

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

JULY/AUGUST 2024

VOLUME 79

Celebrating 70 Years at the Expo
Forestry Works Update
Log A Load Helps Children



North Star Expo:
September 13th
and 14th
in Grand Rapids



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TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 79
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Duluth, Minnesota

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ON THE COVER

The Latest in Logging Equipment will be on display at the 70th North Star Expo. For more, see page 10.

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President's Column



Kelly Kimball

Thank you,
Kelly Kimball

Kelly Kimball

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First, I would like to thank Corey Lovdahl for the fantastic job he did serving as president of TPA for the past two years. He was very positive and always willing to show up to help. His service is much appreciated.

As I sit to write my first President's column on a cool August morning, I hope everyone is able to find wood to cut during this very wet summer. What a change it has been from last summer; from weather struggles, labor shortages, and hard manual labor. It all makes our industry very difficult to navigate. The old saying holds true, "men are as tough as the timber they cut."

It was great to see everyone at the annual meeting in June, and I look forward to the upcoming North Star Expo's 70th year in Grand Rapids on September 13-14. Thank you to the Expo committee for the great job they do and to all the vendors who show up for us. Start practicing now for the loader contest and see you all there!

An anonymous writer once wrote, "Anyone who has never made a mistake, has never tried anything new."



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The 2024 edition of TPA's North Star Expo is right around the corner on Friday and Saturday, September 13th and 14th at the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids.

This year marks the 70th year of the Expo, an event that got its start way back in 1953, as a "Field Day" with sawing and chopping competitions. That first event also

Executive Vice President's Column



Ray Higgins

history—including pictures—appears elsewhere in this issue of *The Timber Bulletin*.

Chad Lovdahl and his Expo Committee have been working hard to make this landmark 70th Expo a special one. Already, we've had more vendors register than a year ago, and more businesses have signed on as sponsors, too. We are grateful for this support.

When you attend this year's Expo, you'll see vintage logging equipment, and other ways to acknowledge the tradition and history of the Expo and of logging in our state.

So, I look forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids on September 13th and 14th as we celebrate our industry in Minnesota.

As you know, the weather hasn't been exactly ideal for logging the last couple of years. The winter of 2022-23 had way too much snow, this past winter was way too warm, and this spring and summer have been far too wet for good, productive logging.

So, at a recent meeting I attended, I listened with great interest as DNR climatologist Kenny Blumenfeld gave a presentation regarding recent winter weather statistics and what

we might expect this coming winter.

While last winter featured "El Niño" conditions that frequently result in warmer-than-normal winters, this year we're shaping up for a "La Niña," characterized by cold weather in the Pacific Ocean that typically results in cooler-than-normal winter temperatures in our region.

Blumenfeld also pointed out that Las Niñas often produce more snow as well, and that sometimes this all doesn't kick in until February or March. Though other climate factors are at play as well and nothing is guaranteed. I think we all agree that it's encouraging that good cold winter weather conditions, great for loggers throughout our state, is forecasted. After the last couple of winters, I'd say we deserve it.

By the way, as a result of this past winter's difficult logging conditions, TPA was among those asking the DNR for more wood on the market sooner. They responded with the statewide sealed-bid auction on August 13th. We've also been in conversation with the DNR and others regarding how to successfully operate on winter sites in less-than-optimal logging conditions. All sides agree we want to sustainably harvest timber to benefit healthy forests and wildlife habitat, while keeping rural economies healthy as well. As always, the devil's in the details. I'll keep you posted on how these conversations progress.

In June, it was great to see so many turn out at United Truck Body in Hermantown for an event designed to help commercial truck drivers comply with state and federal regulations.

The day was orchestrated by Tech Sgt. Jeff Shay of the State Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division and included others from the State Patrol, as well as the Wisconsin State Patrol for those who travel interstate. Drivers with questions related to legal weights, roadside inspections, interstate vs intrastate travel, and more, were able to talk through these issues and learn how to stay compliant. Blaine Brothers was there serving lunch with its grill truck, and North American Trailer and Hydraulic

Specialty, Inc. also provided sponsorship support.

Staying abreast of current regulations is important, and safety is even more so. I thank all who spent this important time helping our drivers make it home safely to their families each night.

We've had some comings and goings that I'd like to mention:

Tina Myhre joined TPA as our office manager in 2023. She enjoyed working with all of you and would have liked to stay, but unfortunately had to part ways for personal reasons. I'd like to publicly thank Tina for her work here and wish her well as she moves on.

In the interim, we were fortunate to have Keely Kemp help us out on a short-term basis—many of you got to meet Keely at the Annual Meeting. Keely was tremendous. And now Ruth Campbell has joined our staff as our permanent Office Manager. Ruth is doing a great job since joining us earlier in the summer, and I look forward to having you meet her at the Expo and work with her in the coming months and years. Welcome Ruth!

Finally, Rod Enberg has completed his term on TPA's Executive Committee, and Corey Lovdahl has completed his term as TPA President. Corey remains on the Executive Committee as Past President. Both are great loggers, great TPA members, and it was my honor to serve this organization with their guidance. What's more, they're both gentlemen and all-around great guys. I'm proud to know you both. Thank you both.

