

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

MAY/JUNE 2018

VOLUME 73

Walking through Logging History Annual Meeting Highlights



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ON THE COVER

87-year-old logger Dean Walsh operates a Ponsse Gazelle Forester. For more on the company he owns with his son Bob, please turn to page 8.

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It is with mixed emotion that I write my last column as President of our organization. It will be nice to hand off the duties of the President's position, but I will sincerely miss all the great experiences I have had the opportunity to gain as President.

I would like to express my appreciation to the entire TPA staff, including Wayne, Ray, and Ann, for all the support they have provided during my tenure. They truly made the position enjoyable. Thank you.

President's Column

Thank you to all of our members who attended



the Annual Meeting and all the other events held this past year. I hope you found them informative and worth your valuable time. I

personally found meeting the Olympic Gold Medal Curling Winners from our Northland at the Annual Meeting very rewarding.

It has been an honor to serve as your President. Incoming President Kurt Benson will undoubtedly carry on the high standards of our TPA. Be safe and remember to spend time with your families.

David Berthiaume

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Olympic Gold Medalists as banquet speakers, great weather for a fun day, time to renew old friendships and make new contacts and some interesting presentations. All of that and more was this year's Annual Meeting. Olympic Gold Medalists John Shuster and John Landsteiner were very generous with their time spending the whole day with us. It's not often you get a chance to rub elbows with history!

When TPA VP Ray Higgins reached out to John Shuster we

Executive Vice President's didn't know if he'd even take the call. (Of course Ray got his number,

Column



he can get anybody's number.) But take the call he did while making national TV appearances in New York City. He went on to tell Ray that

he knew lots of our folks including John Rolle and his family since both were from Chisholm. He also said

that he knew the Lovdahl family and that his father had helped guide at their game farm.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, presenters, members and friends who made the event a success. A big thank you to Ray Higgins and our administrative assistant Ann Todd for handling all of the details to make the event a success.



Unfortunately I was not able to participate in the Annual Meeting. As many of you know I have a health issue and my treatment schedule didn't allow me to be in Grand Rapids for this fun event. I continue to be engaged with the daily work of our organization and look forward to the future. In the meantime I really appreciate the kind words and support that I have received from TPA leadership and the many friends I have made in the woods through the years.



The 2018 State Legislative Session ended with a whimper. The legislature and the Governor failed to reach agreement on Supplemental Appropriations and Tax legislation

so the legislature went ahead and passed the bills and the Governor vetoed them. Pretty much a waste of everyone's time.

A Bonding Bill was passed and signed by the Governor. Thanks to the herculean efforts of Senator Bakk it included \$3 million for reforestation on DNR lands. Also included in the DNR Asset Preservation line item was sufficient funding to replace bridges on the forest road system and do some other projects.

We had some items in the vetoed bills that would have improved forestry including a proposal to have the MN Forest Resources Council review how and how frequently we are doing forest inventories in Minnesota. Essentially we wanted the Council to take a look at seeing if we can improve or build a better inventory mouse trap. The Council may still be able to do some work on this important issue.

So now we head to the fall elections and wait to see who will be in charge of what when the 2019 Legislative Session convenes.



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One of the highlights of every Annual Meeting is our Safety Contest which recognizes the commitment to safety that our members and organization have every day. It is heartening to see so many of our members with no accidents and in some cases no accidents for decades. Safety isn't just about keeping our workers compensation rates down, it's about taking care of the people we work with every day.

Congratulations to this year's winners!



The next phase of the Northern Long-Eared Bat issue is underway. The Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources are preparing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that will be used across the three states if the Bat is listed as Endangered at some point in the future. Essentially a HCP will guide what activities will be allowed on lands participating in the plan. The first draft chapters of the HCP have been released. TPA is actively engaged with the industry in the Lake States in reviewing and commenting on the draft chapters. FRA and their new regional coordinator Tim O'Hara are leading this effort. Many thanks to FRA for stepping up on this issue and congratulations to Tim on his new position.



Be safe out there and thanks again for giving me the opportunity to serve this great organization.

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Tom, Dean, and Bob Walsh

Walking through Logging History

Dean Walsh is in his 8th decade of working Minnesota's forests, and he's doing it with his son and grandson.

On a red pine harvest near Menasha are three loggers, each representing a different generation of their family—a different era—and each also represents a different niche within the logging community:

- At 87, Dean Walsh is still in the woods every day, operating a cut-to-length forwarder, and

representing the rich history of logging in Minnesota, cutting his first wood in 1942 at the age of 12;

- Dean's son Bob is an innovator, embracing technology and showing the creativity to build his own machines to keep the business going;

- Finally, it's Bob's nephew Tom who represents logging's future, a 26-year-old looking to someday take over the business.

Together, the trio forms Dean and Bob Walsh Logging, along with Tom's father Jake who drives truck and is a partner. The Walshes share the entrepreneurship necessary to



Dean Walsh operates a Ponsse Gazelle Forwarder.

survive and thrive in the logging business. In addition, they also share the Walsh name, one of the most storied names in the history of Minnesota Logging, including former TPA president and national logger of the year Dick Walsh (Dean's brother), as well as Harris Walsh, who worked into his 90s.

It's a legacy that dates back to the early part of the 20th century. Dean's father Charlie and his Uncle Ed co-owned a couple of sawmills near Bagley. When the stock market crashed in 1929, both were closed. They ended up with another mill near Park Rapids, which is where the family settled. When Dean needed a few bucks in his pocket at the age of 12, Charlie showed him the way to the woods.

"I needed five bucks," Dean says. "My dad said there's some jack pine up on that hill. Go do it. I cut 100 sticks in a day with a swede saw and an ax and he paid me a nickel a stick."

When he graduated from Park Rapids High, he began a career that included a variety of jobs in the woods, mostly operating

sawmills and logging, including a stint working for his brother Dick. He also mixed in farming in the summers and a two-year stint in the Army in mid-1950s.

In the meantime, Dean married Joyce Pritchett and had six kids, including Bob. He too got his start in the family business at a young age.

"My mom's father had a sawmill, and Dad was running that," Bob recalls. "When we were growing up we'd help throw slabs or pile boards or anything we needed to do. That started when we were 7 or 8 years old."

After graduating from Park Rapids, Bob dabbled in logging, and wound up going to school for auto body repair in Bemidji. He worked in a body shop in Red Lake Falls for a couple of years. But it wasn't long before Bob was back in the woods.

