

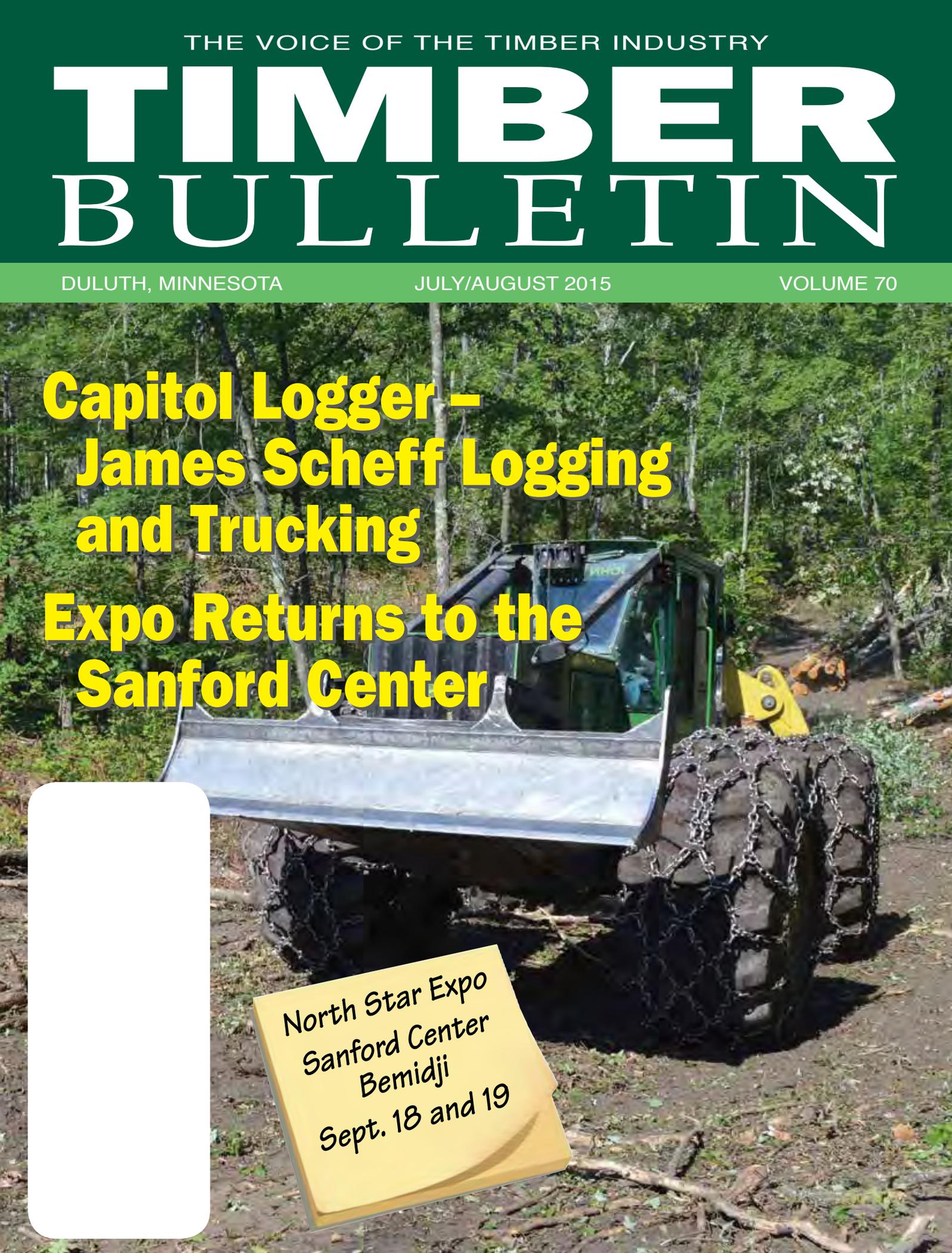
THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

JULY/AUGUST 2015

VOLUME 70

A green skid steer loader with a silver bucket and chain tires is positioned in a forest. The loader is facing left, and its bucket is lowered. The background is a dense forest of green trees.

Capitol Logger – James Scheff Logging and Trucking Expo Returns to the Sanford Center

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Duluth, Minnesota

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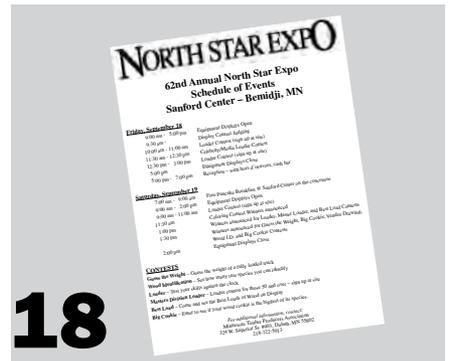
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ON THE COVER

Jeff Staffon operates a John Deere 848H skidder for James Scheff Logging and Trucking. For more on the company, turn to page 8.

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Our forests are constantly under attack whether it is from storms, fires or tree-devouring pests. Those of us in the industry know the best way to combat these natural disasters is to maintain a healthy productive forest. With that being said, our role as timber producers may shift to teacher or timber sale administrators when dealing with private landowners. Along with this shift in roles comes greater responsibility not only to meet the

President's Column



landowner's objectives but to ensure that the forest continues to be healthy and productive for generations to come. We are

very fortunate in Minnesota to have many sources and tools at our disposal, such as MLEP, private forest consultants, MFA and many others. I also believe the education aspect may be one of the most useful tools we have. We need to take the time to talk with landowners about options that are available for their land. We also need private landowners to be actively managing their land, seeing they own 40% of the land in Minnesota. It may take more effort to cut for private landowners but the satisfaction of helping them meet their goals can be quite rewarding.

Scott Pittack

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July Storm Creates Blowdown in the Pillsbury SF



Hheavy rains and a windstorm July 12 resulted in 580 acres of blowdown in the Pillsbury State Forest, just west of Brainerd.

According to the DNR, 70% of the acres are pine. Significant amounts of oak were also uprooted, while aspen made up less than seven percent of the blowdown.

At the time of the storm, all forest roads and trails were impassable, and all campgrounds were inaccessible, necessitating the closure of the Pillsbury until roads could be opened.

All roads and recreational facilities in the Pillsbury State Forest just west of Brainerd, have been closed until further notice following a heavy rain and windstorm on

Sunday, July 12, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division.

"The bulk of the damage occurred between Nisswa and Brainerd," said Steve Bartz, DNR Brainerd area assistant forest supervisor.

