

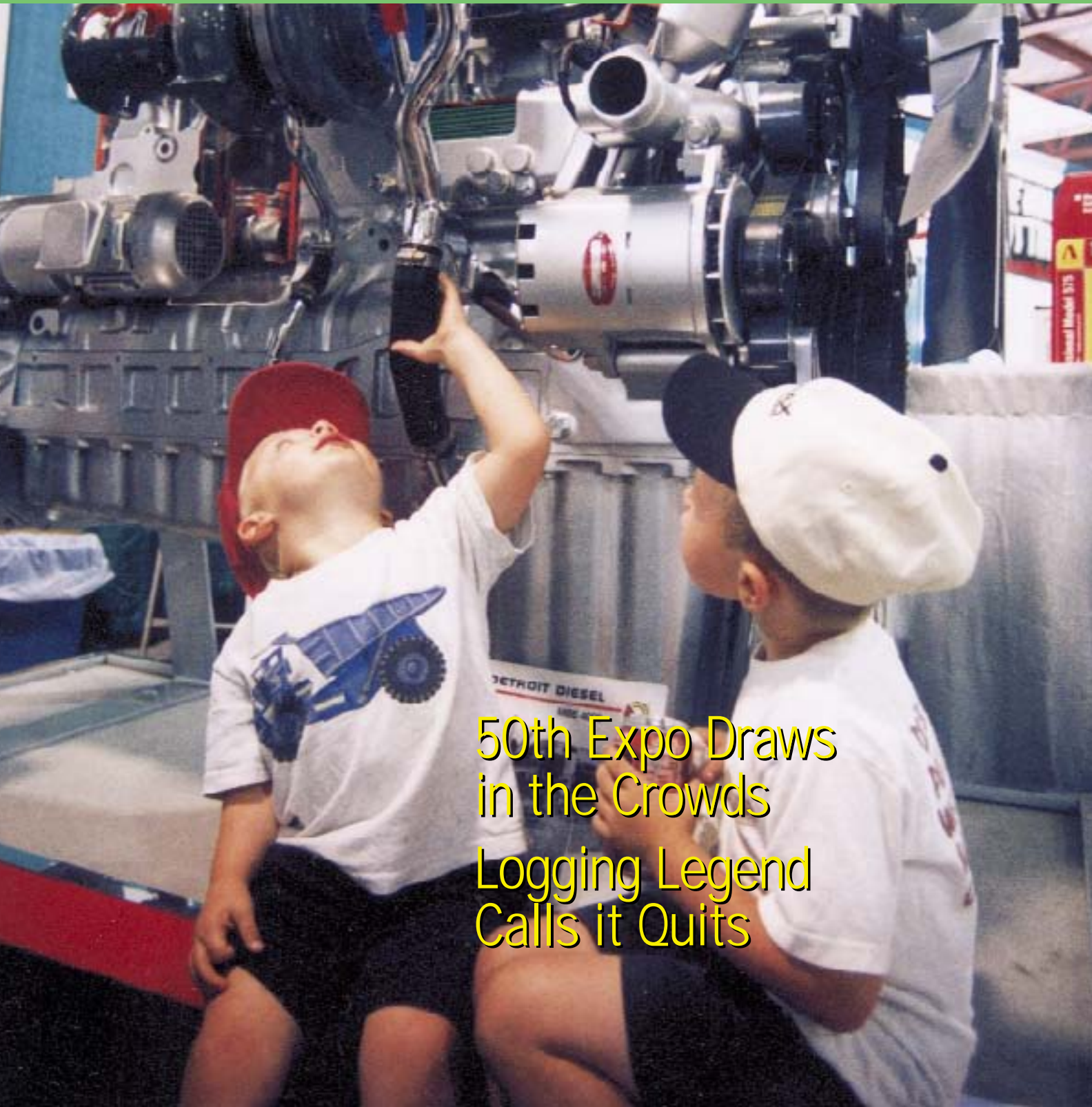
THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

JULY/AUGUST 2003

VOLUME 59



50th Expo Draws
in the Crowds
Logging Legend
Calls it Quits

TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 59
July/August 2003
Duluth, Minnesota

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ON THE COVER

Two future loggers checking out the Interstate Detroit Diesel display at the North Star Expo.

The Timber Bulletin is published six times annually, in February, April, June, August, October and December by the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, located at 903 Medical Arts Bldg., 324 W. Superior St., Duluth, Minn. Minnesota Timber Producers Association members receive the Timber Bulletin at an annual subscription rate of \$15 which is included in their membership dues. Periodicals postage paid in Duluth, Minnesota. Advertising rates and data on request. The views expressed in the Timber Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association.

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

Issn: 10973532 – USPS: 016208



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On August 1 and 2 the North Star Expo was held at the Proctor Fairgrounds. This being the 50th year of the Expo, there was a special emphasis on the evolution of the mechanization as we know it today. Much of the equipment we use for

President's Column



logging was born in the Minnesota woods. On Friday evening a recognition banquet was held to honor past mechanization committee

members and long time vendors. This was an enjoyable evening and well attended. I would like to thank the mechanization committee and public relations committee for all of their work to make these events a big success.

