

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006

VOLUME 62



**TPA Action Plan to Boost
Timber Industry
Staggemeyer Staves
2006 North Star Expo
Master Loggers Named**

2007 North Star Expo

September 14th and 15th
Beltrami Co. Fairgrounds

Bemidji, MN

Free Admission!

More than 150 exhibitors and vendors!

Industry Workshops!

Draft Horse Demonstration!

Mini-loader for the kids!

Master Loader Contest!

Win a Chainsaw Carving!

Friday Night BBQ!

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



TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 61
September/October 2006
Duluth, Minnesota

IN THIS ISSUE

Norb Staggemeyer.....**8**

53rd Annual North Star Expo.....**12**

Hot Work: Keep It at the Top of Your
Loss Prevention List**18**

TPA Presents Lawmakers with
12-Point Action Plan to Boost
the Timber Industry**21**

Timber Talk.....**24**

Loggers of the Past**28**

Classifieds.....**34**

Advertisers Index**34**

TIMBER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

President
TOM McCABE

Past President
DALE ERICKSON

1st Vice President
WARREN JOHNSON

2nd Vice President
MICHAEL RIEGER

Secretary/Treasurer
MIKE WARREN

Editor-in-Chief
WAYNE E. BRANDT

Graphic Design, Editorial and Mechanical Production
STEWART-TAYLOR PRINTING

ON THE COVER

TPA looks for solutions to downturn in forest products industry.

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

STEWART-TAYLOR PRINTING



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

Another Expo has come and gone. The weather cooperated, attendance was good, vendors seemed to think it was a good show and LUA's barbecue celebrating 25 years with TPA was great! More participation in

President's Column



the Best Load contest would be great. Canoe races were added this year; results are elsewhere in the *Bulletin*.

It looks as though it is going to be a tough

winter logging season. With Ainsworth's shutdown and continued high pulpwood inventories at other mills, markets are going to be scarce.

Our TPA Executive Committee has been meeting regularly to discuss the issues and try to come up with ideas to soften the blow. A list of requests has been sent to Governor Pawlenty and a forum for lenders, equipment dealers, loggers and other interested parties is planned.

If you have any ideas or specific concerns, please contact me or any other member of the Executive Committee:

Tom McCabe	218-726-1042
Dale Erickson	218-556-2372
Warren Johnson	218-365-6360
Mike Reiger	218-244-8572
Mike Warren	218-244-5722

Our association needs you. Please volunteer and if you are asked to sit on a committee, give it serious consideration.

Thomas McCabe

Log A Load For Kids Golf Tournament Goes over \$50,000 Mark

The 10th Annual Log a Load For Kids Golf Tournament raised more than \$7,700 this year, pushing the event over the \$50,000 mark in net proceeds raised. In spite of the chilly temperatures, 33 teams took part, with TPA member Ted Kromy leading the winning team with a 16-under-par score of 56. Proceeds from the event support the Children's Miracle Network hospital in Minnesota, which is Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare.

"Log A Load for Kids raises money for a great cause, helping

kids with disabilities," said tournament chair Dave Hensel of UPM Blandin. "This tournament plays a role in that and also offers an opportunity for loggers and timber industry people to come together in a recreational atmosphere and have fun together." Gillette specializes in treating kids with disabilities and chronic illnesses. Besides its St. Paul campus and Twin Cities clinics, Gillette has a clinic in Duluth and holds Mobile Outreach Clinics throughout greater Minnesota.



The championship team, left to right: Ken Ericson, Dale Adams, Ted Kromy and Steve Forneris.

We have not seen times like we are experiencing now in many years. The announcement by Ainsworth that they were permanently closing a line at their Bemidji plant was followed quickly by the indefinite market-driven shut downs of their plants in Grand Rapids and Cook. Weyerhaeuser's iLevel facility also took the first

Executive Vice President's Column



market-related downtime in its sixteen-year history and will be operating on a reduced schedule in the future. These actions, all driven by the nationwide downturn in the housing market, come on the heels of mills in the state attempting to work through record inventories in their wood yards.

The causes of this being one of the darkest periods in many years for loggers in our state are many. High inventories and the housing downturn are significant, as mentioned above. We also have to be realistic that many of the mills in our state are aging.

The industry invested over \$4 billion in our state in the 1980s and 1990s. But many of these same facilities are 10, 15, 20 or more years old. While the companies have continued to invest in many of these facilities, as a state we can no longer be smug about having the newest production facilities in North America or the world.

We have also been faced with at or near the highest stumpage prices in the world for some time, with seemingly little action by most public land managers to address the ongoing shortfall in available wood.

All of these factors and more have brought us to the situation where Minnesota is closer to the top than the bottom of the list for production curtailments when demand for our products slumps.



After UPM announced the permanent closure of some of its

papermaking capacity nearly four years ago, Governor Pawlenty formed a task force to come up with solutions to economic issues that faced our industry. This task force came up with a number of recommendations that were ultimately adopted.

Working on a bipartisan basis with legislators from our area and around the state, we were able to increase truck weights for hauling wood, establish a dedicated account for state, timber sale revenues to stabilize DNR timber sale funding over the long term and increase that funding in the short term, obtain bonding funds for tree planting on state and county lands for the first time in history and many other victories.

Even with these successes, we are once again faced with a permanent shutdown and now additional market-driven curtailments.

So what do we do now?



TPA, in a letter to Governor Pawlenty that was discussed at his summit meeting in Grand Rapids, has proposed twelve specific items for state action. This letter and the governor's response are printed elsewhere in this issue of the *Timber Bulletin*. Some of the issues are the same as they were four years ago and some of them are new. We don't pretend that these are the only issues and would like to hear if you have other ideas that will help get everyone back to work.

We are also working on a set of proposals directed at the federal government. Congressman Oberstar has likewise hosted a summit focusing on these and other issues. One of our main focuses at the federal level is getting the U.S. Forest Service to continue to increase its timber sale offerings as part of their new management plans.

While final budget allocations for the Forest Service have not been made, we have been informed that our region will get a significant amount of the new timber sales money that is awaiting final action in the Congress. If this happens it will be the result of another multi-year effort that TPA has made in

working with our congressional delegation, the Department of Agriculture and Forest Service officials at the local, regional and national level.

Our TPA Transportation Committee recently reviewed a draft pilot project on Interstate Highway truck weights. This is something that TPA has been working on behind the scenes for several years. We are cautiously optimistic that these long-term efforts will be successful.

The Transportation Committee has also worked with MN DOT on their recently completed truck weight and size study. This study addresses safety, pavement wear and other issues and will be presented to the legislature.

We are also continuing to work with county land departments on their programs where we believe that there are opportunities to increase management and timber sales to build a healthier forest and a healthier economy in the future.



As part of all of these efforts I am pleased to announce that TPA, along with Minnesota Forest Industries, has established a new joint program to reach out to interested groups on forestry issues. We are extremely pleased that Terry Weber has been hired to lead this effort. Terry has most recently served as executive director of the Forest Resources Partnership and has a long history working on these issues.

This new program will initially be reaching out to local business and sporting groups, family forest land owners, and industry employees as well as suppliers to our industry. We are very excited about this program and believe that it will help us secure a stronger, healthier forest and economy in the future.



One of the most difficult issues I have seen any TPA Executive Committee grapple with has been what to do with the high-cost wood that is currently under contract. With stumpage markets taking a sharp decline, which is going to improve the economic outlook for

the long-term, there is a lot of high-priced stumpage out there.