The DNR held a salvage timber auction on August 12, at which four of the twelve tracts offered for sale were purchased. Another salvage auction was scheduled for early September.

The DNR wishes to remind loggers that those harvesting blowdown can get an extension on an existing state permit on a cord-for-cord basis. Contact the local DNR forestry area office for more information.



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We lost a true friend with the passing of State Representative David Dill. David was a smart guy with great gut-instincts about issues. I never had to explain an issue to him twice, he grasped issues and facts quickly. He grasped them on substantive and political levels and on their importance to his district. David was a great representative of

Executive Vice President's Column



his district because he was part of the fabric of his district. Whether it was hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, logging, tourism and economic development or tax policy, education, roads and local

projects he knew his district, its needs and what was most important.

David liked serving in the Legislature and he did it with a twinkle in his eye. He enjoyed the give and take and the wins and losses. He enjoyed working with his colleagues and all of us lobbyists. As a very successful self-made businessman he brought a perspective to service that is not universal in the Legislature.

I will miss David Dill.



The *North Star Expo* will be held September 18 and 19 at the Sanford Center in Bemidji. Last year's show at the same location was a big success. Vendors have been reserving space for this year's show ahead of last year's great pace so it will be packed with equipment, products and service providers. Mark it down on your calendar and be sure to attend.



Congratulations to MFI VP Forest Policy Tim O'Hara who has accepted the position of woodlands manager with Boise in International Falls. A 20-year employee of MFI, Tim is well known and a tireless advocate for forest management. He replaces Dan Toivonen who is now Louisiana Pacific's Lake States procurement manager based in Hayward, Wis.



Thank you and congratulations to the DNR Division of Forestry, their field staff and leadership! For Fiscal Year 2015 which ended June 30 they sold 918,556 cords of pulpwood, sawtimber, bolts and poles. When Other Units of Measure (tons, thousand pounds and pieces) for biomass and other products are added in the total sales volume was 950,901 cords. The total volume offered for all units of measure was 1,198,383 cords with 992,955 being pulpwood, sawtimber, bolts and poles.

During the 2013 legislative session TPA went to bat for increased funding for the Division of Forestry and the Legislature responded with a significant increase. This increase became effective for fiscal year 2015.

Now the Division of Forestry staff has responded with a tremendous sale program during the past fiscal year. I would encourage all of our members to make a point of thanking the DNR Foresters you work with for having a great year.

Again, thank you and congratulations to the DNR Division of Forestry!



Writing about Representative David Dill's passing made me think about his passion for and long career flying planes. He founded and ultimately, in his twenties, sold a very successful air cargo business with he and some childhood friends doing the flying in the beginning. Pilots are a unique bunch in my experience – very smart and very dedicated to their craft. And, if they are successful over any reasonable period of time, very committed to safety. From their training, planning and judgement to their equipment and conditions the good ones always put safety first. They don't take unnecessary risks and consider the situations they face before going headlong into them.

Good advice for all of us in our daily work and lives.

Wayne E. Brant



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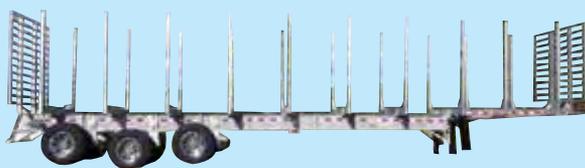
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Member Feature...



James Scheff Logging (L-R): Dave Patch, Jim Scheff, Jhace Pearson, Sarah Scheff, Susy Scheff, Jeff Scheff, Tammy Hammerlund, Dave Scheff, and Matt Pearson.

Capitol Logger

Harvesting last year's Christmas Tree for the U.S. Capitol drew a ton of attention, but each harvest is a highlight for James Scheff Logging and Trucking.

by Ray Higgins

Hundreds of folks gathered in the Chippewa National Forest last October, and although the holiday was still nearly two months away, Christmas was on everyone's mind.

As 2014 Minnesota Logger of the Year, Jim Scheff was there too, drawing the assignment to harvest the 80-foot white spruce that was destined for the West Front of the

U.S. Capitol in Washington to serve as our national Christmas Tree.

Scheff was the center of attention on this festive morning, in front of media from all over the region, and posing for pictures with seemingly every man, woman, and school child on hand. Even U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar smiled and blurted out, "I like being with the logger

of the year," as she threw her arm around Jim for a photo op. It's hard to imagine Santa on his best day taking so many photos with folks filled with holiday cheer.

"I knew it was going to be a big deal," Jim says now. "But not that big."

If Scheff had had his way, he would've included so many others

in each photo, like brothers Dave and Jeff, mother Susy, his late great father Arlo, nephew Dave, Jr., son-in-law Matt Pearson – who’s turned into Jim’s right-hand man – and members of his seven logging crews – three conventional, three cut-to-length, and a chipping/grinding operation – as well as the truckers and mechanics who keep the wood moving. All of them have been critical to the company’s logger of the year award, as well as to the success of James Scheff Logging and Trucking.

“I can’t do this by myself,” Jim says. “So many people are a part of it. I’m lucky to be surrounded by so many great, hard-working people.”

When the business started in Marcell, just north of Grand Rapids, nearly forty years ago, no one could have predicted that the honor of cutting the Capitol white spruce – much less being named Minnesota’s logger of the year – would fall to Jim. To say the business had a humble beginning would be an understatement. Chalk it up to hard work, a strong family, and great employees.

The story begins in southwestern Minnesota. By the time Jim was



Brian Leonhard harvests aspen pine with a Timberpro TL725-B feller buncher on one of three conventional logging crews James Scheff Logging utilizes.

five-years-old, the Scheff family had moved to the Ozark Mountains of Missouri and back to Minnesota, settling in Marcell, where Jim’s father landed a job in the pallet mill. The family also grew crops on their

land, with Jim and Dave spending their days working the farm or running around in the woods.

“We were inseparable,” Dave says of his brother, who’s four years older. “I spent every minute with

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Harvested aspen is dragged to the landing for delimiting by Jeff Staffon with a John Deere 848H skidder.

“I had a little stand,” Dave says. “Dad built it and I stayed out there all summer. I’d sell crawlers in the spring and then when our sweet corn and vegetables were ready, I’d sit out there all day long and sell them. Word got out. People would come from all over the place. Cities people, tourists would come by. For years people asked why we ever quit because that was the best corn and vegetables around.”

Business was so good, Dave was able to buy a brand new motorcycle, just from selling corn and night crawlers.

