

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

MAY/JUNE 2019

VOLUME 74

Shermer Logging: National Logger of the Year



May 21, 2019

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TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 74
May/June 2019
Duluth, Minnesota

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ON THE COVER

Shermer Logging: National
Logger of the Year. For more,
please turn to page 8.

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Greetings to all! As I write this it is a gorgeous June day. Warm and sunny! The weather has not been too cooperative in some areas of the state lately though..... Sometimes I wonder just who Mother Nature is mad at.

Thanks to all that showed up for the Annual meeting earlier this month. Attendance was up! The morning program seemed to keep

President's Column



everyone interested and several topics brought up much discussion, always a good thing to keep folks up to date on new rules, regulations and expectations from the various departments we deal with. MLEP credits were a nice addition this year. The weather cooperated for the fisherman and golfers in the afternoon, and sounded like most everyone had a good time. The attendance at the evening event was up as well, it was so nice to see several new faces this year. Thanks for your membership and support. Dick Beardsley was a very interesting speaker to listen to. His life has been anything but dull! If you haven't heard his story, I encourage you to do so. I do know that he has a few videos on You Tube to watch. There were a couple ideas of changing the dates of the annual meeting to the possibility of being held earlier in the spring. I encourage all members that have an opinion on this to call the TPA office or me to voice your thoughts, or new ideas for this event.

A big CONGRATULATIONS to Cliff Shermer for being selected as this year's National Logger of the Year. I know how deserving Cliff is of this award. It is also noteworthy that a Northern Minnesota logger has been selected for this award 3 times since 2010, with Dave Berthiaume and Kit Hasbargen being the other two.

Thanks to several legislators, and in particular, Rob Ecklund for getting our 5% weight tolerance back for summer hauling. I know

that there was much discussion on this topic, and at one point it didn't look too promising of getting it back. Thanks much to Wayne and Ray both for continuing to talk to the right folks to get this through.

One more thing that the executive committee tried this Spring were regional board meetings with members. They were held in Duluth, Grand Rapids, Bemidji, and International Falls. The agenda was pretty easy, a short presentation of what TPA staff has been doing and then an open discussion of whatever the group wanted to talk about, or see TPA staff engaged in. I think that these informal meetings were advantageous to our group as there were some different topics at all the meetings. Seems folks are more apt to voice themselves in smaller groups. My opinion is, we should continue these regional meetings.

As always, I encourage all of our members to be engaged. Ask

questions and voice your opinion. Feel free to contact TPA staff or myself with concerns. The world is run by those who show up! As always, be safe in the woods, and remember to enjoy some personal time as well!

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He did it all. What else can you say about long-time TPA member Harry Fisher who recently passed away. During his career Harry was a public agency forester, a company procurement forester, a logger, a company woodlands manager, a lobbyist at the State Capitol and always an innovator.

I spent a lot of time with Harry in the 1990's when he was lobbying for St. Louis County and the other county land departments. Harry and I worked with

Executive Vice President's Column



then Representative Willard Munger to draft and enact the silviculture and forest road exemptions in the Wetlands

Conservation Act with Harry in the lead. Harry didn't know anywhere to be but in the lead.

Twenty-eight years after their passage, these exemptions still stand.

Harry was also deeply involved in the creation of the MN Forest Resources Council's Voluntary Site-Level Guidelines. He was always willing to participate in committees and meetings and always fought for the greater good for loggers and our industry. His participation was focused on everyone and not just his business.

My condolences to his wife Pat, daughter Heidi and the rest of his family. Harry was one of a kind and they're not making his kind anymore. I will miss him.



Congratulations to Cliff Shermer and Shermer Logging for being named FRA's National Logger of the Year! Cliff, a TPA Board Member, richly deserves this recognition as he, his family and crew do a great job and are a credit to all loggers. Cliff is the third Logger of the Year from Minnesota in the past decade following Berthiaume Logging and Hasbargen Logging as award winners.



We had a great TPA Annual Meeting at Ruttger's with strong participation. The presentations from the State Patrol and the DNR Division of Forestry were valuable to our members in attendance. The weather was excellent for the afternoon golf and fishing events and banquet speaker Dick Beardsley was truly inspiring. Thank you to Ann Todd, Ray Higgins, the TPA PR Committee and all of our sponsors for making the event a great success.



The 2019 Session of the Minnesota Legislature completed its work after a one day Special Session. We were successful in enacting a provision to clarify that the 5% on-road weight tolerance applies year round. We have a lot of experience with truck weight legislation and it's always a struggle. This year was no exception as MN DOT in particular caused trouble. Fortunately we had begun working with the State Patrol on this effort last year

immediately after they changed their interpretation of the law. Rep. Rob Ecklund did a great job as the chief author in the House of Representatives and Senator Jason Rarick gave great support on the Conference Committee.

It also helped that Rep. Frank Hornstein was the Chair of the House committee. We have worked with him on trucking, weight and other issues for many years and he was again very helpful to us this year. Rep. Hornstein, a liberal from south Minneapolis, really has no reason to help us other than he's a good legislator and we have developed a good relationship with him over many years. That's the way a lot of things get done in life and at the Capitol. If you show up once in a while and expect to get important work done you're likely to be disappointed. If you're there every day, every year like we are at TPA, people will know you and your interests and be more willing to work with you.

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After some fits and starts in the funding process we were able to protect funding for county forest road maintenance and private forestry assistance which were targeted for elimination or cuts at various points in the Session. We were also able to get a \$4.5 million increase for the DNR Division Forestry's timber sale and forestry programs.

One disappointment was the Legislature's failure to help the loggers and other businesses who were harmed by the previous legislative action that closed Benson Power.

While those were some of the highlights, there were nearly thirty items that required our attention during the Session.



Mark your calendars now for the *North Star Expo* which will be held September 13 & 14 in Grand Rapids at the Itasca County Fairgrounds. The Expo Committee and our staff are working hard and we are certain to have another great show.



