

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

MARCH/APRIL 2007

VOLUME 63



Rick L. Jensen
Timber
Remembering
Oscar Bergstrom



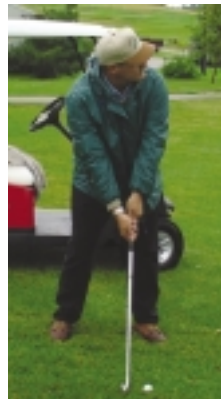
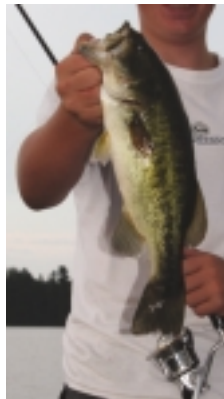
*Minnesota Timber
Producers Association*

Board of Directors Meeting

TPA Golf & Fishing Outing

Annual Meeting

**Thursday June 7th & Friday June 8th
At Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge**



We've added the **Board of Directors Meeting** to the **Golf and Fishing Outing** and the **Annual Meeting** to make this a fun and informative 2-day event for all TPA members, as well as vendors and other related organizations

Look for information and complete details to be mailed soon to all members
We look forward to seeing you there!

TIMBER BULLETIN

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Duluth, Minnesota

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Rick Jensen of Rick L. Jensen Timber
slashing east of Effie.

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Senate Passes Coleman Amendment to Fully Fund Minnesota Forest Management Plan

Another unusual winter is behind us. The mills seem to have gotten the wood that they wanted. For those with markets it was a good winter for

President's Column



production.

The timing of spring road restrictions surprised some of us. But now that they are in place, there is time for a little relaxation and then some much-needed maintenance on equipment.

Spring is also a good time to take in Log Safe training and MLEP classes. There are some very interesting options for MLEP classes this spring. The programs have been very successful over the years and your participation and comments will keep them improving.

This year the MTPA Board of Directors will not meet in April. The directors meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting and Golf & Fishing Tournament to be held June 7 and 8 at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids. Our Public Relations Committee, chaired by Rod Bergstrom, has been hard at work on this event.

The Governor's Task Force has been meeting and should have some solid, long-term suggestions for the Legislature and DNR when it is completed.

The new biomass guidelines have been submitted for public review and should be completed by June.

Stay active in the MTPA and I'll see you at the Annual Meeting.

Senator Norm Coleman (R-MN) was successful in attaching his amendment to protect and sustain Minnesota's forest and timber industry to the Senate FY2008 Budget Resolution. His amendment will enable the forest management plans for the Lakes States region to be fully funded through the president's fiscal year 2008 budget request. Currently, the forest management plans for Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan are funded at just 50 percent of what is authorized. Coleman's amendment would provide \$50 million dollars for forest management plans in these states in fiscal year 2008, without raising the overall budget. His amendment, which is cosponsored by Senator Amy Klobuchar, was passed by unanimous consent.

"We are one step closer to ensuring that Minnesota's forests receive the funding needed to fully maintain and manage them," said Coleman. "My colleagues realize the integral role that forests play in our state's economy and way of life. Forest products are a \$6.9 billion industry in Minnesota that supports over 55,000 jobs in the state. The amount of money needed to protect this industry is minimal. Failing to provide this funding to the U.S. Forest Service will make it difficult to prevent further layoffs in the timber industry and keep the cost of raw materials competitive. I am also pleased that Senator Klobuchar cosponsored this amendment making it a bipartisan effort to secure this funding," said Coleman.

"Minnesota's national forests have been shortchanged time and time again and our timber communities have paid the price," said Klobuchar. "The legislation means our forest managers will get the resources they need to support a vital timber industry."

"We certainly want to thank Senator Norm Coleman for taking the initiative to propose this amendment securing funding for our national forests," said Bob Anderson, public affairs manager

for Boise Cascade in International Falls. "This will, without a doubt, help the forest products industry here in Minnesota as we continue to struggle with the many challenges of the global marketplace."

"The announcement today regarding the \$50 million in additional funding for the National Forests of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota is great news as it will have a positive impact for industry, recreation and forest health. Senators Coleman and Klobuchar should be commended for their leadership regarding procuring this additional funding," said Bud Stone, president, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

In December, Senator Coleman – along with former Senator Mark Dayton and each of the senators from Michigan and Wisconsin – sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Dick Kempthorne requesting that new forest management plans for the region be fully funded to help combat high prices and industry layoffs posing significant challenges to the region.

"Minnesota's forestry industry has faced extraordinary challenges recently, from subsidized foreign competition to wild fluctuations in raw material costs to depressed markets resulting in lost jobs across Minnesota's timber region," Coleman added. Adequately funding our forest management plans is the first step in the process of reviving, stabilizing and improving the health of our timber industry and the local jobs and economies that depend on it.

The heart of one of our industry's giants was stilled as Oscar Bergstrom passed away in March. The headline in the *International Falls Daily Journal* referred to him as "Timber Baron." If you asked Oscar he would have said that he was a logger from Loman. His self-effacing manner masked a keen intellect and a driving ambition to make things better – for his family, his community, TPA and everyone

Executive Vice
President's
Column



He didn't do this to show me up, he just had the ability to analyze information and events and see them in way that I didn't or couldn't. I always learned from this.

I'm not sure that Oscar ever really retired, though the "boys" have been running the family businesses for many years. One winter in the early 1990s I had agreed to debate one of the environmentalists du jour up north. As it turned out I was pinned down at the State Capitol, our executive committee members were all going flat out during a busy winter logging season and we needed someone to handle our end of this debate. I thought that Oscar might have the time and be willing to make the appearance so I gave him a call.

He said he would do it but that he wanted to be well prepared on the issues. I sent him a bunch of stuff on the current topics that were to be covered and then thought – who am I to brief Oscar Bergstrom about logging and forestry issues.