Moving into our President's role is Kelly Kimball of Park Rapids. One of the many great things about TPA is that there's no shortage of good, wise, leaders in our organization, and Kelly fits that mold to a "T." Kelly has long been a leader in our industry, and I look forward to him continuing that service as TPA President over the coming years.

Recently the priest at our parish retired. He concluded his final homily with a great message: "Forward then. Always forward."

★ NORTH STAR EXPO ★ FRIDAY NIGHT RECEPTION

TimberLake Lodge—Grand Rapids



5:30PM

Friday, September 13, 2024

Free Hors D'oeuvres

Cash Bar

Door Prizes

Featuring the Jason Waldron Band



Please join us after a fun-filled day at the Expo!



Jack Cedergren was the longtime chair of TPA's Mechanization Committee. Here he hosts one of the equipment demonstrations at the 1969 Equipment Show at the Cloquet Forestry Center.

The North Star Expo: A 70-Year Legacy

For seventy years, what's known today as the North Star Expo has been a celebration of the mechanization of harvesting timber in Minnesota: of the transition from axes and handsaws, to chainsaws, to the feller bunchers and cut-to-length

harvesters we have today.

The Expo's genesis was back in 1953, when nearly eighty Minnesota loggers gathered near Lake Isabella in northern Lake County for the inaugural "Timber Producers Field Day." It was an event that featured sawing and chopping contests,

safety demonstrations—and of course, lunch.

The site of that first event is steeped in logging history and tradition. The Field Day was held at Forest Center, headquarters of the Tomahawk Timber Company's logging camp on the edge of what is now the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. From 1949 to 1964, as many as 250 people lived in 53 homes at the camp. Loggers worked with over one hundred horses to harvest from 100,000 to 150,000 cords of timber per year. The camp also featured a school, recreation/restaurant hall, store, lumber mill, DM & IR railroad spur, and more.

The date of that Field Day was August 27th. Attendees arrived at the remote location by train over standard-gauge forest railroads. The sawing and chopping contests were held in the morning—overseen by TPA board member George Biondich, the "portly and popular contract logger from Koochiching County", according to a *Timber Bulletin* account of the event. The afternoon featured demonstrations

of safe logging techniques and a discussion of the most common types of accidents in the woods, featuring TPA Safety Committee chair Bob St. Amant.

That first Field Day also featured something not seen since at a TPA event: salesmen from the Elliott Meat Company hawked the quality of their hams and sides of bacon, necessities in the camps of fifty to one hundred lumberjacks of the day.

The 1953 Field Day was a huge success. Only two complaints were received: that the Lake Isabella site was too remote, and that the event lacked logging equipment. As a result of the near-universal praise of the event, TPA decided to make it an annual affair.

“Several equipment companies have indicated their interest in an outdoor field demonstration on an actual logging operation,” TPA President W.G. Wey wrote in the *Timber Bulletin*. “Several members have indicated their willingness to bring to such a demonstration equipment and devices developed on their operations which would be of interest to other loggers.”

The following year, Field Day was held at the University of Minnesota’s Experimental Forest—now known as the Cloquet Forestry Center—just west of Cloquet. It featured equipment manufacturers exhibiting skidders, crawler-tractors, loaders, chain saws, front-end loaders, and logging trucks. Attendance nearly tripled from the previous year.

From there, the event only grew. Jack Cedergran was charged with leading TPA’s Mechanization Committee which kept members abreast of new technology, as well



At the first Timber Producers Field Day in 1953, attendees gather to watch Waldo and Carl Dahlberg of Effie prepare to compete in the two-man sawing contest. The Dahlbergs would go on to post the fastest time of the day.

as putting on the annual Field Day. Remarkably, much of the timber harvesting machinery that transformed logging in the 1950s was designed, built, tested, and modified by loggers themselves, working out of small-town garages in Minnesota and the Lake States.

Bob Larson—who also owned a Studebaker dealership in Ely—tinkered with logging equipment in his Studebaker garage. His first invention was the Hiabob Loader, modifying a Swedish machine to produce the first hydraulic pulpwood loader in the Lake States. Leo Heikkenen of Prentice, Wisconsin developed the Prentice Log Loader. Nestor Siiro and his son Ron built the first effective feller-buncher, and later a timber slasher in their garage at Angora. Longtime TPA members Bud Holm of Cook and Ray Hahn of Tofte built log

processors. The Ramey Brothers of Two Harbors and John Hood in Iron River assembled early skidders. Morris and Ed Bartell of Duluth made Barko Loaders in their shop in West Duluth. All of it was displayed at the annual TPA Field Day.

“There was a rapid adaptation of technology,” Cedergran told the *Timber Bulletin*. “Mechanization opened it all up. It was a different concept entirely. And the people who were designing and building that equipment were the people who were producing the wood themselves.”

By the end of the 1960s, mechanization had revolutionized logging in Minnesota. Gone were the logging camps that had ruled supreme since the turn of the century, replaced by family logging companies that were able to utilize the latest equipment, which was far



TPA member George Biondich of Koochiching County was a fixture at early TPA Field Days, stopwatch in hand, timing the various contests.