Congratulations to the DNR's Jon Drimel who has been named Timber Program Supervisor for the Division of Forestry. Jon and his family will be moving from Bemidji to St. Paul for his new job. This is a very important position and we look forward to working with Jon in his new role.



We talk a lot about forest management, forest health and the need to be good stewards of the forest. The importance of these issues is painfully evident in British Columbia. Recent reports show the forest and the forest industry crashing in what has been one of the world's great timber regions. Another dozen sawmill closures have been announced and Norbord also recently announced the indefinite closure of their 100 Mile House OSB plant in the Province.

It's a simple but sad story. The Mountain Pine Beetle came through devastating the forests. Very little was done to address this pest. This has caused a severe shortage of merchantable wood which has driven the price of wood to levels that made the mills economically non-viable.

No forest is a picture. No forest can be maintained in a static condition. All forests grow, can provide products, economic opportunity, recreation and wildlife habitats. Forest also get old and, hopefully, the new forest grows under sound management.

Let the devastation of British Columbia's forests and the jobs that depended upon them be a lesson to all.



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Member Feature...



Cliff Shermer of Shermer Logging in Gheen, MN (third from left) along with his wife Mary and two daughters is presented with a plaque and \$1,000 check from STIHL for the National Outstanding Logger Award. Presenting the check is Tim O'Hara – FRA Government Affairs and Lake States Manager (left), Deb Hawkinson – FRA President (second from right), and Lee Alexander – FRA Chairman (right).

Shermer Logging Named National Logger of the Year

Fernandina Beach, FL -- The Forest Resources Association and STIHL Incorporated honored Shermer Logging of Gheen, Minnesota as the National Outstanding Logger at FRA's Annual Meeting in Fernandina Beach, Florida on May 21.

FRA chairman Lee Alexander presented Cliff and Mary Shermer, along with their family, a wooden plaque and a \$1,000 check from STIHL incorporated recognizing the honor. Immediately upon receiving the check, Shermer announced that

he would donate the award to Log-A-Load for Kids-Gillette Children's Hospital, who had representatives and presented at the annual meeting.

In accepting the award, Cliff Shermer first thanked the company's woods crew.

"We wouldn't be here tonight without our talented and dedicated workers," he said.

Shermer also thanked the many public land managers for their efforts in managing the forests, as well as Minnesota's forestry trade associations who work with elected

officials and decision makers to improve forest management and the business climate.

"Without the efforts of the Minnesota Timber Producers and Minnesota Forest Industries, forest management would look a lot different in Minnesota.," Shermer said. "Our forests are well-managed. We now have more acres, more trees, and larger trees than we did 50 years ago."

Shermer also recognized the work of the Governor-appointed Minnesota Forest Resources Council

that was created in 1995.

"Twenty-five years ago the Council developed Statewide Forest Management Guidelines that the loggers implement during a timber harvest," Shermer said. "These guidelines cover everything from road building, forest regeneration, riparian management, and wildlife habitat. The guidelines have raised the level of professionalism for the logging community."

In concluding his remarks, Shermer said, "Finally, the Lord has blessed me with an awesome family who have been there to pick me up when I've stumbled, encourage me when things are not so good, and celebrate the good times."

"Thank you to my best friend and wife of 40 some years, Mary. I owe whatever success we've had to her love and understanding. And thank you to our daughters Lisa and Lindsey. It's not easy growing up in a logging family."

Tim O'Hara, FRA's Manager, Government Affairs and the Lake States Region said, "Cliff and Mary Shermer are well deserving of the National Outstanding Logger of the Year Recognition. Shermer Logging is known for working with family forest owners. Shermer Logging's employed forester works with landowners to develop a forest management plan to help meet the landowner's forestland management objectives. Cliff is highly spoken of by his colleagues and foresters in the State."

The journey toward the National Outstanding Logger award started in April 2018 when Shermer Logging was recognized as the Minnesota Logger of the Year by the MN Sustainable Forest Initiative Implementation Committee. That was followed by FRA's Great Lakes Region Outstanding Logger honors in September of last year.

Duluth logger Tom McCabe was among those nominating Shermer for the Minnesota award. In his nomination letter, McCabe—Minnesota's Logger of the Year in 2007—cited Shermer's excellent reputation and involvement in community activities, both around Gheen and in the state's logging community, including a position on TPA's board of directors, as well as its Expo committee.

"He has a great ability to work



The crew of Shermer Logging (L-R): Rick Quaas, Troy Wood, Levi Shermer, Adam Luecken, Richard Luecken, Eric Gabrielson, Cliff Shermer, Keith Wallin, and Jerry Wardas.

with landowners, foresters, and wood buyers," McCabe wrote. "He is sought after by private landowners, he has an exceptional crew, he is innovative, and has a very positive attitude."

Duluth logger Ashley Campbell also wrote a letter of support for Shermer's nomination. Campbell and her husband/business partner Garret Campbell have consulted with Shermer since they started their logging business.

"Cliff allowed me onsite to watch his chipper run a few winters back," Ashley Campbell wrote. "I believe that not only is Cliff an excellent logger, he is also an outstanding person in general. He has been there from the beginning of my company, always willing to listen and help me out, answering all the questions that I had, and putting up with me when we were first starting."

"You couldn't ask for a better example of what logging should be," Campbell concluded.

UPM Blandin forester Jim Berkeland also wrote a letter of support for Shermer's nomination, stating, "Their reputation is one of superior performance and 'easy to do business with.' They are a 'go-to' contractor when difficult jobs arise and routinely please all landowners and agencies they work with. They are a very valuable asset to the forest products industry in this state and are a shining example for others

to emulate."

Cliff Shermer was born in Nebraska, and after spending time in Oregon, moved with his family to Minnesota when he was nine-years-old. After graduating high school in 1968, he served four years in the Navy, before returning to Minnesota and finding work in a Twin Cities slaughterhouse. That's where he met his future wife and business partner Mary, and by 1978 they'd moved back north to Gheen. He started in the logging business working for Luecken Brothers Logging during the winter months. By 1984 the Shermers had bought a slasher and worked for loggers throughout the area. In 1990, the business had grown to the point that they had their first contract with the Potlatch oriented strand board mill in nearby Cook. These days Cliff manages the woods crew while Mary handles the bookkeeping, payroll, and runs the office.