“In order to get something, you had to work for it,” he says. “It was just ingrained in our heads that we were going to have to work if we wanted anything.”

“Dad helped us, guided us that way,” Jim says. “He was a hard worker himself.”

Logging was also becoming ingrained in their lives. By the time Jim was 14, he’d purchased an old tracked Bombardier to use as his first skidder.

“It actually worked pretty well,” Jim says. “The bed could tip and it had a winch on it, so you’d winch it up on there, and then the bed went down, and you could get the tree

him. We played out in the woods, built forts, and what he wanted to do, I wanted to do.”

But it wasn’t all fun and games. There was work to be done.

“When Jim was a little bugger, he’d go out into the field and log little weeds and stuff,” Dave says. “He always had logging operations going on.”

In the meantime, Dave was nurturing his entrepreneurial side, always doing something to make money. For example, he went and found night crawlers and frogs and sold them to the anglers who frequented the area lakes. And since there was corn on the farm, he’d set up a stand at the end of the driveway and sell it to passers-by.



Scheff’s delimiting machine on this job is a John Deere 2054, operated by George Newman.

length on there. We took the wood and sold it to the Marcell mill.

By 15, Jim was more interested in logging than school, so he quit Deer River High (he's since earned his GED).

"I just didn't want to be there," he says. "I wanted to work."

It's not a path Scheff encourages, but work he did, going to the local DNR and Forest Service offices to buy 'Section 1' sales over-the-counter.

"I'd go in and ask if they had any timber," he says. "Back then, they'd 'Section 1' these little parcels out.

"One time when I was 16, I'd bought this whole big state sale as a 'Section 1.' I just signed for it and never thought any more about it. We were just about done with it, and something came up regarding a consumer or something, and you had to put your age down. When the forester saw I was only 16, he yelled, 'Snake bite!'"

As a result, the boys enlisted their mother Susy to sign the contracts for both the timber and the equipment they bought, including when it was time to switch from the Bombardier to a Timberjack cable skidder.

"There was a rental/purchase on that first Timberjack," Jim says. "I didn't have any money for a down payment, so ma had to co-sign for it. And Dad did not believe in going into debt. He didn't believe in our pipe dream. So on the way to the bank, Ma said, 'I'll take you up there James, but don't let me down.'"

He didn't, cutting enough wood and then selling it to pay off the loan in no time.

By the summer of 1980 when Jim was 18, wood markets had collapsed and he couldn't sell his wood. No one could. So he and his brother Jeff headed to North Dakota to work in the oil fields.

"By then, everything was paid for," he says. "The pick-ups, the chainsaws, the skidder, everything. We had no debt. So Jeff and I just went out there for four months."

By fall, the Scheffs had had enough of oil and were headed back to Marcell, where the chainsaws and Timberjack were waiting. Markets had improved, so they bought a little Bobcat and headed back to the woods. And on top of that, Dave was ready to quit school and join the crew as well.

"It was just the three of us for a

lot of years," Dave says. "We cut a lot of wood that way. Jeff would do the falling, I'd skid and Jim would slash. We'd cut a lot of pine, and that would go to Page and Hill and the tree-length aspen would go to the Marcell mill.

"That first year I worked was difficult," Dave adds, "we worked harder than we ever have, and we made \$1,700."

Nearly all of their wood was marketed through brokers. As a result, the Scheffs focused on

developing the relationships to get their own contracts, even making weekly trips to company foresters in search of steady deals. After a couple of years, the Scheffs had earned enough credibility and developed solid enough relationships to receive monthly contracts at Potlatch and Blandin. The volumes were small at first, of course, but they grew over time.

With contracts in hand, the Scheffs steadily built a good business. In 1999 they added one cut-to-length



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Adam Ortman operates a Barko 495ML slasher/loader, preparing harvested aspen for transport to the mill.

operation, and eventually a second one. Jim owned the company, but Dave and Jeff worked shoulder-to-shoulder with him, with Susy continuing to lend a hand with the books and payroll. Plus, they added an excavating business and had all of the cats, dozers, and belly-dumps that go with that. When Potlatch sold its three OSB mills to Ainsworth, the relationship the Scheffs had fostered continued to the point where 60 percent of their timber volume headed there.

And then the crash of 2006 hit. Housing starts in the U.S. fell from around two million in 2005 to roughly a fourth of that the following year. Demand for OSB dried up, forcing the idling, and ultimately the closure of the Ainsworth mills. And of course that meant a huge loss of business for many Minnesota loggers, including the Scheffs.

"It was devastating when Ainsworth closed," Jim says. "We brought half of our equipment home. We didn't have any work for them."

However, failure wasn't an option. They put their heads together and came up with a plan: first, because markets had dried up for their round wood, they purchased a grinder to sell

biomass. Their relationship at UPM Blandin eventually helped them get a contract at the company's Rapids Energy plant.

"That was a huge investment," Pearson says. "Those chippers and

grinders and vans are expensive."

"We would not be here without UPM," Jim adds. "When Ainsworth shut down, UPM started hiring us to build roads for them and stuff. Without that, we would not be here. We can't thank them enough."

Secondly, the Scheffs began calling every mill they could think of, trying to get their foot in the door for places to take their wood.

The strategy worked. They found enough markets to not only put their idled crews back to work, but they actually had enough buyers to add crews. Instead of getting smaller, their business actually grew.

"We didn't have any choice but to get bigger," Dave says. "We kept scrounging up all these contracts."

"Markets were changing so quickly," Jim says. "Day by day, one mill would shut down, another one would open, you couldn't predict it. All the people I was talking to were knocking on my door, and we were trying to please them."

Things got even bigger a year ago when they signed a long-term contract with US Steel to clear the thousands of acres the company owns on the Iron Range to the east.

"We instantly hired two more full



Scheff logging also operates three cut-to-length logging crews. Here, after aspen is harvested with a cut-to-length processor, a John Deere 1270D forwarder is used to pile the wood on the landing.

crews just to keep up,” Dave says. “It instantly doubled what we had to cut. We had all this wood bought up, the machines we had were already allocated for wood we’d already bought.”

Today, the Scheffs deliver to every major wood consumer in the state. With seven crews across the three conventional operations, three cut-to-length, and the chipping/grinding crew, they have 30 employees in the woods, plus roughly 20 trucks and drivers to make sure the wood gets delivered to the various consumers.