I made a few calls the next day to see how things had gone at the debate. Oscar thought it was OK but there were a few points that he wished he'd made. I later got the "rest of the story" when a couple of people told me that Oscar, then a ways into his seventies, had so

thoroughly tied this darling of the greens up that the fellow packed his briefcase up and walked out before the debate was over.

We should all be so sharp and willing to help our colleagues at any point in our lives.

I learned a lot from Oscar and am a better person for having known him. I will miss him.



Mark your calendars for the TPA Annual meeting on June 7 and 8 at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge near Grand Rapids. The Annual Meeting will once again be held in conjunction with our Golf & Fishing Outing. Watch your mail for details on the programs and events.



It's nice to have friends in high places; friends who are willing to help. Senator Norm Coleman recently came up with an idea to help with funding for National Forests in our region. He enlisted the support of Senator Klobuchar and the senators from Michigan and Wisconsin and successfully amended the Senate Budget Resolution to increase funds to implement our forest plans. While there is still a long way to go before we see additional funding it's a huge step in the right direction. We owe Senator Coleman a huge thank you for this effort.

In the House of Representatives Congressman Oberstar led an effort to take the U.S. Forest Service Washington, D.C., folks to the woodshed over how they were allocating funds. In our view they were being unfair to our region. Congressman Oberstar was joined on a letter by Congressman

Peterson (MN), Congressman Obey (WI) and Congressman Stupak (MI). They, respectively, are the chairs of the Transportation, Agriculture and Appropriations Committees and the chair of the Commerce Committee's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. Not a bad lineup to help argue our case.



We are all heartened that Ainsworth's Cook OSB plant has reopened and that stumpage prices have continued to moderate. While markets were very tough for many of our members this winter these are two rays of hope as spring tries to push winter into the rearview mirror.



I was recently visiting with LUA's Bill Dupont and was very pleased when he confirmed that we had a safe winter logging season. Congratulations to each and every TPA member for these results. It's a testament to the commitment that each of you have to keeping safety in the forefront no matter what else is going on in your business or on the job that day. Working safely is not glamorous but it is vital in so many ways.



Timber Baron Oscar Bergstrom Admired by Community

by Laurel Beager
International Falls Daily Journal

Borderland businessman Oscar Bergstrom was a leader in the timber industry and the community, recall people who knew him.

Bergstrom, 88, died Monday March 19 in International Falls, leaving a legacy of hard work, fairness, intelligence and good story telling among other characteristics.



**Oscar Bergstrom
in 1983**

"Oscar was one of the giants of the whole forest products industry," said Wayne Brandt, executive vice president of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association. Bergstrom served as past president of the association, and served on many boards and committees in relation to the organization.

Alan Knaeble called Bergstrom a "mainstay of the timber industry. He was one of the fairest men in the industry. It didn't matter if it affected him, he helped everyone in the industry to do the best." Knaeble was the owner and operator of a logging business for many years and has been active in organizations intended to benefit loggers and the forest products industry.

Gary Bergstrom, Oscar's youngest son, explained that Oscar started logging in 1947 and formed Bergstrom Logging. With his sons, he began Bergstrom Oil in 1982 and Bergstrom Wood Products in 1985.

In addition, Oscar Bergstrom served about 25 years as a member of the board of Bremer Bank. He was also active in Koochco, the Border Lakes Association, and served the Minnesota Timber Producers Association in many capacities for more than 40 years.

Gary Bigler, president of Bremer Bank, called Bergstrom an "amazing man" whose "honesty, integrity and inquisitiveness was

second to none. He always practiced common sense."

Bergstrom served as "Bremer's watchdog, always looking out for the employees and the customers with the idea that service came first," said Bigler, adding that Bergstrom was a "tremendous influence" on his own career.

"His history and service to Koochiching County people and policies has been really tremendous," said Dennis Hummitzsch, county land commissioner. "In the early '90s when Koochiching County went through the process of developing a tax-forfeited-land-management plan, Oscar was chairman of the committee and very influential in making the committee resolve very difficult issues and extremely beneficial as a member of the committee."

Bergstrom also served as a Koochiching County commissioner. Knaeble said Bergstrom's service as a commissioner was excellent. "He probably should have went on and been a legislator, but that would have taken too much of his time," Knaeble said.

Bergstrom's intelligence was impressive, those who knew him recalled. "He had the ability to think things through," Bigler said. Brandt said Bergstrom was "extremely bright and extremely innovative. When there was new techniques and new equipment coming up, Oscar was the first to use it. He was one of those to help come up with ideas to develop equipment and techniques. He made incredible contributions all the way around."

Knaeble said Bergstrom was the "most respected guy in the industry. He was right up on everything. When Oscar said something everybody listened.

"I learned so much as a young man from him and tried to pattern some of my own ways after him," Knaeble continued. "I can't think of anyone that wouldn't feel the same way, even some that he was in competition with."

Brandt said Bergstrom's leadership in the industry and

association was for the good of everyone. "People like Oscar spent countless hours, spent thousands of dollars for activities they might see some benefit from, but are done to benefit everyone involved in logging and the industry. He had a commanding presence."

That presence "wowed" corporate Boise Cascade officials in 1982 or '83 when a community appreciation day was conducted in an effort to convince the corporation to invest in the mill here, recalled Bob Anderson, Boise public affairs manager.

"He personified the logging community and timber industry so well," said Anderson.

Knaeble recalled developing financial reports at the Minnesota Timber Producers Association. "Oscar would be silent for a while, analyzing the whole thing. The rest of us couldn't come up with the right questions, but Oscar did," he said.

Brandt recalled his own experiences with Bergstrom. "No matter how well prepared I was for a Timber Producers Association board meeting, Oscar always asked me a question I wasn't prepared for," Brandt said laughing. "He was smarter than all of us. His eyes were higher than the rest of us."

Knaeble said he enjoyed car rides with Bergstrom who recalled stories of logging days gone by. Bigler, too, enjoyed Bergstrom's stories and his humor.

"He had a story for everything," said Bigler. "Every situation that came up, he could allude to past experiences and had a story. I just love him. He was great."