In 1968, Wayne Hubert, driver for the Johnson Lumber Company in Bena, arrives at the State Fairgrounds with a load of tree-length jackpine—limbs and all. The trees were then “planted” on the Fairgrounds for TPA’s “Space Age Forestry Show.”

more efficient. It also meant these small companies faced the need for major capital investment in the new machines.

To bring the story of sustainable forestry to the masses, TPA developed the “Space-Age Forestry” show for the Minnesota State Fair. Cedergren’s Mechanization Committee worked with equipment dealers around the state to make it happen for three years, from 1967 through 1969. TPA members hauled full loads of tree-length jackpine—limbs and all—to the State Fairgrounds in the Twin Cities to allow fairgoers to watch how professional loggers got the job done. TPA members sunk culverts vertically at the State Fair site and then “planted” trees with the Siiro Fell-Bucker Processor. The state’s mills allowed their foresters to staff a booth in the Fair’s nearby Agricultural Building where attendees could ask questions. For the entire ten-day run of the Fair, loggers staged three shows daily, demonstrating the skidders, shears, and chippers in use throughout our

state’s forests. All this in addition to staging the annual Field Day/ Equipment show up north.

“The main idea was to show actual logging and the industry’s concern for forest health and sustainability,” said TPA executive president Russ Allen. “It was a big expense, but we got the word out about the importance of logging and the management of Minnesota forests.”

Meanwhile, the Equipment Show continued to grow. For the first time in its 21-year history, the 1974 show was a two-day affair, and after twenty years at the Cloquet Forestry Center, the event moved to the Buffalo House between Duluth and Esko on US Highway 61. Following four years there, the event was held at several northern Minnesota locations, including the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids, Bemidji’s Beltrami County Fairgrounds, the St. Louis County Fairgrounds in Hibbing, and the DECC in Duluth.

In 1985, the event became the North Star Expo, a name it holds to

this day. It also had a new site: The Brainerd International Raceway. It included more than 80 vendors displaying \$5 million in equipment, with more than 3,000 people in attendance.

Since then, sites like the South St. Louis County Fairgrounds in Proctor and the Sanford Center in Bemidji have also hosted the North Star Expo. As we reach our 70th year, the picturesque Itasca County Fairgrounds has become the regular site of the event, thanks to its central location and beautiful wooded surroundings.

“The Expo has an incredible history,” says TPA’s Expo Committee Chair Chad Lovdahl. “I’m guessing the men who started this event back in the 1950s never considered whether we’d still be having it all these decades later. They started an important tradition that we’re proud to continue at the Expo each year. It’s a legacy that’s important to TPA and all who work in the woods in our state, and I’m grateful to those who had the foresight to start it.”

70th North Star Expo: September 13th and 14th

The North Star Expo returns to the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids on Friday and Saturday, September 13th and 14th. As always, there will be lots to see and do, including the latest and greatest in logging equipment from all of the region’s top manufacturers and vendors.

To celebrate TPA’s 70th Expo, this year’s event will feature vintage logging equipment, and representatives of the Forest History Center in vintage logging garb. That’s in addition to the great Expo tradition of great food, networking, and conversation. Plus:

- The Friday night reception for all vendors and attendees at the TimberLake Lodge returns. The reception will feature FREE hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar, as well as door prizes. It all begins at 5:30PM on Friday, September 13th.
- McCoy Construction and Forestry will again provide a free pancake breakfast on Saturday morning from 7AM to 9AM.



High schoolers from around the region get to watch a live harvest as part of the Future Forest Stewards program at the North Star Expo.

“We’re excited for the 70th year of the Expo,” says TPA Expo Committee chair Chad Lovdahl. “As usual, our Expo Committee and the TPA staff have been working hard to make sure this is another great event. It’s always the highlight of the year and we’re looking forward to it.”

Also, the *Future Forest Stewards* program returns for high school



The North Star Expo is a great event for families of all sizes.

students from around the region to learn about our industry. The event is again sponsored by the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, the regional economic development organization APEX, Itasca Economic Development Corporation, the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training, and the Applied Learning Institute, which strives to enhance technical education in northeastern Minnesota.

Like at any Expo, there will be plenty of competitions:

The Best Load Competition: both the wood and the truck will be judged! In addition to cash prizes for the top finishers, Fleet Pride of Bemidji is donating prizes for the top three finishers, including a \$500 gift certificate for the top load!

The Loader Contest will also be held again this year, as well as the Master Loader contest. Winners will receive cash prizes!

In the Coloring Contest, kids in three age groups will show their artistic ability. This issue of the Timber Bulletin has a pull-out poster for the little ones to enter. Just have them color the poster and either bring it to the Expo or mail it to the TPA office. Entries will be posted at the Expo for all to enjoy.

Expo Workshop for Private Landowners

At this year's North Star Expo, the Minnesota Forestry Association is again offering a workshop titled "Having a Healthy Forest," designed to inform landowners how and where to find opportunities and incentives

to create a healthy forest on their property, including discussions about cost share opportunities for tree planting, timber stand improvement projects, timber harvest, and wildlife projects.