On July 21, 2003, the Governor's Advisory Task Force report on the competitiveness of Minnesota's Primary Forest Based Industry was presented to Governor Pawlenty and was very well received. Of the 10 factors affecting our competitiveness it was no surprise that wood availability was number one on the list. Wood supply from the DNR was brought to his attention as well as good forest management practices.

In the month of July there were four community briefings throughout Minnesota that were put on by TPA and MFI concerning the National Forest Plan Revision. These meetings were very well attended and hopefully each of us responded with a letter to the Forest Service with the concerns we have about the lack of good timber management plans on both the Chippewa and Superior national forests in Minnesota. It is time for a wake up call to the USFS.

Let's keep safety a top priority.

Members Turn Out to Turn Down Alternative E

by Maureen Talarico

Hundreds of Timber Producers Association members turned out to hear about the U.S. Forest Service alternative selected for the revised plan for the Chippewa and Superior National Forests.

At meetings organized by TPA in Orr, Bemidji, Grand Rapids and Castle Danger, TPA members, state representatives and senators, members of the public and media took time out of their busy evenings to attend the 7-9 p.m. presentations, led by TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt and Tim O'Hara, vice president of Forest Policy for Minnesota Forest Industries.

At the first meeting, at the Orr American Legion, TPA executive committee member Warren Johnson spoke to members at the two hour meeting, before a presentation by Tim O'Hara outlining the details of the alternatives. In meetings to follow in Bemidji and Grand Rapids, president of the TPA board, Clarence Johnson stirred up the crowd. In Castle Danger, TPA executive committee member Tom McCabe spoke before the assembled group at the Grand Superior Lodge.

Many comments reflected TPA's position, that Alternative E is merely custodial management of the forest lands and does not provide enough land to harvest to maintain Minnesota's wood industry. Without increasing the amount of acres to harvest, this will only lead to more imports of wood, further damaging Minnesota's economy.

Alternative E is also a detriment to the general forest health in the Chippewa and Superior, which already have high mortality rates. By limiting the harvest to almost nil, mortality will only increase, further adding to the many acres already deemed as at risk for catastrophic fire by the Forest Service itself.

There is hope that the presence of Representative David Dill, Senators Carrie Ruud and Tom Saxhaug, and other prominent citizens will also

help to get the word out that Alternative C is a reasonable, economical, environmental choice for management.

The comment deadline has been extended to Sept. 11. TPA encourages readers to send their comments to the Forest Service at: Forest Plan Revision, Chippewa National Forest, 200 Ash Avenue NW, Cass Lake, Minn. 56633-8929 or e-mail: tsruecker@fs.fed.us.



Senator Carrie Ruud, right, of Breezy Point listens to TPA's presentation in Bemidji.



Tom McCabe Jr. of McCabe Forest Products and Bill Blazar, senior vice president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, visit after TPA's presentation in Castle Danger.

A big thank you to everyone who made this year's 50th North Star Expo a success. The vendors, members, committees and volunteers all did a great job. Special thanks to Marilyn Fellows for bringing over the "bushmaster" and photo display. Having this piece of vintage equipment added a lot to the show.



Governor Pawlenty's Advisory Task Force Report on the Competitiveness of Minnesota's Executive Vice President's Primary Forest Products Industry, which TPA President Clarence

Column



Johnson served on, has been released. The 34-page report reviews our competitive position on wood availability and

price, transportation, environmental permitting and seven other issues.

The report benchmarked our position in Minnesota versus eight other states, Canada, Sweden, Finland, Brazil and China. Of the nearly 100 benchmarks that were obtained, Minnesota came out worse for two-thirds of them and better for one-fourth of them. In the instances where Minnesota's competitive position was ranked better, 71 percent of the positions related to education or energy (primarily electricity rates).

The report paints a pretty bleak picture of where we are at as an industry.

But, it also makes a series of recommendations of actions that can be taken to improve our position. These recommendations include increasing the volume of timber offered for sale on state and county administered lands, increasing the allowable timber harvest levels on the Superior and Chippewa national forests, streamlining MPCA requirements, changing truck weight laws to make them comparable to surrounding states, promoting voluntary third party certification

of public lands and improving the business and tax climate.

Importantly, the report also recommends follow-up steps to make sure that the report's recommendations are implemented. A group has already been formed and has met to initiate the follow-up.

While there are important international factors at work that impact the competitiveness and profitability of our loggers and mills here in Minnesota, the report sets an agenda for policy changes that we here in Minnesota can either control or at least influence. No one but Minnesotans decide how much wood will be cut on state and county lands. And, no one but Minnesotans decide how much weight can be hauled on state, county and local roads.

This report and the interest of Governor Pawlenty's administration provides us with the opportunity to address that which we can control. None of us will want to look back in 10 or 15 years and say we wish we would have followed through on the important recommendations in the report.

The report is available online at www.dnr.state.mn.us. To find the report, click on "Forestry" under the listing of DNR Divisions and you will find the report.