"Oscar was always a lot of fun, he always had a smile, and he always had a story. He was just a very enjoyable person," said Brandt.

Knaeble went on fishing trips with Bergstrom. "He was a leader there, too. He loved to fish and party a little. He was an all around guy. There isn't anybody better in state of Minnesota than Oscar as industry leader and personally."

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International Falls Daily Journal*

Combined Board Meeting, Annual Meeting, and Golf and Fishing Event Coming to Grand Rapids

Mark your calendars for June 7 and 8 for the 2007 TPA Annual Meeting, Board of Directors Meeting, and Golf and Fishing Event at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge just south of Grand Rapids.

The three events have been combined to give members the opportunity to attend three major events all in two days. The two days will be filled, not only with info to help you run your business, but also with the opportunity to socialize with fellow loggers and vendors.

It's the second year the golf and fishing events are being held in conjunction with the annual meeting. This year, the board of directors will meet as well.

Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge was selected not only because of its beautiful golf course and clear Sugar Lake, but also because of its centrally located near Grand Rapids.

To encourage members to attend both days of the event, Ruttger's is offering package pricing. For \$97 (plus tax), participants will get lunch both days, a banquet ticket, and one activity: either golf, fishing, or a 30-minute massage. For those who decide to fish, a \$45 Sugar Lake Lodge gift card will be



Paul and Bill Bergstrom launch their boat for the 2006 TPA Fishing Outing.

provided, good for anything on the property, including lodging or use in the gift shop, pro shop, bar, or restaurant.

All members will be receiving registration information soon. Don't forget to join us for this fun and informative event!



Ryan Milette of RMS celebrates with teammate John Rolle of John Rolle Logging after sinking a long putt during the 2006 TPA Golf Outing.

Rick L. Jensen Timber

by Ray Higgins

It's mid-March, temperatures are rising, and the logging roads are getting soft. Rick Jensen's feller buncher is working, as are his skidder and delimeter. But he figures this will be the last day of harvesting for a while.

"You can see what the road is doing," Jensen says, "yet the ground is holding up great. So it's a good place to end up."

Plus, this job is only about 10 minutes from Jensen's home on Deer Lake, just northeast of Effie. And the wood is good, too – mostly Aspen.

"It's nice wood," Jensen says. "A lot of times when it gets to this age – I'd say 75 or so – it's not this good. But this is very sound wood."

Jensen knows good wood when he sees it. He started logging when he was 11 years old, working for his father. Now that he's 51, that means he's been in the woods for 40 years.

"My dad had me on a dozer when I was 11," Jensen says, smiling at the memory. "I've loved being out here ever since."

But after graduating high school at Bigfork, Jensen went off to college and earned a degree in technical illustration and commercial design. That's what he thought he'd spend his life doing, until graduation drew closer.

"It was a really fun program," he



Rick Jensen at his job site east of Effie. Behind him is a tract he harvested several years ago.

says. "I enjoyed it, but at that time I realized I would have had to work in the city. That would have driven me nuts. These days, I think a guy could work out of his home, but not then. So when I finished college, I just got right back into it. Dad needed help, so I thought this would be great.

"If I had worked in a city, it would have been so hard for me. All of my hobbies, like most loggers, are hunting and trapping, fishing, looking for deer antlers, and that kind of stuff. Once you're drawn to the woods you're really in it. I just love being out in the woods. If we weren't doing this, we'd be ice fishing, even when it's 40 below.

Jensen got that love of the woods

and the outdoors from his father Alvin. Rick says his dad, now 80, "started with a couple of horses and a hand saw." The family also lived and worked on Deer Lake, about an eighth of a mile from where Rick and his wife and kids live now. In fact, Alvin still lives there and the shop is still there, where it's been for 50 years. And though Alvin is technically "retired," he still helps out.

"He's out here a couple of times a week," Rick says. "He runs the dozer, builds roads, he slashes and loads trucks and puts up our fire wood, so I'd say he cuts and splits close to 30 cords a year."

This day, Alvin's at the shop, planing and sawing wood. He'll dry and make lumber out of the leftovers of what Rick cuts, and eventually he'll build stuff with it. Later, he'll be back on the dozer, building a road for Rick

"I work every day, even though I've been retired for years," Alvin says with a grin. "You just get used to working."

It's a great arrangement, Rick continuing to work with his dad, just like they've been doing from the start. And Alvin's price is right, too.

"We've got a way of working things out," Rick chuckles.

The Jensen family makes up a large part of Rick's crew. Cousin Larry Blackmer runs the John Deere 643D buncher. Son Dave, 23, is on the John Deere 200LC



Dave Olson operates the John Deere 200LC delimeter.



Alvin Jensen is retired, but still helps out a couple of times a week. Here he's standing in his shop in front of lumber he's cut, planed, and dried.



Rick Jensen in the Serco 170 slasher/tree length loader.



Jensen's John Deere 748G skidder is operated by Thor Johnson.



Larry Blackmer runs the John Deere 643D buncher.

delimber. Thor Johnson, who isn't a relation, drives skidder, either the Deere 748G, or the Deere 648E. Then Rick is usually on the Serco 170 slasher/tree length loader. Rick's wife Debbie handles the books and the office work. The trucking is handled by another family affair, the father and son team of Dan and Matt Stolp.

"Having a good crew, that's everything," Rick says. "I just fill in wherever I have to. I'm usually loading and slashing, but I'll run everything in a single day.

"Larry's dad, my uncle, had him out in the woods at about the same time I was. We're about the same age. He logged when he was young. Then he pursued some other interests and came back and he's been with me quite a while, now.

Dave Olson, like his dad, started helping out when he was a teenager and then went off to college, thinking about doing something else. But in the end, he came back to work with his dad.

"At this point he's very content with it," Rick says.

And with a total of two sons and three daughters there could be more family help on the way.

Over the years there have been thoughts of change, of adding another conventional operation, or of switching to cut-to-length, but so far, Jensen's elected to keep it simple.