We have done a survey of the public agencies to determine how much wood is under contract and at what prices. I would note that this is all public data that we have put together. I would also note that the Forest Service does not track data in a way that we could include it in the survey results and we are still waiting for a couple of counties to respond as I write this.

All of that being said, we have data for all species on 3.2 million cords under contract. Of this amount we have price data on 2.8 million cords.

Our survey showed in that 2.8 million cords there is nearly 2 million cords at \$30 or more per cord; 1.5 million cords at \$40 or more per cord; 1.1 million cords at \$50 or more per cord; 750,000 cords at \$60 or more per cord; and 110,000 cords at \$100 or more per cord.

As the Executive Committee talked with members and discussed this situation they arrived at the proposal for state sales that was given to Governor Pawlenty and is included in our letter as points 3 and 4. While there is no perfect solution to this issue, the TPA proposal for the state is a fair effort that would lower the market, preserve the positions between buyers as established at auction, and not provide a free lunch to anyone.

I don't think that there is a perfect solution out there but I know that we're open to and looking for other ideas.



Even in these tough times the Expo Committee and all of the vendors put on a great North Star Expo this year. Attendance was stronger than last year, there was a lot of iron and a lot of products and services on display and the weather certainly cooperated. LUA put on a wonderful barbecue to honor our 25 year partnership with them. Thank you to LUA for this and for providing great products and outstanding service for a quarter of a century. Our thanks to you for attending, to the vendors for exhibiting and to the Expo Committee for organizing a great

show. Next year we will be in Bemidji for another great event.



Congratulations to Dick Walsh for being named Logger of the Year by *Timber Harvesting* magazine. It is an honor that is richly deserved. Dick has built a very successful logging business with his sons, Robin and Steve, Robin's wife, Jody, and of course, his wife, Sandy. He has also owned and operated a sawmill and a logging equipment dealership among other business ventures. Dick has a keen eye for details and is always working to do things right. This is best typified by the fact that all of the Dick Walsh Forest Products trucks are washed every night. Dick has also given back to his peers and community in many ways. He is a past president of TPA and has

chaired several of our committees. He currently serves on the Minnesota Forest Resources Council, was a founding director of the Minnesota Logger Education Program and is a longtime township officer. Again, congratulations Dick.



When times are tough we need to look at every area to save costs and improve efficiencies. Cutting back on your attention to safety is penny wise and pound foolish. Less attention to safe operations will inevitably lead to more injuries, which will increase your insurance costs. While everyone is worried about the short term I know that you are in this business for the long haul. Let's continue to take pride in our great safety record even in these difficult economic times.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dick Walsh".

Norb Staggemeyer

by Ray Higgins

Norb Staggemeyer loves wine. But he's no wine connoisseur.

However, he is a connoisseur of wine barrels. Or more precisely, the staves from which wine barrels are made.

That's because Staggemeyer's mill near Caledonia, just 10 miles from the Iowa border, is one of the world's leading makers of staves. Made from white oak, the staves not only end up in the vineyards of California's Napa Valley, but also in wineries all over the world.

"France, Hungary, Australia, Spain," said Staggemeyer, listing the names of the places his staves end up. "The French are running short on oak, so they get it here."

That's right. That fancy French wine is made and stored in barrels crafted from Minnesota wood, from right here at the Staggemeyer Stave Company.

Wine makers love white oak from Minnesota because here the trees don't grow in the winter time and that makes for tight grains. In fact, one wine bottle from a California vineyard boasts on the label, "cold-clouded Minnesota oak is tight grained and yields rich, sweet flavors."

Not bad for a modest business with 30 employees in the rolling hills just south of Caledonia.

The secret is the wood, cut within a 150-mile radius of the mill – including oak groves in Iowa and Wisconsin. The white oak averages 100 years of age, and loggers cut it by hand because the trees Staggemeyer needs are too big for a fellerbuncher or a processor. Plus, the terrain in this part of the state makes it tough to get heavy equipment in the woods.

"Right now, the white oak market is pretty good," Staggemeyer says. "And they claim we're growing trees faster than we can cut them."

The wood comes mostly from private land owners, but also from some state timber sales. Staggemeyer shares the white oak market with makers of cabinets, flooring, and furniture. He doesn't



Norb Staggemeyer, patriarch of one of the world's leading manufacturers of white oak staves for wine and whiskey barrels.

buy his own stumpage, instead buying from loggers who know to sort right in the woods so that the best logs come to Staggemeyer Staves.

The numbers are impressive. The mill saws 6 million feet of white oak logs per year, producing 3.2 million staves that leave the mill in 150 truck loads. The staves are 36 inches long, 1-1/2 inches thick, and cut to random widths. And it doesn't stop with wine.

Staggemeyer actually makes three different grades of staves, with the top grade going for wine barrels and the other grades heading to Jack Daniels for whiskey barrels.

The mill hasn't always been in Caledonia. The business actually started in Missouri, and moved to Dubuque, Iowa, before another move brought the business to Caledonia. Staggemeyer started working at the mill when it moved here in 1958. He purchased the business in 1967, renaming it Staggemeyer Staves. Two years ago, he sold to his son Mike, but Norb is still closely tied to the business.

And he's not the only long-time employee at the mill. Shop manager Blaine Schuldt has also been here virtually from day one, still others are long-time mill veterans.

"We've got people that are 30-year plus employees and several over 20," Norb says. "A bunch over 15 years. We're kind of

unique for a sawmill."

That kind of experience is crucial to the business. Even though the wood is graded in the woods by the logger, and is eventually marked on the end, it's not stacked by grade in the wood yard. Every stick, whether it will eventually produce wine staves or whiskey staves, goes through the mill together. Of course, as the log is cut into staves, those end markings are sawed off. That means all of the workers on both production lines have to be able to grade the wood as well.

"The guy that runs the debarker and the guy that runs the sawmill sorts the logs," Staggemeyer says. "They drop out one way for whiskey and the other way for wine. Everybody from the guy that cuts them off, to the guy that runs them through the turntables, the guy that edges them, they all have to know how to grade them."

Of the three different grades, wine staves are strictly clean. Whiskey staves can have a few pin knots, "as long as they don't leak," Staggemeyer points out. The lowest grade log can have a few more defects.

Then the worker at the end of the line stacks them according to grade, wine staves on one side, lower grades on the other.

That skill is one reason why the Staggemeyers have been so successful for so long. It doesn't look all that complicated, and you'd think others would try and do it, too. Others have, but haven't made it.

"We've had guys come and go and try to make these," Staggemeyer says, "and they find out it ain't so simple. You've got to be able to work your log and know what to do with it. There was a guy up in Wisconsin. There was a guy down in Iowa, but it didn't work out. You have to know how much to pay for the log, what kind of log to buy, how to work them."

There may not be other stave makers who've made it in Minnesota, but others around the country also make staves. For instance, white oak is also plentiful
(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 8)



In the foreground is the office for the Staggemeyer Stave Company. In the background is one of two identical mills. In all, the company employs 30 people.



Staves for wine barrels are stacked behind the mill and aged for 24 to 26 months. Staves for whiskey barrels are shipped immediately.



The logs are marked in the woods before arriving in the wood yard at Staggemeyer.



White oak logs are quartered in the mill and then cut to 36-inch lengths. Eventually, the wood is cut into staves measuring 36 by 1-1/2" with random widths.



At the end of the production line, mill workers sort and stack the staves by grade. These staves are for future wine barrels.



The end product: Barrels made from Staggemeyer's staves.

closer to Tennessee where Jack Daniels is made. But mills there can't make enough to supply Jack Daniels.

