass a return-to-duty test. Finally, the driver must undergo “follow-up” testing after returning to duty.

A driver’s refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol test is generally equivalent to testing positive to a

drug or alcohol test.

Pre-Employment Testing. All potential employees who operate a commercial motor vehicle in the performance of their job duties must undergo a pre-employment drug screening and potential employer must receive a negative test result prior to hiring.

Penalties for non-compliance. DOT considers compliance with its anti-drug program a high priority. Firms that violate the provisions of the DOT anti-drug program may be subject to civil and criminal penalties, including being declared out-of-service and fines in excess of \$10,000 per violation. Failure to properly test employees may also give rise to lawsuits alleging that the employer negligently hired or retained an employee with chemical dependency problems.

For information on how to enroll in TPA’s Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium, call the office at 218-722-5013.



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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.

DNR Extension Plan Announced

Minnesota DNR Forestry has announced the availability of Emergency Adverse Surface Conditions Extensions on permits that have an expiration date between April 9, 2019 and December 31, 2019. This emergency extension will only be available to permits where a Regular extension under M.S. 90.193 has been used previously.

For all Regular and Intermediate permits, a one-year extension with a 5% annual interest rate will apply for all wood scaled during this extension period. If the extended permit is forfeited, the interest rate

will be applied to the remaining timber value.

For all informal winter-accessible only permits, a one-year extension with a 5% annual interest rate will apply for all wood scaled during this extension period. If the extended permit is forfeited, the interest rate will be applied to the remaining timber value.

For the 2019 Emergency extension, the permit holder must submit a written, signed request to the Area Forestry Office administering the permit, the request must be received no later than May 31, 2019, or by the permit expiration date, whichever is earlier.

Extension requests will be reviewed and granted on a permit-by-permit basis. Among the other provisions in the permit policy:

- Permits expiring this calendar year that still have a Regular extension available will only be given that type of extension. A signed request for the Regular extension must be received by DNR prior to the permit expiration date.
- This Emergency extension may be applied to permits already under a prior Emergency

extension.

Permit holders will receive a letter from DNR that confirms the extension was granted for each eligible permit extension that was requested. All other terms and conditions of the original permit will remain in effect. Please contact your Area Forestry Office with any questions.

Recent Timber Sales Average prices, as reported by each agency

Agency	Regular	Intermediate
St. Louis County		
<i>February 21 – Sealed Bid</i>		
Aspen	\$34.73	NA
Black Spruce	\$31.95	NA
Balsam Fir	\$13.91	NA
Jack Pine	\$20.08	NA

17 of the 22 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Cass County

<i>February 28 – Sealed Bid</i>		
Aspen	\$41.98	\$31.29

All 5 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Cass County

<i>March 28 – Sealed Bid</i>		
Aspen	\$41.40	\$34.65

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Red Oak	\$31.80	\$22.39
Birch	\$23.81	\$17.50

5 of the 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Crow Wing County

March 29—Oral Auction

Aspen	\$35.42	NA
Oak	\$21.44	NA
Red Pine	\$66.15	NA
Birch	\$18.65	NA

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

Hubbard County

April 8—Oral Auction

Aspen Mixed	NA	\$37.21
Aspen Pulp	NA	\$36.01
Norway Pine		
Pulp	NA	\$22.06
Birch Pulp	NA	\$11.54

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

Becker County

April 12—Oral Auction

Aspen Mixed	\$27.22	NA
Jack Pine Mixed	\$23.99	NA
Birch Mixed	\$12.61	NA

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

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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

Days of Real Horsepower

by J. C. Ryan

This story is reprinted from an earlier *Timber Bulletin*—one of the first of “Buzz” Ryan’s ever-popular contributions to these pages. The *Bulletin* will continue to reprint selected stories from the memories he recorded for us.—*Editor*



Today, when a new skidder, tractor or other power unit is purchased to serve the logging industry we ask “What horsepower is it?”—meaning the S.A.E. rating of developed horsepower units.

In the old logging days, “horsepower” meant just what it said: How many head of horses needed to do the job.

In early days of logging in Maine, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, oxen were used extensively. This was when timber was cut near the rivers and lakes, and skidding was done over only about a quarter of a mile to the shore. The ox was good for skidding, but when sleigh hauls over ice roads came into the picture, the ox was out. Oxen were tough, needed little housing and care, and worked every day on hay with little grain. But oxen were slow, and it took eight head of oxen to handle a load that four good horses would haul.

In Minnesota, oxen were used mostly along the Rum, St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers, around Lake Mille Lacs and the southern edge of the pine forests. They were used but very little in northeastern Minnesota, where there was considerable

rock and rock out-crop. Horses were the main source of power and transportation.

Along the St. Croix River and in Wisconsin, horses were brought in from the farms of Illinois, southern Wisconsin and Iowa as soon as freezing weather started in the fall. Several farmers would pool their horses and hire them out together to a logging company for the winter. The horses were shipped north by barge, boat or railroad as far as possible and walked the rest of the way into the camps. They returned the same way in the spring.

In northern Minnesota, many of the horses came from the farms of the southern part of the state and the Dakotas. There were several horse companies in the Twin Cities and in Duluth that brought these horses in from the farmers and hired them out in groups to the logging companies. Other companies owned horses and hired them out as a group. Tom Smart of Bemidji was one of these operators and had beautiful horses that went into the woods as a group every winter.