"At one time I had contracts with Blandin, Potlatch, and Boise," Jensen says. "The problem was all them wanting you on a sale at the same time and it just wasn't going to happen. I'm very content with just what we've got. If I had two brothers or something that were in it too, I might look at expanding."

Now, Jensen is a contract logger for Boise, with 80 percent of his business coming from sales that Boise has purchased. The other 20 percent comes from sales he buys, and he markets that wood to Blandin or Stora Enso.

Within those sales, Jensen ends up cutting a variety of species, producing a variety of products. Here, for example, they'll send balsam bolts to the Potlatch mill in Bemidji, the tree length, of course, goes to Boise, but the smaller stuff goes for pulp at Blandin. In all, a dozen products of various species

will come from this sale.

"It's a sign of the times," Jensen says, "because every mill is trying to market where they get the most money and where the wood is best utilized. On this sale, we've got maple, birch, spruce, some white pine, some jack, some balsam, but it's predominately aspen."

With break-up coming, it's nearly time to shift gears. There will be some logging in the summer, but Jensen has other things to keep him busy and the crew working during the warmer months, as well.

"We do some landscaping, yard work, put in driveways, haul gravel, fill sand," he says. "Anything we

can find to fill in the void."

With all that work, that's where membership in TPA comes in.

Jensen is a member of the organization's board of directors.

"I put a lot of faith in the TPA and I have to," Jensen says, "because I work right with my crew. Without it, I don't know where we'd be. It's very important. You just need it to go to bat for you, or what do you have?"

So Jensen looks ahead, both to what's next in the industry, and what's next for this sale. The work here may be done for the winter, but not for this job.

"What we've done now is cut a

strip way back here," Jensen says, pointing to the south and west.

"You can see the ground elevation rise. That we'll cut in the summer. This is strictly yard-up to haul after break-up. Then next year we'll cut the winter piece."

Looking to the east, Jensen says, "I've cut everything here. I've cut four forties here. It's been several years. You can see the size of the Norway and the spruce that they planted. The rest is natural re-gen."

And if Jensen keeps at it the way his father has, he might be back to this spot for another harvest when the Norway, spruce and aspen are ready.

School Kids Visit C.O. Johnson Logging

Kindergartners from Blackduck Elementary got to experience life at a logging job during a January field trip.

Wayne Johnson of C.O. Johnson logging went to the school on the day before the field trip, telling the students what they could expect to see. The next day, the kids were taken by school bus to the job site, eight miles outside of Blackduck. Johnson gave them an up-close look at his equipment, and cut each of the kids a cookie to keep so they could see the growth rings. The kids spent about an hour watching the harvester and forwarder do their thing. The Blackduck office of the U.S. Forest Service donated Smokey Bear materials, Nortrax donated balloons, bumper stickers, and large green John Deere pencils, and the Johnsons brought plenty of cocoa for all to enjoy. It was a great day and a great opportunity to show the youngsters the importance of forest management and let them see what logging is all about.



The 18 kindergartners at Blackduck school pose in front of C.O. Johnson Timber's harvesting during a January field trip.



Wayne Johnson of C.O. Johnson Logging shows the kindergartners the cutting head of his Timberjack harvester.

On the Markets

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

Recent Timber Sales

Average prices, as reported by each agency

Crow Wing County

March 29th – Oral Auction

Species	Bid Price
Aspen	\$22.27
Birch	\$10.19
Maple	\$ 8.29
Oak	\$14.42

The sale contained four total tracts. Four went unsold. The average bid-up was 12.68 percent. Seven tracts sold for the appraised value.

Lake County

March 14th – Sealed Bids

Species	Avg. Price
Aspen Pulp	\$28.19
Birch P&B	\$14.89
Maple P&B	\$11.54
Ash P&B	\$8.55

DNR Stats on Harvest Levels and Timber Sold

Information from the DNR regarding Timber Volume Sold compared to previous years. Information is for fiscal years, which run July through June. Since fiscal 2007 isn't yet complete, information is through FY 2006:

2006	774,000 cords
2005	794,000 cords
2004	816,000 cords
2003	707,000 cords
2002	906,000 cords

Harvest levels as indicated by scale reports. Data includes information from fiscal year 2007. Because the fiscal year runs through June, information from other years only includes harvest levels from July through March for comparison purposes.

FY 2007	(July 2006-March 2007) 502,600 cords
FY 2006	(July 2005-March 2006) 564,800 cords
FY 2005	(July 2004-March 2005) 555,600 cords
FY 2004	(July 2003-March 2004) 614,000 cords
FY 2003	(July 2002-March 2003) 641,000 cords

Lumber Output Falls in 2006

U.S. lumber production dropped 5.7 percent in 2006 according to the Western Wood Products Association. Production totaled 38.152 billion board feet last year. Initial estimates show lumber consumption in the U.S. totaled 60 billion feet, down 6.4 percent compared to the 2005 total. Imports from Canada in 2006 totaled 20.1 billion feet, off 6.3 percent for the year. European shipments to the U.S. declined nearly 19 percent.

U.S. Housing Starts Advance in February

In data released by the U.S. Census Bureau, housing starts in February were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,525,000. This is 9.0 percent above the revised January estimate of 1,399,000. Still, housing starts fell 28.5 percent when compared to February 2006. Single-family housing starts in February were at a rate of 1,220,000, up 10.3 percent from January. The February rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 266,000.

Builder Confidence Slips in March

Builder confidence in the market for new single-family homes receded in March, largely on concerns about deepening problems in the subprime mortgage arena, according to the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI). After rising fairly steadily since its recent low last September,

the HMI declined three points from a downwardly revised 39 reading in February to 36 in March.