"By this time," Bob says, "Dad decided to get a skidder and start logging on his own. He was hand-felling a popple tree and it went sideways on him and broke his leg. So I took a vacation from the body shop and came down and helped

out, and went back out to Red Lake Falls and gave them my two-week's notice. I came back and I've been here ever since."

The problem was, markets were scarce. Finding wood to cut wasn't a problem. Finding places to market it was. But soon after Bob returned, the Walshes caught a break.

"A friend of Bob's," Dean says, "had a plantation up by Portage Lake and they said if he didn't get it thinned, they were going to thin it. In other words they were going to come in and leave them lay. So we did it and we had no market so we just piled the wood up, and hoped we'd find a market somewhere. And that's about the time Potlatch decided to build the stud mill in Bemidji. All of a sudden, they're after the wood. So we started selling them wood."

It was the start of a relationship with PotlatchDeltic that continues to this day. But hand-felling wasn't providing the amount of production they needed. The business was at a crossroads. That's when Bob's creativity and his auto body background came into play. Rather



Bob Walsh built this processor during the winter of 1989-90. It was the Walshes' first slasher/processor.

than purchasing a machine to process their wood, he designed and built his own machine.

"We didn't have the money to buy

something," Dean chuckled.

"And I like to build stuff," Bob added.

Their friend Clyde Zirkle had a

machine shop in Park Rapids, and he let Bob work there at night to build his creations.

"There were guys in the shop that



Joe Torgerson loads harvested red pine for hauling to Bemidji's PotlatchDeltic mill. Torgerson is one of several truckers hired by Dean and Bob Walsh.



Tom Walsh operates one of the company's two Ponsse Gazelle forwarders.

said this isn't ever going to work," Dean says. "I said yes it will!"

The thing was, Bob hadn't really done something like this before. He had experience welding from his days in the body shop. But the rest of it, including the hydraulics, was all self-taught.

"You learn it as you go," he says.

"That first machine was basically the same thing as a cut-to-length head on a Ponsse, except it was on a trailer," Bob says. "It had feed rolls that pulled the trees through knives, and the chainsaw cut it off. And then I had a sort table I could put bolts on one side and pulp on the other side. We used that for quite a while, about ten years."

Next they bought a feller-buncher that pinched the trees off at the stump, but it shattered the butts so they had to cut them again with a saw.

"The pincher just had one moving knife and then it had a gathering space so you could cut more than one tree," he says. "There was an arm that held that tree in there while you went and got another one. I copied that part of it and I put a hydraulic chain saw on the



Red pine bolts from Dean and Bob Walsh's harvest site wait to be loaded onto trucks and hauled to the PotlatchDeltic stud mill in Bemidji.

bottom. We used that for four years, I suppose."

Eventually the Walshes started purchasing equipment, first a Komatsu with a Hahn processing head, and then a Fabtek. These days, they're using a Ponsse cut-to-length system: Bob operates an Ergo processor, while Dean and Bob's nephew Tom each drive Gazelle forwarders.

"We need two forwarders," Dean says, "so we can keep up with Bob."

"When we get into the big wood," Tom says, "he'll fly through it and we'll be sitting there two days behind him within a day of him starting to cut."

Tom's mom is Bob's sister, representing the fourth generation in the family to head to the woods, joining his uncle and grandfather. A graduate of Park Rapids, Tom started out like most in the business do, at an early age.

"When I was young," Tom says, "I was just brought out to the woods and started watching the equipment. As I got older, I helped out after school, on weekends, and during the summer. And I've been

here ever since."

The current job is typical of the sites the Walshes harvest: a red pine thinning on PotlatchDeltic land. They started the job last year, and they're finishing up this summer. What's neat about this job is that Dean has worked on this site before.

"Years ago, I clear cut jack pine on this site," he says. "That had to be 1984 or 85."

That'll happen when you're 87, about to turn 88 in July, and have been in the woods for 76 years.

"I just love it," he says. "I love what we do. I mean this was all jack pine. We cut the whole thing off and they replanted it, and look at it now. It just keeps coming back and they just keep growing. Once you thin them like this, they really take off."

At this point, Dean doesn't have any plans to slow down. He did have open heart surgery ten Labor Days ago, but was back in the woods within three weeks and went deer hunting that year.

History is on Dean's side. His mom lived 97 years, and his dad died in his 80s, working until he

was around 75. Plus, Dean's cousin Harris Walsh lived until he was 97. So there are no plans to retire, not as long as he loves what he's doing. Harris's brother Chester also logged into his 80's

"I like this better than retirement," Dean says. "I see so many guys retire and about two months later they're in the cemetery somewhere. So as long as I feel good, I'll keep going. And I feel good."

Bob turns 60 in July. His days of building machines seems to be mostly behind him. The last one he built was a road grader that they pull behind a pickup.

"I just used it on the road out here last week," he says.

Tom plans to be here a while longer, too. If and when Dean and Bob are ready to retire, Tom wants to take over, and he has a brother and a sister interested in joining him.

The only problem is, Dean doesn't have plans to quit. But that's OK. Until then, three generations of Walshes will keep thinning red pine, and continue writing a classic Minnesota logging story.



Bob Walsh harvests and processes red pine with a Ponsse Ergo.



Jake Kramer leaves the Walsh harvest site with a load of red pine. Kramer is Tom Walsh's dad, and Bob Walsh's brother-in-law.

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TPA Finds Legislative Success, Despite Gridlock

The 2018 Minnesota Legislative session ended with a few large omnibus bills passed, much acrimony between Republicans and DFLers, and several vetoes by Governor Mark Dayton. Still, when all the dust cleared on another session, TPA managed to find some success.

The big victory came in the form of \$3 million included in the Bonding Bill for reforestation, fully funding the need of the DNR's Division of Forestry. But this line item didn't come without some last minute drama.

Earlier during the last week of the session, a proposed Senate Bonding Bill couldn't garner enough bipartisan support for passage. But forty-five minutes before the mandatory Midnight adjournment on Sunday May 20, a new Bonding Bill, including the reforestation money, suddenly materialized and was quickly passed by both the Senate and the House with less than twenty minutes to spare. Governor Dayton later signed the bill. Because the DNR is required by statute to reforest all harvested acres, had the bill not been passed and signed the Division of Forestry may have had to reduce the number of acres harvested. Thanks go out to those who brokered this last minute deal, spearheaded by Senator Tom Bakk of Tower.

Following are other items of interest from this year's session:



- Forest Roads – Funds for the DNR “asset preservation” were included in the Bonding Bill that should allow for the replacement of several bridges and other work on state forest roads.
- Forest Inventory – language was included in the Supplemental Appropriations bill directing the Minnesota Forest Resources Council to study and report back with recommendations on forest inventory needs. Governor Dayton later vetoed this bill, but the Forest Resources Council will likely proceed

with this work, even without legislative direction.