"Jack Daniels uses a half million barrels a year, which probably takes 15 to 20 million staves," Staggemeyer says. "We put out

two million of those, so it takes a lot of mills."

It doesn't end there. Staggemeyer also has a market for his chips, which end up in paper mills in Wisconsin. And his bark goes to landscapers and farmers for bedding.

Fortunately, the wine and whiskey industries are thriving. Wine consumption in the United States is up. And although Americans have been drinking less whiskey over the past several years, Jack Daniels has seen growth in its markets overseas,

especially in China.

Of course once the staves are cut in the mill, the work isn't done. While staves for whiskey barrels are shipped out immediately and kiln-dried at the next stop, wine staves are air dried out behind the mill for 24 to 26 months before they're shipped. The barrels aren't made here because shipping completed barrels means shipping a lot of air. So the next mill – called a cooperage – tapers the staves and shapes them before they're made into the 60-gallon barrels. Wine barrels are generally made by hand, while barrels that hold whiskey are mostly machine-made these days.

That process is also crucial to the taste of the end-product. In fact, the whiskey barrels are charred to add flavor. Then during the aging process, which takes several years, the whiskey seeps into the wood, adding flavor and color. Wine can also get an oak-type flavor, depending on how long the wine-maker keeps the product in the barrel.

So it's crucial to wine and whiskey drinkers that the Staggemeyers get the right wood. After all these years, white oak is in their blood. Unlike the whiskey.

"I don't drink that whiskey," Norb says. "But I'll sometimes drink a little wine at dinner time."

MLEP Receives Grant from AgStar Financial



Jody Bloemke and Bill Pfungsten of AgStar Financial Services awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Minnesota Logger Education Program to help fund the Minnesota Master Logger Certification Program. The grant comes from the AgStar Fund for Rural America, which is geared to "enhance the quality of life and future opportunities for rural residents and their communities."

The Master Logger program is a performance-based program that recognizes training, experience, and the application of specific practices, and provides the general public assurances that the company performing the job is doing so correctly and that appropriate practices are being implemented. Pictured from left to right: MLEP board members Tom McCabe, Rod Enberg, and Seth Johnson, Jody Bloemke and Bill Pfungsten of AgStar, MLEP board chair Kelly Kimball, and MLEP Executive Director Dave Chura. McCabe, Enberg, Johnson, and Kimball are all TPA members.

Forest Resources Council Visits I Falls



TPA member Rod Bergstrom gives a tour of Bergstrom Wood Products in International Falls to members of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council. The council visited International Falls as part of an annual tour designed to expose council members to the operations of various forest product industry facilities throughout the state. While there, the council also toured the Boise paper mill. TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt and TPA member Dick Walsh are members of the council, which advises the governor and federal, state and local governments on sustainable forest resource policies and practices.

53rd Annual North Star Expo— A Huge Success!

by Ray Higgins

Grand Rapids – Minnesota’s logging industry again descended on Grand Rapids for the 53rd Annual North Star Expo, held at the Itasca County Fairgrounds.

Over two days, more than 2,000 folks visited over 100 exhibitors and their inventories, totaling more than \$20 million in equipment. It was the best opportunity of the year to see the latest in logging, trucking, and sawmill equipment and technology.

Of course, no Expo would be complete without the various contests held throughout the two days. And the highlight of the event was the Friday Night Barbecue, sponsored by Lumbermen’s Underwriting Alliance, celebrating the 25-year partnership between LUA and TPA.



TPA President Tom McCabe, left, and Expo Committee Chair Wayne Johnson, right, present Ponsse with the **Best Outdoor Display** award. Receiving second-place honors was Resource Recovery Systems. Don Dens Sales was awarded third place.



TPA President Tom McCabe, left, and Expo Committee Chair Wayne Johnson, right, present Besse Forest Products Group with the blue ribbon in the **Best Indoor Booth** competition. Skersick Heating received the second-place award, and Rice Blacksmith & Saw placed third.



Procurement foresters Jared Leonard, left, and Pat Orent, of Ainsworth Engineered, headed out to Ice Lake for the first ever **Expo Canoe Race**. Their time of 1:43.42 was the fastest time of the day, to win the competition.



Participants in the 2006 **Celebrity Loader** competition were, left to right: State Sen. Tom Saxhaug (DFL-Grand Rapids), Range 11 reporter Callie Martell, WDIO/WIRT weather forecaster Adam Young, and state legislative candidate in district 3A Tom Anzelc. Young won the competition with a time of 2:02.



Again this year, Nortrax sponsored the Saturday morning breakfast at the Expo. More than 200 folks enjoyed the meal free of charge, a great way to start day two of the North Star Expo!



Once again this year, the Kid's Mini Loader was wildly popular. The kids loved working the controls of the mini-loader, supplied by LM Products, of Cold Spring. Each kid received a child-sized hard hat for taking part, making their 2006 Expo all the more memorable.



Dan Lundberg, left, of Solway, had the fastest time in the **Loader Contest** with a two-day overall time of 8:51.79. Placing second was Gordy Dobbs, center, of Littlefork, with an overall time of 9:22.94. Tony Kowitz, right, of McGregor, finished third with a time of 9:27.26. Winner of the **Master Loader** competition was Ramon Killmer, of Big Falls, with a one-day time of 5:47.87.



This year's **Best Load** was provided by J&A Logging, of Effie, owned by Kris Anderson. Gary Dunnell was the trucker, and the load was sponsored by Potlatch. The truck weighed 88,780, making David Schmid, Jr., of Backus, the winner of the Guess the Weight contest. His estimate of 88,760 pounds missed the mark by only 20 pounds! Thanks go to Allstate Peterbilt Superior, Nortrax, and Lake Superior Mack and Volvo for donating prizes for this year's Best Load.



Lumbermen’s Underwriting Alliance hosted Friday night’s barbecue at the Expo to celebrate the 25th anniversary of LUA’s partnership with TPA. Titled **Loggin’ and Hoggin’**, the evening included an unbelievable barbecued rib dinner by former logger Big Ed Hamilton, of McGregor. Hamilton provided not only the ribs, but also turkey, beef, cole slaw, beans, and cake. Later, “Fatt Chance” provided the music. Above: Attendees of the LUA Loggin’ and Hoggin’ barbecue enjoy great food, cold beverages and lively conversation. Above right: former TPA President Rod Bergstrom chats with current TPA President Tom McCabe. Right: Steve McConnell of “Fatt Chance” entertains TPA members, vendors, and their guests as many danced the night away.



Ed Nelson of the Forest History Center added some flavor and a sense of history to the 2006 Expo with his draft horses which roamed the fairgrounds during the event.



Folks at the Expo enjoyed watching the talents of Mike Hanson, of Cook, who displayed his chainsaw carving abilities this year. Mike provided a carving for this year’s vendor drawing. The winner was Cal Tuper of Aitkin, now the proud owner of Mike’s carving of a skidder with logs.

(continued on page 16)

(continued from page 14)

Again this year, TPA sponsored a **Coloring Contest** at the Expo, and we had many entries that displayed the talent and hard work of our youngsters. In the Age 6 and under division, Madeline Michael, of Waterville, received the first place trophy and ribbon. Second place went to Slayde Johnson, of Blackduck, while Jordan Seger, of Sturgeon Lake, received third prize. For kids aged 7-9, Nick Sandstrom, of Floodwood, claimed top honors, followed by Joshua Buckentin, of Laporte, and Emily Cox, of Grand Forks, N.D. In the category for kids aged 10 to 12, Turner Wass, of Bigfork, was the winner, with Mark Geerdes, of Northome, and Faith Filipiak, of Grand Rapids, also placing in the top three. Congratulations to all of the winners, and to everyone who showed off their skills by entering the coloring contest!