Now 68, Cliff doesn't anticipate slowing down much. In a *Timber Bulletin* feature about his business in July of 2018, Shermer said, "We don't want to retire. We like the business. The woods are pretty peaceful. It's a peaceful place to work and you get to see what you accomplish. I drive around the country once in a while and think, wow we logged that. Maybe we can last long enough so we can log it one more time, you know?"

Harry Fisher: 1937-2019

Over more than four decades working in Minnesota's forest products industry, Harry Fisher saw it all, through various lenses: lobbyist, mill wood buyer, logger. In fact, he was one of the last loggers in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Portal Zone. In addition, he helped write Minnesota's Voluntary Site Level Forest Management Guidelines that are still in use today. And he's a big reason why TPA's North Star Expo has grown to be the event it is today.

Fisher passed away in May at the age of 82.

A graduate of Denfeld High School in Duluth, Fisher earned a degree in forestry from the University of Minnesota in 1960. His first job out of college was at the University's Cloquet Forestry Center. From there, he moved to Effie to work for the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company, and then to Grand Marais to work for Northern Wood Preservers, headquartered in Thunder Bay. It was there that he was in charge of a 100,000 cord timber sale the company had purchased from the U.S. Forest Service through a third party agreement, entirely in the "portal zone" of the BWCA.

"It was called the East Tofte

block," Fisher told The Timber Bulletin in a 2004 profile. "It was really rough country and rough terrain and it was my job to organize the company and to start logging it. I organized North Shore Forest Products and we proceeded to build roads and log in the portal zone."

That's when environmental groups sued, touching off years of political and legal wrangling, with Fisher right in the middle of it every step of the way. Eventually, Congress passed the BWCA Wilderness Act, which ended logging in the Boundary Waters Portal Zone.

During this time, Fisher became heavily involved with TPA, chairing the organization's Mechanization Committee, which oversaw the North Star Expo. At the time the Expo was a one-day event at Cloquet's Buffalo House, but Fisher envisioned a bigger two-day event that would move around the region, and that's what the Expo became.

Fisher eventually took a job at Potlatch in Cloquet, managing 300,000 acres of land, and eventually becoming Woodlands Manager, before going back to the company he started, North Shore Forest Products.

"I started investing in timber,"



Harry Fisher 1937-2019

Fisher said in the 2004 interview, "then I started working with other loggers who didn't want to get involved in the environmental programs. They wanted to cut trees, and so I would organize markets, I would find timber, and that's what developed the new North Shore Forest Products company. We formed alliances and relationships (with loggers). My part of that responsibility was to have a supply of timber, winter and summer. Their responsibility was to cut, skid, and haul it. I would get the markets. You know, total logging in my book started when you bought a timber sale until you delivered it. I would lay the timber sale out, lay out the roads, help build roads, do whatever you had to do to get the job done. It was a partnership."

At the same time, Fisher began a relationship with St. Louis County as a contract lobbyist, working closely with TPA's Wayne Brandt on a variety of issues, most notably the forestry exemption in the Wetlands Conservation Act. Harry also served on the committee that wrote the Forest Management Guidelines, still in use today.

"The dinosaur in me says, 'why do we need all this B.S. when we're already doing a good job,'" Fisher said in the 2004 Timber Bulletin article. "The reason we needed it was to maybe head off some of the more intensive

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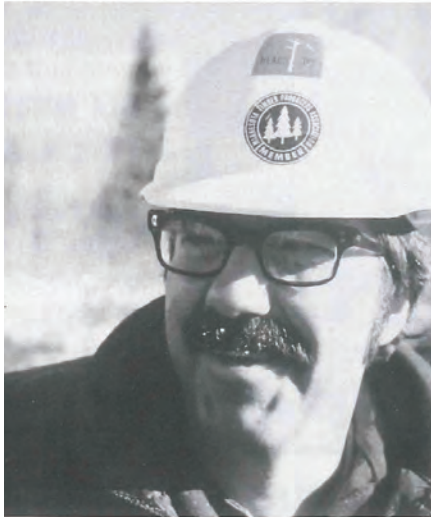
By 2004, Fisher was ready to retire. He spent his remaining years travelling the world, particularly via train, which he loved. And, he continued to swing by the TPA offices to stay in touch with Brandt and discuss the day’s industry issues.

When Fisher retired in 2004, he told *The Timber Bulletin* he looked back on his 45 years in the industry

with fondness.

“I was lucky,” he said. “Things worked out well, and I made some good decisions. I made some bad

decisions, but everyone does when you’re making decisions. And so, I guess I just made more good ones than bad ones.”



Harry Fisher in 1974



Fisher was one of the last loggers in the BWCA Portal Zone and kept a souvenir in his Duluth home of his work there: a temporary sign from a road his company built. “That was the sign that was on the road when we entered the Boundary Waters,” Fisher told the *Timber Bulletin* in 2004. “And what it was is this road was built for the removal of timber and was not open for public use.” The photo first appeared in the July/August 2004 issue of *The Timber Bulletin*.

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Legislative Re-cap

Lawmakers Clarify 5% Tolerance Year Round

Tolerance for haulers with raw forest products permit among provisions approved during 2019 Session

Governor Tim Walz signed into law the Omnibus Transportation bill, which included a provision clarifying that log truck drivers with a Raw Forest Products permit get a 5% overweight tolerance year round. The provision goes into effect July 1st.

The clarification was necessary because of a 2018 re-interpretation of statute which said the 5% tolerance was only valid during the period of winter load increases, rather than all year. A 2008 State Patrol memo had spelled out the “all year” interpretation.

This year’s clarification does not change the maximum weight in statute, which remains 90,000 pounds on six axles with the raw forest products permit, with an increase to 99,000 pounds during winter load increases. The tolerance only means drivers with the permit can’t be ticketed and fined road side until the load exceeds 94,500 pounds (103,950 pounds in the winter).