As I write this column, we're mired in one of those August hot spells. When it's hot next to Lake Superior, you know it's hot. And, when it's hot it's very easy to get distracted. You get out of your air conditioned vehicle or machine and the first thing that you think about is how hot it is. Well, the second thing you could be thinking about is how you wrenched your knee getting off of a machine while you were thinking about hot it was instead of looking where you were stepping.

Distractions on the job, be they weather or something else, can lead to accidents and injuries. Don't let yourself or your crew get distracted and injured.

Clarence Johnson

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50th Expo Draws in the Crowds

by Maureen Talarico

People from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ontario attended the 50th Anniversary North Star Expo August 1 and 2 at the South St. Louis County Fairgrounds in Duluth. Indoor vendor displays and registration were located in the hockey arena and outdoor vendor displays and contests filled the midway as visitors took in more than \$25 million in equipment showcasing the latest in logging, trucking and sawmilling technology. The event pumped \$1.5 million dollars into the local economy over two days.

On Friday, log loading contests began, and would take place all day and into Saturday, and the crowd had a firsthand look at professional loggers at work. Littlefork's Gordy Dobbs won this year's combined contest with a time of 8:41:07, followed by Brian Hartwig at 9:16:17 and Tom Long with 9:23:58. In the Master's Division, Ramon Killmer of Big Falls came in first in the combined with a time of 11:44:09, Cornel Benson of Iron River, Mich., placed second at 13:23:04, and Solway's Paul Lundberg finished third with 7:48:16 (Friday only.) Friday's winners were Gordy Dobbs with a time of 4:28:69, Brian Hartwig of Medford, Wis., at 4:40:38 and Wayne Johnson of Blackduck with 4:50:60. Saturday's winners were



KBJR's Barbara Reyelts taking part in the Celebrity Log Loading Contest.

Gordy Dobbs at 4:12:38, Tom Long of Orr with 4:23:17 and McGregor's Tony Kowitz at 4:27:68.

Another contest that really drew a lot of attention this year: the Celebrity Log Loading Contest. A record number of media participants tried their hand at a new skill, along with several state officials and Expo dignitaries. Participants included State Sen. Yvonne Prettner-Solon, KBJR investigative reporter and anchor Barbara Reyelts, WDIO news anchor Dan Schutte, KDLH sports anchor Chris Earl, KDLH meteorologist Phil Johnson, KKIN radio anchor Dallas Kurt Smith,

Department of Natural Resources Deputy Commissioner Mark Holsten, Minnesota Logger Education Program Director Dave Chura and B105 radio personality Pat Puchella. Mark Holsten placed first with a time of 2:42:26. Dan Schutte placed second with 2:48:13, and Dave Chura scored third with 3:07:57. Phil Johnson came in at 3:14:44, Dallas Kurt Smith at 3:28:38, Pat Pachella at 3:29:35, Senator Yvonne Prettner-Solon at 4:03:38, Chris Earl at 4:09:83 and Barbara Reyelts at 5:28:43.

The "Prize Patrol" also handed out ribbons to first, second, and third-place finishers in the indoor and outdoor booth contests. Finishing tops in the indoor vendor display contest: Interstate Detroit Diesel; Anderson Fuel and Lubricants came in second, and Farm Oyl placed third. In the outdoor display results, Badger Truck and Refrigeration took home first place and Road Machinery and Supplies placed second, followed by Don Dens Sales.

Greg Cook Logging won the Best Load contest, which focuses on truck safety, workmanship, wood quality and aesthetics. TPA wants to thank the vendors who helped donate door prizes for the Best Load Contest: Jake's Quality Tires, Arrowhead Equipment, Lake Superior Mack, Maney International Trucks, Nortrax, Bridgestone-Firestone Tires of

(continued on page 8)



Aerial view of South St. Louis County Fairgrounds.



Best load winner: Greg Cook Logging.



First place, outdoor vendor display contest: Badger Truck & Refrigeration.



First place, indoor vendor display contest: Interstate Detroit Diesel.

(continued from page 6)

Superior, Cummins, St. Joseph Equipment, Inc., Pomp's Tire, Skubic International Trucks, Ziegler CAT, Allstate Peterbilt, and Rihm Kenworth. And there was a tie for the winner of the "Guess the Weight of the Best Load" contest, both Grant Erickson of Erickson Timber and Roger Liimatta of Menahga guessed the correct weight. Both will receive \$25 dollars!

In the wood identification contest, there were two winners for each day of the Expo. They are Seth Johnson of Hampton, Minnesota and Jessica Schinke of Cohasset, Minnesota. Both receive \$25 prizes. Congratulations!

Folks also had a chance to sharpen their skills at the cut-to-length workshop and at the load securement workshops. Many people enjoyed hearing about the latest in technology and finding out ways to make their operations run more smoothly.

The day wrapped up with a memorable evening at Spirit Mountain Lodge. Mechanization chairmen, both past and present, spoke on the many changes that have taken place over the past five decades. Everyone enjoyed the roast beef and chicken dinner and especially the anniversary cakes sponsored by LUA.