They’ve also added a second shop for maintenance. The original shop is just northeast of Marcell where all the trucks are serviced. And three years ago when they needed more room to maintain the woods equipment, the Scheffs purchased the since-closed Marcell pallet mill site right in town. Plus, there’s a fully-equipped service truck for times it’s necessary to go to the vehicles in the woods, and with seven logging operations, that’s all the time.

Right now, their logging jobs are spread out over a range of 80 miles. In fact, the Scheffs currently own stumpage in seven Minnesota counties – they’ve even worked in Wisconsin over the years – across all ownerships: county, state, federal, and private.

To keep it all running as smoothly as possible, Jim, Dave, and Matt have divided responsibilities: Jim handles the big picture stuff, as well as works on markets and bids on timber; Dave oversees all the employment and “human resources” issues; while Matt manages the woods crews.

“There’s no job title for anybody,” Matt says. “Everyone’s empowered to make a decision.”

Still, all three run equipment. Jim handles as much of the dozer and Cat work as possible, clearing roads on the various logging sites, and Matt and Dave will hop in a piece of woods equipment when necessary as well.

“It’s really hard when you’re running a piece of equipment and getting all these phone calls and stuff,” Jim says. “Especially a dozer. You have to stop because you can’t talk because your hands are busy. But they’re important calls. And I



Scheff Logging’s maintenance crew (L-R): Dennis Miller, Dave Patch, Jeff Scheff, and Rob Vlasnik.

love doing that. I love operating a piece of equipment. That’s why we are here right now today.”

Jim and Dave’s mom, Susy, still helps out with the bookkeeping too, although at age 84 she’s backed off a bit, now just handling the checks. She’s handed the rest of it over to Dave’s fiancé, Tammy, and daughter-in-law, Sarah.

The next generation of Scheffs is lending a hand, too. Aside from

Sarah and Matt, Dave’s son, Dave Scheff Jr., is running a forwarder on one of the cut-to-length crews – he’s actually been helping for more than 15 years since he was 12 – and is starting to take on some management responsibilities, too. But of course James Scheff Logging and Trucking keeps thriving with more help than just the Scheff family itself.

“We have some unbelievable



Jim Scheff (in orange) was the center of attention as he prepared to harvest the 2014 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree in the Chippewa National Forest.

employees," Dave says. "The crews we have over in Virginia, I can leave them over there for a whole week and they're doing exactly what they're supposed to do. That's how good they are."

"These guys are leaving their houses at 5 a.m.," Matt says, "and often times they don't get home until 7 that night or later. They miss out on a lot of family time, a lot of kid functions. They're hard workers, and we appreciate it."

"It's a different breed," Jim says. "Even the truck drivers sitting on top of those center mounts in the cold wind; you don't find guys like that every day."

"We have a lot of guys who have ten-plus years' experience, just with us," Matt adds. "They started here and they haven't left. They like what they do and they like who they work for."

The work ethic of Scheff's employees and the value they bring to the company was never more evident than in March when the spring load restrictions on the state's roads were imminent, and the Scheffs still had thousands of cords of timber in the woods that needed to get to the mill. If they couldn't get it done before break-up, the wood would have to stay there for several weeks until the load restrictions were lifted. But all the wood made it out in time. Dave Scheff calls it a miracle.

"Our truck drivers pulled together," he says. "I never dreamed they could have pulled it off. At night when they couldn't deliver they were yarding it out. I mean, they pulled off a miracle. Seven different sites, several different consumers. They made it all happen. They got every stick out."

"A lot of wonderful people work for us," Dave adds, "and their families who support them."

It's those employees who in large part made the Scheffs' Logger of the Year honor happen. The award is based in part on strong adherence to the forest management guidelines and a company's excellent stewardship of the forest. Particularly in a company the size of James Scheff Logging and Trucking, much of that falls on the woods crews.

"It starts with the buncher operator," Jim says, "laying the trees down so the skidder can get out of there without rutting. It's a whole joint effort."

"You've got boundary limitations, you've got wetlands, you have all this stuff planned out," Dave says. "It's up to that operator. If he cares, he does a good job. Like I said, we have a lot of good employees. They're the ones who follow the BMPs on the ground."

The hoopla surrounding the Logger of the Year Award and the Capitol Christmas tree has died down, which is fine with the Scheffs. They like to have fun and share a laugh as much as anyone, but they also take their jobs of managing the business – and the forest – just as seriously as they did when they started nearly 40 years ago.

"I never dreamed about owning my own business," Jim says. "I just wanted to be a logger."

And he and the rest of the family still follow the example set forth by Susy and Arlo: work hard, and don't go too far into debt.

"We still don't finance much stuff," Jim says. "We don't like being in debt. We learned from Dad."

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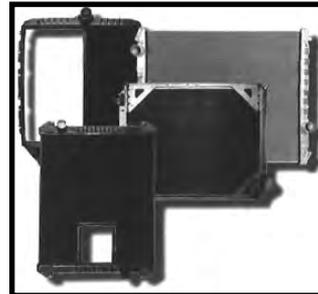
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Heibel Named Kooch County Land Commissioner

Nathan Heibel has been named the new Koochiching County land commissioner. He replaces Dennis Hummitzsch, who retired in July.



A native of Littlefork – and a graduate of Littlefork-Big Falls High School – Heibel joins the county after 14 years working as a forester at Boise’s mill in International Falls. During his years with Boise, Heibel was active in many sectors of Minnesota’s forestry community, including serving on TPA’s Expo Committee.

Timber Talk

“I grew up in Koochiching County, and have spent almost my whole life here,” Heibel said. “The county’s tax-forfeited land base has always played an integral role in my life, from work to recreation. Having the chance to be responsible for the overall management of these lands is something I’m looking forward to.”

Toivonen to LP

Dan Toivonen has been named regional wood procurement manager at Louisiana-Pacific Corporation. He’ll oversee wood purchases at LP’s Two Harbors siding mill, as well as the company’s siding facilities in Hayward and Tomahawk in Wisconsin, and the LP OSB mill in Sagola, Mich.



Toivonen joins LP after a five year stint as woodlands manager at the Boise mill in International Falls. Prior to that he held a similar positions with Potlatch and Sappi. Dan also served 21 years in the U.S. Army National Guard, including two deployments overseas, one in the Balkans during Operation Enduring Freedom, and one in Iraq

during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He retired in 2007 as a sergeant major.

O’Hara Named Boise Woodlands Manager

Boise Paper has named Tim O’Hara has its new woodlands manager, replacing Dan Toivonen.



O’Hara comes to Boise from Minnesota Forest Industries, where he worked as vice president of Forest Policy for twenty years. He also staffed the SFI State Implementation Committee while at MFI. He’ll oversee all wood procurement functions for the Boise mill in International Falls.