Rep. Rob Ecklund (DFL-International Falls) was the chief author of the bill in the House, using language developed by TPA’s Wayne Brandt. TPA staff also held meetings with representatives of the State Patrol’s Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division and MnDOT, as well as House Transportation Committee Chair Frank Hornstein (DFL-Minneapolis) and other House and Senate members. In addition, TPA communicated with groups representing the state’s counties and townships, as well as other stakeholders on an ongoing basis throughout the session.

Opposition to the 5% tolerance developed from groups who viewed the provision as an expansion of legal weights. TPA staff used



the 2008 memo to show that the legislation merely clarified an interpretation of statute that had previously been applied.

The efforts of Sen. Jason Rarick (R-Pine City) and Sen. Dave Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) were also critical in getting the provision passed by the legislature.

In other happenings during the 2019 Legislative Session:

- DNR Division of Forestry Funding specifically to support timber sales from the Forest Management Investment Account (FMIA) was increased as follows:
 - FY '20
 - \$1,000,000
 - FY '21
 - \$1,000,000
 - Total
 - \$2,000,000When combined with a variety of other funding mechanisms, the total increase in appropriations for the Division of Forestry for the next biennium is \$4,451,000.
- The Minnesota Forest Resources Council’s base budget (\$820,000) is increased by \$16,000 in FY '20 and \$27,000 in FY '21.

- Language was added that requires the DNR to compensate the Permanent School Trust Fund if management decisions diminish revenues to the Trust. This expands the previous requirement which was limited to management decisions that prohibit revenue generation. In addition, language was passed that specified the types of compensation required when DNR management restrictions diminish or prohibit revenue generation on Permanent School Trust Fund lands. The forms of compensation include leases, condemnation and sale and land exchanges.
- A provision passed clarifying that a person may remove a beaver dam on property that they own, occupy or manage with certain restrictions.
- The special products permit and route was expanded to apply to finished forest products and to include all of Highway 53.
- A provision clarifying that trucks with the special forest products (six axle) permit may operate on Interstate 35 from Highway 210 to its northern terminus passed. This brings state statute into agreement with the federal law allowing extra weight on this stretch of I-35 that passed in 2015.
- Efforts to create a new carbon free standard were not passed. No other legislation that would increase energy costs was passed.
- Legislation to compensate businesses harmed by the legislatively directed closure of Benson Power did not pass.
- A proposed gasoline tax increase did not pass.



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A Good Sign



Just after Memorial Day, McCoy Construction and Forestry Road Technician Brian VanWagner went on a service call near Watersmeet, Michigan and stumbled upon this felled tree. The folks at McCoy took it as a good sign and circulated the photo. Thanks go out to property owner JM Longyear LLC and logging contractor A&E Forest Products of Gaastra, Michigan (owner: Tom Golberg), and to McCoy for sharing.

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Sappi completes \$25 million expansion

In May, Sappi North America, Inc., announced the completion of a \$25 million capital investment at its Cloquet mill to debottleneck areas of the pulp manufacturing process. The bulk of the investment was made in the recovery areas of the pulp mill.

"We are pleased that this investment brings an additional 30,000 tons per year of pulp production capability to better serve

our dissolving wood pulp customers," said Mike Schultz, Managing Director, Sappi Cloquet Mill.

Timber Talk

Safe Routes Act of 2019 Introduced in Congress

A provision that would allow log trucks to haul on the nation's interstate system at increased weight was introduced into both houses of Congress in May.

Spearheaded by the Forest Resources Association (FRA), the proposed legislation would allow trucks transporting raw forest products access to the safer interstate up to 150 air miles from the timber harvest site to a storage or mill location at state legal truck weight limits and

configurations. The legislation also has environmental benefits as less fuel would be used due to reduced braking and stopping on interstate routes.

"Logging businesses and the forest products industry value the safety of their workers. This access to the interstate will allow trucks to avoid interactions with pedestrians, school districts, urban areas, intersections, driveways, and on-coming traffic," said FRA President Hawkinson.

The Safe Routes Act was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wisconsin) and in the House by Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wisconsin). The bill would have to pass both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House and signed by the President before becoming law.

Currently in Minnesota, the only stretch of interstate highway where the increased weight under the raw forest products permit is legal is on I-35 between London Road, south to Highway 210 in Carlton.

U's Matt Russell Recognized by FRA for Technical Writing

The Forest Resources Association (FRA) honored Matt Russell of the University of Minnesota, with its National Technical Writing Award for 2019. This annual award

recognizes the best Technical Release published and posted on FRA's website.

Professor Russell's technical release provided a process by which forest product companies can statistically assess wood delivery scale-in and scale-out times (wait times). The results of the analysis presented in the FRA technical release would allow wood receiving mills to calculate expected wait times based on the number of daily truck deliveries received.

"The information provided in the technical release allows mills to identify efficiencies and bottlenecks in the wood delivery process. Improvements in these two areas are important for the supply chain to efficiently move fiber from the woods to the mill," said Tim O'Hara, FRA's Manager, Government Affairs and Lake States Region.

Matt Russell is an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist with the University of Minnesota's Department of Forest Resources. He conducts research, teaching, and outreach on issues related to forest ecosystem health in Minnesota and beyond. His research emphasizes how changing environmental conditions impact the structure and function of forests. In his Extension work, he works with private forest landowners and natural resource professionals to sustain healthy and productive forests in Minnesota.



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Norbord Announces Curtailment at Canadian OSB Mill

In June, Norbord Inc. announced its intention to indefinitely curtail production at its oriented strand board (OSB) mill in 100 Mile House, British Columbia starting in August.

The Cariboo region in which the Company's 100 Mile House mill is located has been under mounting wood supply pressure for the past decade as a result of the mountain pine beetle epidemic. This challenge has been more recently exacerbated by the significant wildfires that the province of British Columbia experienced in the summers of both 2017 and 2018. The resulting wood supply shortage and high wood prices do not support the economic operation of the mill at this time.

Norbord will continue to supply its current customers and meet expected future customer demand with production from its 11 other operating North American OSB mills, including in Solway.