TPA would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's North Star Expo

Timber Producers Association Shines in New Booth

TPA celebrated the 50th anniversary of the North Star Expo with a new booth that attracted hundreds of people each day at the South St. Louis County fairgrounds. The booth featured a brand new banner marking the historic occasion, posters comparing logging efficiencies over the past hundred years, and historic footage of the last log drive in Minnesota. But that's not all! Thanks to donations by Marilyn Fellows of Land O Lakes Wood Preserving and Rod Bergstrom of Bergstrom Wood products, Expo goers were treated to some amazing artifacts in logging history! There were also posters showing past expos from the '60s, '70s and recent years.

The TPA booth also had some nifty giveaways this year. Hot off the presses, a booklet on the evolution of logging was a hit with all who stopped by the booth and folks gladly took the newest trinket, toothpicks in a handy dispenser.

The Timber Producers Association would like to thank all the contributors to the 50th Anniversary North Star Expo educational project:

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TPA also wants to remind members it is still looking for historic logging footage on film or video for an educational DVD/CD ROM it will be compiling in the next several months. If you have any video and would like to have it included, please send a marked tape with your name, address and phone number to: TPA, 324 West Superior St., Suite 903, Medical Arts Building, Duluth, Minn., 55802



DNR Deputy Commissioner Mark Holsten inside the cab before his winning run.

such a phenomenal success. TPA would also like to thank the following companies for donations for door prizes: Interstate Detroit Diesel, Allstate Peterbilt, Northland Tractor Repair, Air Hydraulic Systems, American Pressure, Lake Superior Mack and Volvo, Wells Fargo, UPM Kymmene-Blandin Paper, Trus Joist-Weyerhaeuser, Skubic Bros. International, Don Evans Insurance, Minnesota Forest Industries, Great Lakes Manufacturing, and Glen's Truck Center.

TPA would also like to thank the following companies for donating time, money and effort on our 50th anniversary of the North Star Expo: Boise Cascade Corporation, Northwood Panelboard, Potlatch Corporation, Stora Enso North America, and UPM Kymmene-Blandin Paper.



Great food and great conversation at the banquet.



Rod Bergstrom and Harry Fisher man the TPA 50th anniversary booth. Photo courtesy of Marilyn Fellows, Land O Lakes Wood Preserving.



Saturday's log loading winners: Tom Long of Orr, left, second place; and Gordy Dobbs of Littlefork, right, first place.



Delicious cakes for the banquet, courtesy of LUA.

First Hybrid Poplar Plantation Harvest

It's rare nowadays for a logger to go out in the woods and make history, since most things have been done already. But that's exactly what happened when Kelly Kimble Logging of Park Rapids went to a sale May 30, four miles east of Ulen. Their job: to conduct the first harvest of a hybrid poplar plantation in the state of Minnesota.

In 1988, five acres were planted, and another 40 in 1989 on Lynn Stumbo's land. The planting has been a research and trial site for the University of Minnesota and AURI, the Agriculture Utilization Research Institute, at Crookston. The clones that were planted and harvested are DN-34 and DN-182.

The crew from Kelly Kimble Logging, using a Hahn harvester, John Deere feller-buncher, grapple skidder and Barko loader, clear-cut 9.6 acres and row thinned approximately 10 acres. The yield was 20-25 cords an acre, with three and four stick trees at five- and 10-inch diameters. The 250 cords will be used for Oriented Strand Board (OSB) at Potlatch, Corp. in Bemidji.

Minnesota farmers are some of the first to plant such hybrid poplars across the state. They've been used for decades as windbreaks, but now have real value to the forest industry.

The trees are more resistant to diseases and pests, and thrive in Minnesota's climate and soil conditions. The trees also grow six to 10 times faster than aspen, and can be harvested, as seen, in 10 to 15 years.

Hybrid Poplar Sale Details

14 YEARS from planting to commercial timber harvest!

First hybrid poplar plantation to be harvested in the state of Minnesota. Poplar has been harvested previously from windbreak plantings.

Landowner: Mr. Lynn Stumbo,



Kelly Kimball Logging crew, in 14-year-old hybrid poplar plantation. Left to right: Sam Yliniemi, Justin Kimball, Kelly Kimball (owner), Zach Kimball and Don Pachel.



Land owner Lynn Stumbo, Ulen, Minn., at log landing at his 14-year-old poplar plantation.

Ulen, Minn.

Logger: Kelly Kimball Logging, Park Rapids, Minn.

Sale harvested: May 30-June 6, 2003

Five acres planted in 1988; 40 acres planted in 1989

Land was enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for 10 years.

This planting has been a research and trial site for the U of M (University of Minnesota) and AURI (Agriculture Utilization Research Institute) at Crookston. Replanting and fertilization trials will continue on this site.

Clones planted and harvested:

DN-34 and DN-182

Acres harvested: 9.6 acres clearcut; approximately 10 acres row thinned.

Estimated yield: 20-25 cords/acre, 3 and 4 stick trees, 5"-10" diameter trees.

Sale volume: 250 cords estimated

Product: Wood will be used for OSB (Oriented Strand Board) at Potlatch Corp., Bemidji.

