

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

# TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

VOLUME 79

*Merry  
Christmas!*





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# TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 79  
November/December 2024  
Duluth, Minnesota

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Cover photo by Lori Dobbs of Dobbs Logging in Littlefork. To see more of Lori's work, visit [www.lori-dobbs.pixels.com](http://www.lori-dobbs.pixels.com).

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Minnesota Timber Producers Association



# President's Column



Kelly Kimball

**W**inter arrived fast and furious. Not that anyone enjoys going out in the frigid temperatures, it does appear that we are having good conditions to start freezing the ground for the winter logging season. Late fall and early winter can be tough for loggers. The ground doesn't dry or freeze. It reminds me of a logging job we were doing 30 years ago; we were cutting on private land and it froze a little, but not enough to help the ground. We finished moving a couple of last loads and were cleaning up to move out, and it was not going well. I had mostly been doing business with the landowner's wife because the property had been her family's land. On this particular morning, the husband came out to the woods and asked if he could speak to me. I thought he was upset at how things looked. I was nervous as I walked to his vehicle. He reached out and shook my hand as he surveyed all the mud, trucks and machinery. He introduced himself and said both he and his wife were teachers. He asked me how old I was and how long I had been doing this. After I told him, he said there were so many easier ways to make a living. I have thought about this conversation many times over the years, especially during tough and messy days, sometimes wondering why I do what I do. I'm sure many of you have similar stories and maybe that's what makes us special, or crazy, for doing what most people couldn't do because we love the woods.

With some of the difficult winters, TPA has had our best interest in meeting with the Department of Natural Resources to get ideas to improve winter logging operations. A couple of things discussed this year include five-year sale contracts, and having mats available for loggers to use. If you have other ideas, don't hesitate to get in touch with Ray. The legislative session is starting after the first of the year. TPA will be representing you!

As the winter logging season ramps up, always remind your entire crew to be safe in the woods and on the roads.

Have a very Merry Christmas! Enjoy spending the holidays with your families, and I wish all of you a prosperous 2025!

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Kelly Kimball

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## Executive Vice President's Column



Ray Higgins

What an election. The coming years will certainly look different than the last few, with Republicans in control of the Senate, House, and White House on the federal level, and

on the state level, the Minnesota House is split evenly between Republicans and DFL, meaning the days of the DFL “trifecta” are over. While northern Minnesota Republicans like Spencer Igo, Roger Skraba, Josh Heintzeman, and Natalie Zeleznikar won't be in the majority, they'll have a lot more to say about what goes on at the Capitol than they've had in the past.

I was honored to again be invited to be among those spending election night with Congressman Pete Stauber. He told me that when he was door-knocking, concerns about the economy were what he heard about most—from just about everybody. During the campaign we heard a lot that the data showed the stock market is up, unemployment is down, interest rates are falling, and the rate of inflation is falling. That all may be true, but inflation is still rising—just more slowly than before for. Those of us who run businesses know that when prices for everything are up, the rest really doesn't matter. We have less cash in our pockets, and that's a problem. The voters responded.

In the Senate, our two senators are now in the minority. However, Senator Amy Klobuchar is expected to become ranking minority member on the Senate Agriculture Committee, which could prove helpful. Senator Klobuchar has been a supporter on our issues, including a vote to remove the endangered listing from the northern long-eared bat.

With the return of the Trump Administration, it's hoped that the federal forests will increase their support of timber harvest, that a more pragmatic approach will be taken with species management, and if he follows his campaign pledge to “drill baby drill” for more oil, that will reduce fuel and energy costs, which will help everyone. We'll also be watching closely whether Trump raises tariffs as he has said he will, or whether he's using that threat as a negotiating ploy.

All in all, the coming years in St. Paul and in Washington will be interesting.

\*\*\*\*\*

Speaking of lawmakers, I was saddened to hear of the passing of former 8th District Congressman Rick Nolan. Rick knew our industry well. He was a sawmiller for decades, so he was one of us. His relationship with TPA went back to the 1970s when he and Wayne Brandt first became friends. And of course he was the one who finally found a way for Congress to allow increased truck weights on I-35 from Carlton to Duluth, something that helps our industry each day. Thank you, Rick. You'll be missed.