The moving of horses to and back from camps was quite a job, and I remember

complete train loads of horses coming south on the Canadian Northern and M & I Railroads when camps were breaking up in the spring. As a boy in the Bemidji area, I have sat all day by the road and watched horses being driven south from the camps. Two or three men would bring a long string of horses, each in harness with the halter rope tied to the horse ahead.

Besides the many horses hired each year, most logging companies had horses of their own. Some of the logging companies that had their own sawmills worked the horses around the mills during the summer. Other companies shipped their horses south to work on road and other construction jobs during the summer, while some like Northern Lumber Co., had large pasture camps where the horses were kept while not working.

Cloquet Lumber Camp No. 26, in Sec. 3-55-14, was one of those summer pasture camps, as were the Virginia and Rainy Lake horse camps near Cusson. The company horseman would meet every horse returning to pasture with a greeting as if it were one of his family.

Buying and hiring good, big horses for the woods was always a problem, but they were always the best obtainable. Most were Percherons, weighing from 1,800 to 2,000 pounds apiece. Considerable effort and care was given to matching up the horses in color, weight and gait, and no one would allow splitting up teams once they were well matched. The larger and faster walking horses were used on the sleigh hauls, while the smaller ones were used for skidding.

Four-horse teamsters who worked year after year for the same companies wanted the same teams back each year and took great pride in keeping their horses in good shape while hauling the biggest loads. Some camps had “barn bosses” who fed and cared for the horses, but in most camps the teamsters did those jobs. Each horse was different, and a teamster learned how to feed his horses to keep them in the best condition. Most horses would do well on six quarts of oats twice a day; others needed more or less. Over feeding probably killed more horses than anything.

Oxen did best at skidding, but not moving the big loads.



But good care of horses was always a rule, and very few were ever sick in camps. There was an occasional case of colic, but because the teamsters knew how to feed, this was rare.

Men like J. C. Campbell, Sr., who was woods superintendent for Northern for a number of years, and Ed Day, who cared for Northern horses, liked and appreciated their teams and made sure of good care. All large companies had a vet come into camp regularly and float the horses; teeth, for a horse that could not grind his grain well could not be kept in the best of shape.

Occasionally, a horse would slip into a hole in a swamp and break a leg, but this was rare. More commonly, horses “calked” themselves-stepping on their ankles with sharp shoe calks. For these injuries, the teamsters would apply turpentine or kerosene, and while the horse would prance around a lot, the cuts seemed to heal in a few days.

For hired horses, logging companies would always be responsible if an animal was hurt or killed, but not if it died of natural causes.

As horses got old they were taken off the sleigh hauls and used to skid wood around camp, haul lunch out to the woods and for other odd camp jobs. Many companies kept their old horses around the pasture camps until they died or were disabled so they had to be disposed of. To my knowledge, no lumber company ever let one of its horses that had worked for a number of years be sold for mink or fox food.

In making up teams, the lead team was usually a little smaller than the pole team. The lead team wore a long tug harness without a breeching harness with side straps and twin neck yokes. The whiffletrees and spreader of the lead team hung on the end of the sleigh pole to keep them off the horses’ heels when going down a grade. The pole was held up by a rod attached to the beam of the sleigh.

A small platform was built just back of the front runners of the sleigh, and the teamster stood on this platform on a sack of hay. While four horses were usual, six horses were used sometimes if there was much upgrade on the road. On short grades a snatch team was hitched in front to help over the hill. When roads went downhill, hay was placed in the ruts to slow the sleigh.

The usual sleigh haul was four to five miles for a two-trip road. A six or seven mile road was considered a horse killer for two trips. A haul of eight miles was considered a one-trip road, and sometimes one team took the load half way and was met by another team to finish the trip.

A teamster knew his horses and just how much they could pull – and he could get every ounce of pull out if them just by talking to them. I have seen horses get down and pull until they pulled their shoes right off – with the nails breaking loose

from the hoofs. Teamsters were always on the watch for sore shoulders or necks and watched that a rivet on the harness did not rub or make a sore.

As a rule, a driving team was kept at camp for the foreman to use in making his rounds of the jobs or for camp jobs like hauling mail. Each camp had its tote team that hauled in hay, grain and camp supplies. Toting often started before the camp was in operation, bringing in lumber for construction. Tote roads usually followed the high land, with trips up to 40 miles.

Horses for toting were picked for their

ability to travel over rough, rocky roads and over the many soft spots. A well trained tote team driver was quite an asset to a camp. Frank McMinn, who toted for Northern Lumber Co. for a number of years, was one of the very best. Every jack around Duluth and northeastern Minnesota knew his team of two black and two baldface bays.

About the only time you would see more than four horses pulling together would be on snowplowing – and I’ve seen as many as 20 horses pulling a snow plow. And in the old logging days, that meant 20 horsepower!



Men in the woods were always proud of horses’ performance.



The teamster stood on a platform built across front runners.

Classifieds

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

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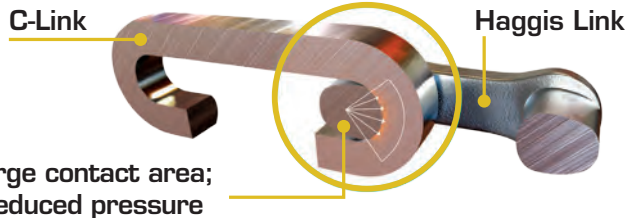


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