Operability: Excellent; high ground, summer access, smooth and level site.

Need to have a delimber to process trees; Hahn Harvester was used on this sale.

Minnesota Loggers Sharpen the Saw

Over 675 loggers and other resource professionals attended the Minnesota Logger Education Program's (MLEP) spring workshops. Logger education is integral to the successful implementation of Minnesota's voluntary site-level forest guidelines, which provide the framework for best management practices or "how-tos" for sustainable forest management.

The workshops focused around the issues of forest certification programs and activities, wildlife management and business

management. Participants examined several forest certification programs – how they vary, how they are implemented and the public pressure for performance standards. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program, SFI core indicators and logger responsibilities were a key focus of the curriculum.

Presentations also included ways to incorporate wildlife management into forest management plans for those private landowners who indicate wildlife as a management focus for their land. As well, a summary of the endangered,

threatened and special concern species to be aware of when conducting forest management activities and Endangered Species Act requirements was provided. A review of transportation requirements and recent changes to regulations were addressed, and financial management planning and risk aversion tools were discussed in an effort to improve workplace safety and business stability.

The 10 workshops were conducted in Cloquet, Grand Rapids, Bemidji, International Falls, Two Harbors and Rochester during the months of May and June.

For more information on the Minnesota Logger Education Program, membership, or workshop opportunities, visit www.mlep.org or call 218-722-5442.

The Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP) was initiated in 1995 to provide direct, responsive professional assistance to Minnesota's logging community through progressive support and implementation of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI). Now in its seventh year of operation, MLEP has successfully assisted loggers in meeting the ever-challenging demands of their profession and continues to provide leadership in modeling excellence in logger education program design, development, organization, and administration.

The Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP) was initiated in 1995 to provide direct, responsive professional assistance to Minnesota's logging community through progressive support and implementation of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI). Now in its seventh year of operation, MLEP has successfully assisted loggers in meeting the ever-challenging demands of their profession and continues to provide leadership in modeling excellence in logger education program design, development, organization, and administration.

Logging Legend Calls it Quits



Harris Walsh at home in Park Rapids.

by *Maureen Talarico*

When you walk into Harris Walsh's Park Rapids home, its cleanliness is reminiscent of a hospital room, with the floors polished and the counters clear. But the warm atmosphere is anything but sterile. Graced by pictures of his family in every corner of the house, the man who has resided in Park Rapids for the majority of his long life is kind, intelligent and willing to speak of his experiences.

Harris Walsh has probably been interviewed more than any logger around. After all, Harris has been logging for more than 75 years, until his auction in June, when he finally called it quits. "I just thought it was time. And things were getting more and more so that it was harder to make a dollar. So I just decided I'd quit," said Harris. When most people think of

retirement, 65 is the age that comes to mind. Harris will be 94 in September.

He began logging with his father when he was 14, hauling wood with a Model T truck. "My dad had a lath mill and a lumber mill and a shingle mill all in one. And, of course, I started real early working around it." He worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and helped build the Alcan Highway in British Columbia in the early 1940s. "I was working in the shop where they had a lot of equipment. It was alright, but you're a long ways away from home. The home life to me was always first."

So Harris headed home to Park Rapids and by the early 1950s employed up to 40 men. Early on, Harris used the old swede saws, with axes to limb the trees. With such equipment came close calls, including when Harris suffered a fractured skull. "We had to pitch all this pulp out years ago because there was no loader or nothing like that. I went right in the car with one of those sticks one time," he recalls.

Throughout the years, Harris has witnessed the entire mechanization revolution that has taken place in the logging industry. After all, he bought his first car for \$80 dollars and had to crank it up to start it. He thinks the best invention in logging so far has been the Hahn

Harvester. "It did more for us than a lot of others because it did all the limbing and all of the sawing of it up. But it was everything, the skidder, the buncher, and all that was all important, real important, and it was safer."

Harris sold his Hahn harvester to Dick Walsh Forest Products in his recent auction. And now, with no equipment left, sometimes it's hard for him to adjust to a new, retired lifestyle. "I see the rest of 'em going to work and I wonder what am I staying home for." He adds, "But I haven't got nothing to work with. I sold it all."

In the seven decades he had equipment, he took good care of it, and the crew. Harris would wake in the winter at 3:30 in the morning to warm up the engines so when the other men arrived, things were tolerable. He does remember one winter spell that won out over his tenacious efforts. "I can tell you one time, about six or seven years ago, when it was so cold, about 60 degrees below for a few days, and I would go out and about midnight start the equipment up and warm it up. And this time I started the pole skidder and it ran for a little while and it gelled up. So I shut the key off and we didn't go back for two days, it was so cold."

Harris says while he misses the work now, come this winter he'll be glad to stay in bed and not have to warm up the equipment in the



Brothers Chester and Harris Walsh.



middle of the night. He still rises quite early though. He used to wake up between 3:30 and 3:45 in the morning, now he gets up at the late old hour of 5 a.m. "I stay up later at night too. Seldom did I ever watch the ballgame because maybe halfway over, I'd go to bed. But now I do watch some of them."