- Permanent School Trust Funds – In an outrageous move \$50 million was taken from the State Budget Reserve and appropriated to schools for K-12 Education with the justification that this somehow partially compensates the Permanent School Trust for lands that the DNR has placed in non-revenue producing management regimes. Governor Dayton ultimately vetoed this provision.
- Compensation to Biomass Suppliers – Language was included in the Omnibus Supplemental Budget Appropriations bill that would have established a fund to compensate businesses adversely affected by the closure of the Benson Power Facility. Qualified businesses would have included fertilizer companies and turkey litter producers, in addition to loggers and truckers. While the bill passed both the House and the Senate, Governor Dayton ultimately vetoed the bill.

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TPA/DNR Timber Sales Task Force Works Through Issues

Last year, TPA created a Task Force of its members to not only identify issues with DNR timber sale administration, but also to propose potential solutions. In all, the Task Force identified twenty-three issues, and met with DNR decision-makers, including Director Forrest Boe, Deputy Director Craig Schmid, Timber Sale Administrator Doug Tillma, and others, to work through the issues. TPA staff also met with various staffers within DNR to find solutions. What follows is a cross-section of issues, as well as the path toward resolution agreed upon by DNR.

Issue: Sales are more frequently under or over-running than in the past, particularly on spruce sales. This can leave permit holders short of timber in the case of under-running sales, or have to access sites and absorb those costs for multiple year entries when sales over-run.

DNR Response: DNR agrees to improve cruising accuracy to achieve their standard of 80% of all appraisals within +/- 20% of the scaled volume. The Division has created a new position—timber sales program operations coordinator—and one of his tasks is to coordinate training to improve appraisal accuracy. DNR will continue to track cruising accuracy among foresters and has agreed to put cruising accuracy on its annual workplan for tracking each Forestry Area's accomplishments toward the appraisal standard.

Issue: Fine tuning needs to continue to be done with consumer scale load tickets.

DNR Response: DNR should consider switching from ticket numbers being punched in for manned and unmanned scales, to utilizing bar codes (for interested consumers). Truck drivers may punch in one digit in error which sets off problems with accounting for a load. Frequently it falls on the logger/trucker to search hundreds of tickets to find the



error. DNR submitted this project to information technology staff (MNIT) in FY17, awaiting funding approval. This project will begin with some outreach to consumer scalers to better understand the mills' scale reporting software and develop a plan for improvements.

Issue: There continue to be problems with the practice of listing consumers for each permit. The DNR already has a list of all consumers so why does this need to be provided for each sale. Is this needless paperwork?

DNR Response: DNR feels it must have a way to identify the destinations for unscaled timber. Many permit holders use 10 or fewer destinations. The DNR system will keep this set of ten or fewer identified consumer scale destinations applied to all of a logger's permits until a change is made and DNR is notified. If the wood is going to an approved consumer that isn't listed on the permit, a call to the DNR during business hours, or the next business day will suffice. DNR agrees the intent is met if this happens, and understands the logger is making an effort to comply.

Issue: Information on individual sales is removed from DNR web site shortly after sales are sold.

DNR Response: DNR has made several improvements. Among them, sealed bid auction results are posted and archived on a separate web page fifteen days after the auction date. All auction high bid results are available on the main calendar page for 30 days. After 30 days the completed auction results are moved to an archive page and will remain posted there for three years.

Issue: The financial consequences when the DNR orders the shut-down of operations on a permit fall virtually entirely on the logger. There is no clear path forward to re-starting operations when a sale is shut down.

DNR Response: DNR says it can do a better job identifying the conditions when a re-start will be allowed and maintaining communications with the logger as site conditions change. DNR sends an annual email to the field about allowing flexibility and not making start-up or shutdown decisions without visiting the logging site. Shutting entire permit operations

is a last resort when site damage is occurring, instead shutting down parts of a permit or certain activities while keeping other parts open is a better option with less financial downside.

Issue: The escalation of consequences for liquidated damages is not transparent enough or well understood. Permit holders frequently simply pay the liquidated damages even when they do not believe that they are appropriate to avoid being suspended from bidding for having a delinquent payment. In addition, disputed liquidated damages should not be considered as delinquent payments.

DNR Response: DNR has updated and posted the Liquidated Damages Schedule describing the escalation of fees. These Liquidated Damages fees are meant to be low value, at first, it is meant to go along with the written warning. Most of these would otherwise be a timber trespass. If a dispute resolution is necessary DNR says it can use the same path as trespass disputes. Area Forest Supervisor makes determination, reviewed by Region Forestry Manager in consultation with the St. Paul Timber Program. As with any disputed invoice charge, DNR puts on hold any past-due/late fees until a decision has been made. In addition, language will be inserted into the standard citation letter informing the recipient of the dispute resolution process.

Issue: Additional security is being required on over-run sales even when there is still a balance on the security that has been provided. Security is not refunded when a sale under-runs. A fair policy would apply the same approach to over-run sales and under-run sales or provide for no billings other than on the final billing for both situations.

DNR Response: DNR established a threshold of >20% overrun required before an invoice is made for additional security. This matches the appraisal accuracy standard. Additional security is based on the appraiser's estimate of timber remaining (area estimation only), usually the difference between the appraised total sale volume and the scaled timber to-date. These are only done in rare circumstances where

the over-run is apparent (enough timber harvested) and a quarterly invoice is required. Over-run billings are not done for wood on alternate landings or permits that will be otherwise closing within the next quarterly invoice period. If a sale is under-running by more than 20% a refund of the excess sale security can be made to the logger upon request. Refunds for under-running permits uses the same criteria as over-run billings. The estimates are done on a quarterly basis, if the under-run is greater than 20%, a refund of the sale security is made on that quarterly billing cycle. The permit holder may request this too. This all follows statute. Clarification was added to the timber sale manual. Also, DNR says it only bills for 20% over-run when, the wood is still on the stump, and it's not going to close in three months, which is a rare occurrence.

Issue: Security should be fungible (transferable) between sales. For example a purchaser may have tens of thousands of dollars in security on deposit with the State for various sales and still be billed for minor amounts. And, refunds of security for sales that under-run should be made in the same manner and with the same criteria as is established for additional security on sales that over-run.

DNR Response: Permits that have not started harvesting can be unsecured and transfer the funds to another permit. Down payments cannot be refunded or transferred.