Landowners will learn how and when to remove trees, if needed, to meet their management objectives. If you are interested in more information, MFA can arrange a free visit to their woodlot with a forester to answer any specific questions.

This free workshop will be offered in concert with the North Star Expo at 3:00 p.m. on Friday September 13th in the Log Building located at the Itasca County Fairgrounds.

We'll have fun for the whole family. We'll see you on September 13th and 14th in Grand Rapids!

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Plans have been completed for the Timber Producers Field Day and by now everyone has had an announcement listing the activities. Previously we had announced that loggers would bring their best sawyers or choppers to engage in a contest. This has been changed and the members of the association will compete against each other in the contests.

We hope every member will be present for this field day. The demonstrations of safety by Harry Jefferson, American Pulpwood Association, will be especially worthwhile. The messages and information to be presented by Bob St. Amant, Jim Riordan and Don Eisenach will be very practical and useful to every logger.

We will be looking forward to seeing you at Forest Center on August 27 at 10 o'clock.

President W. G. Wey

TIMBER PRODUCERS FIELD DAY

Forest Center, Minnesota

August 27, 1953

All members of the Timber Producers Ass'n. and their guests are invited to attend the First Producers Field Day to be held at the Main Headquarters of the Tomahawk Timber Company at Forest Center (Camp 3) which is at the end of the DM&IR Railroad and adjacent to Lake Isabella. This will become an annual affair if your attendance and response make it successful.

R. V. St. Amant, Chairman of the Association Safety Committee, assisted by Secretary Hoene has arranged a full day of activities and events both instructive and entertaining. The program is as follows:

MORNING SESSION

Registration begins at 10:00 a. m. at the Tomahawk Timber Company Office, Forest Center, which is to the east of the Railroad landing.

Following registration sawing and chopping contests will be held with all members eligible to participate. Those using a regular 4 ft. cross-cut or bowsaw will be required to saw through a 9" Jack pine log. George Biondich will hold the log and keep time with a stop watch. Contests will also be held for two men sawing with a two man cross-cut saw that will cut a 14" Norway pine log. Those in the chopping contest will chop through a 9" Jack pine log. Members should start practicing now for these events.

When the contests are completed the group will be shown through the new sawmill operated by electric motors which are powered by a diesel engine and which does its cutting with a Swedish-type gang mill. This is the only mill of its type in this area and has only

been in operation for a few months.

Lunch will be served at the Dining Hall near the main office.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon will be devoted to safety in logging. Bob St. Amant will welcome the members and guests and will describe his safety program and the results.

Turtle club certificates and new hard hats will be given to two of the Tomahawk employees by Jim Riordan, W.P.&R.S. Mars Company. These men were recently saved from serious injury by their hard hats while cutting pulpwood. Both of these near accidents took place within the same week.

The most common type of accidents which occur in the woods will be briefly discussed by Don Eisenach, Employers Mutual Liability Insurance Company.

Outdoor demonstrations of safe practices versus unsafe practices, will be conducted by Harry H. Jefferson, training officer of the American Pulpwood Ass'n. Mr. Jefferson will very forcibly bring home the fact that most accidents can easily be prevented and that most woodsmen do not realize they are being careless until after the accident takes place. This part of the program will be conducted in a timbered area within walking distance of the Camp. The program should be completed by late afternoon.

TPA's first field day is announced in the August 1953 edition of *The Timber Bulletin*.

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Examples of advertisements from 1953 issues of The Timber Bulletin, representative of what loggers used at the time of the first TPA Timber Producers Field Day.



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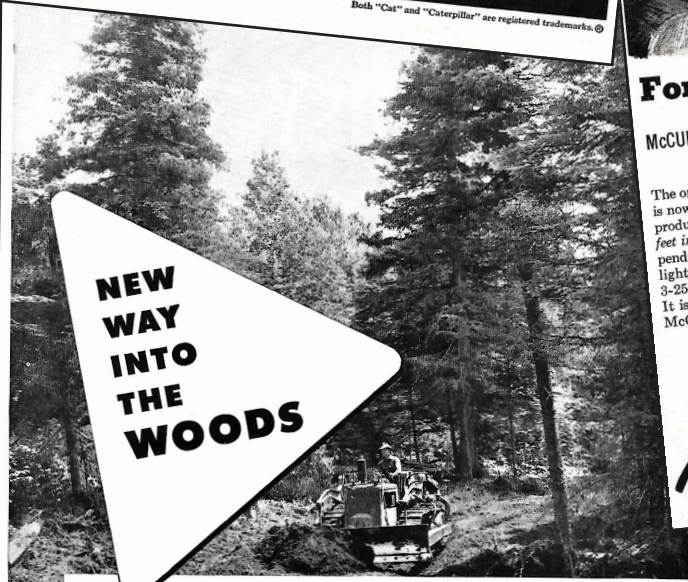
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Itasca County Fairgrounds, Grand Rapids

Minnesota's largest logging equipment show, the North Star Expo is attended by Minnesota's loggers, truckers, and all who support our state's 5th largest manufacturing industry!