"This is a difficult decision in response to extraordinary circumstances," said Peter Wijnbergen, Norbord's President & CEO. "We have a first-rate team in 100 Mile House and this curtailment is in no way a reflection on our employees, their commitment to our customers and suppliers, or the local community."

The 100 Mile House mill has a stated annual production capacity of 440 million square feet (3/8-inch basis). Approximately 160 employees will be impacted by this curtailment.

Under 21 Military CDL Pilot Program

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is conducting a three-year pilot program to study the feasibility, benefits, and safety impacts of allowing 18-20 year-old drivers to operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce.

This program will allow 18-20

year-old drivers to participate in this pilot, if they:

- Have received heavy-vehicle driver training and experience while in military service,
- Carry a designated MOS or job rating approved for this Pilot, and
- Are sponsored (hired) by a participating motor carrier.

As part of this pilot program, FMCSA will compare safety records of the study group's participating drivers to records from a control group of comparable size, comprised of drivers 21-24 who have a commercial driver's licenses and comparable training and experience driving commercial trucks.

The program will enhance opportunities for drivers with relevant military training to enter the trucking industry.

While many drivers in this age group drive trucks intrastate (within a single state), drivers younger than 21 cannot currently drive in interstate (across state lines) operations.

Richard Filipiak 1944-2019

Richard John Filipiak passed away June 5th surrounded by family at Essentia Health-Deer River Hospital.

Richard was born in 1944 to Lucy and Florian Filipiak in Moose Lake. He graduated from Moose Lake High School and joined the U.S. Navy. After his discharge, he returned to Moose Lake and drove truck and logged with his dad. Richard moved to Aurora for three years. In 1970, Richard moved to Grand Rapids, MN. There, he owned and operated a logging business with his brother Bill, until his retirement in 2010.

Richard enjoyed having a beer with family and friends, gardening, hunting, scuba diving and meticulously stacking firewood.



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Mark Your Calendars: 66th Expo North Star Expo Slated for Rapids

With apologies to the State Fair, the “Great Minnesota Logging Get Together” is returning to the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids for its 2019 event.

The 66th annual North Star Expo will again include the latest in logging equipment from all of the region’s top vendors.

The year’s Expo dates are Friday and Saturday September 13 and 14.

In addition to the latest and greatest from the industry’s manufacturers, the 2019 Expo will also feature the Future Forest Stewards event, with high schoolers from around the region traveling to the Expo to learn about logging, as well as the Expo’s evening reception at the Timberlake Lodge on Friday September 13, featuring a cash bar and free hors d’oeuvres. McCoy Construction and Equipment will also sponsor Saturday morning’s pancake breakfast again in 2019.

“The Itasca County Fairgrounds



Some of the Best Load entries from the 2018 North Star Expo. The 2019 event returns to the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids on September 13 and 14.

are beautiful and we love having the Expo there,” said TPA Expo committee Chair Chad Lovdahl. “We look forward to bringing the various segments of the timber industry to Grand Rapids for

another great North Star Expo.”

For more information including for vendors, call the TPA office at (218) 722-5013, or visit mntimberproducers.com and click on the North Star Expo button.

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DNR & Patrol Presentations Highlight Annual Meeting

TPA's Annual Meeting is traditionally a place where members can have access to information and presentations about Minnesota's forest products industry they can't get anywhere else, and the 2019 Annual Meeting didn't disappoint.

This year's session at Sugar Lake Lodge featured TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt's annual Report on Association Activities, highlighting TPA's efforts over the past 12 months. Also providing "insider information" to TPA members were Captain Jon Olsen and Sergeant Jeff Shay of the State Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, as well as Craig Schmid and Doug Tillma of the Minnesota DNR's Division of Forestry. All of the day's presenters were also available for one-on-one visits following the meeting and during lunch. It was an excellent opportunity for TPA members to share their thoughts with these policy makers, as well as ask questions about various topics of interest.

Annual Report of Association Activities

In this yearly presentation, Brandt highlighted activities and



TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt kicks off the TPA Membership meeting with his annual Report on Association Activities.



(L-R): Jim Scheff, Mike Warren, Corey Lovdahl, Brian Gulseth, and Mike Rieger talk business during a break in TPA's 2019 Membership Meeting.

accomplishments of TPA staff over the 12 months, including details of the recently completed legislative session. Among the legislative topics Brandt addressed were the passage of the provision clarifying the five-percent truck weight tolerance on the raw forest products permit, as well as various DNR funding and policy provisions. A complete re-cap of these legislative activities—as well as others—appears elsewhere in this issue of *The Timber Bulletin*.

Brandt also reviewed other TPA activities throughout the past twelve months, including meetings with U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue (whose cabinet department oversees the U.S. Forest Service), Agriculture Under Secretary Jim Hubbard, new Minnesota DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen, and others at all levels of government.

Featured Speakers

TPA members had a chance to hear from DNR Division of Forestry Deputy Director Craig Schmid address a variety of topics, including the challenges of having dozens of veteran foresters retire over the last few years, and effectively replacing them. As a result, the DNR has hired 150 new foresters and forestry techs since

2014. Schmid said the loss of all of that institutional knowledge, as well as relationships with the state's logging force, has been difficult.

"It's been a lot of work, and we have a ways to go," Schmid told TPA members. "It's a way different work force than what we're used to working with."

In addition, the DNR's outgoing Timber Sales Program Supervisor Doug Tillma shared a variety of data pertaining to state timber sales, including annual timber volumes offered, harvested, and scaled, as



The Minnesota DNR's Doug Tillma shares data with TPA members about state timber sales, annual volumes, targets, average pricing, and answered questions about timber sale administration.



Captain Jon Olsen (left) and Sergeant Jeff Shay of the Minnesota State Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division answer questions from TPA members about current law and enforcement issues.



TPA's Executive Committee looks on as Minnesota DNR Division of Forestry Deputy Director Craig Schmid (right) discusses a variety of topics at TPA's Annual Membership Meeting.

well as current average costs per cord for various species.