In other competitions, the **Largest Wood Cookie** was a beautiful piece of northern red oak provided by Simcoe and Habisch. And in the **Wood Identification Contest**, Terry Kimball, of Osage, was Friday's winner, and Randy Niewind, of Grand Rapids, won on Saturday.

TPA would like to thank the following companies for sponsoring the Expo: UPM Blandin, Norbord Minnesota, Ainsworth Engineered, iLevel by Weyerhaeuser, Verso Paper, Sappi Fine Paper, Hedstrom Lumber, Potlatch, Boise, Stora Enso, and Minnesota Forest Industries.

Again this year, several companies were generous in providing door prizes for the barbecue. They were: Road Machinery and Supplies, Two Harbors Machine Shop, Vermeer Sales & Service, Wallwork Truck Center, Rapids Hydraulic & Machine, CATCO, Lindsay Machinery, W.P. & R.S. Mars Company, Prairie Trailer, Don Dens Sales, Pomp's Tire Service, Minnesota Industries, Air Hydraulic Systems, Industrial Lubricant Company, Log A Load for Kids, Wells Fargo, Ray's Sport and Cycle, ASV, Amsoil, Skubic Brothers, Royal Tire, Fastenal Company, Jake's Tire, Northern Timberline Equipment, Mid-States Equipment, Treesentials, and MLEP.

TPA would also like to thank Dave Chura for taking the Expo photos you see in this issue of the Bulletin and throughout the event again this year.

Next Year

The TPA Expo committee is already working on next year's Expo, which will be held at the **Beltrami County Fairgrounds in Bemidji** on Sept. 14 and 15. We look forward to seeing you there!



Hot Work: Keep It at the Top of Your Loss Prevention List

In 1998, Hot Work losses were responsible for more than 25% of the total property loss dollars paid by Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance. For the past several years your Loss Prevention Representative from LUA has been bringing Hot Work to the forefront by discussing the exposure with your managers, supervisors and other involved personnel. They have provided seminars, video demonstrations, and consultations with plant personnel. During that time, LUA also distributed over 100,000 newly designed Hot Work

permits to aid in prevention. The results of these efforts were evident. In 2005 Hot Work losses fell to less than 1% of the total property loss dollars paid by LUA. A remarkable achievement for everyone!

So, where is the problem? Success can breed complacency – during the first six months of 2006, Hot Work losses rocketed back to nearly 25% of total loss dollars paid by LUA.

Of the five major Hot Work losses in 2006, all occurred at properties with an established Hot Work Program, but for various

reasons, proper procedures were overlooked. *"There was no one available to watch for sparks." "We didn't have time to wet down." "I didn't see anything that would burn."* What were seemingly innocent events resulted in tragic consequences.

We need your help. Sometime in the near future, your LUA Loss Prevention Representative will be at your facility with the purpose of reevaluating and revisiting the Hot Work Program. Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance is asking you, as top management, to take an active role in the protection of your

(continued on page 20)



Hot Work Audit Sheet

Date of Audit:	Auditor:	Title:
Location / Department of Hot Work:		
Task Description:		

HOT WORK PERMIT COMPLETED PRIOR TO START OF WORK?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE COMMENTS
Hot Work equipment inspected and in good condition prior to the start of work?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE COMMENTS
Hot Work Permit posted in work area and plainly visible during work?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE COMMENTS
Spark Watcher in the immediate area? Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE COMMENTS
Spark Watcher at exposed lower level and adjacent areas if applicable? Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE COMMENTS
All combustibles materials removed or covered within a 35' radius?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE COMMENTS
All combustibles materials removed or covered in exposed lower and/or adjacent areas?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE COMMENTS
Prior to work, floor thoroughly wet down within a 35' radius, except for arc welding?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE COMMENTS
Prior to work, exposed lower and/or adjacent areas wet down (including arc welding)?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE COMMENTS
Conveyors and suction systems in the area shutdown?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE COMMENTS
All areas wet down after work has been completed?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE COMMENTS
Spark Watchers remain in assigned areas for 1 hour after work has been completed?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE COMMENTS
Hot Work Permit posted in work area and plainly visible for 5 hours after work completed?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE COMMENTS

Auditor's observations and comments:

(continued from page 18)

operations by demonstrating your support in this effort. Please let your employees know that you stand behind the Hot Work Program 100% and Management considers it to be an essential tool in the success of your operations.

One way to show your support is to audit the Hot Work operations. Observe Hot Work while it is being done, be critical of the safeguards, review the Hot Work permits/tags and verify compliance with the procedures. A sample copy is included. Your LUA Loss Prevention Representative can provide additional insight as to the benefits of a Hot Work Audit Program.

Support from key individuals such as yourself is imperative in the long-term success of this Hot Work Program. We welcome any comments or suggestions you may have in our efforts to assist our valued customers in addressing this concern.

Thank you for your valuable time and effort in our partnership to protect your interests.

LUA Declares Dividend for TPA Safety Group Members

Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance has declared a 2005 dividend of 20% of premiums for members of the TPA Safety Group. That matches the 20% dividend issued in 2004.

LUA has partnered with TPA for 25 years, providing workers' compensation and other coverages to TPA members. Members of the TPA Safety Group qualify for the dividend program each year, in which LUA basically refunds a portion of the premium to each group member, based on claims settled throughout the year.

"The return of this premium to each TPA Safety Group member is a result of the hard work, positive attitude, and attention to providing a safe working environment by each TPA Safety Group member," said Bill Dupont, district manager

of LUA. "The daily efforts will increase the opportunity to maintain this level of dividend in the future.

"At a time when insurance premiums are rising due to medical

costs, reinsurance costs, and past results," Dupont said, "LUA is pleased to not only maintain relatively stable rates over the past couple of years but also return this dividend."

Dick Walsh Forest Products Named Logging Business of the Year



Left to right: Robin Walsh, Dick Walsh and Steve Walsh receive *Timber Harvesting Magazine's* Logging Business of the Year Award at a ceremony in September.

Timber Harvesting Magazine has named Dick Walsh Forest Products, of Park Rapids, as its Logging Business of the Year. It's the ninth business to be honored by the magazine, and the second in the upper Midwest.

Dick Walsh is a longtime TPA member, former TPA president, and current member of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council. He has testified numerous times at the state capitol on TPA's behalf and was on the task force that created the Minnesota Logger Education Program. He sold the business earlier this year to sons Robin and Steve, who have grown up in the woods and have been integral parts of its success. All three were in Kalispell, Mont., with their families to receive the award in September.

The magazine says the award goes annually to "special overachievers in the logging corps." In honoring Walsh, *Timber*

Harvesting said the award is, "in recognition of Walsh's leadership and forward thinking, of the family's many contributions to the advancement of the logging profession, and for setting a stellar example of professionalism and pride in a job well done."

The magazine calls Dick Walsh a leader who has set a standard that others want to emulate, writing, "A visionary by nature, Walsh is often first in his area to try new technology and first to recognize and develop new business opportunities. He's also often first to offer a helping hand, whether it is to improve his community, his industry or his state. His winning personality, wit and dedication to educating others about the forest industry have helped open the eyes of many a skeptic."