Watching a few games here and there and keeping an eye on his flower garden occupy much of the man's time these days. "The flower garden is one thing, and then painting and what not around the place that I put off and put off because I didn't really have time and when you did have time, you didn't feel like it."

His home has artifacts that verify the man's 75-plus years of work, including original, hand-pounded tools Harris used in the CCC. He saved a few of his tools from his logging outfit, but where the best is saved cannot be seen....in Harris' memory. Days gone by, times that no longer are, and an industry that has seen such revolution in the past century, the majority witnessed by Harris Walsh.

"I think the greatest joy was for years and years, you'd walk out in the woods and everything was quiet and you were out in the woods with nobody pushing you, no telephone, no nothing, and I liked that. I liked the woods, and I always liked being in the woods."

Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I



VOL. II



VOL. III



VOL. IV



First hand recollections by storyteller 'Buzz' Ryan of the loggers, loaders, sawmills, wood bulchers and bulchers who used the woods in the heyday of the pioneer lumberjacks—with dozens of historical photographs.

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National Forestry Organization to Honor Minnesota Forester

The Society of American Foresters has recognized Ronald W. Severs of the University of Minnesota's Cloquet Forestry Center (CFC) with its Presidential Field Forester Award.



Initiated by SAF past-president Fred Ebel in 2000, the award recognizes foresters who have displayed uncommon talent and innovative methods to achieve a record of excellence in the application of forest management.

"Forester practitioners are the true foundation of our profession," says Ebel. "They often operate in complete anonymity, yet their actions are the single most important contribution to the viability and understanding of our profession. This is where forestry truly happens and it is important that we recognize those who

perform the art and science of forestry each and every day."

Severs, forest manager at the University of Minnesota's Cloquet Forestry Center, began his forestry career in 1970 as a timber harvester in Peoria, Ill. Soon thereafter he became employed at the Cloquet Forestry Center, eventually becoming forest manager for the center's 3,500-acre research and demonstration forest. Severs has provided a stellar example to students and professional foresters of how to successfully manage forests and bring the understanding of forest management to the public.

In addition to his 23-year career with the CFC, Severs has been a guest lecturer for numerous forestry-related courses throughout Minnesota's university system. The majority of Severs's publications have focused on aiding the lay public to understand the importance of forest management.

In his service to SAF, Severs has been chair-elect and chair for both the Lake Superior Chapter and the Minnesota SAF. He has also served on the Membership, Legislative and Policy, and Forest Technician Accreditation Committees. He joined SAF in 1980.

Severs will receive his award at the 2003 SAF National Convention, which will be held Oct. 25-29 in Buffalo, N.Y. Given the regional differences in forestry, an award recipient is selected from each of the 11 SAF voting districts. For more information about all of the award winners, visit the SAF website at <http://www.safnet.org/who/nationalawards.cfm>.

The Society of American Foresters is the scientific and educational association representing the profession of forestry in the United States. The Society's primary objective is to advance the science, technology, education, and practice of professional forestry for the benefit of society.



Nortrax's Duluth, Minn., facility expansion.

Nortrax Celebrates Duluth Expansion!

Approximately 300 people attended the customer appreciation day event held at Nortrax's Duluth, Minn., operation on Friday, June 27. The event was a celebration and introduction to Duluth area customers of Nortrax's new 50x80-foot shop expansion and facility improvements.

In addition to the shop addition, parts storage capacity was expanded, new fencing was installed, new paint and signage were provided and new shop tools and a track press were added. The facility has a new sharp appearance from the road, as well as an expanded and well-defined machine display area, bordered by attractive cedar fencing. The new shop layout has provided a means of greatly improving the efficiencies of machine servicing and repairs.

"We have a lot of confidence in the Duluth market," stated Nortrax Midwest Region Vice President and General Manager Tim Murphy. "This is a growth area, and Duluth provides a strategic location for servicing our construction and forestry customers in northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin."

Customers and representatives from John Deere and Nortrax were presented with a wide range of equipment displays and product support displays. Tom Shannon, service manager from Nortrax's Grand Rapids, Minn., operation



John Deere logo etched in concrete at Duluth facility entrance.

provided all the cooking ... and not too many people left hungry! Nortrax had a special presentation on the new John Deere 824J Series Wheel Loader, a 6-yard capacity machine, as well as on the John Deere 400D Articulated Dump Truck. Presentations by John Deere

professionals were ongoing throughout the day.

Duluth Service Manager Bruce Grover was obviously proud of his new product support operation. "This expansion really gives us the horsepower to compete on all fronts," exclaimed Grover. He referenced Nortrax's SMART program, a scheduled maintenance program for not only John Deere products, but for any brand of equipment in a customer's fleet. The facility's new track press will allow Nortrax the capability of doing track work locally, rather than having tracks shipped out to other locations.

Operations Manager Mark



Tim Murphy, vice president and general manager, cuts the ribbon for the improved facility with help from Duluth Chamber of Commerce representatives. Joe Meierhoff, Dale Gessel, Mark Lindberg, and Bruce Grover, (left to right) also participate in the ceremony.