\*\*\*\*\*

As for roads, over the last couple of years, Highway 2 either side of Floodwood has been a pothole-filled mess. Not any longer. We shared our concerns with MnDOT District Engineer Duane Hill, a regular attendee of our TPA Annual Meeting. (I'm sure we weren't the only ones). MnDOT responded by doing a wonderful job of mill and overlay on this critical route for timber hauling in both directions. Yes, the project slowed things down quite a bit over the summer, which was a hassle. But it was worth it. The project will extend pavement life, reduce maintenance costs, and most importantly, provide a smoother surface and improve safety for our timber haulers, as well as the motoring public. Thank you, MnDOT!

\*\*\*\*\*

As we head toward winter, we're all hoping for more favorable operating conditions than we've had in recent years. At TPA, we're doing more than just hoping. We've been engaged in a series of meetings with DNR about how to handle harvesting operations during winters that haven't featured as much frozen ground as we'd like. Several of our members have participated in these meetings, as have mill procurement foresters and Rick Horton from MFL. We've had a good back-and-forth with DNR about the effects of warmer winters on rutting, road building, and more. We've talked about how sales are designed and administered by DNR and other agencies, and about the potential for timber permits longer than 3 years, among many other topics.

We've also talked about the importance of sound forest management on everything we do, and that economics and affordability play into that. DNR staff has expressed their desire to continue to manage through timber harvest. We look forward to seeing how these important discussions will help us continue our important work of managing our state's healthy forests.

\*\*\*\*\*

This issue of the *Timber Bulletin* marks the end of an era and the start of a new one.

Stewart-Taylor Printing was family-owned, and a stalwart in our region's business community, in operation for 154 years, making it the oldest print shop in Minnesota. I think it was the best. In November, Stewart-Taylor made the difficult decision to close its doors for good.

Stewart-Taylor printed the *Timber Bulletin* for more than 60 years and did a wonderful job. I met the Olson family long before I joined TPA and I was thrilled to learn I'd be working closely with them once I got here. I'm sad to see that come to an end.

The good news is that the magazine is now printed by JS Print Group in Duluth, and the better news is that our same contact at Stewart-Taylor—Tori—now works at JS, so the process of bringing you

the *Timber Bulletin* isn't changing all that much. I'm thankful for our long partnership with Stewart-Taylor, for their years of hard work and professionalism, and that a piece of their legacy will continue through Tori's great work.

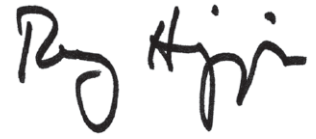
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Finally, it's the time of year that's so important to our industry, the winter logging season. It's been a couple of years since we've had optimal working conditions, and we're certainly looking forward to more favorable temperatures over the coming weeks and months.

It's also an important time as we

enter the holidays. My prayer is that we are all blessed by the joy, hope, and peace of the season.

Merry Christmas!



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A truck with tree-length aspen pulls away while another truck pulls up to be loaded at the Log A Load harvest.

# Angels in the Midst of Tragedy

All photos for this story were provided by Ben Sunne at Up North Anything Photography. More photos and drone video from the Log A Load harvest can be found at: <https://bensunne5920.smugmug.com/Log-A-Load-for-kids>

**O**n the afternoon of Halloween, folks were lined up in their yards along Minnesota Highway 11, adjacent to the Rainy River. They were there to watch a convoy of more than a dozen logging trucks loaded with aspen, heading east toward International Falls.

"It was amazing how many

people were watching us drive by," said Stewart Ferrier, one of the truckers. "It was pretty cool."

"It put chills in you," said Chad Lovdahl, another driver in the caravan. "It almost made you tear up. It was pretty neat. Amazing."

Each day, a lot of timber is hauled on Highway 11. Most of it doesn't draw much attention. This

wood was special because of the circumstances.

Brady Hasbargen of Whitefish Creek Logging in Birchdale organized a harvest benefitting Log A Load for Kids, the national program designed to raise funds in support of the Children's Miracle Network, and kids with a variety of health issues.

"I've been on the Log A Load board for a few years," Hasbargen says. "We wanted to do a harvest in our area and we managed to find the right site for it, and it all came together."

What Hasbargen didn't know when he started planning was that the Log A Load harvest would hit





Sixteen trucks lined up to be loaded so the timber from the Log A Load harvest could be hauled to International Falls.

close to home for his family, and for hundreds in Birchdale, Baudette, and several communities along the Rainy River.