The entire article can be read at <http://www.timberharvesting.com/vserver/hb/display.cfm?ArticleKey=5993>

TPA Presents Lawmakers with 12-Point Action Plan to Boost the Timber Industry

Beginning last summer, the TPA Executive committee began discussing ways to deal with the downturn in our industry. In addition, TPA staff had been having conversations with TPA members regarding these issues. So when Governor Pawlenty came to Grand Rapids in late September to hold a meeting of industry leaders, TPA was prepared to present the following 12-point action plan designed to help reverse the downturn. The letter was addressed to Governor Pawlenty, Minnesota House of Representatives Speaker Steve Sviggum, and Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Dean Johnson.

Dear Governor Pawlenty,
Speaker Sviggum &
Majority Leader Johnson:

The forest products industry is facing extremely difficult economic conditions today. This impacts loggers, truckers, mills, workers, lenders, equipment dealers and other suppliers to the industry in our state and region.

We have seen the permanent closure of mill capacity as well as production curtailments and temporary closures at other facilities. These market driven actions occur at a time when few loggers were able to work this summer because of these conditions and high wood inventories at mills following last winter's logging season.

In order to address these issues on both a short- and long-term basis we urge that the following actions be taken:

- 1) The Commissioner of DNR under the authority provided under MS 90.193 should grant extensions to all timber permits expiring in 2006 and 2007. This action will relieve the immediate pressure faced by the owners of these permits and send a strong message as to the willingness of the state to help work through current problems;
- 2) The non-partisan Governor's Task Force on the Competitiveness of Minnesota's Primary Forest Products Industry should be re-convened to make recommendations on solutions to the short- and long-term issues facing our industry;
- 3) The State Executive Council should review whether it has the authority to modify the terms and conditions of existing state timber sale contracts. If the State Executive Council has such authority, we would urge that the price per cord of all existing contracts be lowered by a significant equal percentage amount that recognizes current economic conditions. This action will lessen the likelihood of significant numbers of defaults on these contracts. Such defaults would cause the expenditure of substantial amounts of state time and money in order for these timber sales to be re-offered. This action is preferable to any type of "amnesty" program or other sale "turn back" proposals in that it keeps the wood in the hands of its original purchasers, does not provide a "free lunch" for business decisions that have been made by individuals and maintains the relative position within the marketplace for purchasers of state timber as established at public auction when the sales were originally sold.

Governor's response to TPA Action Plan

October 5, 2006

Mr. Wayne Brandt
903 Medical Arts Building
324 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Wayne,

Thank you for joining me in Grand Rapids last Friday to discuss immediate and longer term strategies to address economic pressures affecting Minnesota's timber industry and its workers. As I mentioned in our meeting, my administration is committed to taking steps today to ensure the sustainability and success of this important and valuable sector of the state's economy.

Below is a list of actions we have already taken or plan to take in the coming months in response to the options and ideas discussed on Friday.

Timber Sales Permits and Timber Industry Initiatives

- I have directed Commissioner Merriam to grant extensions of one year to all permits expiring in 2006 and 2007. I have also asked the department to develop a plan for increasing the frequency of bidding and the method in which the bids are placed, specifically with a greater reliance on sealed bids rather than an open auction practice.
- A letter has been sent to the Attorney General's Office asking for a legal opinion concerning the scope and powers available to the Executive Council under Minnesota Statute 90.031. The Executive Council is comprised of the state's constitutional officers, and pursuant to Minnesota Statute 90.031, has the authority to enact "rules" for the timber industry. Depending on the advice we receive from the Attorney General's Office, we can determine if legislative action is needed to amend existing timber sales contracts.
- The Governor's Task Force on the Competitiveness of Minnesota's Primary Forest Products Industry will be reconvened with an expanded group of participants to further develop solutions to ensure the longevity of the industry. I have asked Commissioner Merriam to host the meeting next

- 4) If it is determined that the State Executive Council does not have the authority to take the actions recommended above, legislation should be supported to take these actions.
- 5) DEED should review the status of unemployment benefits available to workers in our industry who have been laid off. If the current conditions become protracted we would urge that extensions of unemployment benefits be provided.
- 6) Low interest loans or loan guarantees should be provided to loggers to improve their liquidity and to prevent defaults on equipment and other loans that exist. Current conditions could result in these types of defaults which would have an extremely negative long-term impact on the productive capacity of Minnesota's loggers. This would decrease the ability of our mills in the long term to improve their competitive position in the global marketplace.
- 7) The Minnesota Forest Resources Council's proposal to review and provide policy recommendations on maintaining the productive forestland base in our state should go forward immediately with funding provided in this and the next biennium. Consideration should also be given during the 2007 legislative session for additional improvements in the tax treatment of forestlands.
- 8) The Sustainable Forest Resources Act (MS 89A) which expires on June 30, 2007, should be renewed. This act, which included the establishment of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council, has provided the framework for improving forestry practices, sustaining our forest-based economy and resolving issues.
- 9) The state should expand the application of truck weights included in MS 169.8261 so that they apply to the movement of all cargoes. This would provide an immediate improvement in our industry's competitive posture and result in significant fuel savings and reduced vehicle emissions.
- 10) The DNR should be directed to reevaluate decisions made in their Sustainable Forest Resource Management Plans by utilizing the new modeling tools that they have acquired. Decisions that have or will soon be made and that have not utilized these tools are limiting the long term productive health and capacity of state forests and limiting the long term timber supply that can be obtained from these lands.
- 11) The current rebate program for the sales tax on capital equipment should be converted to an up front exemption. This will eliminate needless paperwork on the part of both the state and capital equipment investors thereby improving the climate for reinvestment in Minnesota plants and equipment.
- 12) The sales weighting for the Corporate Franchise Tax should be increased to 100%. This change in tax policy will be particularly beneficial to the forest products industry which has high property and payroll factors and significant sales out of state.

We appreciate the support that has been provided to our industry in recent years and regret that even with this support economic conditions have continued to

Wednesday, October 11th from 1:00-3:00 at the DNR Regional Office in Grand Rapids.

- I have directed Commissioner Merriam and his staff to extend and make permanent the Sustainable Forest Resource Act in the 2007 legislative session.
- The DNR is in the process of incorporating the new modeling tools that you have discussed into its Sustainable Forest Resource Management Plan.

Employment Issues

- As Commissioner Ward Einess noted at the meeting, the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has deployed Unemployment Insurance staff in Bemidji, Cook and Grand Rapids for purposes of providing Ainsworth employees with information regarding unemployment benefits. UI staff is on site at each of the impacted Ainsworth facilities in an effort to assist workers in receiving their unemployment benefits. Under current law, individuals are eligible for unemployment benefits for 26 weeks. We will reassess the unemployment situation as time progresses.
- In addition to unemployment benefits, DEED has made the determination that Ainsworth workers in Bemidji, Grand Rapids and Cook are eligible for the State Dislocated Workers Program. DEED has deployed its Rapid Response Team and partnered with the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training to administer and operate the Dislocated Workers Program for Ainsworth employees and workers in related industries that are adversely impacted by the Ainsworth shutdowns. As we discussed, the program provides a range of re-employment and retraining services including job counseling, resume preparation, skills inventory, classroom training to upgrade current skills and occupational training for new careers. Individuals are encouraged to contact their nearest Workforce Center, located in Bemidji, Hibbing, Virginia, Grand Rapids, International Falls, Cloquet and Duluth to learn how the program can help them.
- Commissioner Layman will seek approval of the Iron Range Resources Board for a low interest loan program for loggers and wood products truckers that would provide them with temporary relief for their equipment loans/leases and working capital credit lines. An Iron Range Resources Board meeting is planned for mid-November.