Lindberg cordially invited all those customers who were unable to make the event to “stop on by for a personal tour!” Mark added, “I might not have any of Tom’s great BBQ left, but I can still give ‘em a pretty good tour.”

Nortrax operates seven branches in the Midwest Region headquartered out of Eau Claire, Wis. Locations include Bemidji, Grand Rapids and Duluth, Minn.; Ashland, Monico and Eau Claire, Wis.; and Escanaba, Mich. The company represents the full line of John Deere, Timberjack and Fabtek equipment in its entire territory, as well as Hitachi equipment in its Wisconsin and Michigan operations.



Bruce Grover, Kevin Bolf, and Tom Shannon cook for Nortrax customers.

American Tree Farm System Family Forest Owners Preferred Suppliers of MeadWestvaco Rumford Mill

MeadWestvaco's Rumford, Maine, mill has announced that family forest owners certified by the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) are now preferred providers of pulpwood. The Rumford Mill, for many years a strong supporter of ATFS and its certified forestland owners, is giving delivery preference to pulpwood sourced from ATFS-certified sustainably managed forestland.

"All too often pulpwood can be difficult to market," stated Anthony Lyons, director of fiber supply for the Rumford Mill, "but as far as MeadWestvaco is concerned, we want to recognize the commitment a landowner exhibits when they seek certification of their sustainable forest management practices."

Currently, there are over 1,100 ATFS-certified family forest owners who manage more than 300,000 acres in Maine. ATFS certification is a voluntary process that incorporates established and important standards and guidelines required by the American Forest Foundation, the nonprofit organization that manages ATFS. Landowners who want to become certified Tree Farmers allow a qualified ATFS forest professional to inspect their property. If ATFS-accredited inspectors determine the property meets the American Forest Foundation's standards and guidelines for forest sustainability, the landowner receives a certificate and the recognizable diamond-shaped Tree Farm sign. A landowner's property is reinspected every five years to maintain Tree Farm certification status.

"This commitment by MeadWestvaco forms the critical next step in assuring their product purchasers that family forest owners are practicing sustainable forestry, while also encouraging the management of our nation's forests for wood, water, wildlife, and recreation – all of which form the foundation of ATFS," commented Bob Simpson, ATFS director. There are 61,000 ATFS certified Tree Farms in the United States covering more than 26 million acres of forestland.

Maine is a leader among the percentage of certified forest land in the United States with approximately 37 percent of certified forest land (6.5 million acres). "I know that Maine citizens share my vision of healthy forests and a prosperous forest products economy," said Governor Baldacci, "If we work together, certification can help make our vision a reality for Maine."

For more information please contact Brigitte Johnson, APR, director of communications, 202-463-5163, E-mail bjohnson@forestfoundation.org or visit ATFS at www.treefarmssystem.org

ATFS promotes the sustainable management of forests through

education and outreach to private landowners. Founded in 1941, ATFS covers 26 million acres of family-owned forestland and has 61,000 certified Tree Farmer members who are committed to excellence in forest stewardship. Tree Farmers manage their forestlands for wood, water, wildlife and recreation with assistance from over 7,000 volunteer foresters. ATFS is a program of the American Forest Foundation, a nonprofit organization that works for healthy forests, quality environmental education and to help people make informed decisions about our communities and our world.

LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

The Iron Men in the Camps

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*



In the logging industry today, as soon as a piece of equipment breaks down someone jumps into a pickup truck and heads for the equipment dealer to get a new part or have the broken one repaired by an electric welder, and is back on the job in a matter of hours.

Such was not the case in the old logging camp days. Repairs had to be made right in the woods and with the material on hand. Here is where the camp blacksmith, doing all the iron work on equipment, became the most important man in the camp.

There was no gas or electric welding equipment, and all welding had to be done by heating the iron to a welding heat and pounding it together with a heavy hammer. A special blacksmith coal was

used, and in some cases coke, and I have known blacksmiths who were able to bring about a welding heat with wood. The only wood that would provide a welding heat was green aspen that was given lots of air from the bellows. I know one old blacksmith who said he could make a better weld with green aspen than he could with coal. In the early days, in fact, when coal was hard to get in the camps, some of the old time smiths did all the heating of their iron with wood.

Now a disappearing art, the old welding technique was to heat two steel bars in the white hot coals of a forge, then flatten their ends with a hammer and anvil and fuse them together into one bar by solid hammer blows.

The secret was in the hammering and tempering the things that are fractured only by experience. If the metal cooled too long before hammering, it would not make a weld. Tempering was important, as every kind of steel had to be tempered differently; the smith gauged the temperature by the color of the steel, which would be blue if right. Some tools like picks had to have hard points, while others needed steel that would bend before breaking.

In the old days, blacksmiths did not tell anyone their secrets, and all had their own techniques.