Joining Minnesota's Log A Load board never crossed Hasbargen's mind until he was approached by board chair Jessica Raad at the MLEP Loggers Conference in Bemidji in 2022.

"I knew nothing about Brady," Raad says. "I was talking to everybody. Log A Load was at a point where the membership was extremely low for board participation, so I tried to recruit a few more people. Brady took the time to listen. So did Matt Lundberg."

Over the years, Whitefish Creek had made donations to Log A Load, so Hasbargen knew how it worked: Loggers can donate proceeds from a load of wood to the cause. Many times, harvests are set up for that specific purpose. Log A Load benefits the Children's Miracle Network, the largest network of Children's hospitals in the US and Canada, including Gillette Children's Hospitals and Clinics throughout Minnesota—with the main hospital in St. Paul and a clinic in Duluth. Funds raised through Log A Load help fund efforts like critical life-saving treatments and healthcare services, research, financial assistance for families, and more.

"I'd barely walked in the door," Hasbargen recalls. "Jessica approached me. I guess you could say she was rallying the troops. By the end of the conference, it sounded like something I should get involved with. My wife Kyra decided to join, too."

As they got more involved, Hasbargen and Lundberg talked about coordinating a harvest. Both started talking to agencies and landowners in their respective areas: Lundberg in the Bemidji/Solway area and Hasbargen near the northern border.

Finding the right site at the right time is easier said than done. Hasbargen called Duluth logger Tom McCabe—a longtime organizer of Log A Load harvests—for some tips on how to get the ball rolling.

"I couldn't figure out even where to start," Hasbargen says. "I leaned on Tom quite a bit. He told me it would seem like you're just spinning your wheels for the longest time, and then all of a sudden it'll come together and be successful."

Earlier this year, Hasbargen spoke with the DNR, Koochiching County, and Molpus Woodlands Group to try to find a small tract with good, easy access. Nothing seemed to be quite right.

"We were almost to the point where I didn't know if we were going to get it done this year," Hasbargen says. "We didn't want to do it in winter, so we were on a timeline if we wanted to do it this year."

Then it happened. Hasbargen was talking with a DNR forester out of the Baudette office about a sale and happened to mention the search for a site for a Log A Load harvest.

"He said, you know what? There's a 200-cord sale right in the Pine Island (State Forest)," Hasbargen recalls. "He told me where it was—on the Black River Road near the Sand's Mark Trail—and said it was such a small tract of timber and there was nothing close by to combine it with, so they were just going to leave it on the books, maybe add it to something else in a year or two. It was already painted, all ready to go. I said that would be perfect."

It all came together before Saturday June 29th, the fateful day that would change Hasbargen's world and that of his family.

Seven-year-old Jackson Morisch loved to race dirt bikes. The son of Brady's sister Sannie, Jackson had an infectious smile and boundless energy.

"He was a phenomenal kid," Brady says. "Full of smiles. You'd really have to look to find a picture that he's not smiling in."



Jackson Morisch

"He used to help with chores in the barn," said Brady's father Charlie, who is also Jackson's grandfather. "Instead of helping me bed straw, before I knew it, he'd be cuddling with a sleeping calf."

"And he was a great dirt bike racer," Brady added. "He just loved it."



While most of the timber was hauled tree-length, some was slashed to accommodate the bunk trailers used.

Tragedy struck on Saturday June 29th. Jackson was dirt bike racing in Cloquet and suffered a traumatic brain injury.

“It was just a freak accident,” Brady says.

Jackson was transported to Duluth and then almost immediately flown to the pediatric intensive care unit at Children’s Hospital in Minneapolis. The hope was that Jackson would improve enough to be transported to Gillette—the target of the Log A Load funds—for re-hab, but improvement never came. Jackson passed away less than two months later on August 24th.

Still, Brady and Kyra were amazed by the treatment Jackson received at Children’s, and were told of the outstanding critical care provided by the Children’s Miracle Network through Gillette’s Children’s Hospital.

“It really opened our eyes to how amazing it is where the Log A Load money goes,” Hasbargen says. “Unfortunately, Jackson didn’t improve enough to receive care from Gillette, but we spoke with

the doctors and nurses who care for those kids. They told us how important our donations are. When we joined the Log A Load board we didn’t have any connection to these programs. It just sounded like a worthwhile cause. When you hear where the money goes and how it helps, then see first-hand how they take care of those kids, you realize how important the program is. It made us completely re-dedicate ourselves to helping Log A Load.”