2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 13

9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Equipment Displays Open
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Future Forest Stewards
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Celebrity/Media Loader Contest
12:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Loader Contest (sign up at site)
5:00 pm	Equipment displays close
5:30 pm	Cash Bar & Social Hour begins <u>@Timberlake Lodge</u> in the Oak Room with heavy hors d'oeuvres & door Prizes

Saturday, September 14

7:00 am – 9:00 am	Free Pancake Breakfast (Sponsored by McCoy Construction & Forestry)
9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Equipment displays open

NORTH STAR EXPO
70 YEARS

Thank you to our Gold Sponsors!



Over The Years at the Expo

More photos from 70 years of the North Star Expo



At the 1993 Expo at the DECC in Duluth, Allstate Peterbilt Utility is recognized for its outdoor display, awarded a ribbon by TPA's Bruce Barker (left) and Ray Killmer (third from right).



Jim and Mike Skubic are recognized for their indoor display at the 1993 Expo, receiving their ribbon from TPA's Rod Bergstrom (left) and Ray Killmer (right).



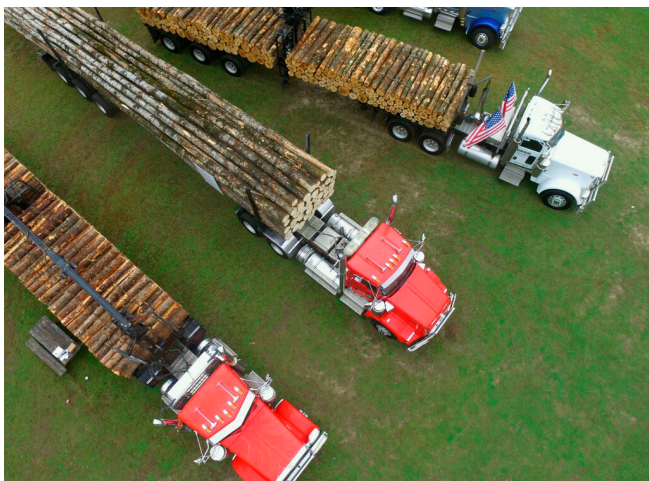
Lowell and Scott Pittack are joined by their family with their best load entry circa 1998.

2007:
Three generations of Lovdahls with their best load entry.



The early morning hours at the 2013 North Star Expo at the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids.

School kids ask questions at the 2015 Expo, held at the Sanford Center in Bemidji.



2016: An aerial view of Best Load entries.



Over the years the Expo has been visited by dozens of lawmakers, including Governors, Senators, and state legislators. In 2021, Congressman Pete Stauber made one of his many visits to the Expo in Grand Rapids.



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2024 Timber Management and Taxation School

A one-day workshop designed to help loggers, with up-to-date information on federal tax treatment of income and expenses associated with the sale of timber is being offered in Cloquet in November.

The event will be on November 13th from 10am to 3:30pm at the Cloquet Forestry Center (175 University Road, Cloquet).

The University of Minnesota Extension Agricultural Business Management and Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative is sponsoring the event. In addition to loggers, tax professionals, foresters, landowners, agricultural lenders, and farm management instructors would benefit from the topics discussed at the workshop.

The event will include presentations by Tamara Cushing, a timber taxation specialist from the University of Florida, and Mike Kilgore of the UMN Department of Forest Resources. These presentations will offer a rare opportunity to update your timber taxation knowledge.

The unique aspect of this event is that it involves professional foresters, logging contractors, landowners, and tax professionals all in the same workshop. To best serve each group's clientele, everyone should understand the respective role(s) each group serves. The session will include ample time for questions and answers.

The registration fee is \$50 (\$75 after November 8th) and covers workshop materials, refreshments, snacks, and lunch.

To register, visit: <https://z.umn.edu/TimberTaxSession>



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Safety Pays: Poster & Kit Enhance Logging Safety

By John Saccoman, Choice Insurance Loss Control Consultant
Millheim, PA

Raising awareness to the dangers loggers face in the woods is part of the on-going effort to keep them safe.

It's human nature that allows the mind and actions of any employee to sometimes wander. Staying vigilant and focused on the task at hand becomes difficult when working long hours in often brutal conditions.

That may be less of a problem if you're in charge of counting widgets at a table. But when you're in and around large, mechanized logging equipment, any mistake can be not only costly, but deadly.

The Timber Harvesting and Transportation Safety (THATS) Foundation recently rolled out a new initiative aimed at increasing safety within its logging community. A six-point poster emphasizing ways to protect loggers from injuring themselves is the main point of emphasis.

The THATS Foundation is a charitable organization. It was established in 1991, with a goal to "promote, support and serve as a catalyst for safe and professional work attitudes, practices, and conditions in timber harvesting and transportation."

The THATS Foundation is administered by the Forest Resources Association (FRA), a national trade association that represents the entire wood supply chain. FRA promotes "safe, efficient and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from the woods to the mill."