Every lumber company went to a lot of effort in acquiring a good blacksmith, and many smiths worked year after year for

Smith, in typical apron, and heavy men at Golbroth & Co. Camp No. 4 in 1912. Back barrel by forge was for tempering



An early camp blacksmith shop (top) had skidding barge and chaps hanging on the side wall and, in the foreground a shoring Hardy—a wooden carrier for nails, ramp, trimming knife and other shoeing tools. A typical logging camp blacksmith shop in the late '40s (bottom) could well have been photographed 40 years prior—but this blacksmith wore no moustache. In the late 1940s, much iron shoes and spindles were replacing blacksmiths on large operations.

the same company. Their wages were about double those of the average woods worker.

Every night after the teams had returned from the road or from the woods, the blacksmith worked by lantern light replacing horseshoes that had been pulled off during the day or loosened when the horse set his foot to start a heavy load.

The camp blacksmith shop was usually full of extra whiffletrees and earhooks—repaired and ready as replacements when one became broken during the day. But often the blacksmith had to work well into the night to repair a piece of equipment that would be needed on the job in the morning.

Sunday was always a lug day for the blacksmith: the day the crews did not work in the woods. That day the smith took on all the little repair jobs on equipment that had broken during the week but was still usable or could at least wait until the weekend for repair.

The average blacksmith shop was about 24 feet square, with the forge in one corner with a funnel made of boards above it to let the smoke out. Next to this would be the anvil and the smith's tongs and other tools. Along the wall were racks of noseskies and hand tools such as axes, earhooks, pickpicks, skidding logs and chaps, and back of them a rack of whiffletrees, neck yokes, etc. that had been repaired. On pegs driven into the wall would be the strap iron and rod iron of all sizes used to repair equipment. In one corner would be the shoeing floor—usually made of hewed timbers and about four inches higher than the rest of the floor—in which horses stood while being shod. Usually two horses were brought into the shop at a time.

Horseshoes of all sizes came in 100 pound kegs, as did horseshoe nails and shoe chaps, and several of these kegs were lined up along the wall. The smith, in his spare time, would cap the shoes and hang them on racks.

Often the blacksmith had a helper or two, and in camps where sleighs were being made, several handy men worked with the blacksmith. During the daytime, handy men worked inside the shop repairing skidding trees, sleigh bunks, beams, runners and spring poles, doing the wood work and placing the iron work on them as the blacksmith prepared the iron. Most all camps had one or more handy men building drags, go-devils, etc., and in camps where sleighs, water tanks and rat cutters were being made up, a special work building sometimes was set up for handy men, or "wood hoppers," as



Tools for moving logs were kept in repair by camp blacksmiths' chain for cross-haul loading (top), sligh and A-frame gin-pole jammer (center) and steam jammer (bottom). Repairing chains and keeping hooks sharp were endless jobs for the blacksmiths.

they were called.

The logging industry was different from most others. There were no factories turning out jammers, log sleighs, drays, rut cutters and snow plows. All this equipment was made up by loggers themselves and to their own requirements. Castings for runners and bunks, and shoes for runners were produced by foundries, but the actual making up of the equipment was done in the camps. Men with broad axes hewed out the timber for the beams, bunks, runners and poles for the sleighs, and timbers for the jammers were cut in the woods and skidded to the camps, where the "wood butchers" with axe and saw made them into the desired shapes and the blacksmith made up the necessary iron work to create the jammers and sleighs.

Every company had its certain type of rut cutter, dray or sleigh, all made along the same general lines, but each just a little different than those of the other companies. Many old teamsters could look at a dray hitch or sleigh runner and tell you the blacksmith who made it.

Every camp, however small it was, had a blacksmith. I remember arriving at Charley Hoberg's camp east of Shaw in the winter of 1922 and finding the only man in the camp in the blacksmith shop making up a toe ring for a carthook—and was I surprised when the supper bell rang to find the blacksmith in the kitchen dishing up our supper. Cook and blacksmith the same man in this camp!

I remember many of the good blacksmiths who worked many years in the lumber camps. William LaFever of the Deer River Logging Co., William Dewar of the Cloquet Tie and Post Co., Anton Steele of the T. M. Partridge Cedar Co., Ulet Howell of the Oliver Co.—and many others. But the most outstanding man of them all, in my opinion, was a state of Maine Scotsman by the name of Dunk McCharles, who worked nine years for the Crookston Lumber Co. of Bemidji. It was said that if you gave him a piece of iron, an axe and a hammer, and turned him loose in the woods, he would come out with the best logging sligh that ever ran on ice.

For a few years yet, forges will still glow and anvils still ring from the blows of the smith's hammer, but the art of the blacksmith is rapidly disappearing from the modern scene, confined mostly to shoeing horses at the present time.

But in the early days of logging, the camp blacksmiths were some of the most important men in keeping operations in high gear. And because of the conditions they worked with our lumber camp blacksmiths had to be some of the very best.



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As a service, the Timber Bulletin offers free classified ads of up to 85 words to all MTPA members and associate members.

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1987 666 Clark, floatation tires.....	22,000

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1991 450B TJ, Cummins eng...18,000	
1998 460 TJ, dual function.....	52,000
1976 540B TJ, 23.1x26 tires.....	15,000
1978 540B TJ, 28Lx26 tires.....	16,000
1984 540B JD, 640 rearends, 28Lx26 tires.....	25,000

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