While with MFI, O’Hara spearheaded research designed to show various government agencies that more wood could be sustainably harvested from Minnesota’s forests. O’Hara was also the liaison between industry and a wide variety of policy makers on invasive species that affect the forest products industry such as the gypsy moth, as well as species like

the Canada lynx and the northern long-eared bat that were targeted for threatened or endangered status.

O’Hara holds a bachelors degree in forestry, as well as a masters degree, from the University of Minnesota.

Richard Bender, 1953-2015

Longtime logger and TPA member Richard Bender of Northome passed away in July. He was 61.



Bender was a graduate of Northome High School and became an independent logger, supplying Blandin, Norbord, Potlach and many others. He loved his logging equipment and maintained, fixed, updated and painted it continuously.

Richard is survived by his wife, Katrine Bender, of Northome; two daughters, Tricha (Jeff) Borland of Surprise, Ariz., and Ricci (Tyler) Billehus, of Minneapolis, and a son, Richard “Chase” Bender of Northome, Minn., and many of his loving friends and extended family.

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NORTH STAR EXPO

62nd Annual North Star Expo Schedule of Events Sanford Center – Bemidji, MN

Friday, September 18

9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Equipment Displays Open
9:30 am -	Display Contest Judging
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Loader Contest (sign up at site)
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
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Reception – with hors d'oeuvres, cash bar

Saturday, September 19

7:00 am - 9:00 am	Free Pancake Breakfast @ Sanford Center on the concourse
9:00 am - 2:00 pm	Equipment Displays Open
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Loader Contest (sign up at site)
11:30 am	Coloring Contest Winners announced
1:00 pm	Winners announced for Loader, Master Loader, and Best Load Contests
1:30 pm	Winners announced for Guess the Weight, Big Cookie, Vendor Drawing, Wood I.D. and Big Cookie Contests
2:00 pm	Equipment Displays Close

CONTESTS

Guess the Weight – Guess the weight of a fully loaded truck

Wood Identification – See how many tree species you can identify

Loader – Test your skills against the clock

Masters Division Loader – Loader contest for those 50 and over – sign up at site

Best Load – Come and see the Best Loads of Wood on Display

Big Cookie – Enter to see if your wood cookie is the biggest of its species.

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62nd Expo Returns to Bemidji's Sanford Center

For the second consecutive year, Minnesota's largest logging equipment show will be held at Bemidji's Sanford Center.

The 62nd Annual North Star Expo will be Friday, Sept. 18 and Saturday, Sept. 19. The Expo will again utilize the spacious Sanford Center parking lot, as well as the Sanford Center's arena floor with large equipment displays throughout.

"We're excited to be back in the home of Paul Bunyan," said TPA Expo Committee Chair Joan Pomp. "We had a great event at the Sanford Center a year ago, and we've been working hard to make this year's show bigger and better."

In addition to the usual equipment displays, the Expo will host a Friday night reception on the Club Level of the Sanford Center,



Mike Rieger (L) and driver Paul Tjepkes of Rieger Logging with their winning entry in last year's Best Load Competition. The Rieger entry was sponsored by UPM Blandin. Fond du Lac Logging provided the second place entry, while Greg Cook Logging finished third. The 2014 best load competition featured a total of six entries!















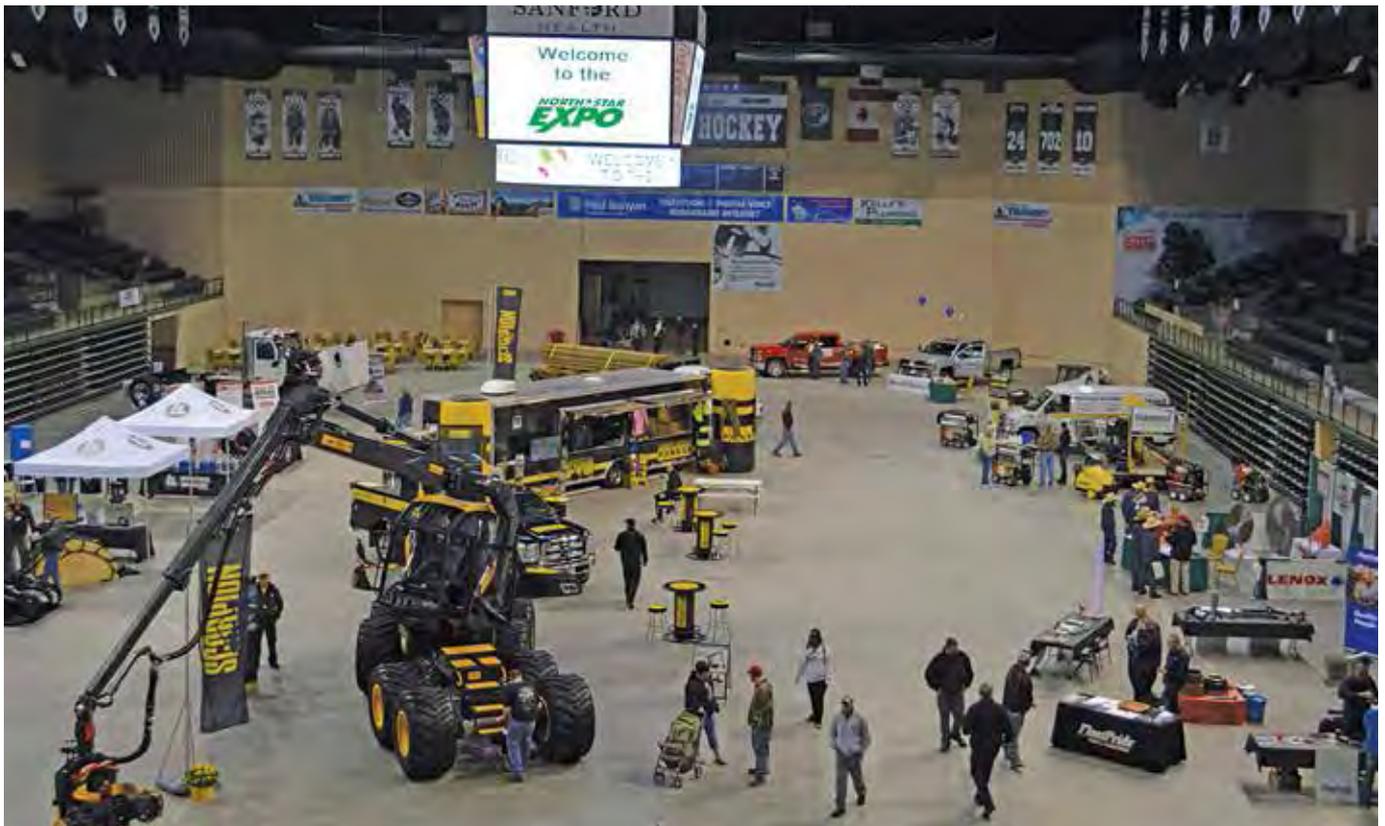


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Shortly before the opening of the last year's North Star Expo, vendors on the arena floor of the Sanford Center get ready to greet visitors to Minnesota's largest logging equipment show.

with free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar from 5-7 p.m. Admission to the reception is free, as is the Expo itself, including parking in the Sanford Center lots.