The six areas of safety include the topics and corresponding bullet points: Awareness, Safety Training and Discussions, Personal Protective Equipment, Felling, Machine Operation and Maintenance.

Wes Miller is in charge of Business Development and Governmental Relations for A.M. Logging, LLC, in Millheim, PA. Miller was on the foundation committee in charge of raising the bar in terms of safety and brainstorming ways to increase safety awareness. Miller said that as the committee's chair, he took it personally to have the committee create something that could make a difference. The effort was really organic and grass rooted.

"Will the poster prevent an injury, no," Miller said. "But boy it'll make

you think and that's what will prevent it."

After suffering a few slip injuries with his employees, Miller pointed to his own company's efforts to raise awareness on the three points of contact when mounting and dismounting equipment as a success story.

"We plastered three points of contact stickers on everything we have. They're everywhere. And guys are tired of our safety guy talking about it," Miller said with a chuckle. "But since we started to pay attention to it, we have just eliminated it. And we're like 30 months out now without a reportable injury."

Miller said the six rules, which are not all inclusive, were chosen to coincide with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) six colors scheme.

With multiple logging crews, Miller said his company hangs its poster in the high-traffic, employee area of its shop where timesheets are located. But, he said, the poster was made to be weather resistant and could be hung outside on jobsite trailers, etc.

"It's really made out of a good solid material so it would have a life and the weather won't deteriorate it," Miller said.

The \$50 package includes the 19.5 x 40-inch poster, 5 keychains and 20 stickers to remind loggers of "essential safety precautions."

Miller said John Deere provided the initial funding for the poster project with the goal of trying to reach as wide of an audience as possible.

"Our goal was not to make a profit off of it," Miller said. "It's just to cover the expense and keep it rolling as we move forward."

Miller said if/when the program is successful, it could be parroted to other occupations as well.

"We say if this works for logging, it will work for trucking," he said. "We could build out a trucking safety poster because trucking is part of our safety initiative for THATS Foundation as well."

Stay tuned.

For more information on purchasing a 6 Rules of Safety Kit, please visit <https://forestresources.org/product/thats-6-rules-of-safety-kit/>



A sampling of the contents of the THATS foundation Logging Safety Kit.

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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

Agency Regular Intermediate

DNR—Good Neighbor Authority

June 11th—Sealed Bid

Aspen Species (PW)	\$19.89	
Norway Pine (PB)	\$52.36	
Maple Species (PW)	\$ 8.86	
Paper Birch (PB)	\$14.83	
Norway Pine (WST)	\$42.40	

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

DNR—Northeast Region

June 11th—Sealed Bid

Aspen Species (PW)	\$45.95	\$36.47
Balsam Fir (PW)	\$ 5.94	\$ 5.69
Black Spruce (PB)	\$32.01	\$32.57
Maple Species (PB)	\$12.73	\$19.76

34 of the 51 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Central Region

June 12th—Sealed Bid

Aspen Species (PW)	\$19.56	\$17.74
Oak Species (PB)	\$23.41	\$20.41
Norway Pine (WST)	\$82.00	\$40.12

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

DNR—Northwest Region

June 14th—Sealed Bid

Aspen Species (PW)	\$33.64	\$32.52
Norway Pine (WST)	\$91.53	\$91.53
Jack Pine (PB)	\$20.09	\$33.94
Balsam Fir (PB)	\$ 6.03	\$20.71

34 of the 46 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Hubbard County

July 8th—Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp	\$39.37
Birch Pulp	\$12.92
Norway Pine Mixed	\$61.05
Jack Pine Mixed	\$25.09
Basswood Mixed	\$ 5.34

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

DNR—Warroad Area

July 23rd—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PW)	\$27.50	\$36.24
Norway Pine (PB)	\$46.64	\$33.26
Mixed Spruce (PB)	\$13.16	\$28.09
Jack Pine (PB)	\$18.14	\$24.96

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

Cass County

July 25th—Oral Auction

Aspen	\$42.54	\$27.31
Red Oak	\$35.93	\$23.51
Birch	\$21.17	\$15.21
Maple	\$18.99	\$12.76

All 15 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Beltrami County

August 6th—Sealed Bid

Aspen Pulp	\$33.84
Red Pine Pulp	\$ 8.40

All 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Koochiching County

August 7th—Oral Auction

Aspen P&B	\$32.19	\$37.53
Norway Pine P&B	\$58.45	\$47.31
Spruce P&B	\$24.76	\$31.22
Jack Pine P&B	\$56.44	\$49.83
Balsam P&B	\$ 9.07	\$12.61

22 of the 24 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Beltrami County

August 8th—Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp	\$48.01
Red Pine P&B	\$21.38
Red Pine Pulp	\$17.23
Jack Pine P&B	\$35.48

All 12 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Products:

PB = Pulp and Bolts

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Log A Load Thanks Loggers in Minnesota

Log A Load For Kids is an annual nationwide campaign that started when loggers, and others in the forest products community, donated the value of a load of logs to their local Children's Miracle Network (CMN) hospital. Today, Log A Load is a leader in CMN Hospitals' fundraising, raising more than \$2 Million annually through golf tournaments, fishing events, dinners, truckloads of log donations, and other events.