"Builders are uncertain about the consequences of tightening mortgage lending standards for their home sales down the line, and some are already seeing effects of the subprime shakeout on current sales activity," said NAHB Chief Economist David Seiders in a news release. "The fundamentals of today's housing market still are relatively strong, including a favorable interest-rate structure, solid growth in employment and household income, lower energy prices and improving affordability in much of the single-family market – due in part to price cuts and non-price sales incentives offered by builders. NAHB continues to forecast modest improvements in home sales during the balance of 2007, although the problems in the mortgage market increase the degree of uncertainty surrounding our baseline (i.e., most probable) forecast."

Derived from a monthly survey that NAHB has been conducting for 20 years, the NAHB/Wells Fargo HMI gauges builder perceptions of current single-family home sales and sales expectations for the next six months as either "good," "fair" or "poor." The survey also asks builders to rate traffic of prospective buyers as either "high to very high," "average" or "low to very low." Scores for each component are then used to calculate a seasonally adjusted index where any number over 50 indicates that more builders view sales conditions as good than poor.

Timber Talk

TPA Transportation Committee Meets with MnDOT on Spring Load Restrictions

Officials with MnDOT's Office of Materials came to Grand Rapids to meet with TPA's Transportation Committee about how Spring Load Restrictions are implemented and how those decisions are communicated with the motoring public.

MnDOT uses a variety of data, including temperature forecasts, to determine when the restrictions are implemented. This year's restrictions began March 13, and the decision was made on Friday March 9 in anticipation of several days of warmer temperatures statewide. According to Curt Turgeon of MnDOT's Office of Materials, data since restrictions were put in place verifies that the decision was correct.

The relevant data for all seasonal load limits, including the forecast maps, is available online at: http://www.mrr.dot.state.mn.us/research/seasonal_load_limits/sllindex.asp

Turgeon, however, did indicate to the committee that the decision was communicated poorly in that it was relayed late in the day on a Friday afternoon. This gave those affected only one business day to make the necessary preparations for the restrictions. Turgeon said the department has already had discussions on how to improve its communication in the future.

State Patrol Focusing on Driver Fatigue

Over the past two years, the Minnesota State Patrol has begun focusing on driver fatigue as an enforcement issue.

Tickets are not currently being issued, but drivers are being placed out-of-service if excess fatigue is detected.

Fatigue is covered under section

of 392.3 of the federal code, which says, "No driver shall operate a motor vehicle, and a commercial motor carrier shall not require or permit a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle, while the driver's ability or alertness is so impaired, or so likely to become impaired, through fatigue, illness, or any other cause, as to make it unsafe for him/her to begin or continue to operate the commercial motor vehicle."

The National Transportation Safety Board estimates driver fatigue is an issue in 40% of all highway crashes.

In 2006, the Patrol placed 248 drivers of commercial motor vehicles out-of-service for fatigue, and 157 in 2005. In 2001, only 21 drivers were placed out-of-service for fatigue-related issues.

Wes Pemble of the Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Section says enforcement isn't a matter of checking the driver's log book. Rather, troopers have been trained to look for visual signs in a driver that show fatigue, much in the same way that it's possible to visually detect an impaired driver through a field sobriety test.

"We began to refocus our efforts toward fatigue," Pemble said. "We gave our officers training so they can identify fatigue in drivers of commercial motor vehicles. Research in this area has improved over the years, and we now know how to train troopers for this. It's helped make our roads safer in Minnesota."

New DNR Billing Process

The Department of Natural Resources Timber Sales Unit is implementing a new Revenue Accounting (Billing) System.

Starting this summer, billing procedures for invoices for all state timber permits will change from the current annual billing process to a quarterly billing process.

The new system will generate an invoice for any wood scaled during a given three-month period. Scaled wood from all of your permits will be combined onto one convenient quarterly invoice, summarized by permit number. We will, however, continue to issue year end permit-

specific invoices at the request of a permit holder as well as final invoices which allow us to collect final payments and release permit security without waiting for the quarterly cycle.

TPA Member John "Vernon" Hutchinson Dies

Longtime TPA member John 'Vernon' Hutchinson, 77, of Floodwood died Friday, March 23. Vernon graduated from Floodwood High School and served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Korean Conflict. In 1963 Vernon started his own sawmill and pallet business in Floodwood, operating it until his retirement in 1994. He enjoyed flying, fishing, woodworking, snowplowing, and mowing the lawn. He is survived by his wife, Jean; sons, John (Sue) and Robert (Lonna) both of Floodwood; daughters, Pat (Randy) Heikkila of Grand Rapids, and Nora (Steven) Rosemore of Cloquet.

TPA Co-sponsors Skilled Driver Training – The DOT Audit

The DOT audit – how to prepare and what to expect" is the topic of this year's Skilled Driver Training workshops, cosponsored by TPA along with MLEP. Pamela DeGrote, a transportation program specialist with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, will provide a complete review of applicable Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and the DOT audit process. Topics to be covered include inspection selection, driver qualifications, drug and alcohol use, testing and programs, hours of service, inspection, service and maintenance, hazardous materials and more.

The cost of the workshop is \$25. Workshops will be held:

April 24	Duluth
April 26	International Falls
October 10	Grand Rapids

Space is limited. To register, call the MLEP office, or visit www.mlep.org.

Truck Weight Compliance Training

MLEP is again sponsoring the Truck Weight Compliance Training Oct. 9 in Bemidji. This workshop is ideal for those trucking entities that want to load to the maximum legal weight possible and need to understand and comply with Minnesota's legal weight limits.

Participants will review the laws governing gross weights, road-restriction weights, axle weights, and seasonally increased weights. The workshop will also address the differences between the state and local systems, road damage issues, reading weight charts, and the advantages and reasons for proper tire sizes, axle spacing, and axle configurations. Professional and easy to understand classroom and "take home" materials will help you identify potential concerns with your own trucks and assist you in optimizing your own configurations and options.

This workshop is being funded by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The instructor is retired State Patrol Lt. Greg A. Hayes. During the last 16 years of his career, Greg supervised the commercial vehicle enforcement in northwestern Minnesota. To register, call the MLEP office or visit www.mlep.org.