Related Policy Issues

- My administration is supportive of expansion of certain truck size and weight limits. We attempted to advance this issue last legislative session and will do so again next session.
- We recognize the administrative burden and financial costs that are caused by the current sales tax rebate program for capital equipment. Ideally,

deteriorate. We urge that strong and positive consideration be given to each of the recommendations listed above.

Thank you very much.

Minnesota Timber Producers Association



TPA Executive committee members Warren Johnson (L-R), President Tom McCabe, and Dale Erickson meet with Governor Tim Pawlenty at a meeting of industry leaders in Grand Rapids, where TPA presented the Governor with its 12-point action plan. Executive Committee members Mike Rieger and Mike Warren also attended the meeting.

we would like to convert the sales tax rebate to an upfront exemption. However, the cost of converting to an upfront exemption has an estimated fiscal cost of more than \$130 million. We fully appreciate the benefits this policy change would provide and will carefully consider this item in our budget deliberations.

- I have been supportive of a 100% single sales factor for apportioning corporate income tax in past legislative session. In 2005, I signed a law that enacts a single sales factor with a phase-in to 100% by 2014. Last year, we proposed accelerating the current law phase-in to 100% of sales by 2011. An acceleration of the phase-in will again be given favorable consideration in our budget initiatives.

I appreciate the thoughtful recommendations made at our meeting and look forward to working closely with you and your members to ensure the continued success of Minnesota's forest products industry.

Sincerely,

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

Timber Talk

Costs Awarded from Sierra Club in Tomahawk Decision

A federal judge has ordered the Sierra Club to pay copying costs incurred by the U.S. Forest Service while defending itself in the lawsuit over the Tomahawk area of the Superior National Forest. Earlier this year, Judge Joan Erickson ruled the Forest Service adequately studied the environmental effects of logging in the Tomahawk area, near the BWCAW.

The Sierra Club had sued, claiming the environmental impacts of the Tomahawk project hadn't been adequately analyzed. The judge has not only ruled against the Sierra Club, but also has now directed them to partially reimburse the Forest Service for the defense. The Sierra Club has appealed the order requiring reimbursement, and it may be some time before the appeal is decided.

Hubbard County Approves Timber Contract Concessions

On Oct. 4, the Hubbard County Board voted to give holders of timber contracts two concessions. First, the board approved allowing loggers until Oct. 31 to forfeit any sale where aspen is the major species, to refund their 15% deposit, and to again offer those sales at auction at a later date. Second, the board granted an extension to March 15, 2008, at no charge for timber sale contracts which expire in 2006 and 2007 where aspen is the major species. In addition, the board approved using DNR stumpage prices as the basis for setting appraised values. The move was in response to Hubbard County's most recent timber sale, at which no one bid on the sales that were predominately aspen.

DNR Tweaks Timber Sale Schedule to get FORIST Online

The DNR has tweaked its timber sale schedule so it can get its new FORIST timber sales module on line. Some sales normally held in December and January were either moved up or delayed in order to transfer the data from the old system into FORIST and make other preparations. The same number of auctions with the same volume of wood is planned. FORIST stands for "Forestry Information System," and the DNR says it has an integrated set of computer databases and programs for use by DNR Forestry staff. The DNR expects FORIST to dramatically enhance the Division of Forestry's ability to manage state forests by making it easier for various programs to share information and coordinate efforts.

State Continues Monitoring Biodiesel Status

The Minnesota Department of Commerce says it expects the state's supply of biodiesel to be ready for the coming cold temperatures. Officials have been meeting monthly with the oil refinery industry, petroleum retailers, and other industry stakeholders to try to ensure that the state's supply of biodiesel is ready for coming winter.

Last winter, truckers around the state reported numerous problems with gelling at colder temperatures, which clogged filters. Tests showed that some refineries had put too much glycerine in the blend.

Now, officials say that has been corrected and the biodiesel should be ready to go. Minnesota's blend contains 2% biomass. Other states, including North Dakota use 100% biomass in the blend and have reported few problems.

Edward Garvey of the Minnesota Department of Commerce reports the industry has to have its

problems solved because the refineries will lose credibility if they don't get it right this year.

DNR Names New Region Forest Manager

Dave Thomas has been named the new DNR regional forest manager for the Northwest Region. He replaces Larry Hegstaf, who retired in July. Thomas was the DNR area forester in Baudette.

Witkowski Named Tree Farm Inspector of the Year

Tom Witkowski, a procurement forester for Ainsworth Engineered, has been named Tree Farm Inspector of the Year for the North Central region. The award is given by the American Forest Foundation as a way to recognize and award top performers from the American Tree Farm System's pool of 8,000 volunteer foresters nationwide. The award honors a professional forester's commitment to the Tree Farm program and sustaining private forestlands. Witkowski is chair of Minnesota's Tree Farm program. He'll receive the award at a ceremony in Mobile, Ala.

Preece Wins Outstanding Journalism Award

Kathleen Preece, editor and publisher of *BetterFORESTS* magazine, is the recipient of this year's Society of American Foresters Outstanding Journalism Award. The award recognizes high quality journalistic coverage of topics that increase the American public's understanding of forestry and natural resources.

Kathleen received the award for her series of articles on native and exotic pests threatening Minnesota forests, which included two separate articles on earthworms, and one each on white tailed deer, Asian long horned beetles and gypsy moths. Kathleen is a

member of the Minnesota Forests Resources Council, a former director of Women in Timber, a member of the American Forest & Paper Association's Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and a recipient of the Outstanding Individual of the Year Award from nonprofit association Giziibii Resource Conservation and Development.

TPA Members Earn Master Logger Certification

Eight TPA member logging companies have earned Minnesota Master Logger Certification status. They're among the first 10 businesses certified by the Master Logger program.

TPA members certified are:

Dean & Bob Walsh Logging – Park Rapids, Minn.

Ron Beckman Timber Harvesting – Grand Rapid, Minn.

C.O. Johnson Logging, Inc. – Blackduck, Minn.

Hughes Timber, Inc. – Kelliher, Minn.

Johnson Logging – Floodwood, Minn.

Rieger Logging, Inc – Northome, Minn.

Pittack Logging, Inc – Bovey, Minn.

Dick Walsh Forest Products, LLC – Park Rapids, Minn.

By earning the certification, these companies have demonstrated sound business practices and a commitment to sustainable forest management. It will also help those businesses market their wood to mills whose customers demand certified products.

In addition, close to another 20 applicants are moving through the final stages of the certification process, and could be certified by the end of the year.

TIMBER BULLETIN Subscription Order

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

1 year \$20 2 years \$35 3 years \$50

Please type or print clearly.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COMPANY/ORGANIZATION _____

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

1 year \$15 2 years \$28 3 years \$40

Please type or print clearly.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Make checks payable to:

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

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

Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I



VOL. III



VOL. II



VOL. IV



First hand recollections by storyteller 'Buzz' Ryer of the loggers, loaders, sawyers, wood butchers, and butchers who used the woods in the hey-day of the pioneer lumberjacks—with dozens of historical photographs.

Finished as _____ for _____

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

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

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

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

Prices include sales taxes, postage and handling.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Mail to: Minnesota Timber Producers Assn.

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

BACK IN STOCK

Vandalism: Where Is Your Property?

Vandalism was one of the top causes of mobile equipment loss for Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance's MTPA customers in 2005. Being proactive in prevention can make a difference. The following pointers are the first steps in preventing damage or loss for your protection.