With a harvest site already determined, and a renewed commitment to the cause, Hasbargen started dialing in the logistics and the details of the harvest. Erickson Timber provided the feller buncher, Hasbargen Logging brought a slasher/loader, while Whitefish Creek’s skidder and delimeter were used for the job, and Hasbargen Logging provided the logging equipment. One week before the planned delivery date, Erickson Timber’s Cameron Erickson and Derek Cook from Hasbargen Logging, joined Luke

Courchaine and Brady Hasbargen from Whitefish Creek to perform the cut. The PCA mill in the Falls would end up with the wood, so the company decided to buy and donate the stumpage.

There was one hiccup. In the days before Halloween when the wood was to be hauled, the harvest site received roughly 1.5 inches of rain. Most of the trees had been harvested and skidded, but as a precaution, mats were brought in to place under the loader’s outriggers. The road into the landing was also a bit on the sloppy side, but it wasn’t anything they couldn’t handle.

“Derek and Luke and I shoveled a bunch of the potholes out of the road,” Hasbargen said. “We actually dug all the water out of the road, and then it froze really hard that night, so it worked out great that way.”

To truck the wood to the mill, Hasbargen contacted a few folks in the area, and before he knew it, he had more than enough help.

“Once the word got out, it organized itself, to be honest with you,” Hasbargen says. “I called

around, and talked to people at the logging show. Everybody I talked to said, 'Hey, if you get that going, let us know.' Whatever we needed, it wasn't a problem. And there were people that were still reaching out to me. We could've hauled 400 cords that day."

"Brady called me up and asked if we could help," said Littlefork logger Taylor DeLack. "My Grandpa and Dad always said, if it's for a good cause, you just do it. We didn't even think about it. We were happy to help out."

"Brady and I were talking at the logging show in September," International Falls logger Andrew Kennedy said. "I said we'd do whatever we could to help out."

"We were willing to do whatever to help," Chad Lovdahl said, "whether it's bringing a skidder, or trucking. Anything."

On Halloween morning, Hasbargen got to the site at 8AM to make sure everything was set. Erickson, Cook, and Doug Hasbargen were there to handle any loading or other logistics. Jessica Raad and her husband Nick—an Eveleth area logger—brought a Weber grill and plenty of brats, chips, and soda to feed the truckers and anyone else who showed up to watch or lend a hand.

"We just wanted to thank everyone for helping," Raad said. "All of the loggers who have participated in past Log A Load harvests, historically, the response has been that they don't need recognition. They do it because it's the right thing and a good thing to do. In visiting with Brady, we decided we'd grill and everyone can have a brat and chips and a pop, and we can visit and we can tell them all, thank you for taking time. Plus, Nick likes to cook."

Kennedy organized the trucks coming from the east to all meet at the Y Knot Quick Stop in Pelland, and travel together to the site. They'd meet the other haulers just down the road from the harvest site at 11AM, and drive in together. Then when they were loaded, they'd head back out and wait for the rest on the side of Black River Road. Brady's dad Charlie—Jackson's grandfather—brought his side-by-side so drivers could be driven back to the harvest site for a brat and wait

with the rest.

In all, more than a dozen logging/trucking companies helped out in various ways. In addition to Whitefish Creek, trucks were provided by: Kennedy Logging, Mannco Trucking, and Sunne Logging, all from International Falls; DeLack Logging, Dobbs Logging, Ziemba & Sons, Junker Logging, and Colton Hasbargen from Littlefork; Lovdahl & Sons of Effie, Orr's Ryan Sokoloski Trucking, Peterson Logging out of Loman, and Ferrier Logging of Baudette.

When all those trucks—sixteen in all—started rolling into the site at 11AM, when it all came together, several of the participants started to get choked up.

"Seeing the trucks roll up in that big line, that was really emotional for me," Brady Hasbargen said. "It was everybody coming together. All my industry buddies. We're all competitors, but we'd help each other in a second. It just put it into perspective, the selflessness of everybody. The willingness of everybody to help. That was definitely emotional for me."

"It was definitely emotional for a lot of us," Cameron Erickson said. "It shows how close the community up here is."

It took about three hours to load the trailers. After everyone had their fill of brats, they jumped in the trucks and headed to deliver to the mill at the Falls.