Boise Paper 'Timber Talk' Group Wins Project Learning Tree Award

The Boise Timber Talk Team, a group of employees at Boise's International Falls mill that includes foresters, has been awarded a \$910 GreenWorks! grant from Project Learning Tree (PLT), the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation. Boise's Timber Talk Team teaches local schools and communities about forest management and forest products, both important industries in this area.

Each year, members make Arbor Day presentations and choose a

community project where they provide all tools, planting materials and site preparation, while mentoring fifth-grade students on proper tree planting and maintenance. This year, Falls Elementary in International Falls will get plantings around its three community-built playgrounds; football, softball and track fields; and outdoor classroom, which consists of six large picnic tables. Around the outdoor classroom, the team will plant native trees as an educational resource. The landscaping will slow wind, soil erosion and snow drifting around these areas, all of which are used by both students and the community.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, is the state sponsor of Project Learning Tree. Developed in 1976, PLT has an international network of more than 500,000 trained educators using seven curricula covering the total environment.

State Assumes Responsibility for Gray Wolf Management in Minnesota

Minnesota's wolf population has been officially removed from the federal endangered species list and will be managed by the DNR.

The plan establishes a minimum population of 1,600 wolves to ensure the long-term survival of the wolf in Minnesota. The state's wolf population, estimated at fewer than 750 animals in the 1950s, has grown to its current estimate of 3,020. There will be no public hunting or trapping seasons on wolves for at least five years. The endangered species act requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor wolves in Minnesota for five years after delisting to ensure that recovery continues.

Similar to federal regulations, the state plan allows anyone to take a wolf to defend human life. Any wolves taken must be reported to a DNR conservation officer within 48 hours, and evidence must be

protected.

Unlike federal regulations, state regulations allow harassment of wolves that are within 500 yards of people, buildings, livestock or domestic pets to discourage wolves from contacting people and domestic animals. Wolves cannot be attracted or searched out for purposes of harassment, and cannot be physically harmed.

The state wolf plan splits the state into two management zones with more protective regulations in the northern third, considered the wolf's core range.

In addition to the continuing federal wolf depredation programs, the state wolf plan has new provisions for taking wolves that are posing risks to livestock and domestic pets. Owners of livestock, guard animals, or domestic animals may shoot or destroy wolves that pose an immediate threat to their animals, on property they own or lease in accordance with local statutes.

"Immediate threat" means the observed behavior of a gray wolf in the act of stalking, attacking, or killing livestock, a guard animal, or a domestic pet under the supervision of the owner.

Additionally, the owner of a domestic pet may shoot or destroy a gray wolf posing an immediate threat on any property, as long as the owner is supervising the pet. In all cases, a person shooting or destroying a gray wolf under these provisions must protect all evidence, and report the taking to a DNR conservation officer within 48 hours. The wolf carcass will be surrendered to the conservation officer.

In the southern two-thirds of the state (Zone B), a person may shoot a gray wolf at any time to protect livestock, domestic animals or pets on land they own, lease, or manage. The circumstance of "immediate threat" does not apply.

A DNR conservation officer must be notified within 48 hours, and the wolf carcass will be surrendered to the conservation officer. Also in this area, a person may employ a state certified predator controller to trap wolves on or within one mile of land they own, lease, or manage.

LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

"'Walkers' Ruled the Woods"

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 most industry of all kinds is not lacking in supervision. There are superintendents of production, of maintenance, of costs, of personnel—and many others.

In the old logging days, supervision was at a minimum. A general manager of logging operations generally was situated in the town that was company headquarters, and he probably would make one trip a year to the woods to visit some major project. He would usually come in over a railroad spur in a special car with some of the stockholders, stopping at one of the better camps for a good feed and to give the stockholders a briefing on how efficient things were. Then the camps would not see him again for a year.

However, there was no lack of supervision in the camps and little was needed. The "walking boss" or "walker," as he was known, provided the answer to all the problems.

He kept all the firemen in line and kept a check on all phases of the camps' work. He was generally in charge of from 4 to 12 camps, or all in a certain area. In the old days, he would walk from camp to camp, then on to the next. He would check on how many logs were being cut each day, how many were skidded, the conditions of the ice trail, how supplies were coming in, how the men were being fed, and advise the camp foreman on any changes that were needed.

However, there was very little "meddling" with the running of the camp or the crews. The walking boss had hired the camp foreman and gave him full charge of everything from the food the cook put out to the delivering of the logs to the landings. It was the camp foreman who ran the camp, and he had plenty of chance to show his ability. The "jacks" referred to the foreman as the "gnish."

In the fall of the year, the walking boss was a very busy man. He had to line up the locations of new camps and arrange for the toling in of lumber and supplies to build them. He figured out the locations for logging spurs and logging trails and arranged for the distribution of horses and equipment. Once this was done and a foreman was assigned, the foreman became the boss of the camp and the opera-

tions. In the early days, there were no camp timekeepers or clerks, and the foreman handled all of the selling of snuff and tobacco to the crew in the evenings. In later years, the camp clerks handled all the timekeeping and book work, such as ordering kitchen supplies.

It was the ambition of all camp foremen to become a walking boss someday. The ability of some of these camp foremen was astonishing. You didn't have to go into detail explaining a problem; just mention it, and they took it from there and they always seemed to come up with

the right decision.

Though some rode from camp to camp, 300-pound Henry Graham, "walking boss" for National Pulp Co., always traveled on foot. This photo was taken about 1913 at National's Kallihar office, man of left is unknown.



In winters, when but few camps were in operation, some walking bosses had to drop back to camp foreman for a while. In the depression of 1921, I knew several walking bosses who were doing common labor. Woods work was all they knew, and they could not turn to supervisory work in another field very easily.

However, when the CCC camps came in 1933, many of the old camp foremen got jobs as foreman in these and did very well. A few of them got to be superintendents. One of the old walking bosses was Christ Lee of the Northern Lumber Company. In talking with him after he got his CCC job, he said to me, "I didn't think I would ever get one of these high-salutin jobs of 'superintendent' but hell, I only got one camp to look after. This is more like a camp foreman job."