Issue: Some sales are specified as operable in frozen conditions unless written permission is given to operate in non-frozen conditions. When these requests are made it often takes several weeks to obtain permission. There should be a time limit of 1-3 days to receive a written response for these requests.

DNR Response: Receiving a written response takes several more days just to get through the mail. A phone call or other communication should be possible within 3 days with a written letter following. If answer isn't received, call the region. Access requests for Division of Wildlife Administered lands may take longer.

Issue: There continue to be problems with closing sales in a timely manner. There continue to be instances where sales are not closed for 6-12 months after work on the permit is concluded.

DNR Response: The current target is to process the final invoice on all permits no more than 30 days after the last scale has been received. The permit is then closed as soon as the invoice is paid. There are some situations where a permit is not immediately closed, usually involving site/road remediation that can only occur in summer months. Such decisions to keep a permit open occur only after discussions with the permit holder. If there are permits that are taking longer to close than 30 days after the last scale, contact the sale administrator or Area Supervisor. If Area staff are not available, permit holders can call St. Paul Timber Sales staff.

Issue: There is a need to improve training for DNR employees in a number of areas, including (but not limited to): accuracy of volume estimates; estimates of products (pulp vs. bolts vs. poles etc.); understanding of logging operations including costs; and understanding of markets for harvested wood. Further, DNR annual scaled volumes have decreased below historical averages according to DNR data. This has not been the case with other landowners. TPA's view is that a significant contributing factor for this is the increased difficulty that permit holders are seeing in dealing with DNR. In short, relationships between permit holders and DNR employees seem to be becoming more adversarial than in the past. This is not productive for either party.

DNR Response: DNR has added over 100 new foresters in the last 4-5 years. DNR has created a new position, Timber Operations Coordinator, to start a training program for foresters to address these and other issues. TPA will be involved in establishing topics for the program. Members will be asked to give tours of logging jobs to help improve understanding between DNR staff and logging contractors.

Informative Presentations Highlight Annual Meeting

The 2018 TPA Annual Membership Meeting continued the organization's long-standing tradition of securing speakers and presentations that provide "insider information" about key issues facing the logging industry, as well as the chance to discuss topics with top policy makers in either a group setting or one-on-one.

The agenda for this year's session at Sugar Lake Lodge south of Grand Rapids included the annual presentation on the association's accomplishments over the past twelve months; DNR Division of Forestry Director Forrest Boe on current issues pertaining to the state forests; DNR's Craig Schmid on the work of TPA's Timber Sale Task Force; MnDOT's Duane Hill, who discussed current projects, as well as the agency's perspective on various issues; and DeAnn Stish, Executive Director of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council.



Mn DNR Division of Forestry Director Forrest Boe discussed a variety of topics with the TPA membership. He was joined by Deputy Director Craig Schmid, who discussed the outcome of the TPA/DNR Timber Sale Task Force. Details of that appear elsewhere in this issue of the Timber Bulletin.



TPA Members listen to informative presentations, including the Annual Report on Association Activities, as well as reports from TPA's various committees at the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting.



Olympic Curlers John Landsteiner and John Shuster of Duluth shared the story of winning the Olympic Gold Medal at the TPA Annual Meeting Banquet. The Curlers also took pictures with banquet attendees. L-R: Landsteiner, Jerelyn Rieger, Mike Rieger, and Shuster.



MnDOT's Duane Hill, District Engineer for the agency's 1st District (Duluth) discussed a variety of topics at the Annual Meeting, including upcoming road projects and how the agency interacts with stakeholders, including TPA. Hill also answered questions from TPA members.

Annual Report of Association Activities

In this yearly presentation, activities and accomplishments of TPA staff over the 12 months were outlined, including details of the recently completed legislative session as they pertain to the forest products industry, including DNR Funding for reforestation and forest roads, and forest inventory. A complete re-cap of these activities appears elsewhere in this issue of *The Timber Bulletin*.

TPA's interactions with county, state, and federal policy makers on a variety of topics were also reviewed. Among TPA's activities highlighted in the report were the association's work on DNR's Sustainable Timber Harvest Analysis.

Featured Speakers

TPA members had a chance to hear from **DNR Division of Forestry Director Forrest Boe** on a variety of topics, including the sustainable timber harvest analysis, good neighbor authority, and private forest management.

In updating DNR's private forest management program, Boe said since it was approved by the legislature three years ago, DNR has worked on over 600 projects for things like invasive species removal, timber stand improvement, and tree planting. In fact, Boe said DNR foresters have planted more than 800,000 seedlings on private land as part of



Outgoing TPA President Dave Berthiaume receives an Award of Appreciation from incoming president Kurt Benson, in recognition of Berthiaume's two years of service.

the program. DNR's twelve PFM foresters have worked on 61 timber harvests, resulting in 15,000 harvested cords. They've also made 864 referrals to consulting foresters for timber harvest, and DNR is working on a way to track how many of those referrals actually ended up in a timber sale. Boe encouraged TPA members to inform the private landowners about the program, in part because there are costs share funds available for things like tree planting or timber stand improvement projects.

"We can get some dollars in their hands that will help them plant after it's been harvested or just do some timber stand improvement projects, whatever that private landowner wants," Boe said. "We probably have a program that can help them out and put a little bit more money in their pockets."

Boe also talked about the change the division of forestry is seeing in its staffing. Over the past five years, retirements and other attrition

have resulted in roughly 120 new foresters out of around 270 total on staff. Boe told TPA loggers these new foresters need their help in understanding how things work in the woods.

"That's a lot of change," Boe said. If you get an opportunity to get one of those new foresters a look at your equipment, or show him or her what is or isn't working on a timber sale, I would really appreciate that. They need that kind of help because a lot of the foresters that we get are coming fresh out of school. They're very good, smart people, but in many cases they don't have a real connection to what actually happens on the ground. So that's why we need you. Whatever you can do to help them along, to get that part of the education would be very good. We'd appreciate that."

Division of Forestry **Deputy Director Craig Schmid** spoke about the activities of the interaction with TPA's Timber Sale Task Force, whose work is outlined elsewhere

in this issue of *The Timber Bulletin*. Schmid also answered questions and concerns regarding DNR using different product categories on its spring auctions, including "woodsrunk sawtimber", and also the manner in which base prices are calculated.

Duane Hill, MnDOT's District 1 Engineer, spoke to TPA members about proposed road projects in our region, as well as other projects currently underway. Hill also answered questions about a variety of subjects, including roundabouts and speed limits on roads throughout northern Minnesota.