Children's Miracle Network is a nonprofit organization committed to helping sick and injured children of all ages, regardless of their affliction or ability to pay. Here in Minnesota, the Minnesota Timber for Humanity Foundation started raising money for Log A Load in 2001. All proceeds are donated to Minnesota's CMN Hospital and Gillette Children's in St. Paul, with satellite clinics in Alexandria, Baxter, Bemidji, Burnsville, Duluth, Mankato, Maple Grove, St. Cloud, and Willmar. Nationwide, CMN sponsors 170 hospitals.

Money raised through Log A Load is used in a variety of ways:

- Family financial assistance program to ensure no patient is turned away for financial reasons
- Child and Family Services (Child Life, music therapy, animal therapy, occupational therapy, etc.)
- Research
- Areas of greatest need within the hospital

The program hit close to home for logger Brady Hasbargen of Whitefish Creek Logging in Birchdale. Hasbargen is a longtime member of Minnesota's Log A Load fundraising committee, and earlier this year his nephew suffered a severe

brain injury. He visited him while hospitalized in the Twin Cities and Hasbargen heard first-hand the importance of the care provided by the Children's Miracle Network through Gillette.

"It really opened my eyes how amazing it is where our money goes," Hasbargen says. "Unfortunately, our nephew didn't improve enough to receive care from Gillette, but I spoke with the doctors and nurses who care for those kids. They told me how important our donations are. When you hear where the money goes and how it helps, you realize how important the program is. It made me completely re-dedicate myself to helping Log A Load."

Minnesota's Log A Load Committee has been very active. Several loggers and truckers took part in a harvest last year with all proceeds—more than \$30,000—going to Gillette. There's also a golf scramble at Pokegama Golf Course in Grand Rapids each September that over the years has raised more \$200,000. Loggers can also donate the value of a load of logs through the following participating mills: PCA, UPM, LP, West Fraser, Savanna Pallets, Sappi, and Potlatch.

You can contact your procurement forester and let them know you would like the value of the load at the scale donated to Log A Load for Kids.

"Minnesota Loggers have been a strong supporter of Log A Load for Kids, donating year-round, in good times and during struggling economies," says Minnesota Log A Load committee chair Jessica Raad. "It's truly a team effort. Without the support from our loggers—and often times the silent matching donations from others in the timber industry—our success would be limited. It is beyond words how rewarding it is to be a part of a group that gives year after year to others. To witness the selflessness of our donors is humbling. Loggers are some of the most kind, humble, and hardworking people supporting children in need."

"No donation is too small," Hasbargen says. "You think it needs to be thousands or millions of dollars to make a difference, but the money we put there is a big deal. For a family that doesn't have resources to get the very best care, the dollars loggers donate make a huge difference in their lives."

Log A Load will have a display at the North Star Expo in September. Donations are 100% tax-deductible. To make a donation, please make checks payable to: Log A Load For Kids®, and send them to Treasurer Brian Lochner at 4725 Crosley Avenue, Duluth, MN 55804.





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ForestryWorks: Building Careers in the Forest Products Industry

TPA is proud to be a contributor to the ForestryWorks of Minnesota program. Program Manager Michael Sullivan is making an impact in his initial months on the job, striving to grow the industry workforce with a focus on communication and networking. Michael discussed his recent activities with the *Timber Bulletin* and the strides he's making for ForestryWorks.

Q: For those who may not be familiar with ForestryWorks of Minnesota, could you provide an overview of the organization and its objectives?

Sullivan: ForestryWorks of Minnesota is an initiative dedicated to promoting and supporting careers in the forestry and forest products industry within our state. As the Program Manager, I oversee a variety of activities aimed at increasing awareness and interest in this vital field. Our efforts include outreach to schools and communities, partnerships with educational institutions, and providing resources for students and job seekers. We focus on highlighting the diverse opportunities available in forestry, from traditional roles like logging and forest management to emerging areas such as sustainable forest products. Our goal is to ensure a steady pipeline of skilled professionals who can contribute to the sustainable management of Minnesota's vast forest resources.

Q: You've had a busy few months since taking on the role of Program Manager. How important are events like the Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP) conferences for your role?

Sullivan: The MLEP conferences in Bemidji and Virginia were pivotal. They provided an excellent platform for networking with industry

professionals, particularly loggers, and staying updated on the latest trends and challenges in the logging industry. These conferences are invaluable for building relationships and sharing knowledge within the community.

Q: You've also been building connections with workforce development experts. What has that entailed?

Sullivan: Meeting with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)—particularly with Workforce Strategy Consultant Shayla Drake—and the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training have been crucial. These discussions help align our goals with state workforce strategies, ensuring that we're working in harmony with local and state priorities, benefiting the businesses in need of new employees.

Q: How are you advancing Career and Technical Education (CTE) in forestry?