Methods to help deter vandalism loss:

1. Restrict vehicle access to job sites during off-hours to protect equipment. Use a gate, boulders, dirt berm, or a drag of trees to stop traffic.
2. Use private access to timber sales when possible.
3. Use terrain or standing trees as a barrier or visual screen to prevent random roadside shooting when harvest site is adjacent to traffic areas or ATV trails.
4. Remove keys, lock doors and turn off master switches when leaving the job overnight. Additional master switches for electrical and fuel systems can be added for backup.
5. Lock fuel, oil and engine compartments to prevent tampering. Add locks if they have not been installed from the factory.
6. Park equipment away from ignition sources. Stay back from slash piles that could be ignited. Space equipment at least 50 feet apart to reduce chance of fire spreading from one machine to another.
7. Don't leave equipment unattended in an unsecured location for long periods of time. Check on the status of equipment during off days when feasible. In high-risk situations consider having someone stay at the harvest site.
8. Service trucks and log trucks should be taken home or to another secure location over night and weekends when possible.
9. Consider using hidden motion activated cameras to record movement in and out of the job site. Using signage on equipment indicating video surveillance serves as a discouragement to vandals.
10. Mark equipment with your company name. Engrave saws and tools to identify them. Use crime prevention stickers on equipment to show would-be

thieves and vandals that you take the safety of your equipment seriously.

11. Contact local law enforcement, forestry, etc. for suspicious activity. Enlist the help of neighbors to watch and notify you and law enforcement of trouble.

12. Inspect equipment for signs of tampering prior to startup to prevent further damage while running. Look for contaminants around fuel and fluid fill areas.

Remember, fires will be investigated thoroughly to find the cause. Please have a safe and productive year!

LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

"Minnesota Cedar"

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*



When the lumbermen and loggers first invaded the timber lands of Minnesota, white pine was the prize tree and most of their efforts were turned to the discovery, purchase and logging of this "King of Minnesota Pines."

Little attention was paid to the other species of timber that grew on our vast acreage of swamp lands throughout the northern half of the state. However, by the turn of the century, the western states were becoming settled and the demand for fence posts, railroad ties and telegraph

and electric light poles was becoming very great.

Even the larger logging companies that had given but little thought to these "small timber" types now found them very valuable. And it was learned in many cases that a 40-acre tract of good pole-size cedar tripled the value of a pine stand. As a result, many of the logging companies hunted new companies to follow the logging of pine and buy and cut all the cedar they could get.

Also, many small cedar companies and

independent cedar jobbers and dealers started up. Minnesota had some of the finest cedar stands in the Lake States, with Upper Michigan also having nice stands. The better cedar grew on the heavy clay soil, where poles up to 45 and 50 feet and as straight as an arrow grew very thickly. The central and western areas in the forested part of the state produced the best cedar. The rock-outcrop areas of the state, while having numerous cedar swamps, had shorter trees of poorer quality.

The Minnesota and International Railroad area produced the greatest volume of cedar, and by as early as 1908 the yards of the Northern Pole and Cedar Co. at Blackduck became the largest in the world. But by 1915, the Gemmill or Belaska Spur, a mile south of Gemmill, took over the title when National Pole established its yard there. Just north of Gemmill on the west side of the railroad, Page and Hill had their yard. Just about three miles north of Gemmill at the gravel pit, National Pole had a large yard, along with the Clark Pole and Tie Co., Northern Cedar Co. and several independent operators, including Oscar Thuresteson. And about 1916 the American Cedar Co. established a yard two and a half miles north of Gemmill. So without a doubt, Gemmill was the white cedar capital of the world.

The large T. M. Partridge Cedar yard at Mizpah operated for a number of years. Kelliher was the headquarters of the American Cedar Co. for many years, and there were large landings and cedar camps at Mizpah, Orill, Funkley, Shooks, Tenstrike, Hines and Hoppe. The Clark Pole and Tie Co. headquartered at Kelliher for a number of years. Other cedar operations along the Minnesota, Red Lake & Manitoba line and the Wilton and Northern between Bemidji and Red Lake produced a large amount with Nebish and Foulds.

The Coolidge and Schusler yard at Littlefork, where cedar cut in camps along the Littlefork River was hoisted out, was a sizable yard. Deer River had a large yard at Durvas Spur, and considerable cedar

(continued on page 30)

Below: A typical cedar yard on the Minnesota and International Railroad in the heyday of cedar logging. It took two Red Cars to move some of the longer poles.



(continued from page 28)

was cut at Marcell, Clarke, Effie, Stanley and other stations along the Minneapolis and Rainy River (Cut and Lumber line).

Ray River on the Soo line had a large yard and was the headquarters for the McMillin & Gibbs Co. Schley also had large cedar operations. Bricksburg on the Canadian National as well as Arbutus were large cedar centers. Considerable cedar also came off the Virginia and Rainy Lake lines out of Cussen. And there were many other towns that had cedar landings.

The large cedar company camps were just as big as the log camps, while the jobber camps were, as a rule, from 40 to 60 men.

National Pole Co. had a steam hauler road that ran from Gemmill east into Plum Creek township and had camps along Caldwell Brook. They had a beautiful ice road and built water towers or tanks similar to railroad water tanks, with pumps set up for filling the water tanks used in making ice roads. They used parts of the same road for several years and it paid to make these water tanks. I have seen their steam hauler pulling 10 water tanks at one time.

The Page and Hill Co. had the same type of road running northwest from Gemmill for 25 miles. They also had water tanks and pumps along their road. The American Cedar Co. had ice roads, but I did not see any steam haulers. Their operations followed the Crookston Lumber Co. workings and they did not have the long hauls that National Pole and Page and Hill had. However, they used wide sleighs. Many of the smaller jobbers used narrow sleighs and snow roads.

While the cedar camps were among the first to adopt the "piece cutter" system many of the early cedar camps were operated with monthly men. Cedar cutters were a very special breed and would do no other type of work. They were much in demand because a cutter who knew how to get the most valuable products from the trees was a valuable man to the companies.

Cedar camps would start their cutting operations as soon as the sap went down in the trees, usually by Sept. 1, and cutting would continue all winter if the snow did not get too deep. Poles would be skidded along the logging roads and decked similarly to logs, while posts and ties would be skidded with a single horse or team on a two-bank drey and piled along the log road.

Poles would be loaded onto sleighs with a jammer, as with logs but on smaller poles a "bunching chain" would be used instead of loading each pole individually. Posts and ties were loaded onto sleighs by hand and piled crossways on the racks. Sometimes on wide sleighs, two tiers of posts would be loaded. Fence posts usually were cut seven feet long, with only a small percentage of eight foot posts.

Below: Loading cedar on flat cars with sawing boom "jingle." Center: A water tank on an ice road. Bottom: two-bank drey for skidding posts to logging roads.



(continued on page 33)

Introducing: TPA Merchandise

Please Fill Out Entire Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Shipping Address (if different from above):

Please Fill out and Include with Check:

Men's Cotton Polo Shirt: _____ Quantity _____ Size

Ladies Cotton Polo Shirt: _____ Quantity _____ Size

Windshirt: _____ Quantity _____ Size

Fleece Crew: _____ Quantity _____ Size

Checks made out to: TPA Services, Inc.

Add: \$3.00 S&H

Total enclosed in check: \$ _____

Send Checks Only to TPA Office:

324 West Superior St., Suite 903, Duluth, MN 55802

No Credit Cards or Cash!



Cotton Polo Shirt \$23.00
Taupe with Green TPA logo
Men's Sizes: S-5XL, XLT, 2XLT
Ladies Sizes: S-3XL



Microfiber Wind Shirt \$29.50
Taupe with Green TPA Logo
Unisex Sizes: S-5XL, XLT, 2XLT



No Shrink Fleece Crew
\$21.50
Pine color with cream TPA logo
Unisex Sizes: S- 3XL

(continued from page 30)

Poles were mostly from 20 feet up.