The convoy was quite a sight. Folks along Highway 11 were standing in their driveways,



Brady Hasbargen and Colton Hasbargen hang a banner honoring Jackson Morisch on the convoy's lead truck.

watching and taking pictures. At least one video posted to social media received 20,000 views in short order.

"It isn't often you see sixteen semis, going down the road in a caravan loaded with wood," Lovdahl said. "We were all honored to be a part of it."

The Koochiching County sheriff's office lent a hand, helping the trucks make the turn onto Highway 11, and again at the roundabout where the truck route meets Highway 53, sealing off traffic from the north and the south so the trucks could all make it through without interruption. A few minutes later when the trucks arrived at the PCA scale, the folks from the Woodlands office across the street came outside to watch.

"What they did was pretty classy," PCA forester John Berglund said. "It was pretty cool."

216 cords of aspen were scaled. With a little softwood sprinkled



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in, the total delivery was around 230 cords. Including the stumpage donation from PCA, fuel donations from Northern Star Co-op and Rainy Lake Oil, plus cash donations from Choice Insurance and Corporate 4 Insurance, Log A Load would receive roughly \$25,000 to fund efforts like critical life-saving treatments and healthcare services, research, vital pediatric medical equipment, child life services that put kids' and families' minds at ease during difficult hospital stays, and financial assistance for families who could not otherwise afford these health services. Some of the funds are also being donated to Crescent Cove, the children's hospice facility in the Twin Cities that took such good care of Jackson during his final days.



A birds-eye view of loaded trucks waiting to leave the harvest site.

Brady Hasbargen joined the Log A Load board long before his nephew's injury. Planning for the harvest had already started. All the proceeds went to Log a Load and the Children's Miracle Network. His family didn't receive a penny. But the timing of Jackson's accident added importance and poignance to everyone's efforts. Banners with

Jackson's face were hung from a couple of the trucks. His presence was felt by all who participated, and won't be forgotten.

"It's been emotional," Charlie Hasbargen says. "It's been a tragedy and we're mucking through. But in the midst of all this tragedy, we've seen a hell of a lot of angels and they're out in the woods there with

us. They've been in the nursing staff, the doctors. This Log A Load and these loggers are no different. People are heartbroken, and it tears your heart out. But the amount of care we've seen from people, a lot of good things have come out of this. In amongst this hell, there's been a ton of angels."



Loaded trucks navigate the roundabout on the International Falls truck route on the way to the PCA mill.



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# News Anchor Tries Logging



In September, the WDIO-TV News Program “The Lift” visited Pittack Logging’s harvest to shoot a story on sustainable harvesting in Minnesota. Above, WDIO Photographer shoots Pittack’s cut-to-length processor harvesting trees. Below, Lift anchor Baihly Warfield joins Scott Pittack in the cab of the processor, where she was shown how it works, even cutting a couple of trees herself. The story focused on the history of the Pittack family business, as well as the company’s recognition as 2024 Minnesota Logger of the Year. A link to the story can be found at the TPA website: [www.timberproducers.com](http://www.timberproducers.com).



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# Logger of the Year Nominations Being Accepted

**T**he Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program Implementation Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2025 Logger of the Year Award.

The award is designed to recognize outstanding independent logging contractor performance, increase the visibility of competent professional independent logging contractors within the forestry community, encourage independent logging contractors to emulate the outstanding performance of award winners, and improve forester-logger-landowner relations by publicly recognizing outstanding logging performance as an essential element of every planned timber harvest.

Among the areas in which nominees will be evaluated are safety, forest management, timber harvesting practices, business management, as well as community involvement.

To nominate an outstanding logger, visit the TPA website at [www.timberproducers.com](http://www.timberproducers.com) and download the electronic nomination form. Complete the nomination form describing why you think your nominee should receive the Minnesota SFI Implementation Committee Logger of the Year Award. Your nomination should include Letters of Support from peers, private landowners, agency staff, etc.