Sullivan: I'm starting with partnerships, which are essential. I have had productive conversations with educational leaders. Goals include enhancing curricula to reflect industry standards and creating work-based learning opportunities such as internships and apprenticeships. I am raising awareness of forestry careers through outreach programs and supporting educators with professional development and resources. By providing schools with the necessary materials, we ensure students receive a high-quality forestry education, preparing them for sustainable careers in forestry and contributing to the industry's future. These efforts aim to ensure we have a skilled future workforce ready to

tackle the industry's challenges.

Q: Lastly, how important is the ForestryWorks Job Board for the industry, and how are you promoting it?



Michael Sullivan

Sullivan: The ForestryWorks Job Board is a crucial tool for connecting employers with potential employees in the forestry sector. It's vital that employers post job openings there to reach a wide audience. We are actively promoting these job opportunities through our website at www.forestryworks.com/minnesota, participating in job fairs, and running targeted digital marketing campaigns to drive traffic to the website. This multi-faceted approach ensures that we get the word out effectively and help employers find the skilled workforce they need. I encourage TPA members to reach out to me if they need help finding folks to work for their business.

It's been an exciting and rewarding few months. The support and enthusiasm from the industry has been incredible. I'm committed to continuing this momentum, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that ForestryWorks continues developing a pipeline of qualified workers for Minnesota's forestry and forest products industries.

Michael Sullivan can be reached at msullivan@MNForestryWorks.com or at (218) 310-4822.




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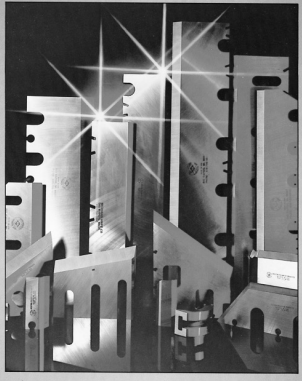
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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

Logging in the Winter of '07

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*



Snow removal still remains the worst problem that the logger has to contend with in his winter operations. Last year [1969], by February 1, the snow in the Cloquet Valley district was 52 inches deep at the Cloquet Valley station and 60 inches deep in the Brimson areas.

The snow settled from the bottom as there was no frost in the ground. By March 1, the snow cover was down to about 42 inches over most of the district. Many small logging operators had to give up their operations entirely, and the production of pulpwood and other forest products was greatly curtailed.

However, there have been other years of deep snow; and while it always seems to slow production, it never entirely stops it. Man always has figured out a way to overcome the obstacles. The winter of 1936 was a bad one, but the deepest snow I recall came in the winter of 1907.

Back in those early days there never was such a thing as a blocked logging road. The reason for this was that when the first snowflake fell, the camp foreman ordered out the snowplows, which plowed all during the storm. When the storm was over, the roads were still open. If they had allowed the roads to become blocked, they probably would have remained closed. I have seen as many as 24 horses pulling a snowplow. The plows were all made of split pine logs shaped into a “V”. When the snow was deep, two of the logs were fitted, stacked one on

top of the other.

While the logging roads were always kept open, there were times when log production stopped and the whole crew was sent to tramp roads. If a new road had to be opened along in the month of March to a new tract of timber and the snow was four feet deep, the crew would be out to tramp roads leading to the tract. After the tramping, the road bed would freeze so that horses could walk on it, and the road then was cut by a snowplow and “rutter.” The worst problem caused by deep snow was that it covered all the logs that had been cut early, and many were never found by the “swampers” and “skidders.” Also, any pine tree felled in deep snow would sink almost out of sight.

Nearly every year, some hunter stops at the station and tells about finding several big pine logs lying in the woods, mostly rotted away, and wonders why the industry could be so wasteful in leaving good timber. These are probably the results of the winters of deep snow when the logs could not be found.

In the winter of 1907, north of Bemidji and near Lake Beltrami, was one of the nicest stands of Norway pine I have ever seen. As a boy, I, along with my mother and other women of the once busy lumbering town of Turtle River, picked blueberries in the area. The pine was all cut clean; this resulted in large open areas of blueberries. Most of this area was cut by the Bemidji Lumber Co., but there was one area —

owned by another firm — of several forties which was cut during the winter of 1907. In wandering about, picking blueberries, we always could tell where we were because of the high stumps. Most of the area’s stumps during 1907 were twice the height of stumps in the area cut during other years. Old-timers told me that snow reached 6-7 feet high that winter and that many logging companies had to send crews in the next summer to pick up logs missed by the skidders.

Because of the chance that the snow would become deep later in the winter, a good camp foreman never allowed sawyers to get more than a week ahead of the skidders. The foreman tried to keep the skidders as close on the heels of the sawyers as possible. Not only was there a chance of logs being covered by snow, but the longer the logs lay the harder they froze into the snow, making it difficult for teams to get them broken loose. Obviously, the ideal situation was to skid the logs the same day they were felled.

Early snows that came before the ground was frozen were always a problem to the loggers; all low spots had to be tramped first by men and frozen before horses could cross. Rivers and creeks would not freeze and often flowed across a logging road — if deep snow came early.

While deep snow caused much more work for the logger, the keeping of the main logging roads open seems to have been one of the least of problems.



Horses pull “V”-shaped plow of two stacked pine logs.



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