Finally, **Minnesota Forest Resources Council Executive Director DeAnn Stish** briefly addressed her work throughout the state. Stish joined the Council late last year and was able to have one-on-one conversations with several TPA members throughout the day.

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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 2017 through March of this year:

Logging Division

- Berthiaume Logging, LLC, Cloquet
- Dick Walsh Forest Products, LLP, Park Rapids
- Erickson Timber Products, Inc., Baudette
- Greg Cook Logging, Inc., Bigfork
- Johnson Logging, Inc., Cannon Falls
- Kimball's Logging, Inc., Park Rapids
- Lake Nebagamon Trucking Corp., Lake Nebagamon, WI
- Lundberg Forest Products, Inc., Solway
- Palmaer Logging, Barnum
- Pittack Logging, Inc., Bovey
- Simcoe & Habisch Logging, McGrath
- Third Generation Logging, Bigfork
- Tim Kelm Logging, Inc., Park Rapids.
- Two Inlets Mill & Bldg. Supply, Park Rapids

Trucking Division

- Berthiaume Logging, LLC, Cloquet
- Dick Walsh Forest Products, LLP, Park Rapids
- Erickson Timber Products, Inc., Baudette
- Johnson Logging, Inc., Cannon Falls
- Junker Logging, Inc., Littlefork
- Kimball's Logging, Inc., Park Rapids
- Lake Nebagamon Trucking Corp., Lake Nebagamon, WI
- Lundberg Forest Products, Inc., Solway
- Mannco Trucking, Inc., International Falls
- Palmaer Logging, Barnum
- Pittack Logging, Inc., Bovey
- Tim Kelm Logging, Inc., Bemidji
- Third Generation Logging, Bigfork
- Two Inlets Mill & Bldg. Supply, Park Rapids

Sawmill Division

- Bergstrom Wood Products, Inc., Int'l Falls
- Cass Forest Products, Cass Lake
- Erickson Timber Products, Inc., Baudette
- Johnson Logging, Inc., Cannon Falls
- Land O Lakes Wood Preserving Co., Tenstrike
- Two Inlets Mill, Park Rapids
- Wagner Sawmill, LLC, Ada

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Alum. Stake, 8'.....**\$125**



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TPA Members Golf and Fish

Weather conditions were ideal for both golf and fishing, as TPA members discovered after a morning filled with informative meetings, as they headed to either Lake Pokegama or to Sugarbrooke Golf Course for an afternoon with fellow industry insiders.

TPA Thanks Our Sponsors!

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(L-R): Justin Sawyer and Shawn Fletcher join Rich Miska, Jeff Herkert, and Leon LaRock of McCoy Construction and Forestry for a day on the links at TPA's golf outing.



Joe Pittack with a 24-inch northern pike from Lake Pokegama during TPA's fishing outing.

Federal Forests Eye Lake States Increases

by Tim O'Hara

In Federal FY2018 the National Forests in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan are estimating a timber program that has not been reached in more than 20 years. This has been achieved through collaborative efforts between the Healthy Forest, Healthy Communities, Lake States Federal Timber Purchasers, and State Natural Resources Departments.

A key to the success in the Lake States is keeping open lines of communications between the industry and Forest Service leadership in good times and in bad times. These lines of communication have allowed the Lake States to consistently produce 70%+ of the Forest Service Eastern Region timber outputs.

In addition, the authorities approved by Congress, such as the Good Neighbor Authority, have allowed State Natural Resources Departments to coordinate with the Forest Service on forest management activities. The Good Neighbor Authority has certainly increased the "pace and scale" of forest management activities in all three states. Wisconsin was the leader in implementing the GNA with legislative support at the State and Federal level. Michigan and Minnesota were soon to

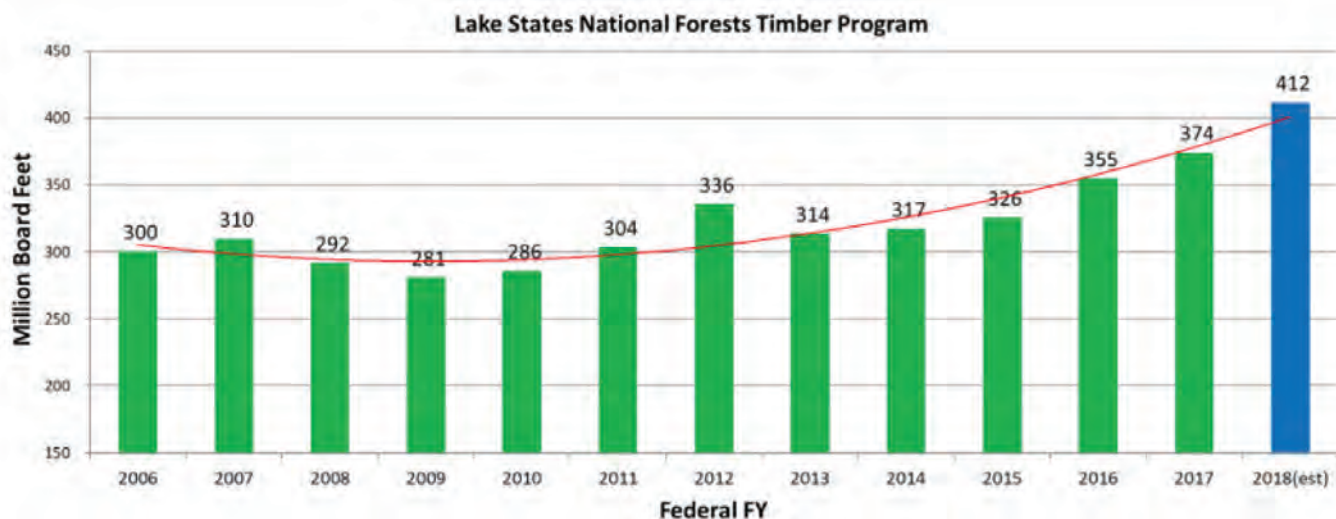


follow. GNA is certainly making a difference in rural economies and improving forest health.

We still have work to do. Young forests in the Lake States are extremely important to many wildlife species, including ruffed grouse, whitetail deer, moose, and numerous song birds such as the golden-winged warbler. Due to limited funding to implement plans, the Lake States National Forests have only provided for about 50% of the young forest habitat objectives, as stated in respective forest plans. As Congress works on the Farm Bill revision it's critical that the "Early Successional" Categorical Exclusion be included in the final bill. This authority will allow the Forest Service to create much needed young-forest habitat across the Eastern Region of the Forest Service.