"Response from our vendors who want to show their stuff in Bemidji has been terrific," Pomp said. "The Sanford Center staff has been great to work with and the people of Bemidji and Beltrami County were wonderful hosts last year. We look forward to being with them again in 2015."

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

The Best Load contest is taking place again this year. Only the wood will be judged, not the truck it is hauled on. Points will be scored on the timber quality, product quality, product manufacturing, load appearance, and load securement. Monetary prizes are awarded to the top finishers.

The Loader Contest will also be held again this year, as well as the Master Loader contest. In addition, kids will have a chance to try their hand at a Mini-Log Loader.

The Coloring Contest will take place this year as well. In this issue of the *Timber Bulletin*, you'll find

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.

Don't forget to bring in your wood cookies for the Big Cookie Contest. Remember to attach a list

indicating species, where taken, and company name.

Test your visual skills and Guess the Weight! Entry forms will be available near one of the Best Load trucks.

We'll have fun for the whole family. See you September 18 and 19 in Bemidji!



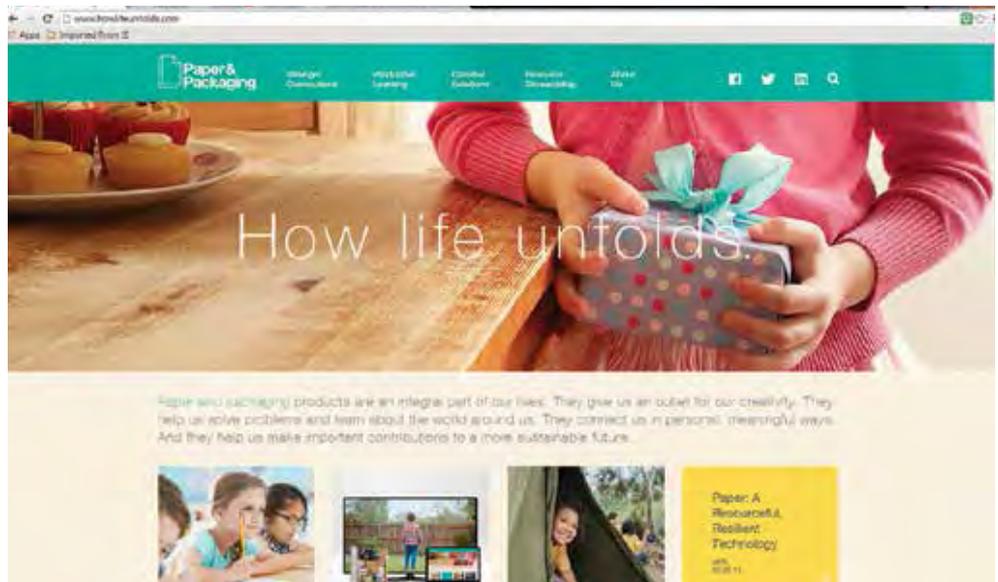
In the 2014 competition for Best "Large Lot" (aside from the large equipment vendors), Adam Sutherland of the TPA Expo Committee (R) presents Terry Pearson (L) and Brian Shaver of Pomp's Tire with the blue ribbon. Rice Blacksmith was the runner-up, while Pit & Quarry's display finished third.

National Campaign Promotes Paper

After 13 months of careful planning and preparation, The Paper and Packaging Board, a national trade association has launched a campaign to promote paper use called *The Paper & Packaging – How Life Unfolds™*.

The cross-platform national campaign utilizes paid and earned media through traditional and digital advertising. With a \$20 million investment from the paper and packaging industry, the campaign is designed to slow the decline in paper usage and grow the demand for paper packaging.

“The campaign highlights relatable moments that connect consumers to paper and packaging products in meaningful, emotional



www.howlifeunfolds.com

relevant ways,” says Mary Anne Hansan, P+PB’s executive director.

More information on the campaign can be found at www.howlifeunfolds.com and on their social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.

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Peterson to Head MLEP

Rachel Peterson has been named executive director of the Minnesota Logger Education Program. She replaces Dave Chura, who accepted a job with Minnesota Power earlier this year. Peterson comes to MLEP with a wealth of experience in the forestry community in the Lake States. She has worked for Consolidated Papers, Inc., Georgia-Pacific Corp, and Domtar; as a procurement forester for Potlatch and Louisiana Pacific; as a forester for the Wisconsin DNR, and as a scaler for Midwest Forest Products. She has also worked for FISTA, MLEP's counterpart in Wisconsin, and for TPA as a field representative.



A native of southern Wisconsin, Peterson has a degree in forestry from UW-Stevens Point. She says MLEP has a great foundation and plans to continue its focus on safety, forest health and solid business-related topics.

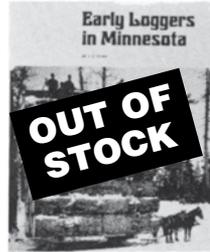
"MLEP has strong roots," Peterson says. "I am looking forward to the opportunity to help it become THE cutting edge logging and timber professional education organization, as well as grow it to include additional world class online training and educational opportunities that will allow future loggers and foresters entry into the profession with solid business and environmental knowledge.

Peterson says she would love to hear from anyone who has thoughts about training opportunities. She can be contacted in the MLEP office at 218-722-5442 or via email at rachel.peterson@mlep.org

Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I



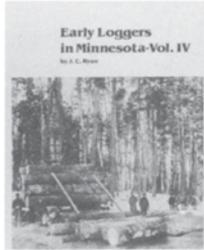
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First-hand recollections by storyteller "Buzz" Ryan of the loggers, loaders, swampers, wood butchers and bull cooks who ruled the woods in the hey-day of the pioneer lumberjacks—with dozens of historical photographs.