**Nominations are due Friday, March 14, 2025.**

## Previous Minnesota winners include:

- 2024 – Pittack Logging
- 2023 – Central Pine Lumber
- 2022 – Enberg Logging
- 2021 – Kimball’s Logging
- 2020 – Fjeran Forest Products
- 2019 – JATCO, Inc.
- 2018 – Shermer Logging\*
- 2017 – Dobbs Logging
- 2016 – Hasbargen Logging\*
- 2015 – Greg Cook Logging, Inc.
- 2014 – Scheff Logging
- 2013 – Rolle Logging
- 2012 – Erickson Timber
- 2011 – M&R Chips
- 2010 – Lovdahl & Sons LLC
- 2009 – Berthiaume Logging LLC\*
- 2008 – Pittack Logging
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# Public Concerns Registration Process

In 1998, The Minnesota state legislature created a program for citizens with concerns regarding timber harvesting and forest management practices. Called the “Public Concerns Registration Process (PCRP), the Minnesota Forest Resources Council administers the program and responds to any questions or concerns received.

According to the MFRC, the program is not punitive to stop logging or resolve disputes over forest management activities, rather it provides citizens a means to voice concerns regarding timber harvesting and forest management practices in Minnesota and educates involved parties on sustainable forest management.

“Landowners, loggers, and foresters benefit by becoming more aware of public concerns regarding forest management, and by learning more about our Voluntary Site-Level Forest Management Guidelines (FMGs),” says the MFRC’s David Wilson. “The program offers a process to address concerns and encourage sustainable management of Minnesota’s forests through outreach, education, and development of a shared understanding of sustainable practices.”

Since the PCRP started in 1998, 32 concerns have been received by the Council of which 19 were deemed in-scope and addressed.

One concern was registered in 2023 regarding a timber harvest by a neighboring private landowner, raising questions about aesthetics, fire hazard, and forest regeneration.

A neutral independent contractor visited the site with the logging contractor who performed the harvest. It was determined that:

- The site was certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- The logger did not leave an unusually high amount of slash.
- Slash was knocked down to 2-3 feet of the ground to reduce visual impacts as recommended by the forest management guidelines (FMGs). Most of the slash was in direct contact with the soil.
- Much of the slash within the landing and primary skid trail was deposited there to provide support for equipment and to reduce rutting.
- The logging debris was not determined to increase the fire potential at the site.

- Debris and slash did not reduce aspen regeneration in the general harvest area.
- The landing was created and maintained in accordance with FMG recommendations on infrastructure management.

Findings of the PCRP are shared with the logging contractor, land manager, and with the person registering the concern.

Should a concern registered through the PCRP reveal logging or forest management practices that aren’t aligned with the FMGs, the findings are used to educate parties about applicable forest management guidelines. The MFRC does not impose punitive measures through the PCRP.

“The outcome in this instance is fairly typical of the PCRP process,” Wilson says. “We almost always find that the logger was aware of the FMGs and performed the harvest in accordance with the guidelines.” With the quality of loggers in this state, that’s no surprise. According to Wilson, “the PCRP provides a great way to educate those who register concerns—and the public at large—on proper forest management techniques and the high-quality sustainable forest management practices of loggers in Minnesota.”



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# Safety Pays: Recognizing Hazards

By John Saccoman, Loss Control Consultant, Choice Insurance, A Viance Company

PARK RAPIDS, MN



**B**eing aware of your surroundings is essential when identifying all the hazards that are associated with a logging site. Highlighting those hazards and communicating them to your crew can make a difference in remaining injury-free.

A hazard is any source of potential damage or harm to someone or something.

Since his teenage years, Mike Walsh has been associated with logging. As far back as he remembers, that started with his dad back in 1981. Walsh is now owner/operator of C&M Walsh Logging, Inc., in Park Rapids, MN, with his son, Dylan.

Walsh said he is cognizant of hazards right from the start when he's creating his landing.

"Safety always plays in your mind," he said. "When you look at your sale and how you're going to attack it safely...what's the easiest on your equipment, all of that."

Walsh said that though he's been around for a long time, he really hasn't had any close calls or major incidents at his sites. Maybe the closest he's come to a serious injury happened early in his career.

"When I was a kid at 16, I cut my knee with a chainsaw. I said 'dad, I think you're going to have to take me in.' My dad was really pretty good. He said 'yeah we should go get that taken care of,'" Walsh said chuckling. "Now we really barely ever even run chainsaws, with all the mechanized equipment."

That said, Walsh said identifying problem areas like hills or holes is always part of the on-going process of staying safe. And then communicating those areas to the other operators on site is vital too.