Most lumber camps of 200 men had two or three "straw bosses" who worked under the foreman. Straw bosses were working foremen who were put in charge of one phase of the logging operation. There might be one in charge of the skidding crew, one in charge of the loading crew, and one in charge of the log landings. They worked along with the men and usually were the hardest workers on the crew. Some camp foremen had only one straw boss who went from crew to crew, working a while with each. He was called a "traveling straw boss."

Supervision in the lumber camps was carefully kept at a minimum, as workers resented too much supervision. Each man had his job to do and took great pride in doing it well without a foreman standing over him.

While the name "walking boss" was given the man who walked from camp to camp in the early days, by the early 1890s, he usually arrived at camp with a team of fine driving horses. These walking bosses took great pride in their driving teams, which were always rigged out in nice harnesses with many spreader rings and were always kept in the best of shape. When the team arrived in camp, the "harn boss" took over their care, groomed them, fed them, and had them ready when the walking boss moved on to the

next camp. These driving teams were "sharped" to travel over the ice roads at a good rate of speed. Most of the driving teams were trotting horses, but I know several bosses who had teams of paces.

Horse teams were used during the winter months. In the summer, camps were mostly railroad camps and the "walker" would arrive by motor speeder or on a logging train. Companies that did not log during the summer had watchmen at the camps, and it was the duty of the "walker" to visit these camps about once a month and check on these watchmen, who usually had several head of horses and a number of pigs to care for. Pigs were raised at most camps that had watchmen, and when the camps started up again in the fall were butchered to furnish a supply of pork. Some of these camps with summer watchmen were in isolated places, and the "walker" had to walk across several miles of swamp to visit them. Supplies for the watchmen—and feed for the horses and pigs—had to be toled in during the preceding winter.

During the days when white pine was king, there was a great number of walking bosses working for the many lumber companies and logging contractors. The first one I recall was George "Bum" Bush, who worked about 1907 in the Bemidji area for the J. Neils Lumber Company and the Bemidji Lumber Company.

Others I knew well included "Bub" Murseau of the Crookston Lumber Company in the Kelliher and Northome area, "Billie" Betts, also of the Crookston Lumber Company, in the Blackduck and

Mispah area; Merdick Morrison of the Bemidji Lumber Company in the Ten-strike area; Henry Graham of the Page Hill Company and the National Pole Company in the Gemmill area; "Doker Jack" Baust of the International Lumber Company; Rep. Bronson of the Hackus & Brooks Company—and many more.

However, two of the best known in the early days were the Sullivan brothers—Jim and Mike. They worked for several companies—Jim mainly for the old Pine Tree Lumber Company in and around Brainerd, and Mike, his younger brother, for most of the lumber companies operating from Bemidji to International Falls.

Mike Sullivan was the better known of the two, and every lumberjack from Brainerd to International Falls knew him as "Hungry Mike." He was a large man, about six-foot-two and 240 pounds, with a red mustache, a very strong voice and a tremendous appetite. Many a tale has been told and retold in all the lumber camp bunkhouses about Mike eating 12 dozen eggs for breakfast, a whole ham for lunch and 50 baking powder biscuits and 30 pounds of beef for supper. The tales are greatly exaggerated, but he certainly did eat as much as two ordinary men. Despite his large size and voice, he was a very gentle man and very kind—and was known to have taken his shirt off and given it to a man who did not have one. No lumberjack ever passed his camp hungry, and he was loved by most all who knew him.

Another great walking boss and foreman who worked in the Cloquet Valley State Forest was big Christ Lee of the

Northern Lumber Company. He was known for taking care of old-time "jacks" who were crippled or getting "pretty old"—and usually had several working around his camp, sawing wood for the staves or keeping fires in the staves at night. He was criticized by the hard men for keeping them around, but still he took care of them. I remember him for wearing six pairs of socks and oversize 13 rubbers; he never could get enough socks on to keep his feet warm.

In the Cloquet Valley State Forest area, just north of Duluth, were many others who worked for the Combined Cloquet Companies: "Big Hank" Glasgow, Ed "Pine City" Netzer, William J. Campbell, Mort Shiels, "Spot" Chisholm, Tom Hendersann, John Shea, Pete Gibbons, John McPherson—and many others.

History has but little to say or mention about these dedicated, noble, hardworking men, who conquered our rivers, built our logging railroads and ice logging roads, and delivered our pine logs to the mills to be manufactured into lumber that built our homes and farms in all the area west of the Mississippi River. But much credit is due them, for without them our pine forest would never have been harvested.

And while the name "walking boss" will soon be a forgotten word in our American life, there are still a few old-timers around who can remember the "bull cook" sticking his head in the bunkhouse door on a frosty January morning at 5:00 a.m. and singing out, "Roll out, you sleepy heads! Time to get up! The walker is in camp!"

A line team moved this "walker" between Duluth & Winnipeg Railroad camps.



Wood Fiber Council Goes to St. Paul

The Wood Fiber Employees Joint Legislative Council spent three days in March at the Minnesota State Capitol to lobby legislators on issues important to the timber industry.

The council is a joint labor-management organization representing unions and companies in Minnesota's forest products industry. For more than 30 years, the council's union and management delegates from throughout the state have spoken with a united voice on legislative issues affecting jobs and the economic health of the industry.

The three-day event not only included a trip to the Capitol to meet with legislators, but also a breakfast with Sen. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) and Sen. Tom Saxhaug (DFL-Grand Rapids). Both legislators gave the council a run-down of current hot button issues at the Capitol, including those related to the timber industry, and council members had a chance to ask questions and share their thoughts on the current state of the industry.

In addition, the council heard several presentations on issues vital to the industry. New DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten was among those addressing the council. Holsten said he understands the importance of forest management in Minnesota and will work to improve the way the DNR does that. Holsten said one of the biggest challenges the DNR faces in the coming years is all of the turnover in department staff. In the next eight years, half of the DNR's 3000 employees will retire.