Nobody wins when they take their ball and go home. It's important that discussions between industry and the Forest Service continue, in good and bad times. Groups that have worked in the Lake States to make this happen are the Lake States Federal Timber Purchasers Committee, the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, Minnesota Forest Industries, Great Lakes Timber Producers Association, Michigan Forest Products Council, the Federal Forest Resource Coalition, and Healthy Forest Healthy Communities. Keep up the good work!

Tim O'Hara is the Manager of the Lakes States Region and Policy Communications for the Forest Resources Association



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International Bildrite Closes

International Bildrite announced in April it was closing its doors after more than thirty years in business.

The International Falls company opened in 1987, and manufactured fiberboard used in roofing and siding sheathing. Market conditions and commodity prices were cited by the company in making the announcement.

Timber Talk

International Bildrite was family owned and had 43 full-time employees.

Nortrax Purchased by McCoy Group

McCoy Group, Inc. a family-owned company based in Dubuque, IA, is expanding its business base

with the purchase of seven John Deere Construction and Forestry stores serving northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan from Nortrax, Inc.

The company, which will do business as McCoy Construction & Forestry has acquired the Nortrax locations in Grand Rapids, Bemidji, and Duluth, as well as in Escanaba, MI and the Merrill, Chippewa Falls and Ashland locations in Wisconsin.

The McCoy Group's new construction and forestry division joins a growing organization that is already home to seven subsidiaries, including Midwest-based Freightliner dealerships Truck Country and Stoops, and transportation focused companies, Foodliner, Quest Liner and McCoy NationalLease.

"The acquisition and subsequent formation of McCoy Construction

& Forestry has provided our organization with an opportunity to diversify our business into an industry that is similar in many



ways," said Greg McCoy, president and CEO of McCoy Group. "We are proud and excited to be partnering with John Deere, whose brand is one of the strongest in the world for delivering world-class products and services to its customers. It's also an organization that shares the same McCoy Group values of integrity, honesty, quality, innovation and, above all, commitment to the customer."

Jeff Herkert, MCF president
















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added, "A constant over the past six decades has been the McCoy Group's customer-driven philosophy. Customers will see the same commitment to service under the new ownership group. As we look forward to fostering relationships and growing our team, we are excited by the possibilities this new chapter brings for our customers, teammates, John Deere and the entire McCoy Group family."

"The McCoy family has a remarkable track record with customers and employees dating back all the way to 1958," said Tim J. Murphy, Nortrax president and CEO. "They are totally committed to growth and investment in their respective businesses for the long term. They bring a proven track record of great financial stability and customer focus, which will enable them to grow and support the John Deere brand in the Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin markets."

Concluded Greg McCoy, "We owe a special thanks to all McCoy Group employees for the great work they do, which has allowed us to be successful and pursue opportunities of this nature. Additionally, we want to both thank and welcome Nortrax's Midwest group of talented employees into our family. As we move forward as one team, our commitment to our customers and employees is stronger than ever."

Potlatch and Deltic Timber Complete Merger

Potlatch Corporation and Deltic Timber Corporation have completed their merger, creating a leading domestic timberland owner and top-tier wood products manufacturer. The combined company has changed its name to PotlatchDeltic Corporation.



Together, the combined company has a highly productive and diverse timberland portfolio of nearly 2 million acres, with approximately 1.1 million acres in the U.S. South, 600,000 acres in Idaho, and 150,000 acres in Minnesota. The company operates eight wood products manufacturing facilities, including six lumber manufacturing facilities, one medium density fiberboard facility and one industrial plywood mill. In total, PotlatchDeltic has lumber capacity of 1.2 billion board feet, making it one of the leading producers in the U.S.

O'Hara Joins FRA

Tim O'Hara has joined the Forest Resources Association as Manager, Lake States Region and Policy Communications. O'Hara was



previously Woodlands Manager at the Packaging Corporation of America mill in International Falls.

O'Hara will represent FRA's interest in the Lake

States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, as well as provide forestry and policy expertise to FRA's efforts in Washington, DC.

"Tim's public policy background, coupled with a forestry degree and experience working in the wood supply chain, will be a beneficial addition to our federal public policy efforts to help identify emerging issues that impact the wood supply chain," said FRA President Deb Hawkinson. "Tim will be working closely with Pat Rita, FRA's policy consultant who provides coverage for FRA on the Hill. I look forward to working with both Tim and Pat as we combine efforts to address FRA's public policy priorities and keep FRA members informed and engaged."

Prior to joining PCA, O'Hara was Vice President of Forest Policy for Minnesota Forest Industries.



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On the Markets

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

Recent Timber Sales

Average prices, as reported by each agency

Agency **Regular** **Intermediate**
Koochiching County

May 2—Oral Auction

Aspen P/B	\$42.44	\$38.76
Spruce P/B	\$23.71	\$21.77
Balsam P/B	\$10.37	\$12.46
Jack Pine P/B	\$51.00	\$50.81

All 29 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Carlton County

May 4—Oral Auction

Aspen	\$30.91	NA
Nrthn Hrdwds	\$10.66	NA
Balsam Fir	\$15.00	NA

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

St. Louis County

May 10—Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp	\$37.05	NA
Birch Pulp	\$ 9.47	NA
Black Spruce Pulp	\$32.06	NA
Balsam Pulp	\$19.38	NA
Red Pine Pulp	\$41.79	NA

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

DNR—Park Rapids Area

May 15—Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$43.09	\$41.68
Red Oak (WMP)	\$35.32	\$32.89
Pine Species (WMP)	\$44.92	\$58.18
Norway Pine (WST)	\$83.58	NA

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

Pine County

May 16—Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp	\$42.81	NA
Birch Pulp	\$19.66	NA
Pine P/B	\$36.80	NA

All 5 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Aitkin Area

May 21—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (WC)	\$43.54	\$32.65
Aspen Species (PW)	\$27.83	\$36.92
Maple Species (PW)	\$14.62	\$14.57

21 of the 36 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Aitkin County

May 21—Sealed Bid

Aspen P&B	\$33.11	NA
Mxd Hwd Pulp	\$12.38	NA
Red Pine P&B	\$22.19	NA
Aspen Pulp	\$28.12	NA

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

DNR—Backus Area

May 21—Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$33.69	NA
Aspen Species (PW)	\$33.22	\$36.46
Pine Species (PB)	\$27.75	\$26.00
Oak Species (PB)	\$24.46	\$33.08

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

DNR—Tower Area

May 30—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PW)	\$44.28	\$40.18
Trembling Aspen (PW)	NA	\$25.59
Norway Pine (WMP)	NA	\$60.76
Norway Pine		