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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.

DNR Sells 918K of New Wood in FY15

The Minnesota DNR sold 918,556 cords of new timber during fiscal year 2015, according to figures released by the agency. That exceeds their target of offering 800,000 cords for the 12-month period that ended June 30.

A significant portion of the increase in cords offered is due to the large permit offered in Cook County (25,000 cords) and Palsburg Fire salvage permits in Roseau County (35,000 cords offered).

In addition, the percentage of unsold volume fell during the

previous three years, from 19.4% of the offered cords going unsold during FY2013 to 8.1% unsold in the most recent 12-month period.

The same period saw the average price per cord of aspen on DNR lands rise over 40%. State sales saw an average price per cord of aspen of \$34.76 in FY2015, compared with \$24.72 per cord during FY2013.

When re-offered wood, as well as other units of measure (such as tons of biomass) are added in, the DNR sold 1,198,383 cord equivalents in FY2015.

Recent Timber Sales Average Prices, as reported by each agency

Agency	Regular	Intermediate
Hubbard County		
<i>July 13 – Oral Auction</i>		
Aspen Mixed	NA	\$48.64
Aspen Pulp	NA	\$45.89
Birch Pulp	NA	\$25.50
Jack Pine Mixed	NA	\$56.32
All 13 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.		

Lake County

July 15 – Oral Auction

Aspen P&B	\$32.89	\$21.73
Balsam P&B	\$ 8.29	\$ 6.31
Black Spruce		

P&B	\$12.65	NA
Maple P&B	\$ 8.00	\$10.71

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

DNR – Warroad Area

July 15 and 16

Aspen Species (WC)	\$21.50	\$18.27
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Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$39.86	\$14.04
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Jack Pine (WMP)	\$37.34	\$28.50
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Balsam Fir (WMP)	\$16.39	NA
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The regular auction was conducted by sealed bid and the intermediate auction was oral.

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

Cass County

June 25 – Oral Auction

Aspen	\$28.11	\$29.18
Red Oak	\$34.21	\$38.09

Birch	\$13.48	\$24.13
-------	---------	---------

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

Beltrami County

August 4 – Sealed Bid

Aspen pulp	\$42.76	NA
Red Pine		

pulp/bolts	\$36.94	NA
Balm pulp	\$39.28	NA

All 7 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Koochiching County

April 5 – Oral Auction

Aspen pulp/bolts	\$56.94	\$34.72
------------------	---------	---------

Spruce pulp/bolts	\$35.21	\$22.90
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Balsam pulp/bolts	\$12.50	\$12.07
-------------------	---------	---------

Ash pulp/bolts	\$ 5.31	\$ 5.72
----------------	---------	---------

All 22 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

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Beltrami County

August 6 – Oral Auction

Aspen pulp	\$39.57	NA
Red Pine		
pulp/bolts	\$90.61	NA
Jackpine		
pulp/bolts	\$43.06	NA
Tamarack pulp	\$ 8.00	NA

All 7 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Backus Area Salvage

August 12 – Oral Auction

Pine Species		
(WMP)	\$15.67	NA
Red Oak		
(WMP)	\$10.00	NA
Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$12.50	NA
Nrthrn Hrdwds		
(WMP)	\$13.66	NA

4 of the 11 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Aitkin County

August 19 – Sealed Bid

Aspen Mixed	\$33.66	NA
Oak P/B	\$25.44	NA
Red Pine P/B	\$32.16	NA
Ash P/B	\$ 8.57	NA

25 of the 27 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

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DNR to Bid Out Road Projects

As a result of legislation first proposed by TPA and passed into law during the 2015 Minnesota legislative session, the DNR has developed a plan to spend a \$500,000 appropriation on forest roads over the next two years.

The projects range in size from \$5000 to over \$20,000, and are designed to extend the hauling season or create summer access by improving roads that access existing timber sales. Priority on projects was given based on number of sales accessed.

Among the types of projects included are spot-gravelling, culvert replacement, and removing trees and brush from road rights-of-ways, thus removing shade.

The projects will be put out for bid in the coming months and will be advertised on the DNR Timber Sales website. For projects



valued over \$10,000, bidding on the project will take place online. Bidding on projects valued under \$10,000 will be more informal, and will be handled through each area office.

In addition to the projects already

identified by the DNR, each area office will have \$5000 from the state appropriation for use on special projects that have lasting effects. These funds can be used at the discretion of that particular area office.

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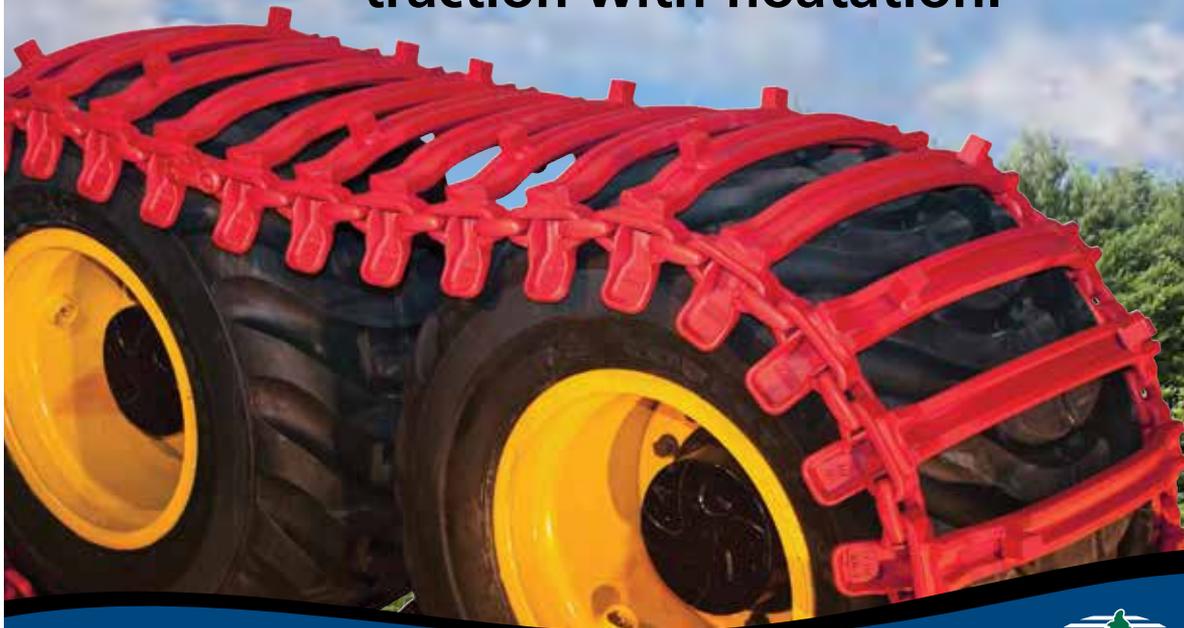
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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

"Minnesota Lumberjacks"

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*



Over the years when logging was one of our leading industries of the north county, the men who kept the logs acoming in to the sawmills were referred to by several different names. In Maine, the birthplace of the lumber camps, they were called "shanty boys," probably because the camps of the early days in Maine were more or less "shanties." As the industry moved to New York and Pennsylvania, they were often called "choppers," because in the early days the logs were all chopped with axes.