"Losing that skill, institutional knowledge, and experience will change the face of the agency," Holsten told the council. "We're not going to hire back 1-for-1, so we're going to be a smaller agency. We'll have to become more collaborative and more partnership-based. But it will be an exciting time, incorporating new people with new ideas. I'm looking forward to that."

Among others addressing the Wood Fiber Council were DNR Forestry Director Dave Epperly; Dr.



DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten addresses the Wood Fiber Council at a meeting in St. Paul. Holsten said impending retirements in the DNR will "change the face of the agency."



Sen. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) talked about the current legislative session and prospects for forestry related issues as well as other legislation moving through the legislature. He was joined by Sen. Tom Saxhaug (DFL-Grand Rapids).

Mike Kilgore from the University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources; Dave Zumeta, executive director of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council; and MLEP Executive Director Dave Chura.

The council decided to support several issues in their visits with legislators. They included:

- An increase in DNR funding for forestry related issues as proposed by the Governor's Task Force
- Elimination of the sunset on the Sustainable Forest Resources Act, another task force proposal
- Increased truck weights on finished forest products

Forest Service Allows Change on Options for Selecting Indices

The U.S. Forest Service is now allowing purchasers of federal sales to use the softwood lumber index on future timber sales. If the purchaser plans to haul over half the volume to an OSB plant or lumber mill, they may request in writing to use this index. Then, the purchaser and the Forest Service would sign a mutual agreement to that effect. Up until now, the chip index has been used on sales in the Lake States.

This is significant because the indices are used to determine when there's a market downturn. When the index triggers for two consecutive quarters, a "Market Related Contract Term Adjustment" and one-year extensions are available upon request.

According to the Governor's Task Force report, roughly 60 percent of the wood in Minnesota is used for lumber, engineered wood, or oriented strand board, making the softwood lumber index relevant.

A letter from the Forest Service's regional office in Milwaukee to forest supervisors says the forest supervisor has "the discretion to choose the appropriate index based on local markets and does not mandate that only the wood chips index be selected even if the listed product is chips."

Paul Momper of the Forest Service says purchasers of sales can ask at the time of the sale that the softwood lumber index be used.

"In the process that's unfolding, the contracting officer and the forest supervisor select which index to use during the appraisal process," Momper said. "Then the purchaser is offered the chance to change the index prior to award. There could be some reasons to deny a request, but if it's in that discretionary area where either index can be used, the contracting officer will certainly work with the purchaser to satisfy the request. We've been pretty pleased since it's been rolled out with how it's been used to accommodate the market conditions."

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Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I



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Forest History Center Honors Logging Industry

by Ed Nelson

I asked an old-timer why he kept logging long after most men his age had retired. Why, when wood prices have not kept pace with costs, and when more time was being spent on meeting government regulations than on laying out a cut and why, when once you could fix most any piece of equipment with a crescent wrench, pliers, and a big hammer, now you practically need to import a computer technician from a foreign country when your equipment breaks down? He looked at me, smiled and said, "I really don't know. I guess I got sawdust in my blood."

Logging is a profession passed down from generation to generation. From Maine to Minnesota and beyond, loggers tend to be fiercely independent, a spirit that is deeply rooted in American culture. Loggers opened the north woods for settlement and we are proud your enduring history.

The Minnesota Historical Society's Forest History Center in Grand Rapids celebrates the rich history of white pine logging in Minnesota in its museum and recreated 1900 logging camp. The exhibits, completely redone in 2004, are designed to connect people to forests. Photographs showing how logging was once done with human muscle and horsepower are juxtaposed against a state-of-the-art harvester simulator where visitors can try their hand at felling trees with the robot-like machine. A multi-media theater features the horror and devastation left in the aftermath of the Cloquet-Moose Lake fire of 1918.

"Many visitors come to the Forest History Center to visit the authentically recreated 1900 white pine logging camp" according to assistant site manager Ed Nelson. "Somewhere in their personal history they have a connection to the great white pine logging era with its big timber, rugged lumberjacks and real horsepower. They just want to see what it was like for Grandpa." The camp was recreated using old photos, logging camp records and oral histories. Costumed staff, playing the roles of

logging camp workers, bring the camp to life with their stories and character depictions. The Percheron draft horses in camp look as if they walked out of an old photograph.

The Forest History Center sits on 170 acres bordered by the Mississippi River. It has five miles of handicapped accessible trails. The Visitor's Center is open year round. In addition to the exhibits, the Visitor's Center has a gift shop and a meeting room. The meeting room can be rented for meetings, conferences, workshops and special programs. Call 218-327-4482 for rental availability and costs. The center opens for school field trips at the end of April. It is open to the public from June 1 to Labor Day weekend. Special event days and activities for 2007 are listed on the Minnesota Historical Society website under Forest History Center. There is an admission charge.

So, shake the sawdust out of your pants and bring your family to the Forest History Center, and take your place alongside the unique characters that make up Minnesota's timber and logging history.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA), Rhinelander, Wis., is accepting resumes and letters of interest for the position of executive director. The GLTPA is a forest industry trade association that provides member benefits and advocacy for a wide range of individuals and businesses in the forest products industries in Michigan and Wisconsin.

The successful candidate must possess leadership experience and team-building skills to effectively supervise staff and interact with a wide range of interests in the forest products industry. Excellent interpersonal skills, strong verbal and written communication skills, and well developed problem solving skills are required.

This position requires a minimum of five years of experience in mid to upper level business, government or trade association management. The successful candidate will be knowledgeable in governmental affairs, human resources and business management principles. Preference will be given to applicants that meet the position requirements and have experience in the forest products or related industries.

We offer a full benefit package and competitive salary. Please send your letter of interest and resume to the following address:

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APPLICATION DEADLINE MAY 11, 2007

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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- 1995 Morbark 1000 truck mounted
- 1985 Serco 125 truck mounted

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