Both Tillma and Schmid answered questions from meeting attendees on various DNR-related topics.

Capt. Jon Olsen and Sgt. Jeff Shay of the **Minnesota State Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division** answered

questions on a variety of enforcement issues. They were accompanied by **Sgt. Jeff Smith** and **Lt. Darren Juntunen**.

Among the topics addressed were current enforcement issues, and regulations surrounding the requirements for log haulers to have commercial driver's licenses

and health cards. The legislation clarifying the raw forest products permit tolerance was discussed as well. Olsen, Shay, Smith, and Juntunen all remained through the lunch hour, affording TPA members to ask questions on a one-on-one basis.



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Beardsley Keynotes TPA Banquet

After an afternoon of golf and fishing, TPA members returned to Sugar Lake Lodge for the Annual Meeting Banquet, highlighted by keynote speaker **Dick Beardsley**.

A two-time champion at Grandma's Marathon, Beardsley might be most famous for dueling then-world record holder Alberto Salazar in the 1982 Boston Marathon. Injuries eventually forced Beardsley's retirement from competitive running. Today he owns a fishing guide service in Bemidji, as well as owns and operates the Lake Bemidji Bed and Breakfast with his wife Jill. Beardsley also travels the world speaking to corporate groups about his running exploits, as well as the challenges presented by numerous injuries he suffered both in and out of the world of

marathons, and his struggles with pain medication.

In his keynote address to TPA members, Beardsley said there are four keys to meeting and overcoming challenges.

"Wake up with a smile on your face, enthusiasm in your voice, joy in your heart, and faith in your soul."

"Dick's message was very powerful," one banquet attendee said of Beardsley's presentation. "I'd had a rough stretch, but his positivity was infectious. It was just the message I needed to hear."

Beardsley is co-author of a book, "Staying the Course: A Runner's Toughest Race." To order, visit www.dickbeardsley.com/books.html



US Marathon legend Dick Beardsley was the keynote speaker at TPA's Annual Meeting Banquet, discussing not only his running successes, but also overcoming injuries and other medical issues he's endured.

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TPA Safety Awards

Over the past year, TPA members again showed their leadership in safety issues through the annual TPA Safety Contest. Each quarter, members report whether they had lost-time accidents, and at each Annual Membership meeting, those who remained accident free over the previous 12-months receive plaques for their company's achievement. The following is a list of TPA members with no lost-time accidents from April 2018 through March of this year:

Logging Division

- Berthiaume Logging, LLC, Cloquet
- C&M Walsh Logging, Inc., Park Rapids
- Dean and Bob Walsh Logging, Inc., Park Rapids
- Erickson Timber Products, Baudette
- Johnson Logging, Cannon Falls
- Junker Logging, Littlefork
- Kimball's Logging, Park Rapids
- Lundberg Forest Products, Solway
- Palmer Logging, Barnum
- Pittack Logging, Bovey
- Rieger Logging, Northome
- Simcoe & Habisch Logging, McGrath
- Tim Kelm Logging, Bemidji

Trucking Division

- Berthiaume Logging, Cloquet
- Christensen Forest Products, Pine River
- Dean & Bob Walsh Logging, Park Rapids
- Erickson Timber Products, Baudette
- Johnson Logging, Cannon Falls
- Junker Logging, Littlefork
- Kimball's Logging, Park Rapids
- Lake Nebagamon Trucking, Lake Nebagamon, WI
- Lundberg Forest Products, Solway
- Mannco Trucking, International Falls
- Palmer Logging, Barnum
- Pittack Logging, Bovey
- Tim Kelm Logging, Bemidji
- Two Inlets Mill & Bldg. Supply, Park Rapids

Sawmill Division

- Cass Forest Products, Cass Lake
- Christensen Forest Products, Pine River
- Johnson Logging, Cannon Falls
- Land O Lakes Wood Preserving, Tenstrike
- Two Inlets Mill & Bldg. Supply, Park Rapids



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TPA Members Golf and Fish

Sunny skies and warm temperatures were perfect for an afternoon of golf on Sugarbrooke Golf Course or fishing on either Sugar Lake or Lake Polegama for TPA members and other industry insiders.



Jerry Demenge won the fishing event's "Big Walter" award for the largest fish of the day with this 30 inch Northern.



Ashley Campbell and keynote speaker Dick Beardsley show off their catches on Sugar Lake.



David Gerbracht (left) and Rod Gerbracht (right) of Gerbracht Logging enjoyed an afternoon on Sugarbrooke Golf Course with Brian Durfee and Rich Miska of McCoy Construction and Forestry.



Jake Kesanen of McCoy Construction and Forestry accepts congratulations from Brady Hasbargen after rolling in a birdie putt. Their team, including Ryan Schall of Titan Equipment and Kyra Hasbargen won the Foot Wedge Award for the lowest score of the day in the TPA Scramble.



(L-R): Kelly and Shelly Kimball with Jim LeRoy and Jay Eystad of Northern Capital Insurance on the golf course.



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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.

Average Aspen Price From Public Agencies Fell in 2018

The average price of aspen sold by public agencies in Minnesota fell 8.9 percent in 2018 from the previous year, according to the 2018 Minnesota Public Agencies Stumpage Price Review and Price Indices, compiled by the Minnesota DNR.

The annual report aggregates stumpage prices of all species sold by public agencies in the state, including the DNR, county land departments, and the Chippewa and Superior National Forests.

According to the report, the average price of aspen purchased from public agencies was \$32.20 per cord in 2018, down from an average of \$35.36 in 2017, a decrease of \$3.16 per cord (8.9 percent).

The report indicated purchased prices on public ownerships for most every species declined in

2018, including birch, maple, red pine, jack pine, black spruce, and balsam, when compared to the previous year. The only species that saw price increases were cedar and white pine.