"We have 2-way radios in here

so we (his son Dylan) can stay in contact all the time. If he sees a real big hole, he can mark it on the mapping system on our machines or he'll tell me so I don't fall into it," Walsh said.

Expecting the unexpected is part of the job. Walsh said you never know what you'll run into in the woods.

"You might have old dwellings out here where people might have had a well," he said. "So, there's holes out in the woods where we work all the time."

Other hazards such as overhead power can sometime come into play.

"I've personally never taken a powerline out, but I've had employees that have. He knew it was there, and he just forgot about it and took the powerline out. I had to call the power company and get it fixed but thankfully nobody was hurt," Walsh said. "They know enough not to get out of the machine if that happens."

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration hazard recognition should be an ongoing effort. The exercise of doing that doesn't have to be complicated. These are a few of OSHA's tips.

- Identify and review all the hazards present or likely to be

- present on your logging site.
- Communicate those hazards to all employees involved.
- Conduct daily inspections of your worksite to see if there are any new or recurring hazards.
- Consider what would be emergency or non-routine situations associated with those hazards.
- Determine the severity and likelihood of incidents stemming from the hazards and prioritize corrective actions.

If you can, the best method to control or prevent a hazard is to eliminate it. If you can't eliminate it, try to isolate your employees from the hazard. Ideally, move them away from the hazard.

Next, give employees best practices, education about the identified hazards and/or warnings. Training, warning signs, safe operating procedures, backup alarms, equipment inspections and cleaning are all parts of hazard control.

Finally, all employees should have the proper personal protective equipment. High-visibility vests, proper footwear, hearing protection, hard hats, safety glasses, gloves should all be considered.

Even with all the hard work and good intentions involved with identifying hazards and trying to work safely a little luck is never a bad thing.

"Since I've been doing this, with all the mechanized equipment, we've had nothing major," he said. "You just try to figure it out the best you can."



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## Dobbs Again Featured on Bulletin Cover

In 2013, the *Timber Bulletin* began a tradition of featuring the work of photographer Lori Dobbs on the cover of its November-December issue. That tradition continues for the 12th year in 2024.

Dobbs is a resident of Littlefork, and is the wife of TPA board member Gordy Dobbs. Her work captures the essence of northern Minnesota forests.

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

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# On the Markets

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

## Recent Timber Sales

**Average prices, as reported by each agency**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>
---------------	----------------	---------------------

### Cass County

October 31st — Oral Auction

Aspen	\$41.03	\$25.12
Red Oak	\$32.06	\$23.30
Birch	\$19.34	\$12.76
Maple	\$18.98	\$13.17

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

### Koochiching County

November 6th — Oral Auction

Aspen P/B	\$30.56	\$35.25
Spruce P/B	\$20.03	\$20.48
Balsam P/B	\$ 8.13	\$10.56
Ash P/B	\$ 5.45	\$ 6.53

All 23 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### St. Louis County

November 7th — Oral Auction

Aspen	\$45.07
Black Spruce	\$12.90
Ash	\$ 5.49
Norway Pine	\$36.56
Balsam	\$11.48

17 of the 21 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### DNR—Littlefork Area

December 3rd — Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PW)	\$23.02	\$24.48
Mixed Spruce (PW)	\$10.74	\$10.27
Balsam Fir (PW)	\$ 6.14	\$ 5.86
Jack Pine (PB)	\$42.41	\$19.59

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

### Beltrami County

December 3rd — Sealed Bid

Aspen Pulp	\$41.38
Tamarack Pulp	\$ 4.50
Ash Pulp	\$10.00
Red Pine Pulp	\$12.00

All 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### DNR—Hibbing Area

December 4th — Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PB)	\$38.23	\$38.16
Aspen Species (PW)		\$33.17
Norway Pine (WST)	\$60.95	\$85.36
Norway Pine (PB)	\$22.23	\$30.86

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

### DNR—Baudette Area

December 5th — Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PB)	\$24.02	\$29.63
Black Spruce (PW)	\$ 5.95	\$ 7.00
Jack Pine (PB)	\$15.75	\$33.00
Norway Pine (PB)	\$24.62	\$27.67

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

### Beltrami County

December 5th — Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp	\$47.42
Red Pine Bolts	\$82.35
Jack Pine P&B	\$31.37
Basswood P&B	\$17.30