(PB)	NA	\$19.46
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10 of the 12 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Hibbing Area

May 31—Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (PB)	\$27.72	\$33.17
Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$42.50	\$44.09
Trembling Aspen (PW)	\$26.40	\$41.08
Pine Species (PB)	\$34.19	\$43.38

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

Cass County

May 31—Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$36.08	\$20.23
Birch	\$23.21	\$12.70

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

DNR—Deer River Area

June 1—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PW)	\$21.02	\$42.39
Trembling Aspen (PW)	\$36.41	\$35.12
Black Spruce (PB)	\$17.64	NA

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

DNR—Baudette Area

June 5—Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (PW)	\$25.92	\$22.06
Aspen Species (PW)	\$23.17	\$26.15
Black Spruce (PW)	\$18.51	\$18.61

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Tamarack (PW) \$ 5.33 \$ 5.96
22 of the 26 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Littlefork Area

June 6—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PW)	\$40.38	\$40.64
Black Spruce (PW)	\$18.08	\$19.00
Tamarack (WC)	\$ 4.33	NA

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

Itasca County

June 8—Oral Auction

Aspen	\$40.84	\$27.97
Red Pine	\$57.82	\$45.96
Birch	\$15.83	\$11.13
Tamarack	\$ 4.77	NA

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

DNR—Bemidji Area

June 13—Oral Auction

Aspen Species (PW)	\$41.19	\$32.96
Pine Species (PB)	\$72.53	\$55.21
Ash (PB)	\$ 6.76	\$ 9.08

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

DNR—Two Harbors Area

June 14—Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (PW)	\$34.53	\$40.80
Paper Birch (PW)	\$14.73	\$22.10
Balsam Fir (PW)	\$21.56	\$25.50
Mixed Spruce (PW)	\$30.40	\$32.30
Trembling Aspen (WC)	NA	\$21.25

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

DNR—Sandstone Area

June 15—Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (PW)	\$26.40	NA
Aspen Species (PW)	\$26.40	\$25.97
Maple Species (PW)	\$11.70	\$13.70

9 of the 38 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

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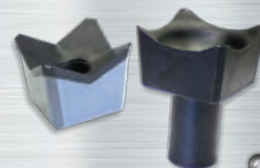
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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

Logging Tools

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*



For a number of years after the logging off of our original stand of virgin timber, the sites of the old logging camps remained just a few acres or more of open grassy areas. Deer gathered to feed on

the grass that sprang up from the seed of clover and timothy hay used to feed the horses and oxen. The deer would dig holes in the ground searching for the salt used for the horses or dig around in

drains from the kitchen looking for salt.

The earth banking around the buildings and the mound of the root house were the only evidence that a logging camp once stood there. The heavy sod that formed on these old camp sites prevented the seed of trees from getting a start, and these grassy areas remained many more years while the surrounding area soon grew up to second growth timber.

Forty or 50 years after, if wild fire had not destroyed them, some rotted logs could be found in the banking of these old buildings. Timber cruisers and early foresters made note of these locations on their maps when looking over the land.

Some of these larger camps where horses had been pastured were some of the first sites of tree planting by the forestry departments during the large planting periods of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Along in the late '30s and early '40s, artifact hunters found that these old sites were prime areas to dig for old bottles, snuff jars, etc., and after metal detectors came into the picture all sorts of iron and broken tools were dug up.

Snuff jars became one of the prize finds in bottles, and stamp hammers used to mark logs became one of the prize iron products — but all sorts of tools made and used in the camps were dug up and collected.

Today it is hard to find an old camp that does not show evidence of the work of the artifact hunters. Almost every week during the summer months I find people calling on me to identify some piece of iron that they found.

Every camp had many special tools made by the blacksmith or handyman for some special job, and it is sometimes hard to identify every piece of iron. However, if it is a tool that was in general use in camps, we can usually identify it. This brings us to the subject of the most common tools used in the logging camps in those early days. I will try to list some of the most important tools and their uses.

Axes. The ax was probably the most common tool in the camps. In the early days, all trees were chopped down with an ax



The picture above shows many of the tools used by early loggers: axes, cant hooks, skidding tongs, etc. Filling a saw in the woods (below) could be a cold job.



and the logs cut into lengths by ax. Axes were used for all chopping of wood, for cutting brush, limbing of trees, making of stakes for sleighs, hewing of timber, cutting ice, and some handymen could make anything with an ax.

In the early days when logs were chopped, the double-bit ax weighing up to six pounds was used, but the 3½ or 4 ¼-pound double-bit ax was the size in general use in most Minnesota logging camps. The single-bit or pole ax was only used when a wedge was used, as in splitting stove wood. Ninety percent of the axes in the camps were double-bit.

Saws. The saw was probably the next most common tool. The two-man crosscut was used for all felling and sawing up of logs. The saws would vary from six to eight feet in length; however, in Minnesota the six-foot saw was the one used in most camps. There were several types of tooth patterns with the Tuttle tooth, the lance tooth and the Champion tooth making up the ones most used in cutting pine. In cutting hardwood, the five and six-foot ribbon saw would be used.

In later years, when the "piece cutter" came into the picture and men worked alone, the four and five-foot one-man crosscut saw became popular. On these also were different tooth patterns, including a special cedar tooth.

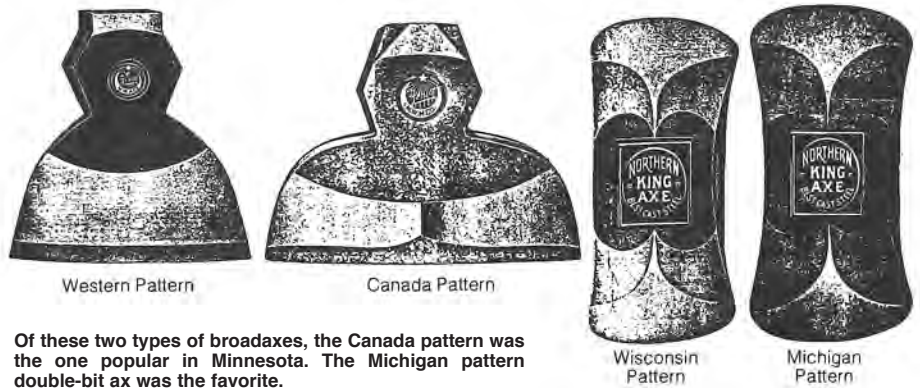
Broadaxes. The broadax was used for all hewing work, including making railroad ties, building logs, sleigh runners and other timbers. The broadaxes ranged from six to ten pounds.