The entire report can be found at: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/timber_sales/stumpage/stumpage-review-report-2018.pdf

Recent Timber Sales Average prices, as reported by each agency

Agency Regular Intermediate

Cass County

April 25—Oral Auction

Aspen	\$31.53	\$43.47
Birch	\$18.08	\$22.68
Red Pine P&B	\$48.00	\$20.00
Basswood	\$21.44	\$21.68

All 8 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Clearwater County

April 25—Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp	\$28.84	NA
Oak Pulp	\$15.76	NA
Basswood Pulp	\$ 7.28	NA
Maple Pulp	\$10.64	NA

All 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Koochiching County

May 2—Oral Auction

Aspen P/B	\$33.10	\$31.73
Spruce P/B	\$21.91	\$26.65
Balsam P/B	\$ 8.24	\$ 9.33
Norway Pine P/B	\$44.28	\$51.31

29 of the 30 tracts offered during the

sale were purchased.

Carlton County

May 9—Oral Auction

Aspen	\$27.55	NA
Nrthn Hrdwds	\$12.00	NA
Balsam Fir	\$10.00	NA

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

DNR—Cloquet Area

May 9—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PB)	\$23.62	\$22.00
Paper Birch (PB)	\$18.70	\$15.71

9 of the 18 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

St. Louis County

May 9—Oral Auction

Aspen	\$31.89	NA
Birch	\$ 9.52	NA
Black Spruce	\$26.74	NA
Balsam	\$17.91	NA
Red Maple	\$ 4.21	NA

28 of the 31 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Park Rapids Area

May 14—Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (PB)	\$38.49	\$32.01
Nrthrn Hrdwds (PB)	\$19.27	\$24.06
Pine Species (WMP)	\$39.56	\$45.72
Aspen Species (PB)	\$26.71	\$35.51

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

Pine County

May 14—Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp	\$36.04	NA
Birch Pulp	\$18.44	NA
Pine P/B	\$30.00	NA
Maple Pulp	\$14.28	NA

All 8 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Aitkin Area

May 20—Oral Auction

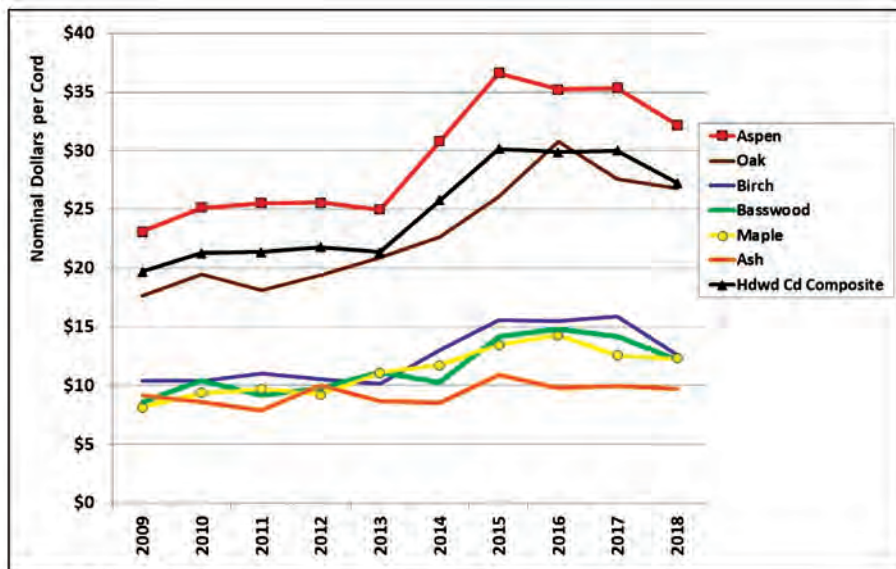
Aspen Species (PW)	\$23.37	\$24.80
Maple Species (BW)	\$12.51	\$16.50
Norway Pine (WMP)	\$28.30	NA

17 of the 53 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Aitkin County

May 20—Oral Auction

Aspen P&B	\$31.54	NA
Maple P&B	\$ 9.02	NA



Minnesota hardwood cord production prices by species group, 2009-2018. (a) a) Product categories: pulp & bolts and pulpwood only. Source: MN DNR

Red Pine P&B \$55.24 NA
 Aspen Pulp \$29.55 NA
 All 18 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Sandstone Area

May 22—Oral Auction
 Aspen Species (PW) \$21.42 \$26.84
 Pine Species (WMP) \$38.56 NA
 Maple Species (PW) \$13.09 \$16.40

9 of the 23 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Hibbing Area

May 29—Oral Auction
 Trembling Aspen (PB) \$32.06 \$22.84
 Black Spruce (PW) NA \$15.31
 Paper Birch (PB) \$14.56 NA
 Norway Pine (WST) NA \$63.42
 Balsam Fir (PW) \$11.93 \$14.40

16 of the 26 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Backus Area

May 30—Oral Auction
 Aspen Species (PW) \$35.15 \$26.32
 Paper Birch (PB) \$28.55 \$20.53
 Pine Species (PB) NA \$18.70
 Oak Species (PB) \$38.78 \$24.88

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

Cass County

May 30—Sealed Bid
 Aspen \$40.62 \$41.38
 Birch \$25.39 \$15.31

All 5 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Littlefork Area

June 3—Oral Auction
 Aspen Species (PW) \$23.03 \$26.32
 Mixed Spruce (PW) \$28.34 \$18.05
 Balsam Fir (PW) \$15.27 \$21.18
 Norway Pine (WST) \$86.75 NA
 Black Spruce (PW) \$17.85 \$32.47

26 of the 33 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Deer River Area

June 4—Oral Auction
 Trembling Aspen (PW) \$35.28 \$36.73
 Aspen Species (PW) NA \$36.25
 Norway Pine (PB) \$24.40 \$13.68
 Basswood (PB) NA \$10.60

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

DNR—Tower Area

June 5—Oral Auction
 Aspen Species (PW) \$20.94 \$26.94
 Trembling Aspen (PW) \$20.00 \$28.90
 Mixed Spruce (PW) \$17.00 \$23.79
 Balsam Fir (PW) \$14.20 \$16.38