All 11 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Itasca County

December 11th — Oral Auction

Aspen	\$35.47	\$33.51
Red Pine	\$48.50	\$82.60
Spruce	\$20.57	\$16.13
Jack Pine	\$15.82	\$ 9.56
Balsam	\$10.70	\$11.17

40 of the 52 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### DNR—Deer River Area

December 11th — Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PW)	\$27.38	\$33.64
Ash (PB)	\$ 7.93	\$15.47
Balsam Fir (PB)	\$ 6.90	\$12.51
Norway Pine (WST)	\$63.60	

All 15 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Products:

PB = Pulp and Bolts

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PW = Pulpwood

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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

## Care Given to Old Jacks

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*



I spent my childhood in the Bemidji area, and grew up with the logging industry. I have known most of the big and near big logging companies and many of the smaller jobbers that worked for the larger firms.

One of my pet peeves is to hear people today sound off about the terrible living conditions of the old-time lumberjack. There seems to be a tendency to picture old-time logging companies and loggers as exploiters of labor that had little thought or feeling towards the lumberjack other than to work him 10-12 hours daily, give him the poorest housing, feed him the worst food, give him meager pay and send him off to the poorhouse to die when he was old. *This was far from the truth!*

Most companies and independent loggers took very good care of their workers and older men. They and their foremen had a following of jacks that worked for them year after year, and they made a special effort to help and keep their working force.

Men who worked many years for a company often were kept on the payroll long after they were able to produce, and were paid as long as they were able to walk to the table to eat.

It was not uncommon to see several old jacks working around camp – piling, splitting wood, filing lanterns and doing minor chores while they recuperated from illness or injury (or were just too old to work in the woods.)

I remember going to a Crookston Lumber Co. camp, where George Brown was foreman, and seeing 12 old jacks just able to hobble to the table. Only when they couldn’t walk to the table were they taken from the camps.

Many older jacks were kept on as camp watchmen or were allowed to take care of a few head of horse during the summer months when the camps were not in operation.

They were given jobs that they were capable of such as watching railroad crossings, haying hills on the ice roads and working as night watchmen.

Some companies set up shacks and furnished food for their old-timers. During slack times. I have seen camp foremen stop

on the street and pick up several old-timers and take them to the camps to rest and be fed. One could always stop at a camp and stay several days even if the camp was not hiring at the time. Very few old lumberjacks went to the poor house or became recipients of public care.

In 1916, there were about 30,000 men working in lumber camps in Koochiching County; there were only five old men in the county poorhouse.

In some smaller towns, companies set up small hospitals where their men could go if hurt or sick and stay until they were able to return to camp. During the peak of logging days, many jacks had hospital tickets they bought from the “Lumberjack Sister” of St. Mary’s Hospital in Duluth; and they could go there if sick or disabled. The companies often paid for these hospital tickets.

Much has been said about the poor food that was given the jacks. This was not true. While I worked as log inspector in 1922. I ate and stayed at more than 70 camps that winter, and with the exception of fresh fruit and milk, the food was as good as or better than food served in leading hotels. The best food available under the conditions was always served, and the camp foremen were always looking for the best cooks. They knew that a well-fed crew was a happy crew and put out the best work. It was only in a few of the smaller jobber camps that one occasionally found poor food.

It was true that no inside toilets or shower baths were found in the camps, but

very few homes in the small towns had these facilities during the early 1900s. However, most camps had a small building where men could wash their clothes and “boil-up” to get rid of lice. The men themselves did a good job of policing. If a man came to camp that they thought might bring lice, they insisted that he “boil-up” before sleeping in the bunkhouse. There was always plenty of soap and hot water available.

The lumberjack was a happy, clean living individual in camp. This was not true when he went to town to blow his stake. He then slept in “dump hotels” or boarding houses and lived under pretty tough conditions until his stake was gone. Then he was ready to return to camp. His camp foreman or company man would rescue him from the “vultures,” get him back to camp and give him a few days to get back into shape for work. I have seen these men stay in camp up to two weeks before they were able to go back to work after blowing a big stake.

There were no relief rolls during the heyday of the logging industry and it was not until the late 1920s and early 1930s that transient and W.P.A. camps were set up to take care of these men. This was after most camps had closed and companies had gone out of the logging business. During the peak days of the logging industry, it was the companies and loggers that looked after their workers. If all industry took as good care of its workers as the logging industry did there would be few complaints.



# Classifieds

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

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