Saw Wedges. Every saw gang had several saw wedges carried on a ring of wire as they were sometimes dropped in the deep snow and instead of spending time looking for the wedge they would take another from the ring. Each saw gang also carried a wedge hammer weighing about three pounds. Saw gangs as a rule did not carry an ax.

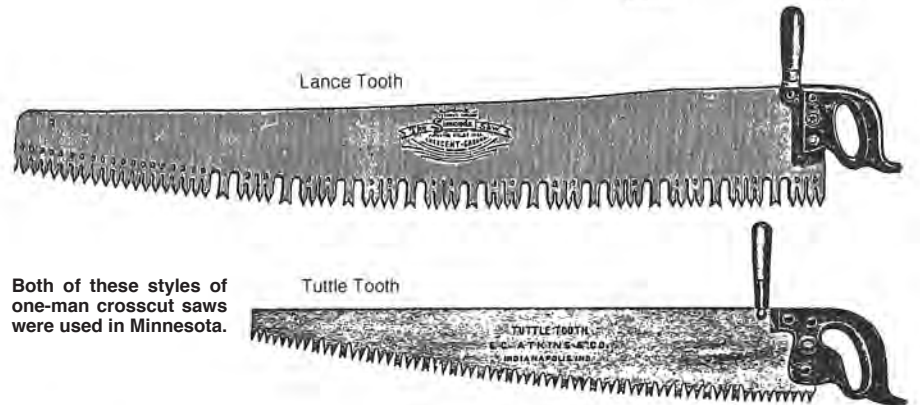
Saw Maintenance Tools. A full line of tools for maintenance of saws and keeping them sharp and in good condition was found in all camps. These tools included files, jointers, raker gauges, tooth-set gauges and hammer and spring sets.

Cant Hooks and Peavies. Cant hooks and peavies were also very important tools in all logging operations. Cant hooks were used mostly in the woods and on log landings, while peavies were used mostly when logs were in the water on lakes and river drives. There were two main types of cant hooks; those with the clip holding the hook and those with the band of iron around the handle holding the hook. The clip type was the early one and was preferred by most good cant hook men as it was lighter.

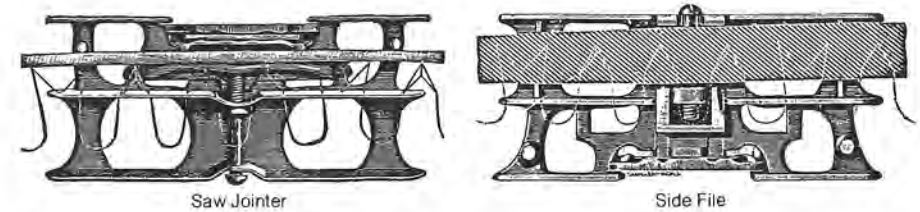
Skidding Equipment. Skidding tongs were used for all large logs, with skidding chains used for smaller logs. Special skidding spreaders made up with single trees held apart by a spreader stick were used



Of these two types of broadaxes, the Canada pattern was the one popular in Minnesota. The Michigan pattern double-bit ax was the favorite.



Both of these styles of one-man crosscut saws were used in Minnesota.

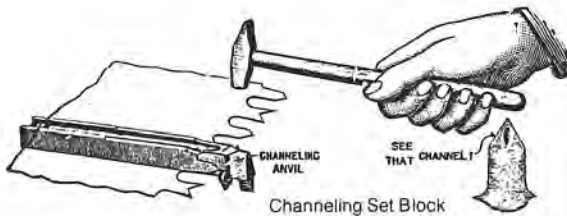


Raker Tooth Gauge

All of these saw tools were used in Minnesota.



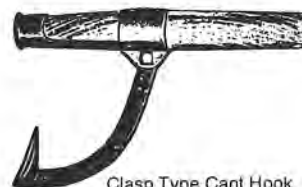
Tooth Set Gauge



Channeling Set Block



Clip Type Cant Hook



Clasp Type Cant Hook



Skidding Tongs

The lighter clip type cant hook was the one most popular with early jacks.



Notice the skidding trees rigged for these skidding teams.



A small tote sleigh (above) brings supplies to a small gypo camp. A large amount of chain was used to secure the prize load below.



in different types and forms.

Log Loading Equipment. Prior to 1890, all logs were loaded on sleighs and railroad cars by the cross-haul method. The loading line was a 1/4-inch or 3/8-inch chain, usually 100 feet long with a large "swamp hook" in the end of it. This chain – with a cant hook for the top loader, two cant hooks for the ground men and probably two cant hooks for the men "tailing down" plus the horses' equipment with a loading bar – made up the entire equipment of the loading crew.

All sleighs and railroad cars were equipped with corner binds and wrapper chains, but after stakes came into use on sleighs and cars the corner binds were replaced by bridle chains. In later years after the jammer came into use, blocks and half-inch cable with log hooks became part of the loading equipment.

Log Sleighs. Most all log sleighs were equipped with "McLaren" casting or knees. Some sleighs would come from the McLaren Company complete, but most of the woodwork of the sleighs would be made up in the camp with only the iron purchased from the manufacturer. King pins, Guggin pins, fid and fid hooks, bunk and beam plates, roller rings and other iron would be placed on the sleigh in the camps. Some light tote sleighs were equipped with "Stark pin" castings.

Chain. Chains of all sizes were made up and fitted with grab hooks, rings, etc. in camp. Chain was a large part of the logging equipment and was always in good supply. Size used most were 1/4 inch to 7/16 inch.

Horses and Ox Shoes. Horse and ox shoes were purchased in different sizes without heel or toe calks and came in kegs. Heel and toe calks were put on by the blacksmith when the shoes were fitted.

Blacksmith Tools. Every blacksmith shop was equipped with a full set of tools for shoeing horses and making up anything needed.

Handles. Ax, shovel and cant hook handles were purchased and made up with the iron in camp.

Horse Harnesses. Material for repairing harnesses, such as leather and buckles, was purchased, while rings and other parts were made up in camp.

Shovels. Most shovels were of the snow shovel type and were used for snow, cleaning barns, etc.

Grub Hoes and Picks. Grub hoes and picks were plentiful and used for leaving roads, removing roots, grubbing stumps, etc.

General. There were always many special tools made up in camp for some specific jobs, and all the blacksmith needed was the coal and the iron and he could make up any tool needed. This list is not by any means all the tools found in the camps but most of the common ones used prior to 1920.



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