Prior to World War I, all cedar was cut rough and peeled on the landing. Peeling started as soon as the camps broke in the spring and there were as many as 700 men peeling in the National Pole yards during the months of April and May. All cedar had to be peeled before warm weather made the bark set and peeling impossible.

All bark from the cedar was burned as it was peeled, and with 700 men there would be 700 fires burning and each night the yard would be completely clean of bark. Cedar bark makes very little smoke while burning and would only smoke a little as the men piled new bark onto the fires. Because of fire hazards, cedar yards had to be kept free of bark and debris and were always cleaned down to mineral soil. Peeling was done with a draw knife or spud, the spud being used mostly on larger poles. Posts were placed on a single "horse" for peeling, while longer poles were placed on two specially made "horses." The cedar was left to dry a few days after peeling and then was skidded and stacked in piles according to lengths.

All cedar was cut with a single-man crosscut saw, and the "Siemens Cedar King" was the popular saw of most cutters. Prior to World War I, the cutting had been done only during winter months, but during the wartime scarcity of men, cutting continued the year around, although the sap-cut and peeled cedar was not considered as good a quality as the winter cut. (Summer cut cedar was peeled as it was cut right in the woods as the bark would strip off.) After the war, they went back to winter cut cedar. In the very late years, what little cedar was cut was also peeled in the woods.

Another reason why summer cutting of cedar was unpopular was that some men were allergic to cedar pollen and would develop what was known as "cedar itch."

One rule of cedar cutting was that no trees would be limbed with a club during freezing weather, as this would break holes in the poles. (You could limb a tree much faster with a club than with an axe during cold weather.) All cedar was sold on what were known as the "Northern White Cedar Specifications" and all cutters had to be familiar with these. While some poles were cut up and hatted off in the yards, it was the cutters in the woods who determined what type of pole would be cut from each tree.

While our cedar crop did not reach the value to the state that our pine did in the days between 1900 and 1920 it surely was second as a forest resource. And when one realizes that almost every telephone pole, light pole and fence post in the prairie states east of the Rocky Mountains came from the forests of northern Minnesota. Then we know why towns like Blackduck and Gemmill earned the title "White Cedar Capitals of the World."

Cedar poles were hauled to tier crossways on four-horse sleighs. Center photograph shows single-tier, true-horned end on street in Kelliher. At bottom, Telephone poles at American Cedar camp near Kelliher.



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.

USED EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

FOR SALE

CABLE SKIDDERS

1991 JD 640E, new tires	35,500
1970 JD 440A	10,500
1969 TF C4	P.O.R.
TJ 240	P.O.R.
TJ 350	P.O.R.

GRAPPLE SKIDDERS

1991 TJ 450B, Cummins eng...18,000	
1996 JD 648G	33,000
1998 JD 648GII, single func., rebuilt trans.	P.O.R.
2001 JD 648GIII, single function, new 28.1x26 tires	96,000

2001 JD 648GIII

dual function.....	102,000
1980 TF C6, with 23.1x26 tires..	9,000

CRAWLERS

1997 D5MLGP	P.O.R.
1975 450C, 6-way blade.....	12,500
1977 D6D LGP	27,000
1987 D4H LGP, 6-way blade, encl. cab	27,000

KNUCKLE BOOM LOADERS

Barko 160, on truck w/slasher	17,000
1998 Barko 160D, 6 cyl. Cummins, mounted on trailer	44,000
1994 Prentice 180D, S.P. Carrier, 60" slasher	39,500
1987 Prentice 210C 6 cyl. JD slasher package	27,000

1987 XL 175 Husky, mounted on truck	17,500
--	--------

EXCAVATORS

1990 JD 590D, hyd/thumb.....	P.O.R.
1996 Yanmar B6U mini excavator	13,750

WHEEL LOADERS

JD 410 Backhoe, cab.....	13,000
410B JD rubber tired 4x4, cab	P.O.R.
1984 JD 544C, new JD eng.	23,000
1981 JD 644C	25,000

TRUCKS

1978 GMC 2-ton w/hydr. hoist, flatbed dump	4,500
---	-------

DELIMBERS

2000 JD 200LC w/453 Pro Pac	105,000
Siirro delimeter/slasher.....	7,000

FELLER-BUNCHERS

AND SHEARS

775A Barko	P.O.R.
1988 910 Cat, 17" shearhead, rebuilt trans.....	32,000
1979 Drott 40, shearhead.....	17,000
1978 Drott 40, JD eng.....	13,000
1995 Timbco T425B	85,000

2004 570 Hydro-Ax, 1,800 hrs., 22" sawhead	123,000
2004 643H, JD, 2100 hrs., warranty	135,000
1984 411B Hydro-Ax.....	15,000
1987 411B Hydro-Ax.....	20,000
1986 511B Hydro-Ax, 6 BT Cummins	27,000
1994 511E Hydro-Ax, 20" Koehring	57,000
1993 611E 22" sawhead.....	35,000
1997 720 Tigercat	55,000
1993 JD 590D w/18" Roto saw	27,000

1976 JD 544B	17,000
1976 JD 544, 20" shear.....	21,000
1993 Risley Black Magic w/Risley sawhead	65,000

MISCELLANEOUS	
1988 534 Gradall, 8,000 lb. lift.....	24,000
1991 853 Bobcat, w/forks and broom	8,500

1999 ASV Posi-track skidsteer, rubber tracks.....	21,000
1979 731 Bobcat skidsteer loader	6,700
Cat V80D 8,000 lb. forklift	6,500
60" slasher w/power unit.....	14,500
60" Siirro slasher	8,500
60" Lemco slasher.....	8,000
20" Koehring sawhead to fit 643 JD	9,000
New 60" and 72" Hanfab slashers.....	P.O.R.
1995 546 Valmet forwarder, 6-wheel.....	P.O.R.
Gafner Iron Mule Prehailer ...	12,000

WE ARE A DEALER FOR BARKO HYDRAULICS

We have other equipment not listed.

New and used parts and
used tires and chains.

Something you're looking for?
Give us a call. We may have it or
be able to locate it for you.

We are distributors for:

Aftermarket Parts, Rud Chains,

Hanfab Slashers and
Babac Traction Products

NORTHERN TIMBERLINE EQUIPMENT, INC.

6000 County Road 8
Littlefork, Minn. 56653-9132
Phone 218-278-6203
nte@northlc.com
Fax 218-278-6716
Richard or Cameron Hardwig

ADVERTISERS INDEX

AgStar	32
Besse Forest Products.....	27
Cass Forest Products	34
Corporate 4	26
Don Evans Insurance Agency.....	15
Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A.....	29
Great Lakes Trailers.....	5
Greater Insurance Service.....	7
Hedstrom Lumber Co.....	29
Industrial Lubricant	15
Itasca Greenhouse.....	16
LM Products.....	17
Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance.....	31
Mid-States Equipment	17
Midwest Hardwood Corp.....	23
Minnesota Industries.....	11
Northern Engine & Supply	29
Northern Timberline Equipment	5
Nortrax	35
Otis-Magic Insurance Agency	4
Pomp's Tire.....	19
Rapids Hydraulic.....	31
Rice Blacksmith Saw & Machine.....	9
Road Machinery & Supplies.....	36
Rux Strapping	7
Schaefer Enterprises.....	7
SunSource	31
Vermeer Sales & Servic.....	19
Wausau Sales Corp.	25