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

Itasca County

June 7—Oral Auction
 Aspen \$34.72 \$34.17
 Red Pine \$48.24 \$29.28
 Spruce \$24.34 \$23.95
 Jack Pine \$40.17 \$35.21

37 of the 42 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Baudette Area

June 11—Oral Auction
 Aspen Species (PB) \$18.19 \$17.02
 Trembling Aspen (PB) \$28.35 \$23.50
 Ash (PW) \$ 6.76 \$ 5.95
 Balsam Fir (PW) \$13.00 \$10.42

23 of the 28 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Bemidji Area

June 12—Oral Auction
 Aspen Species (PW) \$31.19 \$30.04
 Aspen Species (WC) \$34.39 \$35.16
 Norway Pine (PB) \$47.17 \$22.74
 Ash (PB) \$13.09 \$11.96

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

DNR—Two Harbors Area

June 13—Oral Auction
 Trembling Aspen (PW) \$20.37 \$25.97
 Balsam Fir (PW) \$14.64 \$12.31

Mixed Spruce (PW) \$16.69 \$17.91
 Mixed Spruce (PB) \$26.22 \$ 9.56

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

Products:

PB= Pulp and Bolts
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 WST=Woodsrun Sawtimber
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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

Same Logs Scaled Many Times

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*



Today, many purchasers of timber products buy by weight or utilize consumer scaling instead of the old art of scaling, which seems to be passing into history along with sleigh hauling and horse skidding.

Years ago, every camp of any size had its log scaler and some of the larger camps had two or three. Log scaling was the coldest work in the camps, and I can remember the log scaler dressed in an ankle-long, sheepskin-lined coat with upturned collar, four-buckle felt overshoes and felt shoes, the heaviest wool pants and shirts and usually two or three pair of mitts that he would change as his fingers became cold.

Log scaling has been done under many, many conditions; but probably the worst would be trying to scale decked logs on a skidway, 20 ft. high, after sunlight hits the logs and pitch ran out of the ends. A scaler would go from side to side of the skidway, checking the butts and tops and climbing over the pitch, which stuck to his hands and scale stick. After that and the mosquitos and flies, both scaler and his scale book were usually a mess.

Scaling was done mostly on the landing,

usually at a river, on a lake or at a railroad siding where logs were loaded on cars. Sometimes logs were scaled as they were loaded on sleighs in the woods, and often on skidways in the woods, if they were to be loaded logging operations. But as a rule, they were scaled on the landings as this was where the sleighs all unloaded in one place.

Logs were scaled as they were rolled from the sleighs onto the skidways where the scaler could examine the log for defects as it rolled along the skids. The scaler would have to walk from one end of the logs to the other in order to scale from the small end of the log.

Many companies required numbering of logs; and in this case, the scaler held a yard-long stick with a crayon at the end to mark the logs. He usually held the scale stick under his arm when it was not in use.

Some companies used a scale book, as did the State of Minnesota. Others used a card system. These cards fitted into a frame with a handle, and that was easier to handle than the scale book. Each card was numbered and dated with the camp number or location, and each card had room for recording 100 logs.

The scaler’s job was not complete even when crews finished up, because he had to work an hour or so each night figuring up his scale sheets.

In some of the larger camps, there were special shacks made for scalers; in others a special desk in the office was available for the scaler’s use.

Some companies or jobbers set up a small shack on the lake, river or log landing for the scaler to warm himself while he waited for loads. But the log scaling job, at its best, was very cold work during the winter months. Summer scaling also had its drawbacks, because sand flies and mosquitos were always a problem.

Some logs were scaled several times if they were to be sold to a different company or put in by a contractor. Often a state and company scaler worked in the landing together if logs were from state lands. And nearly all mills scaled logs as they came up the “bull chain” — usually small end first.

Many logs were scaled at the sorting works on the rivers. There, logs were scaled with a caliper instead of a scale rule. Logs also were scaled as they were



hoisted out of the water and loaded on cars.

Most companies had “check scalers” that came around about once in two weeks to check the scalers. A check scale usually consisted of a double scale of 200 logs. It took many years experience to be a good scaler.

Jobbers and contractors always figured

the company scalers favored the company that bought the logs, so on many contracts where logs were bought on scale, the scaling would be done by a surveyor general scaler.

The different scale rules – the Minnesota Standard Rule, Wisconsin Dismal C and Doyle Rule were used in Minnesota – also brought some criticism to the scaler.





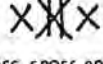


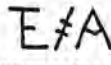




I have known many good scalers over the years, but some that stand out in my memories were Henry Phalen, M&I Railroad scaler from Bemidji; John and Ed Achenbach of Bemidji; Clyde Johnson of Big Falls; and Chris Holm, William MacGregor, Dan McCloud and Hank McGugin of Cloquet. These all were log scalers of the first degree and masters of a lost art.



Above: Thousands of cords of pulpwood await spring thaw along the Littlefork River.

Right: Log marks were as important to early loggers as brands were to western cattlemen. These are some of the marks used by major companies during early days of logging in Minnesota.

Below: A scene from Minnesota’s last big log drive in 1937 on the Littlefork River.

DAVID TOZER Pitchfork 	E. W. BACKUS B scalp A 	W. D. WASHBURN C. double Y reversed H 
CMS. BRYENTON Reel 	JONATHAN CHASE Cross. cross on two girdles cross 	ERASTUS BYERS Two double darts 
THOMAS CARMICHAEL Snowshoe 	J. S. PILLSBURY & CO. TEL combined girdle twenty A 	J. B. BASSETT & CO. Roof Y girdle twenty 
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END MARKS	BARK MARKS	END MARKS



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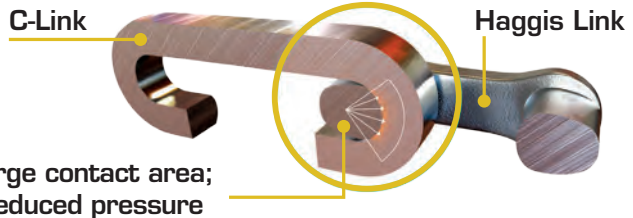


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