By the time logging reached Michigan, they were called "timbermen," "timberjacks," and "lumberjacks." These names carried on through Wisconsin and on into Minnesota. While men who worked on the log drives were known as "drivers" or "river pigs," the broad term used to describe any man working in the logging industry was "lumberjack."

Many of the early lumberjacks of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota were

French-Canadians, Scotch and Irish, and other mixed nationalities who had followed the industry from Maine, New York and Pennsylvania, but by the time the industry hit its peak in Minnesota, a good many Scandinavian immigrants had joined them and by 1890 Scandinavians probably were in the majority. The Finns came along after 1900 and by the time the logging camps were closing, Finns made up quite a large part of the working force.

In the southern portion of the pine area of Minnesota, many of these lumberjacks were married men with families who had acquired land by homesteading or other means and were clearing up farms and making homes for their families, working on the farm in the summer months and going to the camps for the winters. I knew men who had gone to the camps every winter all their lives.

There were others who worked summer in the sawmills of Minneapolis, Stillwater, Little Falls, Cloquet and other towns and

went to the camps each winter.

In the early days, very little logging was done during summer months and the camps would open about Oct. 1 and run until about Mar. 10 when the ice roads broke up. Men who did not follow the drives then returned to their summer jobs. Those who followed the drives usually went down and blew their "stakes" and were back on the drives by Apr. 10. In camps where all logs were landed on rivers, there were men who stayed right through from October until the drive was in — usually in late May or early June.

Not all men returned to their summer jobs or farms, as there were a number who never got further than the nearest town to blow their stakes and then came back to the woods. This aspect of the lumberjack's life has been much overdrawn, and while there was some "wild and wooly" days in the lumbering towns when the camps broke in the spring, these episodes were confined to but a small minority of the

This small 1880 camp was typical of most in the early period in Minnesota.





Above: An early load of logs near Two Harbors in 1901. Below: Bateau taking men to work in an early river drive. It took skill to run these rapids.



Early corner-bind loads (below) were tripped by hitting grab hook with a cant hook. After 1900 most sleighs had stakes that could be tripped from the opposite side.



lumberjacks and could not be considered normal when viewing the whole group that worked in the camps over the years. The lumberjack, on the whole, was a hardworking, honest, rugged type of individual.

Each logging company seemed to draw men from a certain part of the state and each foreman or walking boss had his following of lumberjacks. For an example, when Ed Netser was walking boss for the Combined Cloquet Companies on the Cloquet River, one could be sure that the camps in that area would be filled with farmer boys from the Pine City-Rush City area. Netser, a man who stood over six-foot-three and weighed around 225, was an Irish-Polack, and the camps under his supervision were about equally filled with Irish and Polish farm boys – all good lumberjacks who came back every year. The Oliver Mining Company that operated camps further up the Cloquet River had an Irish-Canadian for walking boss, and their camps were filled with mostly Canadians. And so it was with other companies, each having its own following of men.

The camps of the Alger Smith Company drew their men from the Duluth sawmills and the Duluth area. As a rule, the foremen were married men and had their families in towns nearest to the logging operations. Most of the logging industry of northeastern Minnesota drew its manpower from the Duluth area. To the west along the Mississippi River and in the Grand Rapids area, many of the early lumberjacks came to the woods via steamboat up the river from the farming areas to the south and from Minneapolis.

In the Bemidji area and up along the M.&I.R.R., the bulk of the early jacks came

from the mills of Minneapolis and Little Falls and from the farming areas around St. Cloud and the fringe area of the pine country. In later years, many men came from the prairie area along the western part of the state and from Dakota. The M.&I.R.R. camps always drew a great number of men from around Red Lake Falls, Thief River Falls, Brooks and Oklee. These were mostly French-Canadians and all good lumberjacks. In the early days around Brainerd, many of the camps were filled with men from eastern Canada.

Each year camps just seemed to fill with men who had worked in a camp the year before and came back bringing a partner. There was always competition for good men, and the foremen tried to feed the men well and use them well so as to maintain a good crew. Lumberjacks were a happy, good-natured bunch while in camp, with little or no fighting, with each man doing the best he could on his job with but little animosity towards each other.

By the time of the First World War, the whole picture changed and there was a shortage of men in the woods. Men were sent to camps from the employment offices in the cities, many unqualified. Good men no longer stayed in camp all winter and a new type of worker came to the woods. Piecework took over in place of monthly wages, mancatchers were hired to conscript workers, and most any type of man was sent to the camps. It was said that there were three crews for every camp: one coming, one working and one going. By the end of World War I, the days of the true, old lumberjack were over.

Throughout the time the logging industry flourished in Minnesota, wages varied some, but over the years the more or less standard wage for general woods work was \$26 per month, or \$1 per day. There were times when monthly wages were as low as \$16 and as high as \$90. Good food and a good foreman meant more to the old-time lumberjack.

The following schedule of monthly wages paid in a camp in 1915 will show the spread:

4-horse teamster	\$35
Skidding teamster	\$26
Sawyer	\$26
Swamper.....	\$22
Cook for large crew	\$60
Cookee	\$22
Hooker, loading crew	\$26
Blacksmith	\$40
Handyman.....	\$30
Top loader.....	\$40
Canthook man.....	\$26
Saw filer	\$30
Bull cook.....	\$22
Barn boss.....	\$35

Sometimes a man would be paid a little more if he was an old-timer with the company. I have heard old-time loggers say that if a man is good enough to keep in camp he is worth a dollar a day.



Above: An early logging camp on a northern Minnesota lake. Note the good stand of timber on the island.
Below: A group of early lumberjacks.



Below: An early camp kitchen. Lumberjacks liked good food – more than big wages, and the foreman saw they got it.



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